



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## ***Number of welfare recipients declining***

In recent years the number of households depending on welfare has been decreasing continuously. By the end of September 2000 there were 341 thousand households on welfare according to the latest figures on welfare and other social benefits by Statistics Netherlands. The number of recipients of unemployment benefits (WW) also continued to fall. However, the number of disablement benefit recipients went up.

## **Fewer people under 45 on welfare**

By the end of September 2000 341 thousand households received welfare, down 8% on September 1999. Especially the number of younger welfare recipients fell rapidly. Between September 1999 and September 2000 the number of welfare recipients under 45 fell by 12%, in contrast to the number of welfare recipients over 45 which fell by only 3%. This means that the population on welfare is aging.

## **Trend: fewer people on unemployment benefits**

By the end of December 2000 the number of unemployment benefits was 189 thousand, down 34 thousand on December 1999, averaging a decrease of almost 3 thousand a month. This means the downward trend in the number of unemployment benefits continued. However, the rate in which the number was declining was not as high as in 1999 when the number of unemployment benefits fell by about 4 thousand a month.

## **Disablement benefits up in number**

Last year the number of disablement benefits rose by about 2 thousand a month, bringing the number up to 949 thousand by December 2000. Almost a third of the people on disablement have physical complaints making them unfit for work. For people under 45 the main causes of disablement are psychological complaints. For people over 45 the main causes are problems with joints, muscles and bones.

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