



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Number of job vacancies still high

At the end of September 2000, 169 thousand jobs were available in the Dutch private sector, 33 thousand fewer than one quarter previously. According to Statistics Netherlands, this fall was caused mainly by seasonal effects. Compared with September 1999 the number of vacancies was 10 thousand higher, continuing its high level into the third quarter of last year.

The labour market also remained very dynamic in the third quarter of 2000. At 240 thousand, the number of vacancies filled was the highest ever measured.

Seasonal effects

The number of vacancies at the end of last September was 169 thousand. That is just over 30 thousand fewer than in the preceding quarter, but still 10 thousand more than in the same period in 1999. Seasonal effects account for an important part of the drop in the number of vacancies. In the years 1998-2000 the number of vacancies in the third quarter were constantly fifteen per cent lower than in the second quarter.

The Netherlands has had a period of increasing vacancies and falling unemployment since 1994. The decrease in the rate of unemployment has now come to an end, but it is too early to say whether this is also the case for the increase in vacancies.

Labour market dynamics

The number of vacant positions filled reached a new record in the third quarter of 2000, at 240 thousand. The number of new vacancies created was 25 thousand lower in the third quarter than in the second quarter. Compared with the third quarter of 1999 the number of created vacancies was 10 thousand higher. In combination with the number of positions filled, this indicates that the labour market is still very dynamic.

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Vacancy rate down

The tension on the labour market can be measured in terms of the vacancy rate: the number of vacancies per thousand jobs. In the third quarter this vacancy rate fell from 37 to 31, a consequence of the decreasing number of vacancies and an increasing number of jobs. In a number of industries, such as manufacturing, construction and IT, the vacancy rate dropped sharply. In construction and IT this development had already been reported in the third quarter of 1999.

Public sector vacancies

In the public sector 14 thousand vacancies were unfilled at the end of September last year, 3 thousand fewer than one quarter previously. One of the reasons for this is that relatively many vacancies in education are filled in the summer months, significantly reducing the number of unfilled vacancies by the end of September.

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