



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Growth rate slowing down for temporary work agencies

According to Statistics Netherlands the turnover for the temporary work agencies is growing steadily, but the growth rate is diminishing each quarter. In the first quarter of 1999 it was up 3.8% on the same quarter in 1998. Statistics Netherlands figures show that the total turnover has a value of more than 3 billion guilders.

The growth rate in the second quarter of 1998 was still up 21.3% on the same period the year before. In subsequent quarters the growth rate decreased steadily, from 17.1% in the third quarter to 14.1% in the fourth.

New law

A new law was introduced on 'flexibility and security'. In it two categories are distinguished: contracts for the duration of a project, and contracts for a set or indefinite period.

The number of hours worked in category 1 – for the duration of a project – was more than 73 million in the first quarter of 1999. This is the equivalent of 141 thousand full-time jobs. The number of hours worked in category 2 – for a set or indefinite period – was about 13 million. This is the equivalent of 25 thousand full-time jobs. This new situation makes it difficult to compare the data on working hours from earlier years.

Full-time jobs, seasonally adjusted

Statistics Netherlands calculates seasonally corrected figures so that the underlying trends can be compared in subsequent quarters. The seasonally corrected figure for the number of temporary jobs for the first quarter of 1999 was 158 thousand. This is lower than the figure for the fourth quarter of 1998 (181 thousand). The explanation is that the figure is for category 1 type work, for the duration of the project, only.

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