



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Registered unemployment down

According to the latest figures by Statistics Netherlands registered unemployment fell once again. On average there were 209 thousand people registered as unemployed in May-July. Registered unemployment fell by some 5 thousand a month in recent months, leaving only one in 25 young people unemployed.

Registered unemployment continues to fall

In the period May-July the number of registered unemployed averaged 209 thousand, down 7 thousand on April-June. Normally speaking one would have expected an increase in unemployment of some 5 thousand at this time of year. The seasonally corrected figure would in fact mean a reduction of 12 thousand compared to April-June.

The unemployment figures are based on a sample survey, which means they have a substantial margin of error. Therefore the trend in unemployment can only be determined over a fairly long period. Compared to May-July 1998 unemployment has fallen by 60 thousand, an average of 5 thousand a month. The same rate was observed in recent months.

Little unemployment among young people

In May-July 1999 some 33 thousand people under 25 were unemployed. In recent years young people have been able to profit from the boom in the job market. Five years ago more than 1 in 10 young people were unemployed. Now this rate has dropped to 1 in 25. However, the unemployment figure for young people is above the overall average of 3.0%. This situation is not unusual because it often takes young people who enter the labour market some time to find a job.

The registered unemployment figure is one indicator of the employment situation.

Indicators of unused labour supply				
	1992	1995	1996	1997
	x 1000			
Registered unemployment	336	464	440	375
Unemployed labour force	411	533	494	438
Seeks paid job Having >= 12 hours of paid work	947	1 137	1 117	1 020
People on welfare	480	489	481	437
People on unemployment benefits	262	445	429	391

For further information

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