



Press release

PB10-045
17 juni 2010
15:00 hrs

Unemployment further down

- **Unemployment down for the second consecutive time**
- **UWV reports sharp decline in number of young job seekers**
- **Number of unemployment benefits further down**

In the period March-May 2010, the number of unemployed persons in the Netherlands averaged 437 thousand, i.e. 5.6 percent of the labour force versus 4.6 percent in the same period last year. Adjusted for seasonal variation, unemployment falls for the second time in a row, as the latest figures released by Statistics Netherlands show. Figures published by the public unemployment agency (UWV) show that the number of job seekers and unemployment (WW) benefits has declined for the second month running.

Further reduction unemployment

Unemployment adjusted for seasonal variation over the period March-May 2010 was 431 thousand, a decline by 7 thousand relative to the previous three-monthly period. Unemployment was reduced for the second time in a row after a long period of continual growth. As yet, it seems too early to conclude that the upward trend has been reversed. The next months will show, whether the downward trend is a permanent one.

If a longer period is taken into account, unemployment has grown by an average of 3 thousand a month over the past six months. In the first six months of 2009, the average monthly growth rate was 13 thousand.

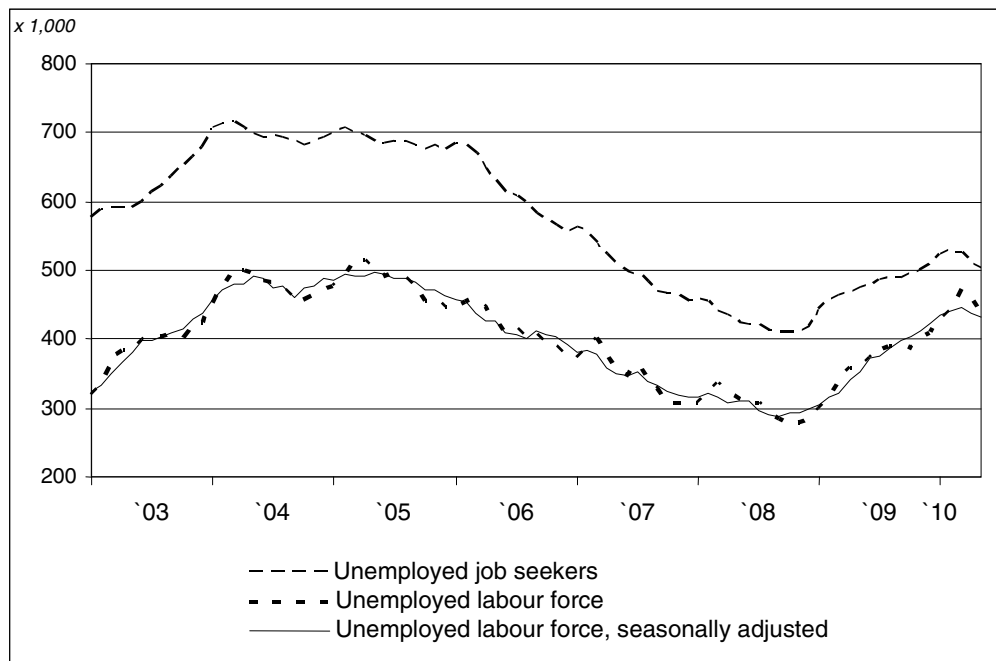
Number of young job seekers substantially reduced

The number of people out of work and looking for a job registered at the UWV dropped by 10 thousand to 502 thousand. Proportionally, the number of job seekers dropped most rapidly (by 5 percent) among young people. The number of unemployed declined most among lower-level workers in the engineering sector and the transport sector.

Number of unemployment benefits further down

The number of WW benefits has decreased for the third month running; in May by more than 9 thousand to 300 thousand. The number of new WW benefits dropped by 7 thousand to 26 thousand and 35 thousand WW benefits were terminated, half due to resumption of work.

Graph 1: Unemployed labour force (original and seasonally adjusted) and unemployed job seekers (original)



Source: Statistics Netherlands, UWV

Table 1. Unemployed labour force

| | Not adjusted for seasonal variation | | | Seasonally adjusted ¹⁾ |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| | % of the labour force | total | annual change | total |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| <i>3-monthly averages</i> | | <i>% x 1,000</i> | | |
| 2010 | | | | |
| March-May | 5.6 | 437 | 79 | 431 |
| Feb-April | 5.9 | 459 | 99 | 438 |
| Jan-March | 6.1 | 472 | 131 | 447 |
| Dec-Feb | 5.7 | 441 | 126 | 441 |
| 2009 | | | | |
| Nov-Jan | 5.6 | 430 | 131 | 436 |
| Oct-Dec | 5.3 | 410 | 125 | 424 |
| Sep-Nov | 5.2 | 400 | 121 | 413 |
| Aug-Oct | 5.0 | 387 | 111 | 404 |
| July-Sep | 5.0 | 394 | 110 | 399 |
| June-Aug | 5.0 | 390 | 96 | 388 |
| May-July | 4.9 | 386 | 78 | 375 |
| Apr-June | 4.8 | 373 | 63 | 373 |
| March-May | 4.6 | 358 | 45 | 353 |
| <i>Annual averages</i> | | | | |
| 2009 | 4.9 | 379 | 76 | |
| 2008 | 3.9 | 304 | -40 | |
| 2007 | 4.5 | 344 | -69 | |
| 2006 | 5.5 | 413 | -70 | |

