



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## ***Conflict situations affect work climate***

Eight out of ten employees reported favourable working relationships with colleagues in 1999. Nine out of ten employees who were not involved in conflict situations at work were positive about the atmosphere at their place of work, while for employees who were involved in conflict with colleagues or management, this was seven out of ten. Pressure of work has not increased in recent years, and more and more people are working at computer screens, according to a survey of working conditions in 1999 carried out by Statistics Netherlands at the request of the Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment.

### ***Most workers positive about working relations***

In 1999, 84% of employees gave a positive assessment of the atmosphere at their place of work. Fifteen per cent of all employees reported conflict situations with colleagues and 18% had been in conflict with management. Men were more likely than women to cross swords in the workplace. Eighty-seven percent of people who were not in conflict at work reported a pleasant atmosphere, compared with seventy per cent of those who were in disagreement with colleagues or management. Conflict situations do therefore seem to have an effect on the atmosphere in the place of work.

### ***Work pressure unchanged, except in construction and education***

Pressure of work remained unchanged between 1997 and 1999. In this period, just over four in ten people regularly had a high work rate; one in three had to work against the clock. In the construction industry and in education the number of workers who had to work under pressure of time did increase between 1997 and 1999. In construction the percentage rose from 28 to 32, and in basic education from 25 to 30.

### ***More work at computer screens***

The number of people working at computer screens rose from 41% to 44% between 1997 and 1999. This increase was not accompanied by a rise in the number of people having to retain the same posture at work, however. The share of employees who have to retain the same posture for an extended period of time remained unchanged at 43%, while the number of people who regularly have to assume a difficult

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posture to do their work hardly changed either. The number of people who regularly have to use physical strength in their work also remained constant between 1997 and 1999.

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