



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Registered unemployment first quarter 1999

In the first quarter of this year the number of registered unemployed was 265 thousand. The average fall in registered unemployment in the last six months was three to four thousand, a smaller decrease than in the preceding period.

Registered unemployment down

In the first quarter of 1999 the number of registered unemployed dropped to an average of 265 thousand. Seasonal effects usually push up unemployment rates at the beginning of the year. Once the seasonal effects have been eliminated the figure in the first quarter of this year comes out at 249 thousand, the same as the figure in December-February. However, as the unemployment figures are based on a sample survey and there is a certain margin of error, it cannot be concluded that unemployment is stable. Compared to the last quarter of last year the number of registered unemployed is now 11 thousand less. This still indicates a fall.

Decrease slowing down

Due to the margin of error of the unemployment figures, the trend is best described for a longer period of time. Compared to last year the number of unemployed in the first quarter of this year was 81 thousand less. In the past six months unemployment has fallen by 21 thousand, in the six months before that by 60 thousand. The average fall in the last six months was 3 to 4 thousand a month, considerably less than the observed fall of 10 thousand in the preceding period.

Statistics Netherlands
Press Office

P.O. Box 4000
2270 JM Voorburg
The Netherlands
tel. +31 70 337 58 16
fax +31 70 337 59 71
e-mail:
persdienst@cbs.nl

Statistics Netherlands
is a department of
the Ministry of
Economic Affairs

For further information, please contact Ms. A. Boelens tel. 045 570 72 10; e-mail abns@cbs.nl.

