



Press release

PB06-107
16 November 2006
9:30 AM

Unemployment virtually unchanged

Seasonally adjusted unemployment in the period August-October 2006 averaged 413 thousand, almost the same as in the period July-September 2006. According to the most recent figures released by Statistics Netherlands, the unemployment increase manifest in the previous period, did not continue.

Unemployment stable in recent months

Since the summer of 2005, seasonally corrected unemployment initially fell rapidly from 491 thousand to 408 thousand in the period April-June 2006. The average monthly reduction was 8 thousand. In the last four months unemployment was fairly stable, wavering between 405 and 416 thousand.

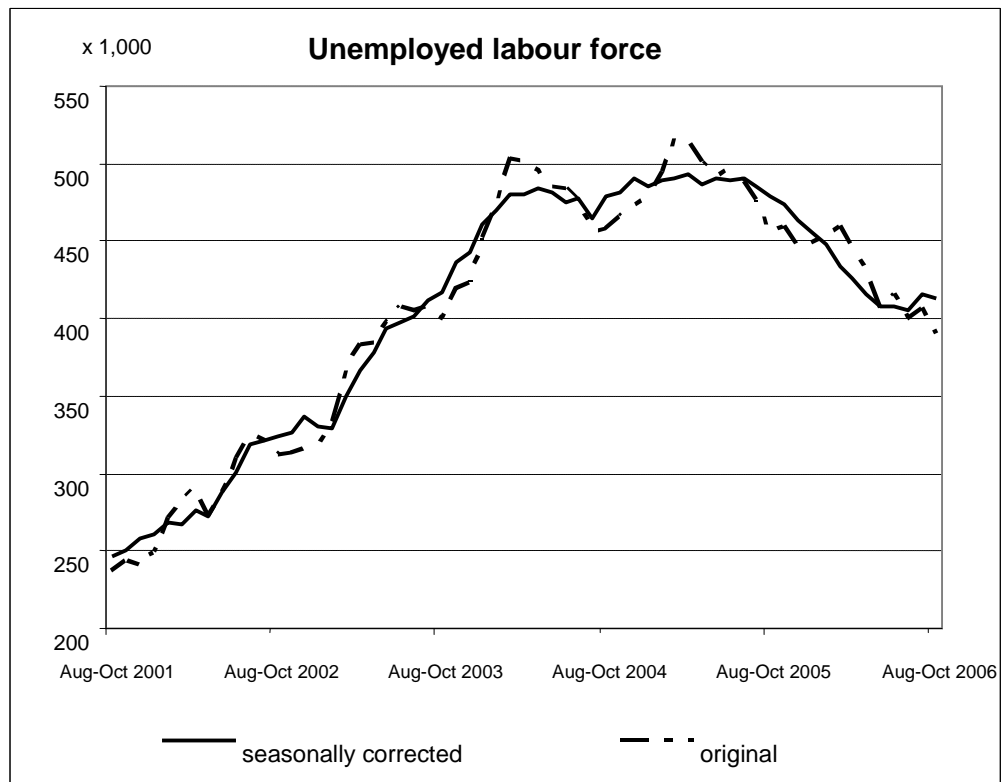
Unemployment drops below 400 thousand mark

In the period August-October, seasonal effects tend to push down unemployment. Unemployment not adjusted for seasonal effects averaged 390 thousand persons in the period August-October 2006. For the first time since 2003, unemployment dipped under the 400 thousand mark. In the period August-October, 5.2 percent of the labour force were unemployed, as against 6.1 percent one year previously.

