



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Number of job vacancies remains high

Figures just released by Statistics Netherlands show that 202 thousand jobs were vacant in the private sector at the end of June, nearly the same number as at the end of March. In addition to the private sector there were 17 thousand vacancies in the public sector. The increasing demand for labour has also had its effect on the labour market dynamics.

Number of vacancies stable

In the last period of high economic growth the number of vacant jobs in the private sector peaked at 134 thousand (March 1990). It subsequently fell to as little as 33 thousand by the end of 1993. After this low point, however, more and more jobs became available, and at the end of March this year the number of vacancies in the private sector topped 200 thousand for the first time, reaching the highest number ever measured by Statistics Netherlands. At the end of June it was still at about the same level: 202 thousand.

The large number of vacancies bears out the picture of a continued demand for labour in the second quarter of 2000. The growth has continued unabated. Moreover, registered unemployment fell by about 2 thousand per month in the second quarter of 2000. The number of registered unemployed in the second quarter of this year was 173 thousand on average.

Dynamic labour market

The number of vacancies at the end of a quarter is the result of newly created jobs minus existing vacancies that have been filled. Some 233 thousand jobs fell vacant in the second quarter, while in the same period nearly just as many (232 thousand) were filled. So on balance the number of vacancies hardly rose. However, the high numbers of both new jobs and jobs for which people were found are an indication of the high level of dynamics on the labour market.

Labour still in short supply

One indicator for labour market tension is the number of vacancies per thousand jobs. In the private sector 37 out of every thousand jobs were

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vacant: just as many as in the previous quarter. There are significantly more jobs than average to be had in some sectors: in the construction industry and in business services for example. The shortage is still greatest in the IT sector, with nearly 85 vacancies per thousand jobs, but the situation has improved somewhat since the first quarter, when out of every thousand jobs, one hundred were vacant.

Public sector vacancies

In addition to the 202 thousand vacancies in the private sector, another 17 thousand jobs were available in the public sector at the end of June. Just over four in ten of these were in education.

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