



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Registered unemployment drops below 200 thousand

The number of unemployed has fallen again, according to new figures from Statistics Netherlands. The number of registered unemployed in the last quarter of last year was 189 thousand, the first time since 1980 that it has dropped below the 200 thousand mark, and 71 thousand lower than in the same period in the previous year. Unemployment has decreased by an average six thousand people a month in the past year.

Registered unemployment falls to less than 200 thousand

The number of registered unemployed in the last quarter of 1999 was 189 thousand. After seasonal adjustment the unemployment rate is 25 thousand lower than in the third quarter, continuing the downward trend. 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. In the months October-December, the number of registered unemployed people in the Netherlands was 71 thousand lower than in the same period in 1998. This is the equivalent of a decrease of six thousand people a month.

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Lowest unemployment rate since 1980

In the first half of 1980 registered unemployment was around 200 thousand. In the second half of that year it started to increase rapidly to reach around 640 thousand at the end of 1983. After that it began to fall slowly again. There was a dip to 320 thousand in the autumn of 1991, but the subsequent recession led to a new high of around 520 thousand at the beginning of 1994. Since then it has been falling, initially by just over twenty thousand a year, but

picking up speed to 60 to 90 thousand a year, so that by the end of 1999 it was back at the level of 1980.

Unemployment fell substantially in 1999

On average registered unemployment was 221 thousand in 1999, 66 thousand lower than in 1998. It fell by 40 thousand among men and 26 thousand among women in the space of one year. Unemployment among men is still lower than that among women: in 1999 3.8% of women were out of work, compared with 2.7% of men.

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