



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Stable turnover for temp agencies

In the second quarter of this year turnover figures for temporary employment agencies remained about the same as in the same period last year. It appears that a four-year stretch of strong growth in this sector is coming to an end. Statistics Netherlands' figures show a turnover of 3 billion guilders.

In the third quarter of last year turnover rose by 16% on the same period one year previously, the subsequent quarters show a levelling off via 13% in the fourth quarter and 6% in the first quarter of this year to 1% in the second quarter.

Second quarter after introduction of flexibility legislation

The number of hours employees are seconded to a company "for the duration of the work to be done", as laid down in new legislation on flexibility and security for employees, was 79 million in the second quarter of 1999. This is the equivalent of 152 thousand full-time jobs. The number of hours worked by "temps" from agencies, defined by the law as for a "limited or unlimited period of time" was 14 million hours, or 27 thousand full-time jobs. The introduction of the new law and the new classification of temporary hours means the figures are not completely comparable with previous ones.

Full-time jobs seasonally corrected

To compare the number of temporary jobs of successive quarters, Statistics Netherlands also calculates seasonally adjusted figures. If we take account of seasonal effects, there were 156 thousand temporary jobs in the second quarter of 1999. In the first quarter this was 160 thousand, and in the fourth quarter of last year 180 thousand. The explanation for the fall in the seasonally adjusted number of jobs probably lies in the definition of "for the duration of the work to be done", which makes the figures less comparable with those for earlier periods.

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