



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## ***Long-term unemployment substantially reduced***

The number of registered unemployed in the period August-October averaged 211 thousand. In the past twelve months unemployment has fallen by some 4 to 5 thousand a month. Furthermore the latest figures by Statistics Netherlands show that long-term unemployment was halved over the last 30 months.

### ***Developments in registered unemployment***

In the months August-October the number of registered unemployed averaged 211 thousand. That is 1 thousand less than the numbers observed for the months July-September. The latest seasonally corrected unemployment figure turns out to be 2 thousand higher. However since the unemployment figures are based on a sample survey, they contain a substantial margin of error. So the latest figures should not lead to the conclusion that unemployment is rising again. The trend should be observed over a fairly long period. In August-October the number of registered unemployed was 54 thousand less than in the same period a year ago. This means a monthly decrease of some 4 to 5 thousand.

### ***Long-term unemployment halved***

Of the 211 thousand people registered as unemployed in August-October, some 100 thousand had been registered for more than a year. In the second quarter of 1997 that number had been 200 thousand. This means that the number of long-term unemployed was halved within 30 months.

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| Indicator under-utilised labour force |        |       |       |       |      |
|---------------------------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|------|
|                                       | 1992   | 1995  | 1996  | 1997  | 1998 |
|                                       | x 1000 |       |       |       |      |
| Registered unemployed                 | 336    | 464   | 440   | 375   | 287  |
| Unemployed labour force               | 411    | 533   | 494   | 438   | 348  |
| Seeks paid work of >= 12 hours        | 974    | 1 137 | 1 117 | 1 020 | 914  |
| People on welfare                     | 480    | 489   | 481   | 437   | 397  |
| People on unemployment benefits       | 262    | 445   | 429   | 391   | .    |

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