



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

PR00-284
19 December 2000
9.30 hrs

Fall in unemployment comes to an end

After nearly seven years, the decrease in the rate of unemployment has now come to an end. The seasonally adjusted figure puts registered unemployment at 191 thousand in the months September-November, the same number as in April-June. Because of the decrease in the first half of the year the number is still 16 thousand lower than in the same period last year. Like short-term unemployment, which has been stable for some time now, the fall in long-term unemployment has also come to an end, according to the latest figures from Statistics Netherlands.

Registered unemployment no longer decreasing

After adjustment for seasonal effects, 191 thousand people were registered as unemployed in the period September-November, the same number as in April-June. This development warrants the conclusion that registered unemployment is now no longer decreasing, bringing the continuous fall since 1994 to an end. The first signs of this were the slower rates of decrease since 1999. Because of the decrease in the first half of this year the number is still 16 thousand lower than in the same period last year.

In the months September to November, the number of registered unemployed people in the Netherlands was higher than in the period June to August. However, this does not mean that unemployment is now increasing. The difference falls within the margin of error of the sample survey results.

Long-term unemployment stable too

In the last two years the fall in unemployment has been caused mainly by the decrease in the number of people who had been registered with an employment agency for longer than a year. This fall in the number of long-term unemployed has now come to an end. The figure has been hovering around the 80 thousand mark since April-June this year.

The number of unemployed registered for less than one year has been quite stable for some time now. In September-November the number of short-term unemployed was nearly 110 thousand, about the same level as in the same period last year and a few thousand lower than in September-November 1998.

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