



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

PR00-258
15-11-2000
9:30 AM

Dutch unemployment falling, but not as fast as before

In August-October the number of registered unemployed averaged 181 thousand, down 30 thousand on the same period a year ago. Unemployment is no longer falling as fast as it did before, according to the latest figures by Statistics Netherlands.

Developments in registered unemployment

In August-October the number of registered unemployed averaged 181 thousand, up 5 thousand on July-September. At this time of the year there are hardly any seasonal effects, so the seasonally corrected figures show a virtually identical increase. However, this doesn't mean that unemployment is rising. Unemployment figures are based on sample surveys, which have a fairly large margin of error. Therefore the trend in unemployment has to be analysed over a longer period of time.

Compared to a year ago, the number of registered unemployed is down by 30 thousand. This means a drop of 2 to 3 thousand a month. In the first few months of 1999 the number of registered unemployed was down 80 thousand on the year before. This meant that unemployment was dropping at a rate of 7 thousand a month. In the course of 1999 this slowed down to 5 thousand, and in the spring of 2000 to 4 thousand a month, and now it is 2 to 3 thousand. So there is a definite slow down in the rate with which unemployment is falling.

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