



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Unemployment falls further

According to figures just released by Statistics Netherlands, registered unemployment in the Netherlands was 134 thousand in the months March to May, down again from the previous three-month average. Dutch unemployment has fallen by an average five thousand a month for the last twelve months.

Unemployment continues downwards

In the months March to May this year, the number of registered unemployed people in the Netherlands was 134 thousand on average, 21 thousand fewer than in February to April. As seasonal effects usually push down unemployment by 13 thousand at this time of year, when these effects have been eliminated, the new figure is eight thousand lower than in the previous three-month period, continuing the downward trend.

As the figures are based on a sample survey, they are subject to a certain margin of error. Therefore the trend in unemployment is best considered in a longer term perspective. Compared with twelve months previously the figure was 61 thousand lower, the equivalent of a decrease of five thousand people a month.

Long-term unemployment down by half

Both short-term and long-term unemployment fell in the twelve months to May. The number of unemployed registered for less than a year fell by over 30 thousand to 79 thousand people, while the number registered for more than a year fell by the same number to 55 thousand. The number of long-term registered unemployed is now half the number it was two years ago.

Low economic growth and falling unemployment

At two per cent, economic growth was low in the first quarter of this year compared with the preceding quarters. However, unemployment continues to decrease. It should be taken into consideration in this respect that the lower economic growth at the beginning of the year was partly caused by incidental factors that have no direct effect on unemployment. In addition, unemployment responds to changes in economic

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growth rates with a certain delay. A substantial fall in economic growth will only be noticeable in unemployment rates after a number of quarters. Such a delayed reaction by unemployment to economic growth occurred at the beginning of the 1990s.

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