



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Registered unemployment in the first quarter

According to figures just released by Statistics Netherlands, registered unemployment in the Netherlands was 215 thousand in the first quarter of 2000.

After adjustment for seasonal effects the figure is just under 200 thousand. Unemployment has fallen by four thousand people a month for the last twelve months.

Developments in unemployment

Some 215 thousand people were looking for a job in the first quarter of 2000. Seasonal effects usually push up unemployment at the beginning of the year. Once these effects have been removed the figure is 198 thousand, ten thousand more than in the fourth quarter of 1999. However, this does not necessarily mean that unemployment is rising.

The figures are based on a sample survey, and are therefore subject to a certain margin of error. Conclusions on real trends in unemployment may only be drawn from more drastic changes in the figures or changes that last for a longer period. The increase in unemployment between the last quarter of last year and the first quarter of this year is too small to conclude that unemployment is rising, although it can be established that the rate of decrease has slowed down. More definite conclusions will have to wait for the figures of the coming months.

Compared with six months ago, there are fifteen thousand fewer unemployed, and compared with one year ago fifty thousand fewer. This is the equivalent of a decrease of just over four thousand people a month.

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