



Statistics Netherlands

# Press release

PB02-75  
17 April 2002  
9:30 AM

## ***Number of welfare and unemployment benefits no longer falling***

The number of welfare and unemployment benefits fell in the second half of the year 2001, according to the latest figures by Statistics Netherlands. The number of welfare benefits fell to a total of 323 thousand at the end of September 2001, while the number of unemployment benefits fell to 166 thousand. There was a substantial slowdown in the rate at which these numbers were falling.

The number of labour disablement benefits, on the other hand, was still increasing, although the rate of increase in 2001 was not as high as in 2000.

### ***Over 300 thousand welfare benefits***

The number of welfare benefits at the end of the third quarter of 2001 was 323 thousand, which is 18 thousand less than the year before. This drop was substantially less than the 29 thousand in the previous twelve months.

### ***Fewer couples on welfare***

The largest drop in the number of welfare recipients was found among married and unmarried couples, namely 8%. There was only a 3% drop among single parents. Since the benefits for couples are mainly registered in the man's name, and since single parents are mostly women, the number of men on welfare decreased by more than the number of women. The difference between men and women among single persons without children is much smaller.

### ***Drop in unemployment benefits levelling off***

On 31 December 2001 the number of unemployment benefits paid was 166 thousand, down 23 thousand on the year before. Between December 1999 and December 2000 the decrease was 34 thousand. The decrease among men was slightly larger than among women: in 2001 there were 13 thousand fewer men on unemployment benefits and 10 thousand fewer women.

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### ***Smaller increase in labour disablement benefits***

The number of labour disablement benefits increased by 24 thousand to a total of 981 thousand at the end of the year 2001. The increase is smaller than the increase of 31 thousand in 2000. The labour disablement benefits increased mainly on account of women over 35. The number of men on labour disablement has almost stayed the same over the last year. The number of women on labour disablement increased by 23 thousand.

***Table 1. Welfare benefits for persons under 65 <sup>1)</sup>***

	1999	2000	2001			Change	
	30 Sept.	30 June	30 Sept.	31 March	30 June	30 Sept.	30 Sept. 2000 – 30 Sept. 2001
X 1000							
Total	370	347	341	331	326	323	-18
Men	162	148	144	139	136	133	-10
Aged 15 – 24	13	11	10	10	10	9	-1
25 – 34	42	35	33	31	30	29	-5
35 – 44	44	40	39	38	37	37	-3
45 – 54	36	34	33	32	32	31	-2
55 – 64	27	27	27	27	27	27	0
Women	209	199	197	192	190	189	-8
Aged 15 – 24	18	16	17	16	16	16	-1
25 – 34	54	49	48	46	45	44	-4
35 – 44	57	54	54	52	52	51	-3
45 – 54	45	43	43	43	42	41	-2
55 – 64	34	35	35	36	36	36	1
Single	204	189	185	181	177	175	-10
Single parent	101	97	97	95	94	94	-3
Couple	64	59	57	55	54	53	-4
Other	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Duration of benefit							
Less than 1 year	75	68	66	65	65	63	-3
1 Year or more	295	279	274	266	262	259	-15

<sup>1)</sup> Excluding institutionalised persons on welfare

**Source: Statistics Netherlands**

**Table 2. Unemployment benefits**

	1999	2000	2001			Change	
	31 Dec.	30 Sept.	31 Dec.	30 June	30 Sept.	31 Dec.	31 Dec2000/01
X 1000							
Total <sup>1)</sup>	223	187	189	172	164	166	-23
Men	124	103	107	95	91	94	-13
Aged 15 – 24	5	3	4	3	2	3	0
25 – 34	19	14	15	12	11	13	-2
35 – 44	22	17	18	16	15	17	-2
45 – 54	24	19	20	17	16	17	-3
55 – 64	54	50	50	48	46	44	-6
Women	99	84	82	77	74	72	-10
Aged 15 – 24	5	4	4	4	3	4	0
25 – 34	25	21	20	18	17	17	-3
35 – 44	23	20	19	18	18	17	-2
45 – 54	24	20	19	18	16	16	-4
55 – 64	21	19	20	19	19	18	-1
Duration of benefit							
Less than 1 year	96	80	87	78	74	80	-7
1 Year or more	127	108	103	94	90	86	-16

<sup>1)</sup> Including unknown

**Source: Statistics Netherlands**

**Table 3. Labour disablement benefits**

	1999	2000	2001			Change	
	31 Dec.	30 Sept.	31 Dec.	30 June	30 Sept.	31 Dec.	31Dec 2000/01
X 1000							
Total <sup>1)</sup>	926	946	957	973	973	981	24
Sex							
Men	547	548	551	553	551	553	1
Aged 15 – 24	15	15	16	16	16	16	1
25 – 34	41	41	41	41	41	40	0
35 – 44	82	83	84	85	84	85	1
45 – 54	170	169	171	169	167	166	-5
55 – 64	238	239	238	242	243	244	5
Women	379	397	406	419	422	429	23
Aged 15 – 24	14	15	15	16	16	16	1
25 – 34	57	60	62	63	63	64	3
35 – 44	81	86	88	92	93	95	7
45 – 54	111	117	120	123	123	125	4
55 – 64	116	120	120	125	127	129	8
Men							
Partially disabled	170	173	175	176	176	.	.
Fully disabled	375	375	376	373	369	.	.

Women							
Partially disabled	75	81	84	89	91	.	.
Fully disabled	303	317	322	326	326	.	.

<sup>1)</sup> Including unknown

**Source: Statistics Netherlands**