



Press release

PB04-185
2 December 2004
9:30 AM

Slight increase in the number of vacancies

The third quarter of 2004 saw a slight increase in the number of vacancies, according to the latest figures by Statistics Netherlands. On 30 September 2004 there were 125 thousand unfilled vacancies. This is the seasonally corrected figure. Compared to the second quarter this is an increase of 3 thousand.

The number of vacancies continues to rise

On 31 December 2000 there were 213 thousand unfilled vacancies. This is the seasonally corrected figure. After this, the number of vacancies steadily dropped until there were only 92 thousand vacancies in the third quarter of 2003. Since then, the number of vacancies has increased for four quarters in a row. The increase averaged 8 thousand vacancies per quarter. The increase in the third quarter of 2004 is below this average.

Drop in non-commercial services

The number of vacancies increased in all branches of industry except non-commercial services. At the end of the third quarter of 2004 there were 32 thousand unfilled vacancies, 2 thousand less than in the previous quarter. These are the seasonally corrected figures.

Job market more dynamic

The job market became increasingly dynamic for the second quarter in a row. This is shown by the increasing number of new vacancies and vacancies filled. These figures are not seasonally corrected yet. In the third quarter of 2004 there were 168 thousand new vacancies, up 27 thousand on the year before. The number of vacancies filled was up by 10 thousand.

Higher vacancy rate

The vacancy rate is the number of unfilled vacancies per thousand jobs. This is an indicator of how tight the job market is. On 30 September 2004 there were 16 vacancies per one thousand jobs, 4 more than the year before. The increase took place in almost all branches of industry. Government, however, had a slightly lower vacancy rate than the year before.

Unfilled vacancies, seasonally corrected figures

	31 March	30 June	30 Sept	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	115	92	99
2004*	113	122	125	

* Preliminary figures

Adjusted figures in italics

Source: CBS

**Unfilled and new vacancies and vacancies filled,
not seasonally corrected**

		Unfilled Vacancies	New vacancies ¹⁾	Vacancies filled ^{1) 2)}
<i>x 1 000</i>				
1997	30 September	92	182	191
1998	30 September	129	209	232
1999	30 September	171	217	243
2000	30 September	183	230	265
2001	31 March	216	270	258
	30 June	218	273	270
	30 September	171	209	256
	31 December	164	194	200
2002	31 March	178	213	199

	30 June	162	200	216
	30 September	115	160	207
	31 December	121	162	156
2003	31 March	124	177	174
	30 June	125	175	173
	30 September	81	141	185
	31 December	94	152	139
2004	31 March	121	178	151
	30 June	136	203	188
	30 September	109	168	195

1) In the quarter ending on this date.

2) Including vacancies cancelled

Source: CBS