



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Decrease in welfare and unemployment benefits slowing down

The numbers of welfare and unemployment benefit are still falling every quarter, however the rate in which this happens is tapering off. Compared to a year ago there is a drop of 25 thousand for both types of benefits. The number of people on labour disablement continues to grow, according to the latest figures by Statistics Netherlands.

Welfare rate down most among men

Between March 2000 and March 2001 the number of welfare benefits (*bijstand*) fell by more than 24 thousand, leaving the total at 331 thousand. In the previous year there was a drop of 35 thousand. Among men the numbers fell by almost 10%, twice the rate observed among women (almost 5%). This is mainly because the group that has most problems getting off welfare are single parents, a female-dominated group. But also among single people on welfare the drop among women is substantially less than among men. There has even been a slight increase in the number of women aged between 55-64 receiving welfare last year.

Drop in unemployment benefits cut by a third

By the end of June 2001 a total of 169 thousand unemployment benefits (*WW*) were paid, 26 thousand less than a year ago. In the period June 1999 – June 2000 there was a drop of 42 thousand. So the rate in which the numbers decreased was cut by a third. For men under 45 years of age the drop this year was actually even half that of last year.

Further increase of labour disablement benefits

The number of labour disablement benefits continues to grow. By the end of June 2001 the number of labour disablement benefits was 965 thousand, up 26 thousand on a year ago. This increase can be attributed for more than 50% to women on complete disablement. The number of partially disabled women and men did not grow as fast. The number of men on complete disablement has actually been falling slightly this year.

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Table 1. Welfare recipients aged under 65 ¹⁾

	1999	2000			2001	Changes	
	31 March	31 March	30 June	30 Sept.	31 dec.	31 March	31 March 2000- 31 March 2001
	X 1000						
Total	390	355	347	341	335	331	-24
Men	175	153	148	144	141	139	-15
15 – 24 years	16	12	11	10	10	10	-2
25 – 34 years	48	38	35	33	32	31	-7
35 – 44 years	46	42	40	39	39	38	-4
45 – 54 years	37	35	34	33	33	32	-2
55 – 64 years	27	27	27	27	27	27	0
Women	215	202	199	197	194	192	-10
15 – 24 years	19	17	16	17	16	16	-1
25 – 34 years	57	51	49	48	47	46	-5
35 – 44 years	59	55	54	54	53	52	-3
45 – 54 years	45	44	43	43	43	43	-1
55 – 64 years	34	35	35	35	35	36	0
Status							
Single	217	195	189	185	182	181	-14
Single parent	103	98	97	97	96	95	-4
Couple	68	61	59	57	56	55	-6
Other	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Period on welfare							
Less than 1 year	84	73	69	67	66	66	-7
1 year or more	305	283	277	273	269	265	-18

¹⁾ Exclusive persons on welfare in institutions

Source: CBS

Table 2. Unemployment Benefits (WW)

Table 2. Unemployment Benefits (VWV)							
	1999	2000	2001			Changes	
	30 June	30 Jun	30 Sept.	31 dec.	31 March	30 Jun	30/6/00-30/6/01
	X 1000						
Total ¹⁾	237	195	187	189	189	169	-26
Men	129	107	103	107	108	94	-13
15 – 24 years	5	3	3	4	4	3	-1
25 – 34 years	20	15	14	15	16	12	-3
35 – 44 years	22	18	17	18	18	15	-2
45 – 54 years	24	20	19	20	20	17	-3
55 – 64 years	57	51	50	50	50	48	-3
Women	109	88	84	82	81	75	-13
15 – 24 years	6	4	4	4	4	4	-1
25 – 34 years	29	22	21	20	19	18	-4
35 – 44 years	26	21	20	19	19	18	-3
45 – 54 years	26	21	20	19	19	17	-4
55 – 64 years	21	20	19	20	20	19	-1
Period on benefits							
less than 1 year	99	80	76	81	88	77	-2
1 year or more	138	116	111	108	100	92	-24

¹⁾ Exclusive: unknown**Source : CBS****Table 3. Labour disablement benefits**

	1999		2000		2001		Changes	
	30 June	30 Jun	31 Sept.	31 dec.	31 March	30 Jun	30/6/00-30/6/01	
	X 1000							
Total ¹⁾	915	938	940	949	958	965	26	
Men	546	548	546	548	550	550	2	
15 – 24 years	14	15	15	15	16	16	1	
25 – 34 years	41	41	40	41	41	41	0	
35 – 44 years	82	83	83	83	83	84	1	
45 – 54 years	170	170	169	170	170	168	-2	
55 – 64 years	239	239	239	239	240	241	2	
Women	369	391	394	402	408	415	24	
15 – 24 years	13	15	15	15	15	15	1	
25 – 34 years	55	59	59	61	61	62	4	
35 – 44 years	78	84	85	87	89	91	7	
45 – 54 years	109	114	116	119	121	122	7	
55 – 64 years	114	119	119	120	122	124	6	
Men								
partially disabled	170	172	172	173	175	176	5	
Fully disabled	374	376	374	374	374	373	-3	
Women								
partially disabled	72	79	80	83	86	89	10	
Fully disabled	296	312	315	319	323	326	14	

¹⁾ Including unknown**Source : CBS**