

Press release

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Unemployment down for sixth month in a row

- Unemployment has declined by 6 thousand a month since March
- Fewer young unemployed than twelve months ago
- Increase job seekers in higher-level occupations
- Unemployment benefits also down for sixth consecutive month

According to the most recent unemployment figures released by Statistics Netherlands, 386 thousand persons were unemployed in August 2010. Unemployment is obviously subject to seasonal variation. After correction for seasonal variation, 414 thousand persons were unemployed, a decline by 12 thousand relative to July.

Figures published by the Public Unemployment Agency (UWV) show that the number of persons in search of employment and the number of unemployment (WW) benefits have dropped for the sixth month in a row.

Unemployment further down

Seasonally adjusted unemployment has dropped by an average of more than 6 thousand a month over the past six months, whereas in the preceding six months, unemployment increased by an average of more than 9 thousand a month.

Nevertheless, the number of unemployed was still higher than one year ago. In August, unemployment was still 16 thousand above the level of August 2009, but in the age category 15–24, unemployment had dropped by 9 thousand from one year ago.

Marginal decline number of persons in search of employment

According to data published by the UWV, the number of unemployed job seekers (nww) fell by 2 thousand in August to 492 thousand. The decrease was predominantly found among people seeking jobs at elementary, lower or secondary level. The number of job seekers at higher and university level grew. This is mainly due to an increase in the number of job seekers in teaching and education-related professions, a recurrent phenomenon in summer.

Far more WW benefits terminated due to resumption of work

Compared to the previous month, the number of current WW benefits fell in August 2010 by 4 thousand to 281 thousand. The number of WW benefits terminated in August due to resumption of work grew by 6 percent tot 36 thousand. In August, 19 thousand WW benefits were terminated as a result of

work resumption, a 20 percent growth relative to July . The number of new WW benefits grew by more than 4 percent to 31 thousand.

Table 1. Unemployed labour force

	Not adjusted for seasonal variation			Seasonally adjusted
	% of the employed labour force	total	Annual change	total
	%	x 1,000	x 1,000	x 1,000
2010				
August	4.9	386	17	414
July	5.7	449	37	426
June	5.6	441	56	430
May	5.5	432	69	435
April	5.6	437	77	436
March	6.0	468	114	446
February	6.1	478	124	452
January	5.9	456	132	448
2009				
December	5.2	404	125	435
November	5.4	417	130	423
October	5.1	395	118	409
September	5.0	389	111	404
August	4.7	370	105	397
<i>Annual averages</i>				
2009	4.8	377	77	
2008	3.8	300	-43	
2007	4.5	344	-66	
2006	5.5	410	-72	

Source: Statistics Netherlands

Table 2. Unemployed labour force by gender and age. Not adjusted for seasonal variation.

		15-24 yrs	25-44 yrs	45-64 yrs	Total
<i>x 1,000</i>					
Men					
2010	August	48	84	71	202
2009	August	56	84	62	202
Women					
2010	August	43	79	62	184
2009	August	44	73	50	168
Total					
2010	August	91	162	133	386
2009	August	100	157	113	370
<i>% of the labour force</i>					
Men					
2010	August	10.2	4.1	3.9	4.6
2009	August	11.2	4.0	3.4	4.6
Women					
2010	August	9.9	4.5	4.8	5.3
2009	August	9.6	4.1	4.1	4.8
Total					
2010	August	10.0	4.3	4.2	4.9
2009	August	10.4	4.0	3.7	4.7

Source: Statistics Netherlands

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

	August 2010	July 2010	Monthly change	August 2009	Annual change
	<i>x 1,000</i>	<i>x 1,000</i>	%	<i>x 1,000</i>	%
NWW total	491.5	493.1	-0.3	487.7	0.8
Gender					
Men	252.4	253.9	-0.6	247.6	2.0
Women	239.1	239.1	0.0	240.2	-0.4
Age					
<25 yrs	41.4	40.3	2.8	40.7	1.9
25-35 yrs	90.4	91.1	-0.8	91.5	-1.2
35-45 yrs	123.1	124.5	-1.1	124.8	-1.4
45-65 yrs	236.6	237.1	-0.2	230.8	2.5
Province					
Groningen	22.1	22.3	-0.5	22.1	0.1
Friesland	20.7	21.0	-1.3	19.2	7.8
Drenthe	16.8	16.8	-0.2	16.0	5.2
Overijssel	36.4	36.6	-0.5	35.4	2.7
Flevoland	13.2	13.2	0.1	13.0	1.2
Gelderland	54.9	54.7	0.4	54.2	1.4
Utrecht	26.0	26.1	-0.3	26.6	-2.2
North Holland	79.2	80.6	-1.7	82.3	-3.8
South Holland	108.9	109.0	0.0	102.8	6.0
Zeeland	7.7	7.7	0.1	8.0	-3.3
North Brabant	67.5	67.0	0.7	66.8	1.0
Limburg	37.4	37.5	-0.3	40.6	-7.8
abroad/unknown	0.6	0.7		0.8	
Major Dutch cities					
Amsterdam	37.8	39.3	-3.9	43.1	-12.2
Rotterdam	34.2	33.8	0.9	33.8	1.1
The Hague	18.8	19.0	-1.0	17.4	7.9
Utrecht	7.8	7.9	-0.1	9.5	-17.8

Source: UWV