



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## ***Fewer income support and unemployment benefits***

The number of Dutch households on income support fell further to 335 thousand in 2000. The number of people receiving unemployment benefit was also down. The decrease of income support and unemployment benefits is slowing down slightly. The number of incapacity benefits, on the other hand, continues to rise, especially for women and partially incapacitated people, according to figures from Statistics Netherlands.

### ***Smaller decrease in income support***

The number of income support claimants fell by 28 thousand last year. After falls of 34 thousand in 1999 and 40 thousand in 1998, the number seems to be decreasing more slowly. At the end of 2000, 335 thousand households were receiving income support.

### ***Fewer and fewer young people need income support***

The main cause of the decrease in the number of people on income support is the smaller number of young people dependent on this benefit. In the last two years the number of claimants in this group has fallen by more than a quarter, while the decrease in people aged 45 and older receiving income support was only 5% in the same period. Single parents also find it hard to achieve a level of income that no longer necessitates them to claim income support. Their number fell by only a few thousand in the last two years, to just under 100 thousand. At the end of 2000 nearly one in three people on income support was a single parent.

### ***Fewer unemployment benefit claimants***

At the end of March 2001, 189 thousand people were claiming unemployment benefits, 33 thousand fewer than one year previously. The decrease in the number of unemployment benefits is also slowing down slightly. The number of unemployment benefits fell by 51 thousand from the end of March 1999 to the end of March 2000. In spite of the downward trend, in the winter months the number hardly fell at all. However, this is the result of seasonal effects. The number of short-term benefits decreased more slowly in the last year than the number of benefits lasting one year or longer.

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### ***Strong increase for women and partially incapacitated people***

The number of people receiving incapacity benefits continued to rise at the same rate. At the end of March 2001, 25 thousand more of these benefits were paid than one year previously, bringing the number of incapacity benefits to 958 thousand. The increases in the number of benefits paid to partially and completely incapacitated people were about the same size: 13 thousand. However, the number of partially incapacitated rose twice as strongly. The increase was especially large among women. The number of completely incapacitated men fell slightly. The increase in the number of partially incapacitated men was much smaller than that for women.

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