



Press release

PB03-121
1 July 2003
9:30 AM

Pressure of work down further

A working conditions survey held by Statistics Netherlands among workers reveals that pressure of work has now fallen for the third year in a row: fewer people in the Netherlands were working against the clock in 2002 than in 2001; more people report that their work gives them scope to develop their talents; and salary and promotion prospects were also judged favourably by more employees than in 2001.

Pressure of work lower for third successive year

The number of people working under pressure of time fell last year. In 2002, 29 percent of the population (2 million workers) reported that they regularly had to work under pressure of time. In 1999 this was still 33 percent. Another indicator of pressure of work is having to work at a high rate. This has not changed: just over 40 percent of the labour force (3 million people) say they regularly have to work at high speed.

Pressure of work highest in hotels and restaurants

Pressure of work was highest in the hotel and restaurant sector in 2002, followed by transport and communication, and health care and welfare. While pressure of work has been falling in most sectors in recent years, it remains high in the hotel and restaurant sector. In the nineties, pressure was highest in the transport and communication sector, but has eased in this sector, and in the health care and welfare sector, in recent years.

More scope for personal development

The scope for workers to develop their talents and skills increased further in 2002: 78 percent of workers said they could develop their personal skills in their work, up from 73 percent in 1999. In addition, 75 percent of workers think their work fits them well in view of their education, training and work experience; this too is up from 73 percent in 1999.

More workers satisfied with pay

More and more workers are satisfied with their pay packet and their prospects of promotion. While 67 percent of people were satisfied with their salary in 1999, this had risen to 71 percent in 2002. The picture is the same for the prospects of promotion: in 2002 39 percent of workers said they had a good chance of promotion; three years previously this was 34 percent.