



# Press release

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## ***More women and older people with a disability affecting their capacity to work***

In the period 2000-2002 the number of people in the Netherlands with a disability affecting their capacity to work reached 1.5 million. In 2002 there were more women and older people disabled than in 2000. The labour force participation rate of disabled people fell due to the increase in the number of older disabled people. The working environment is increasingly adapted to the needs of working disabled people, according to the latest figures by Statistics Netherlands.

### ***More women than men with a disability***

In 2002 about 1.5 million people were affected by chronic disorders, disease or disability, interfering with obtaining or carrying out a job. This constitutes close to 15 percent of the population aged between 15 and 64. This group's capacity to work is affected by disability.

In recent years there has been an increase in the number, and a change in the composition of the group of disabled people. In the year 2000 the group included more men than women. In 2002 the number of women with a disability affecting their capacity to work exceeded the number of men for the first time. The number of older incapacitated people is also increasing. Over half of the group is over 45.

### ***Participation rate of disabled people down***

Almost half of the people with a disability belonged to the active labour force in 2002. This means the participation rate of this group of disabled people has gone down in the last two years. In the year 2000 over half of the group belonged to the active labour force. Older disabled people are more often excluded from the job market than younger disabled people. The increase in the number of older disabled people is one reason why the participation rate is falling. There were almost 700 thousand disabled people who indicated that they could not or did not want to work. Their number was up compared to previous years.

### ***Working environment increasingly adapted***

The working environment of the actively participating disabled people in the labour force is increasingly adapted to their needs. Between 2000 and 2002

there was an increase from 26 to 30 percent in the number of people who had their working environment adapted to a chronic condition as observed within a one year period. Likewise between 2000 and 2002 the number of people who stated they required an adaptation of their working environment fell from 19 to 16 percent.