



# Press release

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## ***Fewer job losses***

In the fourth quarter of 2004 there were 92 thousand jobs of employees less than in the fourth quarter van 2003. This brought job losses down to under 100 thousand for the first time in a year. The wage costs per employee were up by 2.4 percent on the year before. The rise in wage costs in 2004 was the lowest since 1997, according to the latest figures by Statistics Netherlands.

The seasonally corrected number of jobs in the fourth quarter was down by 15 thousand on the third quarter of 2004. There is again growth in the number of jobs in business services, primarily because of temp jobs.

### ***Decreasing job losses in the private sector***

The number of private sector jobs in the fourth quarter of 2004 was down by 98 thousand on the year before. This is an 1.8 percent decrease. The first quarter of 2004 saw a decrease of 153 thousand jobs. The number of jobs in business services was up on the year before. The number of jobs in financial services was hardly lower than the year before. In construction, manufacturing and trade the number of jobs kept falling at the same rate as before.

Relatively the largest decrease, of 4.9 percent, was observed in the construction industry. Manufacturing had 3.3 percent fewer jobs, trade 2.4 percent.

### ***Increase in temp jobs continued in the fourth quarter***

In the fourth quarter of 2004 there were 15 thousand jobs less than in the third quarter. These are seasonally corrected figures. The decrease is not as large as in the previous quarter.

The number of jobs in business services has been growing steadily since the change halfway through 2004. This is mainly because employment in temp jobs is recovering. This is one signal that, in a number of enterprises, the economic recovery is leading to extra labour demand. Employers first meet this demand through temp agencies.

### ***Fast rising job losses in the public sector***

Public government had 11 thousand jobs less in the fourth quarter of 2004 than the year before. The start of 2004 signalled the end of years of job increases. Since then, jobs have been lost each quarter. In education the number of jobs in the fourth quarter was the same as the year before. But after nine years, job increases seem to have come to an end here as well. The number of jobs in health care and welfare increased by 17 thousand, but that is well below the increases of the recent past.

### ***Employment not falling as much in fulltime jobs either***

In the fourth quarter of 2004 employment expressed in working years (fulltime jobs) was down by 1.5 percent on the year before. So expressed in working years, employment is not decreasing as fast. The loss of employment is relatively greater than the loss of jobs (1.2 percent). This is because branches of industry where part-time work is common – such as care and business services - perform better than branches where part-time work is uncommon - such as construction and manufacturing.

After several years of stagnation, labour productivity increased strongly again. This is caused by the continued decrease of the labour volume and the modest recovery of production.

### ***Lowest wage cost increase since 1997***

The wage costs per working year (fulltime jobs) were 2.4 percent higher in the fourth quarter of 2004 than in the same quarter of 2003. The average wage costs in 2004 were 2.3 percent higher than in 2003. This is a much lower wage cost increase than the 6.2 percent in 2002 and the 3.9 percent in 2003 and constitutes the lowest wage cost increase since 1997. Main cause is the modest increase in collective (CAO) wages. In 2004 CAO wages increased by 1.3 percent, compared to an average of 3.7 and 2.8 percent in 2002 and 2003.

There was relatively little difference in the wage cost increases between the branches of industry in 2004. In hotels and restaurants the wage cost increase was lowest with 1.1 percent and highest with 3.3 percent in financial institutions.

