

Press release

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Unemployment down, but fewer people employed

- **More people withdrew from the job market**
- **Female unemployment higher**
- **Number of unemployment benefits down by 6 thousand in March**
- **Fewer benefits granted to young people and men**

According to the most recent figures released by Statistics Netherlands (CBS), unemployment fell by 7 thousand in March. The decline was largely due to the fact that many people withdrew from the labour market, not because more people managed to find paid jobs. The number of people with paid jobs was reduced further in March.

Figures published by the Institute for Implementation of Employees' Insurances (UWV) show that the number of unemployment (WW) benefits paid in March stood at 454 thousand, i.e. 6 thousand down from February and 74 thousand more than in March 2013.

Fewer people participate on the job market

Unemployment adjusted for seasonal variation decreased by 7 thousand to 684 thousand in March 2014, but if a longer period is taken into account, unemployment is still rising. The average monthly increase over the first quarter of this year was 5 thousand. At the same time, the employed labour force was reduced by 18 thousand on a monthly basis. As a result, the total employed labour force contracted by an average of 13 thousand a month.

More women unemployed

Women aged 25 years and older almost entirely accounted for the unemployment growth in the first quarter. The average monthly increase among women in this age category was 6 thousand. The relatively large amount of jobs lost in the sectors health care and welfare and trade, which employ many women, play a part in this respect.

In March, 8.7 percent in the Dutch labour force were unemployed, versus 7.2 percent according to the definition set by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Number of female benefit recipients stable

The number of unemployment benefit claimants fell by 1.4 percent in March 2014 to 454 thousand. In March last year, the number still rose by nearly 1 percent. The most substantial relative reduction was recorded among young people under the age of 25. The number of

unemployment benefits also declined among men, but remained almost stable among women, compared to February. The number of benefits continued to grow among over-55s in March. The most dramatic reduction was found in sectors sensitive to seasonal variation, like agriculture and construction. The number of benefits grew in the sector health care and welfare, where many women are employed.

More people found jobs in the first quarter of 2014

In the first quarter of this year, 174 thousand new benefits were claimed, 5 thousand more than in the same period last year and 158 thousand people stopped claiming unemployment benefits, 29 thousand more than in the first quarter of 2013. In the latter group, 75 thousand people stopped claiming because they had found work, i.e. nearly 22 thousand more than in the first three months of 2013.

Table 1. Unemployed labour force, monthly figures¹

	Seasonally adjusted			Not seasonally adjusted	
	total	monthly change	average monthly change over three months	% in the labour force	total
	x 1,000	x 1,000	x 1,000	%	x 1,000
2014					
March	684	-7	5	8.7	700
February	691	13	13	8.8	717
January	678	10	1	8.6	695
2013					
December	668	15	-6	8.5	642
November	653	-21	-10	8.2	641
October	674	-11	-7	8.5	662
September	685	2	3	8.6	670
August	683	-11	8	8.6	644
July	694	19	14	8.7	725
June	675	16	11	8.5	678
May	659	9	15	8.3	654
April	650	7	19	8.2	650
March	643	30	24	8.1	661
February	613	21	20	7.7	638
January	592	21	19	7.5	608

Source: CBS.

¹ Detailed information available on StatLine:

[Unemployed and employed labour force, monthly figures](#)

Detailed information on the basis of the ILO definition available on StatLine:

[Unemployed and employed labour force, monthly figures; ILO definition](#)

Table 2. Unemployed labour force by age and gender, monthly figures (seasonally adjusted).

		15-24 yrs	25-44 yrs	45-64 yrs	men	women	total
		x 1 000					
2014	March	126	299	259	355	329	684
	February	135	300	256	368	323	691
	January	130	295	252	362	316	678
2013	December	133	287	248	358	310	668
	November	132	280	241	350	303	653
	October	137	286	252	358	316	674
	September	140	292	253	364	321	685
	August	137	292	254	366	316	683
	July	148	291	255	375	319	694
	June	143	280	252	372	303	675
	May	137	278	243	363	296	659
	April	141	274	236	358	293	650
	March	138	274	231	350	293	643
	February	135	258	220	333	280	613
	January	131	249	212	320	272	592

Source: CBS.

