



Press release

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Number of vacancies falling sharply

The number of vacancies in the third quarter of 2003 fell by 22 thousand. On 30 September there were 92 thousand unfilled vacancies, according to the latest seasonally corrected figures by Statistics Netherlands. The number of vacancies has been falling for nearly three years.

Number of vacancies cut in half

The number of vacancies has been cut in half since the start of 2001. On average the number of vacancies fell by 11 thousand each quarter. The third quarter of 2003 saw the greatest decrease of all previous quarters. Vacancies in trade and business services fell most. Here the number of vacancies fell by almost 13 thousand on the previous quarter.

Job market less dynamic

The job market in the third quarter was again less dynamic than the year before. This is shown by the number of new vacancies and the number of vacancies filled. These figures are not adjusted for seasonal influences.

In the third quarter of 2003 there were 142 thousand new vacancies, 18 thousand less than in 2002. The number of vacancies filled also fell, namely to 185 thousand vacancies filled in the third quarter of 2003. In 2002 there were still 207 thousand vacancies filled in the third quarter.

Vacancy rate in hotels and restaurants down

The vacancy rate is the number of unfilled vacancies per one thousand jobs. It is an indicator of how tight the job market is. On 30 September 2003 there were 11 vacancies per one thousand jobs available, as opposed to 15 per thousand the year before. The vacancy rate fell sharply in the catering sector, where the number of vacancies per one thousand jobs was less more than halved compared to the year before. On 30 September 2002 the vacancy rate in this branch of industry was 23, which was reduced to 10 vacancies per one thousand jobs on 30 September 2003.

Unfilled vacancies, seasonally corrected figures

	31-mar	30-jun	30-sep	31-dec
	<i>x 1 000</i>			
1997	84	88	105	122
1998	127	137	145	144
1999	151	181	189	192
2000	200	201	203	213
2001	206	201	191	171
2002	168	147	133	128
2003	116	114	92	

Source: CBS