



Statistics Netherlands

Press release

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Number of vacancies no longer falling

According to the latest figures by Statistics Netherlands, the number of unfilled vacancies stopped falling in the fourth quarter of 2002. On 31 December there were 121 thousand unfilled vacancies. This is close to the number of unfilled vacancies at the end of September, when there were 115 thousand. Compared to the fourth quarter of 2001 the number of unfilled vacancies was down by 43 thousand. This is due to the sharp decrease in the preceding quarters of 2002.

Same picture across the board

In the fourth quarter of 2002 the number of unfilled vacancies stopped falling in all branches of industry. This is true for large and medium-sized enterprises. The only enterprises where the number of vacancies increased were enterprises with less than 10 employees.

Number of filled vacancies down

The number of vacancies filled was lower in the fourth quarter of 2002 than in the previous quarters. However, the number of new vacancies in the fourth quarter was the same as in the third quarter.

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Table 1. Open, new and filled vacancies

		Open vacancies	New vacancies ¹⁾	Filled vacancies ^{1) 2)}
		x 1 000		
1997	31 December	115	189	165
1998	31 December	137	197	189
1999	31 December	184	226	213
2000	31 December	204	254	233
2001	31 March	216	270	258
	30 June	218	273	270
	30 September	171	209	256
	31 December	164	194	200
2002	31 March	178	213	199
	30 June	162	200	216
	30 September	115	160	207
	31 December	121	162	156

1) In the quarter ending on this date.

2) Including vacancies cancelled.

Source: Statistics Netherlands