



# Press release

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## ***Job growth continues into fourth quarter 2008***

- Job growth 108 thousand jobs relative to one year ago
- job growth continues in fourth quarter
- increase wage costs reduced to 2.8 percent
- large differences wage costs per sector

According to the latest figures released by Statistics Netherlands, the number of jobs of employees grew by 108 thousand in the fourth quarter of last year relative to the same quarter of 2007. Employment also grew relative to the third quarter. If the effects of seasonal variation are taken into account, employment increased by 33 thousand jobs in the fourth quarter of 2008 compared to the third preceding quarter. Wage costs per labour year were 2.8 percent up on one year previously.

The number of jobs in the fourth quarter was 1.4 percent up on one year ago. The increase is more or less the same as in the third quarter, but distinctly down on the first half of 2008, when a growth of over 2 percent was recorded. The number of jobs grew most rapidly in the sectors trade, education, culture and care. Growth was also substantial in the sector business services, despite the declining number of temp jobs. Employment was also reduced in the financial sector. So far, the recession has not led to loss of jobs in the fourth quarter of 2008. Employment in the Netherlands has as yet hardly been affected by the economic downturn.

Wages of employees per labour year were 2.1 percent higher in the fourth quarter than in the last quarter of 2007. The increase is considerably lower than the increase in collectively negotiated (CAO) wages by 3.6 percent in the same period and markedly down on the increase in the preceding quarters. The wage increase in the CAO sector (government, education, care) was, however, far above the average of 2.1 percent. This is mainly due to payment of higher end-of-year bonuses. In the private sector, the wage increase was below the level of the nationwide average. This is predominantly caused by the fact that in the fourth quarter of 2008, fewer incidental bonuses were paid than in the fourth quarter of 2007. The number of special allowances paid in that period also appears to be lower. With 2.8 percent, wage costs per labour year rose more rapidly than wages. This was caused by higher employer contributions to health insurance, unemployment and disability provisions.

**Table 1. Jobs of employees by sector**

	2007	2008	2007	2008			
			IV	I	II	III	IV
<i>1,000 jobs</i>							
Agriculture and fisheries	131	130	125	119	131	143	127
Manufacturing industry 1)	935	940	937	932	939	943	946
Construction	392	395	393	389	398	395	396
Trade	1 290	1 326	1 308	1 311	1 326	1 331	1 335
Hotels and restaurants	291	293	290	287	299	298	290
Transport and communication	460	466	462	464	468	465	466
Financial institutions	287	287	287	289	288	286	283
Business services	1 532	1 577	1 531	1 546	1 602	1 608	1 554
Public administration	512	512	514	513	513	504	516
Subsidised education	450	458	454	458	457	454*	464
Health care and welfare	1 214	1 239	1 226	1 232	1 239	1 238	1 246
Culture and other services	335	343	341	339	343	339	350
Total	7 829	7 966	7 867	7 881	8 005	8 003*	7 975
<i>% change relative to the same period of the preceding year</i>							
Agriculture and fisheries	1.3	-0.6	-1.4	-0.7	-1.7	-1.2	1.4
Manufacturing industry 1)	0.2	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.8	1.0
Construction	1.2	0.7	0.7	0.0	1.2	0.9	0.8
Trade	3.2	2.8	3.5	3.6	3.2	2.4	2.1
Hotels and restaurants	4.4	0.7	6.8	2.5	0.6	-0.3	0.2
Transport and communication	1.6	1.2	1.6	1.7	1.5	0.7	1.0
Financial institutions	1.0	0.0	1.0	0.8	0.7	-0.1	-1.5
Business services	6.4	3.0	5.2	4.3	3.6	2.5	1.5
Public administration	-0.8	-0.1	-0.8	-0.2	0.1	-0.7	0.5
Subsidised education	2.0	1.8	2.0	1.4	0.8	2.6*	2.4
Health care and welfare	2.7	2.0	2.6	2.5	2.2	1.7	1.7
Culture and other services	1.1	2.5	2.5	2.7	2.8	1.7	2.6
Total	2.7	1.8	2.6	2.2	2.0	1.5*	1.4

