



# Press release

PB08-012  
21 February 2008  
15:00 hrs

## ***Fewer unemployed***

In the period November 2007-January 2008, an average of 308 thousand people were unemployed, corresponding to 4.0 percent of the labour force, as against 5.0 percent in the same period one year previously. Seasonally adjusted unemployment fell by an average of about 7 thousand a month over the past six months, as the latest unemployment figures released by Statistics Netherlands show.

### ***Steady decline over the past six months***

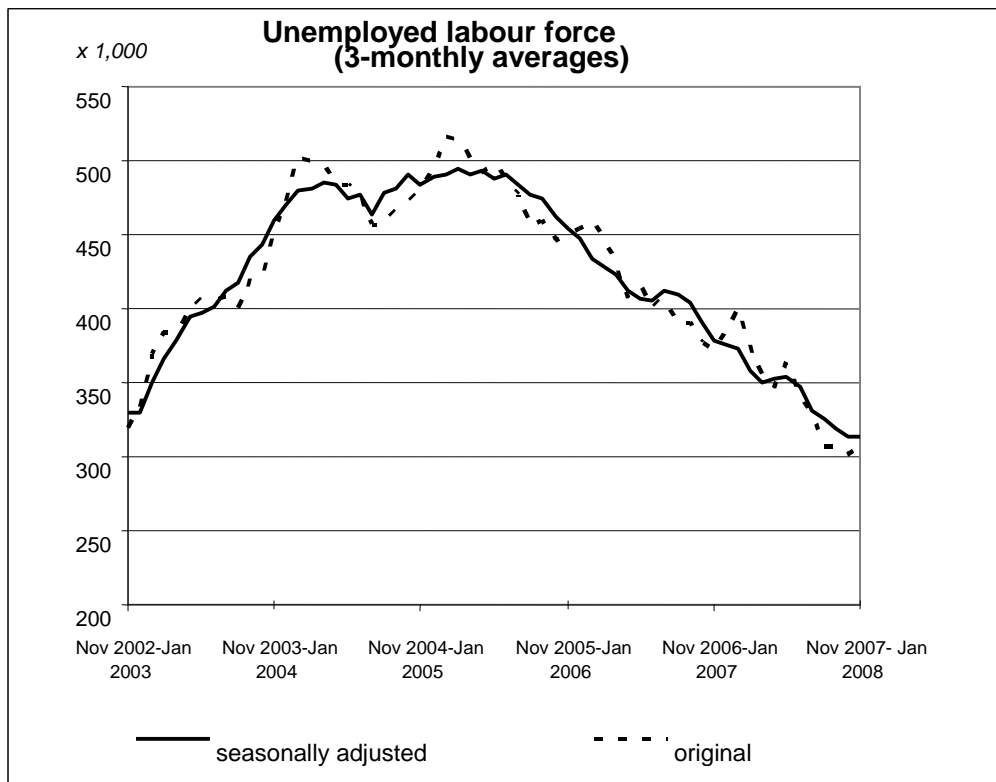
Seasonally adjusted unemployment over the period November 2007-January 2008 was 313 thousand, i.e. 1 thousand down on the previous three-monthly period. As unemployment figures are based on a sample survey, more reliable figures can be achieved by monitoring over a longer period. In the past six months, unemployment was reduced by an average of about 7 thousand a month.

### ***Decrease in female unemployment more substantial***

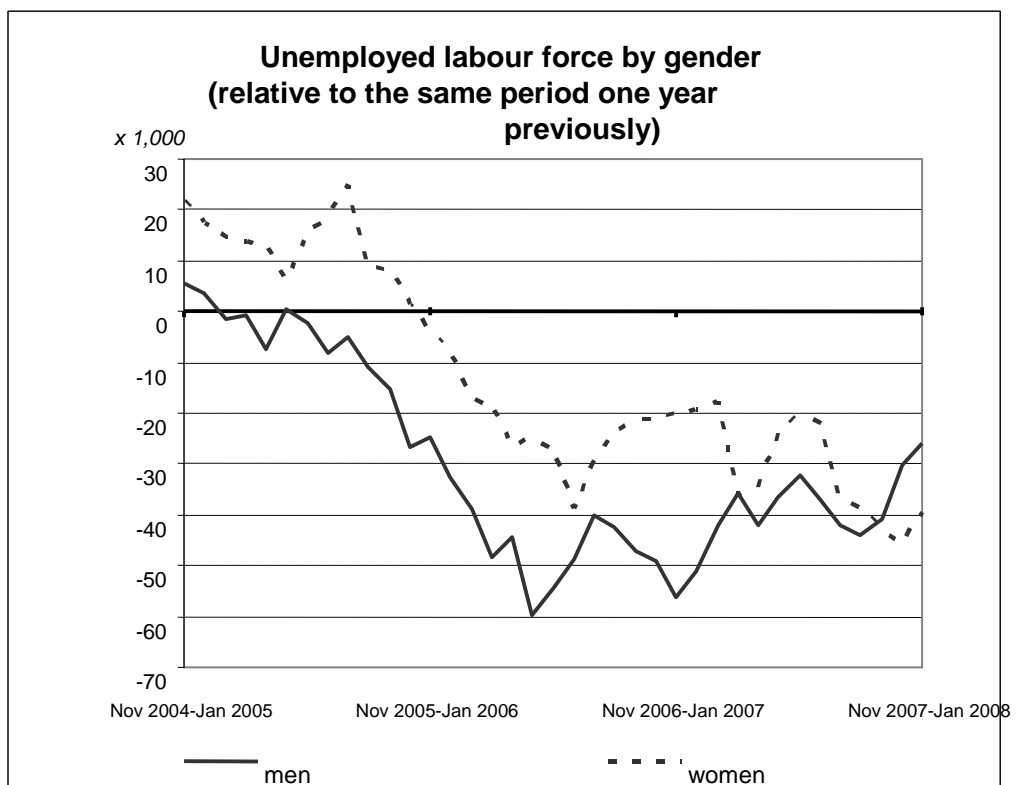
In the period November 2007-January 2008, the number of unemployed was 66 thousand down on one year previously. Male and female unemployment were reduced by 26 and 40 thousand, respectively.

