



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Unemployment trend continues downwards

In the months November 1999-January 2000, the number of registered unemployed people in the Netherlands was 201 thousand, according to new figures from Statistics Netherlands. Unemployment is continuing its downward trend: in the past year it has decreased by an average five thousand people a month.

Unemployment continues to fall

In the months November 1999-January 2000, the number of registered unemployed people in the Netherlands was 201 thousand, twelve thousand more than in the fourth quarter of last year. The seasonal effects at this time of year usually cause an increase of nine thousand, so once these have been removed, there were still three thousand more people out of work than in the previous three-month period. However, as the figures are based on a sample survey, they are subject to a certain margin of error. This means that unemployment has not necessarily started to rise again. The trend in unemployment is best considered in a longer term perspective, and compared with the period August-October last year, registered unemployment was just over twenty thousand lower. Therefore, it seems to be continuing its downward trend. Compared with one year ago, 64 thousand fewer people were out of a job. Again this is the equivalent of a decrease of over five thousand people a month.

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