



Press release

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Unemployment rising more slowly

In the third quarter of 2003, the number of unemployed people in the Netherlands averaged 413 thousand. This is a 91 thousand increase on the same period last year. The year-on-year increase is less than in the second quarter of this year, according to the latest figures by Statistics Netherlands. In the third quarter 5.5 percent of the Dutch labour force was unemployed. In the third quarter of 2002 it was 4.3 percent.

Increasing less

Dutch unemployment in the third quarter is always rather high due to seasonal influences. When the figures are seasonally adjusted the unemployed labour force is 406 thousand. The average monthly increase over the last six months is 7 thousand. This means the increase in unemployment is not as great as in the first two quarters of 2003. In the second quarter, the average increase in unemployment over the last six months was 14 thousand a month and during the first quarter 9 thousand.

Employment is falling

In the third quarter of 2003, 7 074 thousand people had a job of twelve hours a week or more. These are the seasonally corrected figures. The employed labour force decreases on average by 8 thousand a month. Employment is now at the level of the second half of 2001.

Table 1. Unemployed labour force

	Dec.- Feb.	Jan.- Mar.	Feb.- Apr.	Mar.- May	Apr.- June	May- July	June- Aug.	July- 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	392	395	403	414	414	413				
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	102	123	116	105	89	91				
seasonally corrected												
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	385	403	411	408	401	406				
Average monthly changes over the last 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	11	14	14	13	11	7				

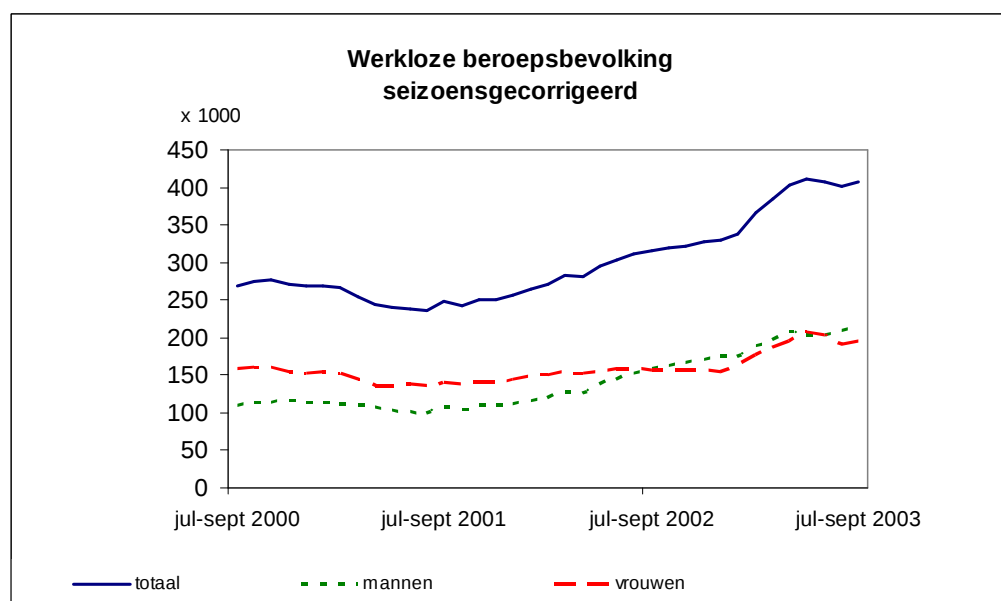
Source: CBS**Unemployed labour force seasonally corrected figures****Source: CBS**

Table 2. Unemployed labour force by sex and age

	Man	Woman	15-24 year	25-44 year	45-64 year	Total
x 1 000						
2001	108	142	67	121	63	251
2002	147	155	78	149	76	302
July - Sep. 2002	159	163	96	150	76	322
July - Sep. 2003	212	201	99	212	102	413
Unemployment rate ¹⁾						
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
July - Sep. 2002	3,6	5,2	9,7	3,7	3,1	4,3
July - Sep. 2003	4,8	6,4	10,4	5,2	4,1	5,5

1) Unemployed as a percentage of the labour force, not seasonally corrected

Source: CBS

Table 3. Employed labour force

	Dec.- Feb.	Jan.- Mar.	Feb.- Apr.	Mar.- May	Apr.- June	May- July	June- Aug.	July- Sep.	Aug.- Oct.	Sep.- Nov.	Oct.- Dec.	Nov.- Jan.
x 1 000												
2001	6 934	6 958	6 984	7 017	7 045	7 104	7 165	7 154	7 121	7 090	7 101	7 082
2002	7 053	7 062	7 067	7 094	7 132	7 174	7 212	7 212	7 194	7 164	7 159	7 136
2003	7 087	7 064	7 061	7 069	7 098	7 145	7 193	7 142				
Year-on-year changes												
2001	122	166	151	171	145	140	126	144	139	130	128	144
2002	118	105	83	77	87	70	47	58	72	75	58	54
2003	34	2	-6	-25	-34	-29	-19	-70				
Seasonally corrected figures												
2001	6 990	7 013	7 039	7 056	7 058	7 062	7 079	7 086	7 080	7 084	7 097	7 110
2002	7 108	7 117	7 122	7 134	7 145	7 131	7 126	7 144	7 153	7 159	7 155	7 164
2003	7 143	7 120	7 115	7 109	7 111	7 103	7 107	7 074				
Average monthly changes over the last six months												
2001	6	12	16	17	15	16	15	12	7	5	7	8
2002	5	5	7	8	8	4	3	5	5	4	2	6
2003	3	-4	-6	-8	-7	-10	-6	-8				

Source: CBS