Table 3. Employed and total labour force, monthly figures (seasonally adjusted)

	Employed labour force			Total labour force		
	total	monthly change	average monthly change over three months	total	monthly change	average monthly change over three months
	x 1,000					
2014						
March	7174	-23	-18	7857	-31	-13
February	7197	-11	-24	7888	2	-11
January	7208	-20	-21	7886	-10	-20
2013						
December	7228	-41	-8	7896	-25	-14
November	7269	-3	-1	7921	-26	-11
October	7272	20	2	7947	10	-5
September	7252	-20	-10	7937	-18	-7
August	7272	5	-7	7955	-6	1
July	7267	-16	-11	7961	3	3
June	7283	-10	-10	7958	6	1
May	7293	-7	-7	7952	1	8
April	7300	-12	-13	7951	-4	7
March	7312	-2	-17	7955	28	8
February	7314	-25	-20	7927	-4	1
January	7339	-23	-15	7931	-1	4

Source: CBS.

Table 4. Unemployment benefits

	March ¹ 2014	February 2014	monthly change	March 2013	annual change
	x 1,000	x 1,000	%	x 1,000	%
New	46.9	48.1	-2.5	47.9	-2.1
Current	453.8	460.1	-1.4	379.7	19.5
Stopped	53.1	48.5	9.5	44.9	18.4
due to expiration of maximum period	19.3	18.4	5.1	16.6	16.4
because they found work	26.0	22.1	17.7	22.2	17.5
other reasons	7.8	8.0	-3.1	6.1	26.9

Source: UWV.

¹ The Unemployment Act makes a distinction between report periods of 4 and 5 weeks. In 2013, January, May, August and October were periods of 5 weeks.

Table 5. Current unemployment benefits by sector

	March 2014	February 2014	monthly change	March 2013	annual change
	x 1,000	x 1,000	%	x 1,000	%
Total	453.8	460.1	-1.4	379.7	19.5
Sector					
Agriculture and fishery	6.6	7.7	-14.3	5.3	22.8
Manufacturing industry and mineral extraction	57.5	57.7	-0.4	48.1	19.6
Energy, water and waste treatment	0.37	0.37	1.4	0.3	30.3
Construction	26.1	28.3	-7.7	24.6	6.1
Trade	68.6	68.4	0.2	56.3	21.9
Hotels and restaurants	17.2	17.5	-1.8	13.5	26.9
Transport and storage	25.7	25.7	-0.1	19.3	33.5
Financial and business services	157.5	160.5	-1.8	141.0	11.7
Public administration	4.9	4.9	0.1	4.3	13.8
Education	14.6	15.0	-2.9	12.3	18.8
Health care, welfare and culture	73.5	72.7	1.1	53.4	37.7
Sector unknown	1.3	1.3		1.3	

Source: UWV.

Table 6. Current unemployment benefits by gender, age and region

	March 2014	February 2014	monthly change	March 2013	annual change
	x 1,000	x 1,000	%	x 1,000	%
Unemployment total	453.8	460.1	-1.4	379.7	19.5
Gender					
Men	244.6	251.4	-2.7	212.8	15.0
Women	209.2	208.7	0.3	166.9	25.3
Age					
<25 yrs	20.4	22.2	-8.2	19.5	4.7
25-35 yrs	78.0	80.9	-3.6	68.7	13.6
35-45 yrs	102.1	104.3	-2.0	88.9	14.8
45-55 yrs	133.0	133.3	-0.2	108.2	22.9
>= 55 yrs	120.3	119.4	0.7	94.4	27.4
Province					
Groningen	16.5	16.9	-2.8	14.3	14.9
Friesland	20.5	21.4	-4.3	18.3	12.3
Drenthe	14.8	15.4	-4.1	13.2	12.0
Overijssel	34.2	35.0	-2.3	28.5	19.8
Flevoland	12.5	12.6	-0.7	10.5	20.0
Gelderland	56.1	56.8	-1.3	45.5	23.2
Utrecht	31.0	30.9	0.5	25.1	23.5
North Holland	66.3	66.4	-0.2	55.8	18.9
South Holland	88.2	89.1	-1.0	73.4	20.2
Zeeland	8.3	8.5	-1.5	6.9	21.5
North Brabant	69.9	70.2	-0.5	59.1	18.2
Limburg	30.8	31.4	-1.8	26.8	14.9
abroad/unknown	4.7	5.4		2.4	
Major municipalities					
Amsterdam	22.4	22.3	0.6	19.4	15.6
Rotterdam	19.5	19.7	-1.0	16.6	17.3
The Hague	13.2	13.5	-1.9	11.5	14.7
Utrecht	8.1	8.1	-0.2	6.7	20.4

Source: UWV.

**Table 7. New and terminated unemployment benefits,
January - March**

	2014	2013	change
	x 1,000	x 1,000	%
New	173.6	168.3	3.2
Stopped	157.5	128.8	22.3
due to expiration of maximum period	57.6	48.2	19.5
because they found work	75.1	61.7	21.7
other reasons	24.9	18.9	31.4