



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Unemployment continues downward trend

According to figures just released by Statistics Netherlands, registered unemployment in the Netherlands was 201 thousand in the months February to April. Unemployment is continuing its downward trend, and has fallen by four thousand a month for the last twelve months.

Unemployment continues to fall

In the months February to April this year, the number of registered unemployed people in the Netherlands was 201 thousand. Seasonal effects usually push up unemployment at this time of year. Once these effects have been removed the figure is 193 thousand. The unemployment rates have been more unpredictable in the last five months. However, 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. Compared with six months previously the figure was twenty thousand lower, compared with one year ago, it has fallen by 45 thousand people. So the trend is still downwards, falling at a rate of about four thousand people a month.

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Labour supply

The labour supply does not consist only of registered unemployed. There are others who would also like a paid job. First people actively seeking work, but not registered with a job centre: 130 thousand people in 1999. Then there are people who want paid work but who are not in a position to start a job in the short term, or who are not actively looking for a job: 450 thousand people in 1999. Last year, a total of 800 thousand people in the Netherlands wanted paid employment.

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