



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## *Turnover temporary employment agencies slowing down*

Third quarter turnover for temporary employment agencies in 1999 was about the same as last year. The second quarter still saw a 3% growth rate. Figures by Statistics Netherlands show that third quarter turnover was more than 3.5 billion guilders. The number of hours worked by temporary employment staff totalled more than 103 million.

### *Almost 200 thousand jobs through temp agencies*

1999 saw the introduction of a new law on flex work and security. The law differentiates between two types of temporary employment working hours: working hours for the duration of a project and working hours for a definite or indefinite period.

The number of 'project hours' was 88 million in the third quarter, the equivalent of 169 thousand fulltime jobs. The number of 'period hours' totalled over 15 million, the equivalent of about 30 thousand fulltime jobs. In percentages of the total number of hours worked through temp agencies, the 'period hours' made up about 15%. This percentage stayed the same through all quarters of 1999.

The new law makes comparison with the earlier years rather difficult.

Statistics Netherlands  
Press Office

P.O. Box 4000  
2270 JM Voorburg  
The Netherlands  
tel. +31 70 337 58 16  
fax +31 70 337 59 71  
e-mail:  
persdienst@cbs.nl

Statistics Netherlands  
is a department of  
the Ministry of  
Economic Affairs

### *Seasonally corrected figure shows drop in fulltime jobs*

In order to compare the development of the number of temp jobs from one quarter to the next, Statistics Netherlands calculates seasonally corrected figures. The correction only applies to 'project hours'. The seasonally corrected figure for the number of temp jobs in the third quarter of 1999 totals 151 thousand. The figure for the first quarter was 161 and for the second quarter 158 thousand.

***For further information please contact:***  
H. van den Akker, tel. +45 570 63 95.