



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Registered unemployment down

The number of people registered as unemployed fell further in the third quarter, according to figures from Statistics Netherlands. In the three months from July to September 1999, 212 thousand people were out of work in the Netherlands. Unemployment fell by an average five thousand people a month. Relatively fewer men than women are out of work.

Unemployment continues to fall

In the third quarter of this year registered unemployment was 212 thousand. Although this is only four thousand people fewer than in the second quarter, seasonal effects usually cause unemployment to increase in this period. Once the seasonal effects are eliminated, unemployment is 24 thousand lower than in the second quarter.

As the figures are based on a sample survey, they are subject to a certain margin of error. Therefore the trend in unemployment is best considered in a longer term perspective. The number of people registered as unemployed was 59 thousand lower in the third quarter of 1999 than in the same quarter last year. This is the equivalent of a decrease of five thousand people a month.

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Unemployment lower among men than among women

For years now unemployment has been higher among women than among men. The number of men out of work as a percentage of the labour force is now 2.5%, while one and a half times as many women are unemployed. And, as many women who are looking for a job are not registered with an employment agency, the differences between men and women are larger if we take all jobseekers on the labour market into account: female unemployment then turns out to be twice as high as male unemployment.

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