



Press release

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Decreasing number of jobs

According to the latest figures by Statistics Netherlands there were 22 thousand fewer employee jobs in the Netherlands in the second quarter of 2003 than there were in the second quarter of 2002. There are 116 thousand jobs fewer jobs in the private sector than a year ago, while there were 94 thousand more jobs in the public sector.

In terms of fulltime jobs, total employment fell by 0.9 percent. The wage cost increase in the second quarter was reduced to 4.0 percent.

Increasing job losses in the private sector

The number of employee jobs in the private sector, which consists of all enterprises minus government and care, fell by 2.2 percent on the same period last year. Job losses have been increasing since the second quarter of 2002.

In the second quarter of 2003 employment fell most in construction (-4.1 percent). There were 3 percent fewer jobs in the manufacturing industry, and 2.5 percent less in financial and business services. Employment in trade, hotels and restaurants and repairs fell by a more modest percentage.

Government jobs not growing as fast

Job growth occurred only in the public sector. The care sector saw 65 thousand new jobs within one year, and government (including education) 29 thousand. This means that job growth rate in care remained high, while the job growth rate in government is falling somewhat.

Job loss concentrated among men

The total number of jobs in the Netherlands in the second quarter of 2003 fell by 0.3 percent on the second quarter of 2002. Men's jobs decline by 1.3 percent. Women's jobs increased by 0.9 percent, which is lower than in previous quarters. The differences in the developments of men's and women's jobs are related to the increasing labour participation of women and with increasing employment in care. The care sector employs mainly women.

Dwindling employment in fulltime jobs

Employment expressed in fulltime jobs in the second quarter of 2003 was down by 0.9 percent on the same period last year. In 2002 employment still increased by 0.4 percent. Prior to this employment saw growth rates of between 1.5 and 3 percent for years. In terms of man years, the growth rate in

employment fell faster than in terms of jobs. This is because job increases are concentrated in areas where many people work part time. These jobs are often fulfilled by women, who, comparatively speaking, work more in parttime jobs than men do.

Wage cost increase slowing down

The wage costs per man year increased by an average of 4.0 percent in the second quarter. The increase is obviously less than the average of 4.9 percent in 2002. The slowdown is taking place in all branches of industry. The average wage cost increase is lowest in trade, hotels and restaurants, and repairs. It is highest in care and other services.

The collectively negotiated wage agreements (CAO wages) also decreased: from an average of 3.7 percent in 2002 to 2.9 percent in the second quarter of 2003.