



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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More university students

The number of students at universities is up again for the first time since 1993. In the study year 1999/2000 there were 2% more students at universities than in the last study year. The number of first-year students increased by 5.5% and for the first time in history there are more women first-year students than men, according to a count by Statistics Netherlands on 1 December 1999.

Number of students increasing

The total number of students at Dutch universities is nearly 163 thousand, 2% more than in 1998. The number of women grew by just over 3%, the number of men by 1%. Just over 47% of all students are women. The largest growth in student enrolment was for economics and the humanities. Enrolment grew fastest at the Technical University in Eindhoven and the University of Maastricht.

First-year students: more women than men

The number of first-year students peaked at 36 thousand in 1991. In the period 1992-1996 it then fell by an average fifteen hundred a year. Since 1997 numbers have been picking up again, and on 1 December 1999 32 thousand students were in their first year at university, 1,700 (5.5%) more than in 1998.

The number of women students has grown faster than the number of men, and for the first time in history there are now more women first-year students than men. More students enter university from both vocational colleges and senior secondary education. The number of students who took one or two years 'out' between finishing secondary school and starting university increased.

The largest increase in the number of first-year enrolment was at the Catholic University in Nijmegen: 19%. Numbers of new students were also substantially

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