



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

PR00-145
28-6-2000
9:30 AM

Employment: great differences between Utrecht and the northern provinces

The positive developments on the job market in 1999 made that unemployment continued to fall in all provinces. At the national level unemployment was cut by half in the period 1994-1999. In the northern provinces, however, unemployment was not reduced by as much as this. Unemployment also fell in the big cities according to the latest figures by Statistics Netherlands published in the Labour Force Survey of 1999.

All provinces benefit from the positive employment situation

The positive developments on the job market in 1999 made that unemployment continued to fall in all provinces. Between 1994 and 1999 unemployment was halved in the Netherlands. The unemployment figure fell from 8.5 to 4.1% of the labour force. However, unemployment was not cut by as much in the northern provinces. In the province Groningen unemployment fell from 11% in 1994 to 7.5% in 1999. This is not anywhere near a 50% drop. This makes unemployment in the north still the highest in the country.

Job market best in Utrecht

Prospects on the job market were best in the province of Utrecht in 1999. Utrecht traditionally has the highest labour force participation rate and the lowest unemployment figure. Only 3.0% of the labour force was unemployed in the province of Utrecht, which is substantially below the national average of 4.1%. The participation rate was 66% for the province of Utrecht, while the average for the Netherlands as a whole was 64. North Brabant and Gelderland also had unemployment rates below the national average, as has been the case for years.

Unemployment in Amsterdam and Rotterdam remains high

In Amsterdam and Rotterdam the employment situation has been unfavourable for years. Unemployment did fall in these two cities as well in 1999 but it was still substantially higher than the national average. Amsterdam had an unemployment figure of 6.8% and Rotterdam had 6.6%. In The Hague and Utrecht city the employment situation improved in the nineties. In 1990 unemployment was about as high as in Amsterdam and Rotterdam. Now unemployment in the The Hague and Utrecht city is barely above the national average.

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Table 1 unemployed labour force as a percentage of the labour force in the province

Tabel 1 Werkloze beroepsbevolking van 15-64 jaar in % van de beroepsbevolking naar provincie

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
%										
Nederland	6,9	6,5	6,5	7,5	8,5	8,1	7,4	6,4	5,0	4,1
Provincie										
Groningen	11,4	8,8	9,4	9,7	11,1	10,7	11,9	9,3	7,8	7,5
Friesland	8,0	8,0	8,7	9,8	9,5	9,1	9,2	8,0	6,7	5,4
Drenthe	7,1	7,2	8,5	9,0	10,2	9,2	8,2	6,6	6,2	7,2
Overijssel	7,6	7,2	6,3	7,5	9,0	8,4	7,3	6,1	4,6	4,1
Flevoland	7,7	6,4	7,3	7,1	8,1	9,7	7,4	7,1	5,5	3,7
Gelderland	6,9	6,4	6,1	7,2	7,7	7,4	6,6	5,5	4,4	3,7
Utrecht	5,9	5,3	5,5	6,0	7,1	6,7	5,9	4,9	3,9	3,0
Noord-Holland	7,0	6,7	6,8	8,0	8,8	8,6	7,6	7,0	5,1	4,1
Zuid-Holland	6,7	6,2	6,3	7,1	8,7	7,8	7,6	6,5	5,2	4,0
Zeeland	5,0	4,8	6,7	8,0	7,8	7,7	6,7	6,8	4,3	4,2
Noord-Brabant	6,3	6,2	6,0	7,3	7,9	7,4	6,6	5,7	4,2	3,4
Limburg	6,7	6,2	6,2	7,3	8,0	8,6	7,8	7,2	5,5	4,6
4 Grote gemeenten										
Amsterdam	10,9	10,7	12,2	13,3	14,0	13,5	11,4	10,7	8,0	6,8
Rotterdam	11,7	11,2	11,0	12,5	14,2	13,6	11,9	11,2	10,2	6,6
s-Gravenhage	10,6	9,7	6,3	8,6	8,7	9,7	8,9	7,7	6,0	4,8
Utrecht	11,3	9,1	8,7	10,0	9,6	9,4	8,1	7,4	4,5	5,3

Table 2 Net participation rate of persons aged between 15 and 64 by province

Tabel 2 Netto arbeidsparticipatie van personen van 15-64 jaar naar provincie 1)

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
	%									
Nederland	55	56	57	57	57	58	59	61	62	64
Provincie										
Groningen	49	52	52	51	51	51	53	55	58	58
Friesland	51	52	53	51	51	54	54	57	58	61
Drenthe	52	54	54	54	54	56	58	59	60	60
Overijssel	52	51	55	54	54	55	56	58	60	62
Flevoland	57	59	59	60	59	59	62	61	64	67
Gelderland	56	56	56	56	57	58	59	61	62	64
Utrecht	58	60	59	61	60	61	62	64	64	66
Noord-Holland	58	59	59	58	58	60	61	62	64	66
Zuid-Holland	56	57	58	58	57	59	59	61	63	65
Zeeland	57	58	58	57	56	58	59	61	62	62
Noord-Brabant	55	56	56	57	57	58	59	61	63	64
Limburg	54	54	55	56	56	56	57	59	61	61
4 Grote gemeenten										
Amsterdam	55	54	56	54	54	57	58	59	60	63
Rotterdam	49	51	51	50	49	51	53	55	56	59
s-Gravenhage	51	52	59	57	58	59	57	61	63	63
Utrecht	52	54	56	56	55	57	60	63	61	65

1) Netto arbeidsparticipatie: werkzame beroepsbevolking in % van de bevolking.