Male unemployment has declined since early 2005. The decline among women began approximately one year later and until recently, the annual reduction was less substantial than among men. Since several months, however, the reduction of unemployment among women exceeds that of men.

Still, more women than men are unemployed. In both gender groups, the lowest unemployment rate was recorded among 25 to 44-year-olds. The unemployment rate among men in this age category was 1.9 percent as opposed to 4.6 percent among women. The unemployment rate among men has not been this low in more than six years.



**Source: Statistics Netherlands**



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**Table 1. Unemployed labour force**

	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted <sup>1)</sup>
	% of the labour force	total	annual change	total
<i>3-monthly averages</i>	%	x 1,000		
2007				
Nov-Jan	4.0	308	-66	313
Oct-Dec	4.0	301	-76	314
Sept-Nov	4.0	306	-84	319
Aug-Oct	4.0	307	-83	326
July-Sept	4.3	328	-79	331
June-Aug	4.4	342	-59	347
May-July	4.7	363	-53	354
April-June	4.6	346	-61	353
March-May	4.7	354	-77	350
Febr-April	5.0	375	-72	358
Jan-March	5.3	401	-59	373
Dec-Febr	5.1	384	-70	376
2006				
Nov-Jan	5.0	374	-76	378
Oct-Dec	5.0	377	-70	390
Sept-Nov	5.2	390	-69	404
Aug-Oct	5.2	390	-66	409
July-Sept	5.4	407	-69	412
June-Aug	5.3	400	-88	405
May-July	5.5	415	-82	406
April-June	5.5	407	-85	412
March-May	5.8	430	-71	423
Febr-April	6.0	447	-67	429
Jan-March	6.2	460	-56	433
Dec-Febr	6.1	454	-40	447
<i>Annual averages</i>				
2007	4.5	344	-69	
2006	5.5	413	-70	
2005	6.5	483	4	
2004	6.5	479	80	
2003	5.4	399	97	
2002	4.1	302	50	

**Source: Statistics Netherlands**

<sup>1</sup>) The seasonally adjusted series is updated on a monthly basis as soon as new unemployment figures become available

**Table 2. Unemployed labour force by gender and age  
(3-monthly averages)**

		15-24 yrs	25-44 yrs	45-64 yrs	total
<i>x 1,000</i>					
Men					
2007	Nov-Jan	35	41	61	136
2006	Nov-Jan	38	64	60	162
2005	Nov-Jan	46	94	79	218
Women					
2007	Nov-Jan	29	81	61	172
2006	Nov-Jan	38	106	67	211
2005	Nov-Jan	48	116	67	231
Total					
2007	Nov-Jan	64	122	123	308
2006	Nov-Jan	75	171	127	374
2005	Nov-Jan	93	210	146	450
<i>% of the labour force</i>					
Men					
2007	Nov-Jan	7.6	1.9	3.6	3.2
2006	Nov-Jan	8.5	3.0	3.6	3.8
2005	Nov-Jan	10.7	4.3	4.9	5.2
Women					
2007	Nov-Jan	7.6	4.6	5.1	5.1
2006	Nov-Jan	9.8	6.0	6.0	6.5
2005	Nov-Jan	12.2	6.6	6.4	7.2
Total					
2007	Nov-Jan	7.6	3.1	4.2	4.0
2006	Nov-Jan	9.1	4.4	4.6	5.0
2005	Nov-Jan	11.4	5.3	5.5	6.1

**Source: *Statistics Netherlands***