Source: Statistics Netherlands

¹⁾ The seasonally adjusted series is updated on a monthly basis, as soon as more recent unemployment figures become available.

**Table 2. Unemployed labour force by gender and age
(3-monthly averages). Not adjusted for seasonal variation.**

| | | 15-24 yrs | 25-44 yrs | 45-64 yrs | total |
|------------------------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------|
| <i>x 1,000</i> | | | | | |
| Men | | | | | |
| 2010 | March-May | 60 | 94 | 80 | 234 |
| 2009 | March-May | 51 | 73 | 56 | 180 |
| Women | | | | | |
| 2010 | March-May | 47 | 85 | 72 | 203 |
| 2009 | March-May | 42 | 77 | 59 | 178 |
| Total | | | | | |
| 2010 | March-May | 107 | 179 | 152 | 437 |
| 2009 | March-May | 94 | 149 | 115 | 358 |
| <i>% of the labour force</i> | | | | | |
| Men | | | | | |
| 2010 | March-May | 13.4 | 4.6 | 4.5 | 5.5 |
| 2009 | March-May | 11.0 | 3.5 | 3.2 | 4.2 |
| Women | | | | | |
| 2010 | March-May | 11.9 | 4.8 | 5.4 | 5.8 |
| 2009 | March-May | 10.3 | 4.3 | 4.7 | 5.2 |
| Total | | | | | |
| 2010 | March-May | 12.7 | 4.7 | 4.9 | 5.6 |
| 2009 | March-May | 10.7 | 3.9 | 3.8 | 4.6 |

Source: Statistics Netherlands.

Table 3. Unemployed job seekers (nww) by gender, age and region

| | May 2010 | April 2010 | Monthly change | May 2009 | Annual change |
|----------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------|------------------|
| | x 1,000 | x 1,000 | % | x 1,000 | % |
| NWW total | 502.3 | 512.1 | -1.9 | 474.6 | 5.8 |
| Gender | | | | | |
| men | 260.0 | 267.0 | -2.6 | 238.0 | 9.3 |
| women | 242.3 | 245.1 | -1.2 | 236.6 | 2.4 |
| Age | | | | | |
| <25 yrs | 41.4 | 43.5 | -5.0 | 39.0 | 6.0 |
| 25-35 yrs | 95.0 | 98.2 | -3.2 | 87.0 | 9.2 |
| 35-45 yrs | 127.4 | 129.7 | -1.8 | 121.0 | 5.3 |
| 45-65 yrs | 238.6 | 240.7 | -0.9 | 227.6 | 4.8 |
| Province | | | | | |
| Groningen | 22.6 | 23.3 | -2.9 | 22.3 | 1.5 |
| Friesland | 21.2 | 21.9 | -3.2 | 19.2 | 10.5 |
| Drenthe | 16.8 | 17.2 | -2.2 | 16.1 | 4.4 |
| Overijssel | 36.8 | 37.8 | -2.8 | 32.9 | 11.9 |
| Flevoland | 13.5 | 13.6 | -0.6 | 13.2 | 2.1 |
| Gelderland | 55.5 | 56.5 | -1.7 | 52.2 | 6.3 |
| Utrecht | 25.9 | 26.6 | -2.5 | 25.1 | 3.1 |
| North Holland | 83.6 | 84.8 | -1.4 | 80.9 | 3.4 |
| South Holland | 110.1 | 111.3 | -1.1 | 100.8 | 9.2 |
| Zeeland | 8.0 | 8.3 | -3.7 | 7.7 | 3.7 |
| North Brabant | 68.5 | 69.9 | -2.0 | 63.2 | 8.4 |
| Limburg | 39.0 | 40.1 | -2.6 | 40.3 | -3.0 |
| abroad/unknown | 0.8 | 0.8 | | 0.7 | |
| Large municipalities | | | | | |
| Amsterdam | 42.1 | 42.9 | -1.8 | 42.6 | -1.1 |
| Rotterdam | 34.2 | 34.2 | -0.2 | 34.5 | -1.0 |
| The Hague | 19.1 | 19.7 | -2.8 | 17.7 | 8.3 |
| Utrecht | 7.8 | 8.3 | -5.4 | 8.8 | -11.1 |

Sou