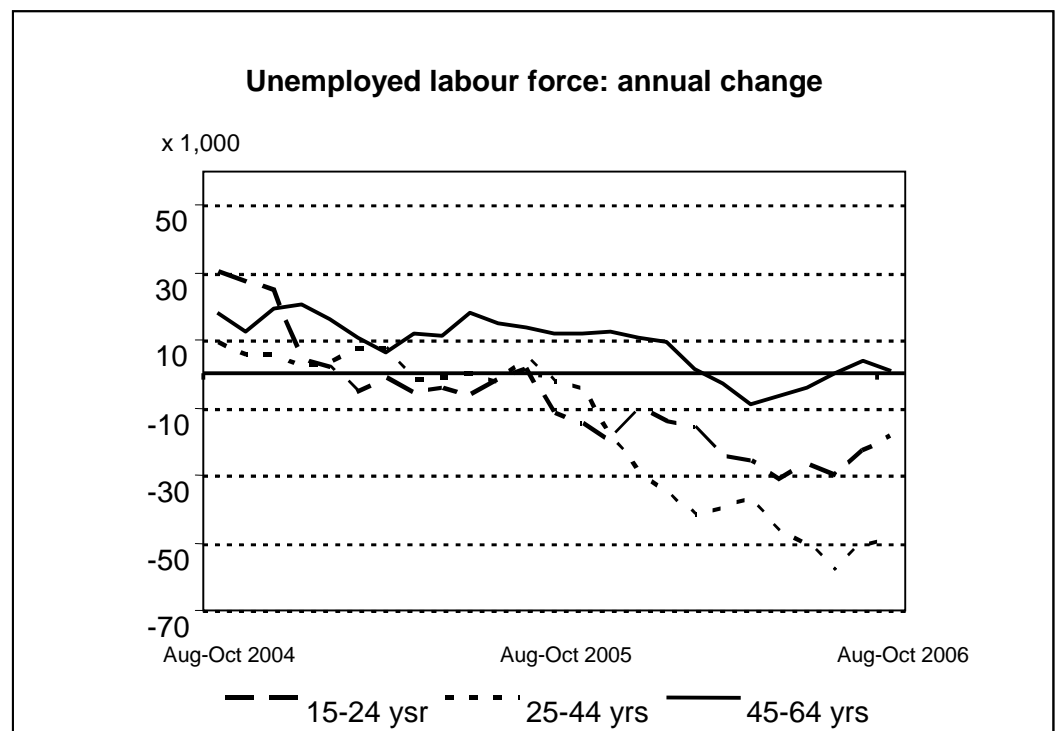
Fewer under-45s unemployed

In the periode August-October 2006, the number of unemployed was 66 thousand below the level of August-October 2005. The unemployment rate declined among young people and 25 to 44-year-olds. The unemployment rate among over-45s levelled off.

In a period of one year, the number of unemployed 15 to 24-year-olds declined by 19 thousand to 86 thousand. The youth unemployment rate was 10.1 percent. Unemployment among people in the 25-44 age bracket fell by 49 thousand to 170 thousand. The unemployment rate dropped to 4.4 percent.



Source: Statistics Netherlands



Source: Statistics Netherlands

Table 1. Unemployed labour force

Year	Period			Annual change	Seasonally corrected ¹
		%	x 1,000		
2006	Aug-Oct	5.2	390	-66	413
	July-Sep	5.4	407	-69	416
	June-Aug	5.3	400	-88	405
	May-July	5.5	415	-82	408
	April-June	5.5	407	-85	408
	March-May	5.8	430	-71	416
	Feb-April	6.0	447	-67	426
	Jan-March	6.2	460	-56	434
	Dec-Feb	6.1	454	-40	448
2005	Nov-Jan	6.1	450	-29	455
	Oct-Dec	6.0	447	-26	464
	Sep-Nov	6.2	459	-7	474
	Aug-Oct	6.1	456	-2	479
	July-Sep	6.4	476	20	486
	June-Aug	6.5	488	11	491
	May-July	6.7	497	13	489
	April-June	6.7	492	6	490
	March-May	6.8	501	5	487
	Feb-April	7.0	514	13	493
	Jan-March	7.0	516	13	491
	Dec-Feb	6.7	495	21	490
2004	Nov-Jan	6.5	479	27	486
	Oct-Dec	6.4	472	49	491
	Sep-Nov	6.3	466	46	482
	Aug-Oct	6.2	458	58	479
Annual figures	2005	6.5	483	4	
	2004	6.5	479	80	
	2003	5.4	399	97	
	2002	4.1	302	50	
	2001	3.5	252	-18	

Source: Statistics Netherlands

¹) The seasonally corrected series is updated each month, when new unemployment figures become available

Table 2. Unemployed labour force by gender and age

		15-24	25-44	45-64	Total
<i>x 1,000</i>					
Men					
2006	Aug-Oct	41	68	70	179
2005	Aug-Oct	52	101	70	222
2004	Aug-Oct	61	105	66	233
Women					
2006	Aug-Oct	45	102	63	210
2005	Aug-Oct	53	118	63	234
2004	Aug-Oct	55	116	54	225
Total					
2006	Aug-Oct	86	170	133	390
2005	Aug-Oct	105	219	132	456
2004	Aug-Oct	116	222	120	458
<i>%</i>					
Men					
2006	Aug-Oct	9.0	3.2	4.3	4.2
2005	Aug-Oct	11.6	4.6	4.4	5.2
2004	Aug-Oct	13.2	4.7	4.2	5.4
Women					
2006	Aug-Oct	11.3	5.8	5.7	6.4
2005	Aug-Oct	12.7	6.8	6.1	7.3
2004	Aug-Oct	13.2	6.7	5.5	7.2
Total					
2006	Aug-Oct	10.1	4.4	4.8	5.2
2005	Aug-Oct	12.1	5.6	5.0	6.1
2004	Aug-Oct	13.2	5.6	4.7	6.2

Source: Statistics Netherlands