



# Press release

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## Unemployment rising sharply

Dutch unemployment increased to an average of 377 thousand during the first quarter of 2003, according to the latest figures by Statistics Netherlands. The unemployed labour force grew by 95 thousand persons on the same period last year. Unemployment increased from 3.8 to 5.1 percent of the labour force within one year. Employment stopped growing.

### Unemployment rising across the board

In the months of January - March 2003 the number of unemployed people averaged 377 thousand. The seasonally corrected unemployment figure was 367 thousand. Compared to last month, the seasonally unemployment figure increased by 29 thousand.

At first, rising unemployment mainly involved men. Now unemployment is also increasing among women. The unemployment percentage among men increased from 3.0 percent last year to 4.6 percent. Among women unemployment rose from 5.0 to 5.7 percent. Compared to last year, unemployment increased in all age categories and both sexes.

### Growth in employment has come to a halt

In the period January - March 2003 the number of people employed in a job of twelve hours a week or more was 7 064 thousand. This is about the same number as last year. Until recently employment continued to increase, albeit slower than before. However, in recent months the employed labour force started to decrease.

www.cbs.nl

For further information please contact the press office.

Tel. +31 70 337 58 16

Fax +31 70 337 59 71

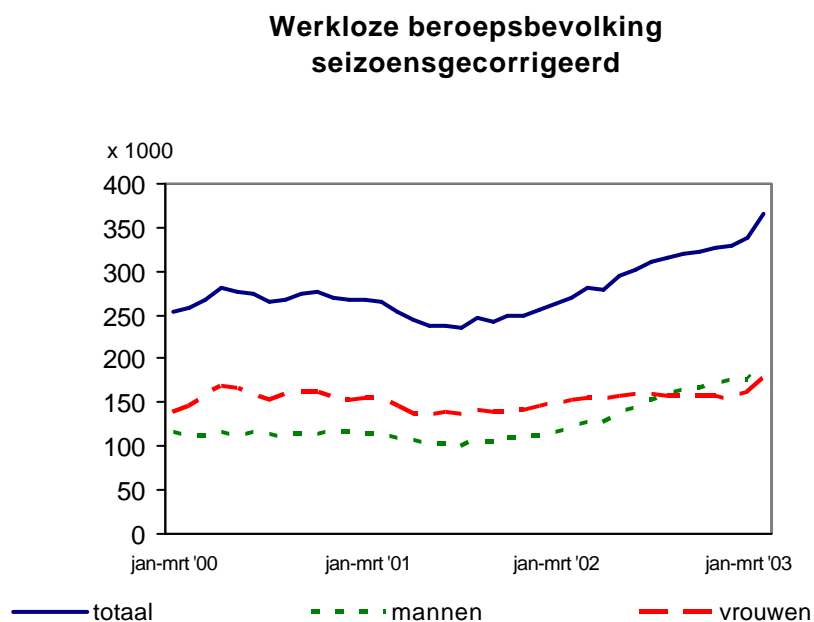
E-mail: [persdienst@cbs.nl](mailto:persdienst@cbs.nl)

**Table 1. Unemployed labour force**

	Dec.- Feb.	Jan.- Mar.	Feb.- Apr.	Mar.- May	Apr.- Jun	May- Jul	Jun- Aug.	Jul- Sep.	Aug.- Oct.	Sep.- Nov.	Oct.- Dec.	Nov.- Jan.
x 1 000												
2001	273	277	262	236	232	245	249	255	235	242	240	248
2002	270	282	290	272	287	309	325	322	313	315	318	321
2003	343	377										
Year-on-year changes												
2001	13	8	-13	-38	-37	-36	-29	-21	-33	-27	-22	-11
2002	-3	5	28	36	55	64	76	67	78	73	78	73
2003	73	95										
Seasonally corrected figures												
2001	268	267	254	245	239	239	236	248	242	250	250	257
2002	265	271	282	280	295	303	312	315	320	322	328	330
2003	338	367										
Average monthly change over the previous six months												
2001	1	0	-4	-5	-6	-5	-5	-3	-2	1	2	3
2002	5	4	7	5	8	8	8	7	6	7	6	5
2003	4	9										

**Source: CBS**

**Unemployed labour force: Seasonally corrected figures, total, men, women**



**Source: CBS**

**Table 2. Unemployed labour force by sex and age**

	Men	Women	15-24	25-44	45-64	Total
x 1 000						
2001	108	142	67	121	63	251
2002	147	155	78	149	76	302
Jan. - Mar. 2002	129	152	64	146	72	282
Jan. - Mar. 2003	200	178	85	199	93	377
Unemployment rate <sup>1)</sup>						
2001	2.5	4.8	7.3	2.9	2.7	3.4
2002	3.4	5.0	8.5	3.6	3.1	4.1
Jan. - Mar. 2002	3.0	5.0	7.4	3.6	3.0	3.8
Jan. - Mar. 2003	4.6	5.7	9.7	4.9	3.8	5.1

1) Unemployed as a percentage of the labour force. Not seasonally corrected

**Source: CBS**

**Table 3. Employed labour force by sex and age**

	Men	Women	15-24	25-44	45-64	Total
x 1 000						
2001	4 209	2 856	854	3 974	2 237	7 064
2002	4 219	2 922	838	3 952	2 351	7 141
Jan. - Mar. 2002	4 193	2 869	803	3 950	2 309	7 062
Jan. - Mar. 2003	4 130	2 935	793	3 888	2 383	7 064

**Source: CBS**