



Press release

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Unemployment up further in second quarter

According to figures just released by Statistics Netherlands, the number of registered unemployed in the Netherlands was 164 thousand on average in the second quarter. Just as in the first quarter the number rose in the second quarter. After adjustment for seasonal effects, the increase is about seven to eight thousand people a month in the last six months

Upward trend for unemployment

There were 164 thousand people in the Netherlands registered as being unemployed, five thousand more than in the months March to May. As seasonal effects usually push down unemployment by seven thousand, after removal of these effects the new rate of unemployment is twelve thousand higher than in the last three-month period. The increase is therefore continuing. Registered unemployment is now 46 thousand higher than in the last quarter of last year, an increase of seven to eight thousand a month.

Unemployment trend

Following a decreasing trend since the mid-nineties, unemployment reached a low of 134 thousand in the last quarter of last year. The seasonally adjusted figures is now 180 thousand, just as high as in the second half of 2000. The increase in unemployment is connected with the slowdown in economic growth which started in the second quarter of 2001. With a delay, the growth in the number of jobs has started to level out, the number of vacancies is falling substantially and unemployment is increasing.

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