1) Including the sectors excavation of minerals and public utilities

\*) Data changed on the basis of new information

**Source: Statistics Netherlands**

**Table 2. Jobs of employees by economic activity, seasonally corrected**

	2007	2008	2007	2008			
			IV	I	II	III	IV
<i>1,000 jobs</i>							
Agriculture and fisheries	131	130	129	131	130	129	131
Manufacturing industry 1)	935	940	935	936	938	942	944
Construction	392	395	392	393	396	395	395
Trade, hotels and restaurants, transport, communication	2 041	2 085	2 067	2 075	2 082	2 087	2 097
Financial and business services	1 819	1 864	1 845	1 858	1 866	1 867	1 866
Non-commercial services	2 511	2 552	2 529	2 540	2 545	2 551	2 570
Total	7 829	7 966	7 897	7 933	7 957	7 970	8 003
<i>% change relative to the previous periode 2)</i>							
Agriculture and fisheries	1.3	-0.7	-1.5	1.5	-0.3	-0.7	0.9
Manufacturing industry 1)	0.2	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.5	0.2
Construction	1.2	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.7	-0.3	0.2
Trade, hotels and restaurants, transport, communication	3.0	2.2	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.5
Financial and business services	5.5	2.5	1.0	0.7	0.4	0.0	0.0
Non-commercial services	1.6	1.6	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.8
Total	2.7	1.7	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.4

1) Including the sectors excavation of minerals and public utilities

\*) Data changed on the basis of new information

**Source: Statistics Netherlands**

**Table 3. Labour volume of employees by economic activity**

	2007	2008	2007	2008			
			IV	I	II	III	IV
<i>% change relative to the same period of the preceding year</i>							
Agriculture and fisheries	1.3	-0.7	-1.2	-0.8	-1.6	-1.5	1.2
Manufacturing industry 1)	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.9
Construction	1.1	0.7	0.7	0.0	1.1	0.7	0.8
Trade, hotels and restaurants, transport, communication	2.8	2.1	3.2	2.9	2.3	1.5	1.8
Financial and business services	5.2	2.7	4.5	3.9	3.0	2.1	1.8
Non-commercial services	1.5	1.3	1.7	1.5	1.3	1.0*	1.6
Total	2.4	1.6	2.4	2.1	1.7	1.3*	1.5

1) Including the sectors excavation of minerals and public utilities

\*) Data changed on the basis of new information

**Source: Statistics Netherlands****Table 4. Wages and salaries per labour year by economic activity**

	2007	2008	2007	2008			
			IV	I	II	III	IV
<i>% change relative to the same period of the preceding year</i>							
Agriculture and fisheries	2.4	4.5	6.3	3.1	4.6	6.3	3.8
Manufacturing industry 1)	3.4	3.3	4.7	4.5	4.1	3.7	0.9
Construction	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.2	5.7	4.2	1.9
Trade, hotels and restaurants, transport, communication	2.8	3.1	2.3	3.3	3.5	3.5	2.0
Financial and business services	4.5	2.0	6.7	1.6	4.0	3.6	-1.3
Non-commercial services	2.9	3.9	3.0	2.5	3.4	3.9*	5.8
Total	3.5	3.2	4.2	2.9	3.9	3.8*	2.1