**Table 1. Jobs of employees by branch of industry**

	2003	2004	2003	2004			
			IV	I	II	III	IV
1000 jobs							
Agriculture and fisheries	123	121	122	113	125	126	120
Manufacturing industry 1)	1043	1007	1025	1018	1015	1003	991
Construction industry	420	399	417	395	400	404	396
Trade	1255	1226	1245	1244	1229	1216	1215
Hotels and restaurants	279	272	276	274	273	272	269
Transport and communication	454	445	451	445	445	447	441
Financial institutions	283	280	285	278	275	283	284
Business services	1186	1165	1165	1157	1159	1170	1174
Public government	532	525	532	534	526	519	521
Subsidised education	457	462	462	460	462	462	462
Health care and welfare	1095	1121	1104	1112	1124	1127	1121
Culture and other services	336	334	338	338	331	331	336
Total	7462	7355	7422	7368	7363	7360	7330
Of whom men	4120	4034	4086	4044	4047	4034	4012
Women	3343	3321	3336	3324	3317	3326	3318
Year-on-year % change							
Agriculture and fisheries	-1.2	-1.7	-2.9	-2.3	-1.1	-1.7	-1.7
Manufacturing industry 1)	-2.9	-3.5	-3.2	-3.6	-3.6	-3.5	-3.3
Construction industry	-3.6	-5.0	-4.8	-5.4	-4.9	-4.6	-4.9
Trade	-0.7	-2.3	-1.3	-1.9	-2.4	-2.5	-2.4
Hotels and restaurants	-2.9	-2.5	-3.8	-3.0	-2.0	-2.4	-2.6
Transport and communication	-2.0	-2.1	-2.0	-2.1	-2.2	-2.1	-2.1
Financial institutions	-3.5	-1.2	-3.1	-2.3	-1.5	-0.7	-0.3
Business services	-2.1	-1.7	-3.1	-3.5	-2.9	-1.3	0.8
Public government	2.1	-1.3	0.7	-0.2	-1.0	-1.7	-2.2
Subsidised education	3.0	1.1	2.3	1.8	1.6	0.9	0.1
Health care and welfare	5.5	2.4	4.9	3.8	2.4	1.8	1.5
Culture and other services	1.7	-0.8	0.6	-0.4	-1.0	-0.9	-0.8
Total	-0.3	-1.4	-1.0	-1.4	-1.6	-1.5	-1.2
Of whom men	-1.2	-2.1	-1.9	-2.2	-2.2	-2.1	-1.8
Women	0.8	-0.6	0.1	-0.5	-0.8	-0.7	-0.5

1) Including the branches of industry mining, energy and water companies

**Source: CBS**

**Table 2. Jobs of employees by branch of industry. seasonally corrected**

	2003	2004	2003	2004			
			IV	I	II	III	IV
1000 jobs							
Agriculture and fisheries	123	121	122	121	122	120	120
Manufacturing industry 1)	1043	1007	1029	1019	1011	1003	995
Construction industry	420	399	411	406	402	397	391
Trade	1255	1226	1246	1238	1229	1222	1215
Hotels and restaurants	279	272	276	275	274	271	269
Transport and communication	454	445	451	448	446	443	441
Financial institutions	283	280	281	280	280	280	280
Business services	1186	1165	1169	1160	1157	1166	1177
Public government	532	525	532	530	527	523	520
Subsidised education	457	462	461	461	462	462	462
Health care and welfare	1095	1121	1110	1116	1120	1122	1126
Culture and other services	336	334	336	335	333	333	333
Total	7462	7355	7422	7388	7361	7343	7328
Year-on-year % change							
Agriculture and fisheries	-1.2	-1.7	-0.9	-0.1	0.1	-0.9	-0.6
Manufacturing industry 1)	-2.9	-3.5	-1.0	-1.0	-0.8	-0.8	-0.8
Construction industry	-3.6	-5.0	-1.3	-1.3	-1.0	-1.3	-1.5
Trade	-0.7	-2.3	-0.5	-0.6	-0.7	-0.6	-0.6
Hotels and restaurants	-2.9	-2.5	-0.4	-0.5	-0.5	-0.9	-0.8
Transport and communication	-2.0	-2.1	-0.5	-0.5	-0.6	-0.5	-0.6
Financial institutions	-3.5	-1.2	-0.5	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	-0.1
Business services	-2.1	-1.7	-1.1	-0.8	-0.2	0.8	1.0
Public government	2.1	-1.3	-0.2	-0.4	-0.5	-0.7	-0.7
Subsidised education	3.0	1.1	0.9	-0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0
Health care and welfare	5.5	2.4	0.7	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.3
Culture and other services	1.7	-0.8	-0.1	-0.3	-0.4	-0.1	-0.1
Total	-0.3	-1.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.2	-0.2

