



Press release

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Unemployment still high

According to figures just released by Statistics Netherlands, unemployment was an average 414 thousand in the period May-July 2003. This is 105 thousand higher than one year previously. In these three months 5.5 percent of the Dutch labour force were unemployed, up from 4.1 percent one year ago.

Rate of increase unchanged

Seasonal effects always push up unemployment in the period May-July. When these seasonal effects are removed unemployment drops slightly to 408 thousand. The average monthly increase in the last six months was 13 thousand. The rate of increase has been at this high level for a quite a time now.

Unemployment up across the board

Unemployment was higher across the board compared with the same period last year, for both men and women and in all age groups. There are slightly more unemployed men than women, but because the female labour force is smaller, the proportion of women out of a job is higher: 6.4 percent, compared with 4.8 percent of men.

Employment falling

In the months May-July 2003 7,145 thousand persons had a job of at least twelve hours a week. This is 29 thousand fewer than in the same period last year, which means the employed labour force is decreasing slightly.