



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Income support and unemployment benefits continue to fall

The number of people on income support fell further in the second quarter of last year, to 326 thousand. The fall of 20 thousand compared with the same period in 2000 means the rate of decrease is still slowing down, according to figures from Statistics Netherlands. The number of people claiming unemployment benefit fell by 25 thousand last year. The number of people receiving disablement benefit is still increasing though.

Fall in income support benefits levelling out

Between June 2000 and June 2001 the number of income support benefits paid out fell by more than 20 thousand to 326 thousand. In June 2000 the decrease compared with twelve months previously was still as much as 30 thousand, so the rate of decrease is still slowing down. The continuous decrease has pushed down the number of income support benefits by more than 100 thousand compared with three and a half years ago. The decrease in the number of men on income support is still higher than that for women receiving this benefit.

Long-term unemployment benefits down in particular

At the end of September 2001, 163 thousand people were claiming unemployment benefits, 25 thousand fewer than one year earlier. In the period September 1999–September 2000 the number fell by 39 thousand. The number of long-term benefits (paid for one year and longer) fell by 18 thousand. This is a significantly larger decrease than that for benefits paid for under a year, which fell by 6 thousand.

Number of disablement benefits continues to increase

The number of labour disablement benefits was 965 thousand at the end of September 2001, 25 thousand more than one year previously. This increase is larger than the 20 thousand in the period September 1999–September 2000; it is almost completely accounted for by the rise in the number of women receiving a disablement benefit. Moreover, the number of people who can work but for shorter hours and thus receive a partial disablement benefit has risen by more than the number of people completely unable to work.

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