



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## ***Fifty percent of vacancies hard to fill***

It is becoming increasingly difficult to find the right person for the right job. By the end of September 1999 employers qualified more than half of all vacancies as hard to fill. A year earlier this was true for less than half, according to the figures by Statistics Netherlands. Especially employers in construction had a hard time finding personnel.

### **Record number of problematic vacancies**

By the end of September last year there were more than 157 thousand unfilled vacancies in private companies, 40 thousand more than a year earlier. Of these 54% was hard to fill, which is the highest percentage ever observed by Statistics Netherlands. In the previous economic boom (1990) about half of all vacancies in private companies was hard to fill.

People with professional training, from elementary to the highest level (vbo,mbo,hbo), were much demand. In 123 thousand of the more than 157 thousand vacancies in September 1999, employers were looking for professionally trained people. Almost 60% of these vacancies were classified as hard to fill. Vacancies requiring people with general secondary training (mavo/havo/vwo) were less problematic.

### **Major problems in construction**

Especially employers in construction had problems in finding new personnel. By the end of September 1999 more than 11 out of the nearly 15 thousand vacancies in construction were hard to fill. The highest percentages of hard to fill vacancies were in agriculture and fishing, construction and financial institutions.

### **Regional differences**

The number of vacancies at the national level had increased by about a third by the end of September 1999 on a year earlier. Vacancies increased in all provinces, but there were major differences between them. In Friesland and Groningen the number of vacancies increased by nearly half. In Gelderland, Utrecht, North and South Holland there was an above average increase, while the increase was below the national average in Zeeland, Overijssel and Flevoland.

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