



Press release

PB02-268
20 December 2002
9:30 AM

Number of vacancies down

The number of unfilled vacancies in the third quarter of 2002 fell again. According to Statistics Netherlands there were 115 thousand unfilled vacancies at the end of September, 56 thousand less than in September 2001.

Same decrease as in the previous quarter

At the end of September 2002 there were 115 thousand unfilled vacancies, 56 thousand less than the year before. The drop was the same in the previous quarter. During the first quarter there was a decrease of 38 thousand.

The highest September value was reached in 2000, when there were 183 thousand unfilled vacancies. Since that time the number of vacancies has dropped by almost 40 percent.

Fewer vacancies across the board

It is the first time that the number of vacancies fell in all branches of industry. Business services saw the greatest drop, for the fourth quarter in a row. There were 23 thousand unfilled vacancies in this branch at the end of September, against 39 thousand the year before. The decrease was levelling off however. There were also major decreases in the manufacturing industry and in construction.

Job market less dynamic

In the third quarter van 2002 some 160 thousand vacancies were created, almost 50 thousand less than in the year before. Although the decrease is smaller than in the previous quarters, it is very great. The level of new vacancies fell considerably in recent quarters. In the third quarter of 2000, for instance, there were still 230 thousand new vacancies.

Some 207 thousand vacancies were filled during the third quarter of 2002, some 50 thousand less than the year before. This drop is below those in the preceding quarters. The crease in the numbers of new and filled vacancies shows that the job market has become far less dynamic.

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Job market less tight

Since the number of vacancies is falling, the job market has become less tight. This is shown in the number of vacancies per 1 thousand jobs. At the end of September there were 15 vacancies per 1 thousand jobs, whereas there were 23 the year before. The tightness went out across the board during the third quarter. The decrease was particularly large in the construction industry. By the end of September 2001 it had 33 unfilled vacancies per 1 thousand jobs, against 15 one year later. The catering, business services and health care were the tightest branches of industry at the end of September 2002.

Registered unemployment and unemployment benefits up

The consequences of the minimal economic growth are manifest in the job market. The number of vacancies is falling and job growth in the third quarter was at the lowest level in eight years. The number of registered unemployed averaged 183 thousand in September-November, up 42 thousand on the year before. The number of unemployment benefits increased by 20 thousand in the third quarter compared to the same period last year.

Vacancies

		Number of	New	Filled
		vacancies	vacancies 1)	vacancies 1) 2)
		x 1000		
31 March	1997	89	151	141
30 June	1997	101	190	178
30 September	1997	92	182	191
31 December	1997	115	189	165
31 March	1998	133	220	202
30 June	1998	152	229	211
30 September	1998	129	209	232
31 December	1998	137	197	189
31 March	1999	158	241	221
30 June	1999	197	268	229
30 September	1999	171	217	243
31 December	1999	184	226	213
31 March	2000	216	283	251
30 June	2000	218	251	248
30 September	2000	183	230	265
31 December	2000	204	254	233
31 March	2001	216	270	258

30 June	2001	218	273	270
30 September	2001	171	209	256
31 December	2001	164	194	200
31 March	2002	178	213	199
30 June	2002	162	200	216
30 September	2002	115	160	207

1) In the quarter ending on the date shown.

2) Including cancelled vacancies.

Source: Statistics Netherlands