1) including the branch of industry mining, energy and water companies

**Source: CBS**

**Table 3. Labour volume of employees by branch of industry**

	2003	2004	2003	2004			
			IV	I	II	III	IV
1000 working years							
Agriculture and fisheries	88	87	88	81	89	90	87
Manufacturing industry 1)	916	883	898	895	891	879	868
Construction industry	397	377	394	374	379	382	375
Trade	915	894	903	907	903	885	882
Hotels and restaurants	145	141	141	139	144	142	137
Transport and communication	376	368	374	369	369	370	366
Financial institutions	242	239	243	237	234	241	242
Business services	902	886	885	882	886	885	891
Public government	458	451	456	461	455	445	445
Subsidised education	327	330	328	328	331	331	328
Health care and welfare	711	726	711	721	734	729	719
Culture and other services	219	216	218	220	217	213	215
Total	5695	5598	5638	5613	5632	5593	5554
Of whom men	3607	3529	3571	3538	3547	3626	3504
women	2089	2070	2067	2076	2085	2067	2050
Year-on-year % change							
Agriculture and fisheries	-1.5	-1.8	-3.0	-2.3	-1.1	-1.9	-1.8
Manufacturing industry 1)	-3.1	-3.6	-3.4	-3.7	-3.7	-3.6	-3.4
Construction industry	-3.6	-4.9	-4.8	-5.3	-4.8	-4.6	-4.9
Trade	-1.0	-2.3	-1.1	-1.9	-2.4	-2.5	-2.4
Hotels and restaurants	-3.8	-2.7	-4.7	-3.8	-2.5	-2.0	-2.4
Transport and communication	-1.8	-2.2	-2.0	-2.1	-2.2	-2.1	-2.2
Financial institutions	-3.6	-1.3	-3.2	-2.5	-1.6	-0.8	-0.4
Business services	-2.3	-1.8	-3.0	-3.5	-2.9	-1.3	0.7
Public government	1.3	-1.4	0.1	-0.4	-0.9	-2.0	-2.5
Subsidised education	2.3	0.9	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.7	0.0
Health care and welfare	3.7	2.1	3.6	3.3	2.4	1.6	1.2
Culture and other services	1.5	-1.0	-0.1	-0.8	-1.2	-1.1	-1.1
Total	-1.0	-1.7	-1.5	-1.8	-1.8	-1.7	-1.5
Of whom men	-1.4	-2.2	-1.9	-2.3	-2.3	-2.2	-1.9
women	-0.2	-0.9	-0.7	-0.9	-0.9	-0.9	-0.8

1) including the branches of industry mining, energy and water companies

**Source: CBS**

**Table 4. Wage costs per working year by branch of industry**

	2003	2004	2003	2004			
			IV	I	II	III	IV
	Per year		Per quarter				
	1000 euros						
Agriculture and fisheries	31.0	31.8	7.7	7.5	8.7	7.7	7.9
Manufacturing industry 1)	44.2	45.2	10.9	10.5	13.0	10.5	11.2
Construction industry	40.9	41.4	9.4	9.7	12.0	10.1	9.6
Trade	36.1	37.0	8.8	8.6	10.7	8.6	9.1
Hotels and restaurants	27.7	28.0	6.7	6.5	7.8	7.0	6.8
Transport and communication	44.3	45.3	11.4	10.6	12.5	10.6	11.6
Financial institutions	61.3	63.4	14.5	16.2	18.0	14.4	14.9
Business services	42.1	43.1	10.5	10.3	12.0	10.1	10.7
Public government	52.1	53.3	13.2	12.4	15.1	12.3	13.5
Subsidised education	49.6	50.5	11.5	11.3	15.3	12.1	11.8
Health care and welfare	36.5	37.2	9.0	8.4	10.8	8.7	9.3
Culture and other services	39.5	40.3	9.6	9.7	11.7	9.2	9.7
Total	42.2	43.2	10.4	10.1	12.3	10.1	10.6
Year-on-year % change							
Agriculture and fisheries	5.6	2.4	4.8	4.1	1.2	2.0	2.5
Manufacturing industry 1)	3.8	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.1	2.2	2.8
Construction industry	3.2	1.2	1.3	0.6	0.9	1.4	2.1
Trade	3.5	2.6	3.8	3.0	1.9	2.7	2.9
Hotels and restaurants	3.9	1.1	3.9	1.7	0.6	1.0	1.1
Transport and communication	3.4	2.3	3.3	3.5	1.7	2.2	2.0
Financial institutions	4.2	3.3	2.2	4.0	3.4	3.1	3.0
Business services	4.4	2.4	4.8	3.2	2.4	2.1	1.7
Public government	3.4	2.3	5.8	2.5	2.4	1.9	2.4
Subsidised education	3.5	1.8	3.5	1.7	1.2	1.9	2.5
Health care and welfare	5.4	2.0	4.3	2.1	1.3	2.2	2.6
Culture and other services	3.4	2.2	2.5	3.6	1.9	1.9	1.4
Total	3.9	2.3	3.6	2.6	1.9	2.1	2.4

1) Including the branches of industry mining, energy and water companies

**Source: CBS**