



Press release

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Over 400 thousand people unemployed

According to the latest figures by Statistics Netherlands the number of unemployed people in the Netherlands averaged 403 thousand in the second quarter of 2003. Compared to the year before, the unemployed labour force increased by 116 thousand. In the second quarter about 5.4 percent of the labour force was unemployed, versus 3.9 percent in the same period of 2002.

It is the first time since 1997 that the unemployed labour force exceeds 400 thousand. About a year ago the unemployment figure reached the 300 thousand mark. The record low was two years ago when there were 232 thousand people unemployed in the Netherlands.

Rate of increase remains high

Due to seasonal influences, unemployment is always slightly lower in the period April – June. When the seasonal effects are not taken into account, the unemployed labour force is up to 411 thousand. This is 44 thousand more than in the first quarter. The average monthly increase over the last six months was again 14 thousand.

High unemployment rate among young people

In the second quarter over 100 thousand people aged between 15 and 24 were unemployed. This means that the unemployment rate among young people in the labour force reached 11.6 percent.

Seasonal influences are playing a role in this. In the period between June and September unemployment among young people is always slightly higher than during the rest of the year. More young people are available and looking for a job in summer than is normally the case, since the demand for holiday jobs increases and school leavers are entering the job market. Employment also increases on account of seasonal jobs in summer.