

Statistics Netherlands

# Press release

PB02-076  
17 April 2002  
9:30 AM

## ***Unemployment figures for the first quarter***

According to the latest figures by Statistics Netherlands, the number of registered unemployed averaged 161 thousand during the first quarter. This is 15 thousand less than in the same period last year.

### ***Registered unemployment in the first quarter***

In the months January – March 2002 the number of registered unemployed averaged 161 thousand. During this time of the year seasonal influences always cause unemployment to be higher than during the rest of the year. The seasonally corrected unemployment figure comes down to 145 thousand, up 8 thousand on December – February and 11 thousand on the fourth quarter of last year. However, this does not imply that unemployment is currently rising. The figures are based on a sample survey, which means there is a substantial margin of error. Therefore the trend in unemployment should be observed over a fairly long period of time.

The unemployment figures have shown little fluctuation since the spring of 2001. The seasonally corrected figure on the registered unemployed has stayed between 135 and 150 thousand. There are minor changes, all well within the margin of error for sample survey results. This is also true for the difference between the fourth quarter of last year and the first quarter of this year. Conclusions about the trend in unemployment can only be drawn after the figures of the next few months are in.

### ***Less unemployment than a year ago***

Compared to the same period last year there are 15 thousand fewer people unemployed. The main drop is found in the number of people who have been registered as unemployed for more than a year.

[www.cbs.nl](http://www.cbs.nl)

Statistics Netherlands  
is a department of  
the Ministry of  
Economic Affairs

For further information please contact I. Beckers,  
tel. +31 45 570 73 23, or the press office.

Tel. +31 70 337 58 16

Fax +31 70 337 59 71

E-mail: [persdienst@cbs.nl](mailto:persdienst@cbs.nl)

**Table 1. Registered unemployed** 1)

	Jan.	Feb.	Mr.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
x 1 000												
Original figures												
1995	484	497	477	465	446	445	453	453	450	451	459	463
1996	468	469	465	441	418	415	433	441	438	431	432	437
1997	429	415	399	381	376	378	379	372	351	349	336	340
1998	346	346	318	289	270	270	273	271	265	262	260	265
1999	263	265	246	227	216	209	213	212	211	206	189	201
2000	201	217	201	195	173	171	169	176	181	190	186	187
2001	184	176	155	134	132	132	135	141	140	141	135	146
2002	152	161										
Year-on-year changes												
1995	-11	-23	-23	-18	-15	-20	-17	-31	-34	-39	-21	-29
1996	-16	-28	-12	-24	-28	-30	-20	-12	-12	-20	-27	-26
1997	-39	-54	-66	-60	-42	-37	-54	-69	-87	-82	-96	-97
1998	-83	-69	-81	-92	-106	-108	-106	-101	-86	-87	-76	-75
1999	-83	-81	-72	-62	-54	-61	-60	-59	-54	-56	-71	-64
2000	-62	-48	-45	-32	-43	-38	-44	-36	-30	-16	-3	-14
2001	-17	-41	-46	-61	-41	-39	-34	-35	-41	-49	-51	-41
2002	-32	-15										
Seasonally corrected figures												
1995	470	480	467	471	465	460	460	455	452	451	458	454
1996	454	451	456	448	436	431	441	442	441	431	432	427
1997	415	398	391	388	394	394	386	373	353	348	335	329
1998	332	329	311	296	288	286	281	272	267	262	259	255
1999	248	248	240	234	233	223	221	214	213	206	187	191
2000	186	200	195	204	190	185	177	178	183	189	184	177
2001	169	159	150	142	149	146	144	143	141	139	134	136
2002	137	145										
Average monthly change in the last three months												
1995	-7	0	-5	0	-5	-2	-4	-3	-3	-3	1	1
1996	1	-2	1	-2	-5	-8	-2	2	3	-3	-3	-5
1997	-5	-11	-12	-9	-1	1	-1	-7	-14	-13	-13	-8
1998	-5	-2	-6	-12	-14	-8	-5	-5	-6	-6	-4	-4
1999	-5	-4	-5	-5	-5	-6	-4	-6	-3	-5	-9	-7
2000	-7	4	1	6	-3	-3	-9	-4	-1	4	2	-2
2001	-7	-8	-9	-9	-3	-1	1	-2	-2	-2	-3	-2
2002	-1	4										

**Source: Statistics Netherlands**

1) Three month average recorded in the second month

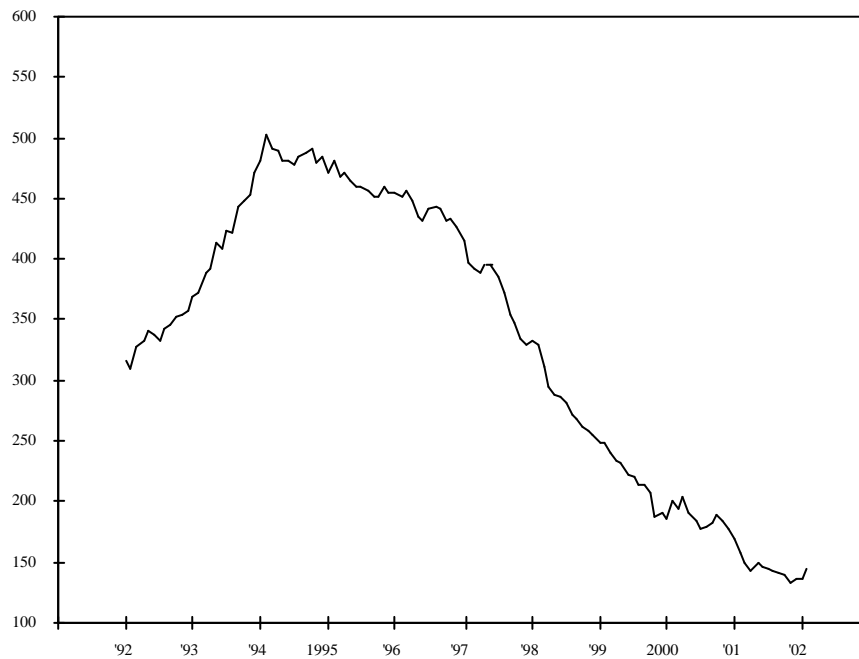
**Table 2. Registered unemployed by sex and registration period**

	Sex		Registration period		Total	Unemployment percentage
	man	woman	<1 year	≥ 1 year		
	<i>x 1 000</i>					<i>As a % of the work force</i>
1995	260	204	217	247	464	7.0
1996	240	201	219	221	440	6.6
1997	199	176	180	195	375	5.5
1998	155	132	132	155	287	4.1
1999	115	106	110	111	221	3.1
2000	98	90	106	82	188	2.6
2001	77	69	94	52	146	2.0 *
Jan.'01-Mr.'01	98	78	114	62	176	2.4
Jan.'02-Mr.'02	82	79	110	52	161	2.2 *

**Source: Statistics Netherlands**

**Registered unemployment  
seasonally corrected figures**

*x 1 000*



**Source: Statistics Netherlands**