



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Employment continues to grow

In the first quarter of 2001 employment continued to grow like it did in recent years, according to the latest figures by Statistics Netherlands. The number of employee jobs was up 193 thousand on the first quarter of 2000. This is an increase of 2.7%. Converted into fulltime job equivalents this comes down to a 2.6% increase. Women have the greatest share in this job growth. Employment is growing fastest in the care sector, in other services, and in trade, hotels and restaurants, and repairs. The wage costs per fulltime job went up 4.6% in the first quarter of 2001 compared to the first quarter of 2000.

Employment in care and other services growing fastest of all

The number of jobs in the first quarter of 2001 is higher in virtually all branches of industry than in the first quarter of 2000. Care and other services grew fastest, namely by 48 thousand jobs (3.9%) and trade, hotels and restaurants, and repairs by 52 thousand jobs (3.4%). Together they account for 50% of the total growth in employment.

For all branches of industry together the growth rate in the first quarter averaged 2.7%, the same as 2000. In the years 1997 through 1999 the growth rate exceeded 3%.

In care and other services and in government first quarter growth was clearly higher than in 2000. In most other branches of industry the growth rate in the first quarter was lower than in 2000.

Especially more women getting jobs

The number jobs taken on by women has been growing faster than the number of jobs taken on by men for several years. This is also the case in the first quarter van 2001. Compared to a year ago the number of jobs taken on by women increased by 125 thousand. The job increase among men was 69 thousand. The total number of jobs in the first quarter was 7.4 million of which women filled 44%.

Because women are working more often in parttime jobs than men, the difference in the employment growth rate for women converted into fulltime jobs is smaller. The number of work in years for women increased by 85 thousand and for men by 59 thousand.

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Wage costs per fulltime job increased by 4.6%

The total wage costs for employers went up by 7.3% in the first quarter of 2001 on a year ago. When employment increases by 2.6% the average payments per full year worked is up 4.6%. This is more than the 3.3% increase according to the CAO wage rates – that is the rate fixed by collective agreement. About 1 percentage point of the increase in the payments per year worked is a remarkable increase in one-off bonus payments in the first quarter. Because the one-off payments were below average in the fourth quarter of 2000 it looks like a shift took place as a consequence of the introduction of the new tax system. This occurred in all branches of industry except government.

In the new tax system the marginal rates for wage and income tax was lowered. This means that postponing end-of-the-year bonus payments to January 2001 comes down to a substantial tax advantage for the employees.

Economic growth and the job market

While the economic growth rate of 2% in the first quarter of 2001 was relatively low compared to last year, employment continued to rise at the same pace. Unemployment fell again, and the number of vacancies was again high. In general there is a somewhat delayed reaction of employment to changes in the economy.

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