



# Press release

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## ***Unemployment unchanged***

According to the latest figures from Statistics Netherlands, an average 503 thousand people were unemployed in the Netherlands in the period March-May 2005. After adjustment for seasonal effects the number came to 498 thousand, the same as in the period February-April 2005.

In the last three months 6.7 percent of the labour force were unemployed. Twelve months previously this was 6.6 percent.

### ***Slower growth***

As seasonal effects may be strong for the rate of unemployment, Statistics Netherlands uses seasonally adjusted figures to present a reliable picture of short-term developments. Seasonal effects always push up unemployment in March-May. After correction for these effects, unemployment came to 498 thousand in this period, and so is unchanged from February-April. In the last three month period the growth rate of unemployment fell to one thousand a month. At the end of 2004 it was still as high as 4 thousand a month.

### ***Differences between ages and sexes***

In the period March-May 2005, 503 thousand people were unemployed. The developments in unemployment differed between the various age groups and between the sexes. The number of unemployed young people fell by 6 thousand in the twelve months, while unemployment among the over-45s rose by 12 thousand. Unemployment in the age category 25-44 years remained the same in this period. For the sexes too, the year-on-year development differs. For men it fell by 6 thousand while the number of unemployed women rose by 12 thousand.

Unemployment among men was 5.8 percent in March-May 2005, twelve months previously it was 5.9 percent. Among women unemployment rose from 7.6 to 7.9 percent.