



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## ***Fall in unemployment coming to a standstill***

Registered unemployment in the Netherlands was 195 thousand in the months March to May. The latest figures from Statistics Netherlands seem to indicate that the decrease in the unemployment rate seems to be coming to a standstill.

### ***Unemployment in March to May***

In the months March to May this year, the number of registered unemployed people in the Netherlands was 195 thousand, six thousand fewer than in February to April. However, seasonal effects usually cause a decrease of over fifteen thousand at this time of year. Once these effects have been removed, the new figure is ten thousand higher than in the previous three-month period. As unemployment 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.

### ***Fall coming to a standstill***

Unemployment has been falling continuously since 1994. At that time just over 520 thousand people were registered as unemployed in the Netherlands. The decline started off gradually but picked up speed from the beginning of 1997. After the summer of 1998, the decrease subsided to around five thousand people a month and this rate was fairly constant up to the end of last year.

The unemployment rates have been more unpredictable in recent months. Compared with six months ago, unemployment is only four thousand lower, and compared with three months ago it is even higher. Because of the margin of error this does not necessarily mean that unemployment is rising. However, it can be concluded that the fall is stagnating.

Statistics Netherlands  
Press Office

P.O. Box 4000  
2270 JM Voorburg  
The Netherlands  
tel. +31 70 337 58 16  
fax +31 70 337 59 71  
e-mail:  
persdienst@cbs.nl

Statistics Netherlands  
is a department of  
the Ministry of  
Economic Affairs

For further information, please contact A.M.S.  
Boelens, tel. + 31 45 570 72 10; e-mail: [abns@cbs.nl](mailto:abns@cbs.nl)