



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Fewer people on income support

In the Netherlands, people with no other form of income receive an income support benefit from the government. The number of people claiming such a benefit fell by 30 thousand between June 1999 and June 2000. This is a smaller decrease than in the previous year, so it appears that the decrease in income support claimants is slowing down. The number of older people on the benefit has remained stable. The decrease in the number of people claiming unemployment benefit is also slowing down. Figures from Statistics Netherlands further show that industrial disability payments to women are rising.

Number of older people receiving income support unchanged

At the end of June 2000 347 thousand people were on income support, 30 thousand fewer than the year before. In June 1999 the fall on the previous year was 36 thousand.

The number of people under 35 on income support fell most sharply. In the age group 55 to 64 years, the number remained the same in the previous year and a half: some 62 thousand people in this age group receive income support.

Women find it difficult to come off income support

The number of women on income support is decreasing more slowly than the number of men. At the end of June 2000 the number of women with this benefit had fallen by 5%, the number of men by 11%. Single parents, in particular, find it hard to achieve a level of income that no longer necessitates them to claim income support. Most of these are women.

Unemployment benefits falling more slowly

At the end of September 2000, 187 thousand people were claiming unemployment benefit, 40 thousand fewer than one year earlier. In September 1999 the number of benefits was 50 thousand down on the previous year. The decrease in unemployment benefits is therefore also slowing down. The slowdown is smallest for people of 55 and older.

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More women with industrial disability

The number of labour disablement benefits was 940 thousand at the end of September 2000, 20 thousand more than in the previous year. The increase is entirely accounted for by the increase in the number of women receiving this benefit. In September 1999 the number of labour disablement benefits was still 25 thousand higher than in the preceding year, so the increase in September 2000 was slightly smaller.

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