1) Including the sectors excavation of minerals and public utilities

\*) Data changed on the basis of new information

**Source: Statistics Netherlands**

**Table 5. Wage costs per labour year by economic activity**

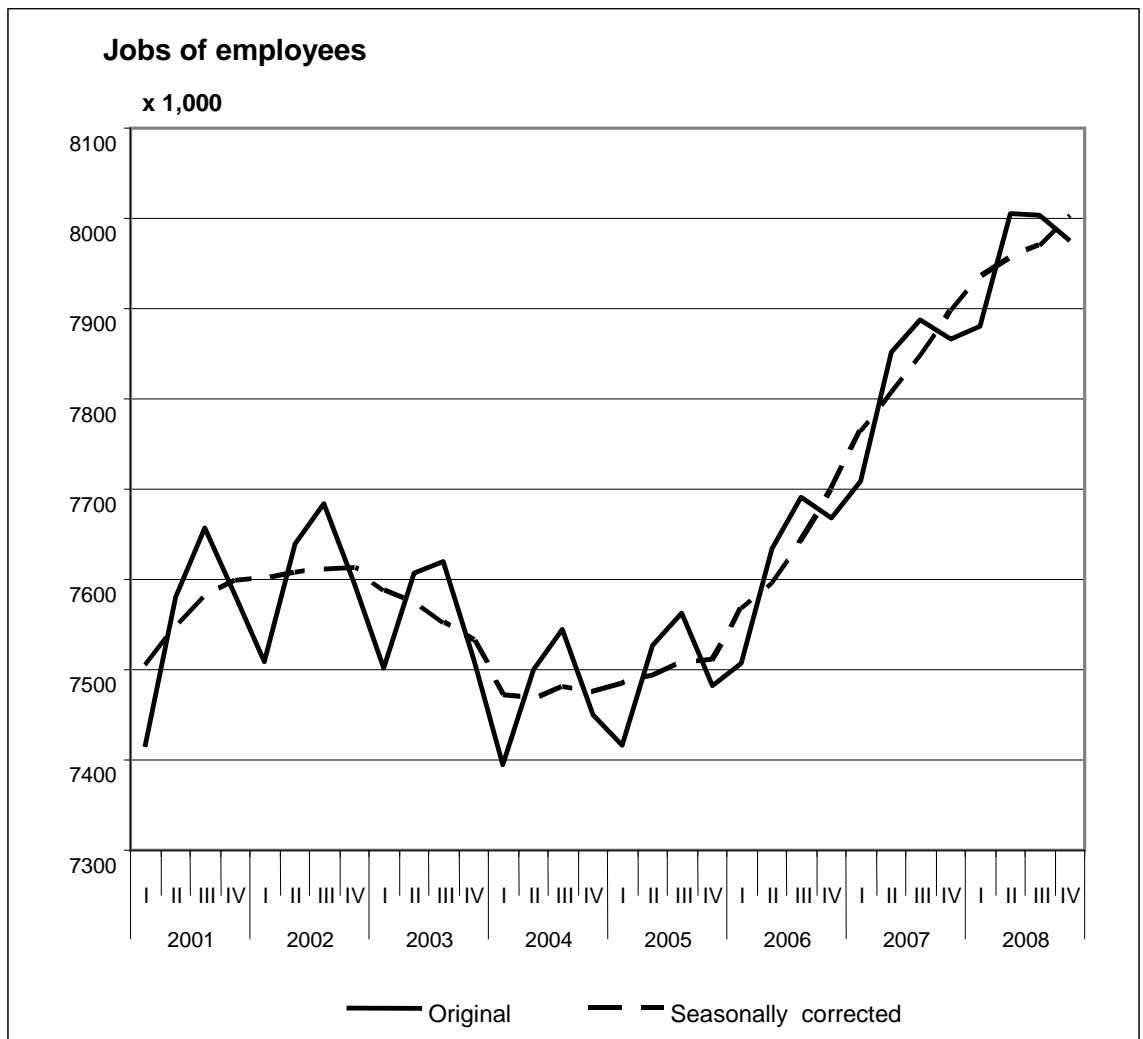
	2007	2008	2007	2008			
			IV	I	II	III	IV
% change relative to the same period of the preceding year							
Agriculture and fisheries	1.9	5.0	5.8	3.5	5.0	6.9	4.5
Manufacturing industry 1)	3.2	3.7	4.5	4.7	4.4	4.3	1.5
Construction	3.5	4.4	3.4	4.0	6.0	4.9	2.6
Trade, hotels and restaurants, transport, communication	2.6	3.6	2.0	3.6	3.8	4.1	2.7
Financial and business services	4.1	2.4	6.4	1.9	4.3	4.2	-0.7
Non-commercial services	2.5	4.4	2.6	2.7	3.7	4.7*	6.5
Total	3.2	3.7	3.8	3.1	4.2	4.5*	2.8

1) Including the sectors excavation of minerals and public utilities

\*) Data changed on the basis of new information

**Source: Statistics Netherlands**

**Graph 1: Jobs of employees**



**Source: Statistics Netherlands**