



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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More people working against the clock

The number of people working under the pressure of time has risen in the last two years. The increase was largest in the transport and health care sectors. More people do their work behind computer screens. Physically demanding work, on the other hand, has decreased, according to a survey on working conditions conducted by Statistics Netherlands. The survey was conducted at the request of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment.

More work under pressure of time

More and more people are working under the pressure of time. In 1996 31% of workers regularly felt the pressure of deadlines. In 1998 this had risen to 33%. Transport and health care workers, and in particular staff of nursing homes and homes for the elderly, have to do more in the same amount of time. In 1996 three in every ten employees in nursing homes and homes for the elderly regularly worked under high pressure, in 1998 this had risen to four in ten.

High work rates unchanged

Another aspect of pressure at work is a high rate of work. Unlike pressure of time, pressure caused by the required rate of work did not show a rise in this period. In 1998 just over four out of ten workers regularly had a high work rate.

More work behind computer screens

Work at computer screens has increased in recent years. In 1996 38% of the labour force worked at a computer screen, in 1998 this had risen to 43%. The increase took place across all sectors of industry.

Physically demanding work decreased

The relative number of people doing physically heavy work fell from 25% in 1996 to 23% in 1998. One third of people who had to do some form of physical work

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suffered from pain in their backs, necks, shoulders or arms. For one in five workers these complaints caused them to report in sick at least once in the previous twelve months.

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