

Employment bulletin of the Finnish Ministry of Employment and the Economy, December 2007

At the end of December, there were 219,000 unemployed job applicants registered at the employment offices, i.e. 27,700 less than a year ago. Compared with November, the number of unemployed job applicants increased by 19,800. The increase in unemployment in December is a yearly phenomenon due to the fact that certain students finish vocational schools, the number of lay-offs increases and fixed-term employment relationships and the subsidized measures arranged by the labour administration terminate more frequently in December. Unemployment decreased from the previous year in the areas of all Employment and Economic Development Centres, as well as in all occupational categories. The number of placements through the training and subsidized measures of the labour administration decreased by 6,200 since December the previous year.

In December, there were 9,500 laid-off workers among the unemployed, i.e. 3,300 more than in November. Since December the previous year, the number of lay-offs decreased by 400. There were 1,000 job applicants on short week, this being 300 less than the previous year.

During December, 29,100 new vacancies were reported to the employment offices, i.e. 1,100 less than in December the previous year. In all, the number of open vacancies at the employment offices amounted to 56,800 in December. Of the vacancies, 29,900 were filled during December, 12,900 of them through the employment offices. At the end of December, there were still 26,700 open vacancies at the employment offices, down 200 on the previous year.

Of the unemployed job applicants, 114,500 (52%) were men and 104,400 (48%) women. Since November, unemployment among men increased by 10,400 and unemployment among women by 9,400. Compared with December a year ago, unemployment among men decreased by 14,300 (-11%) and among women by 13,400 (-11%).

At the end of December, the number of unemployed job applicants under 25 years of age amounted to 21,900. This is 3,900 less than in December a year ago. Youth unemployment increased by 3,500 since November. Unemployed job applicants under 20 years of age numbered 5,300. Unemployed job applicants over 50 years of age amounted to 86,000, down 8,500 on the previous year. Unemployed job applicants over 55 years of age numbered 60,600, down 5,200 on the previous year.

At the end of December, the number of long-term unemployed who had been unemployed without interruption for more than a year amounted to 47,700, down 11,300 on the previous year. Of these, persons unemployed without interruption for more than two years numbered 22,500, down 4,700 on the previous year.

At the end of December, the number of persons covered by training and subsidized employment measures arranged by the labour administration amounted to 77,000, down 6,200 on the previous year. Compared with November, the number of measures decreased by 11,700. In all, 2.9% of the labour force was covered by these measures.

At the end of December, the number of people placed under employment subsidy measures arranged by the labour administration was 33,300, down 4,600 on the previous year. Of these placements, 3% were in government jobs, 25% in local government jobs and 72% in the private sector. Since December the previous year, the number of placements had decreased by 36% in government jobs, by 18% in local government jobs and by 8% in the private sector.

At the end of December, labour market training was attended by 28,300 students, down 700 on the previous year. During December, 2,300 new students started labour market training.

TABLE 1. EMPLOYMENT SITUATION AT THE END OF DECEMBER (I) AND ACTIVITIES OF EMPLOYMENT OFFICES DURING DECEMBER (II)

I EMPLOYMENT SITUATION AT THE END OF MONTH		DEC. 07	DEC. 06	CHANGE	
				PERSONS	%
A. JOB-SEEKERS					
1.	Unemployed	218958	246661	-27703	-11,2
	- laid off	9518	9875	-357	-3,6
2.	On reduced working week	973	1278	-305	-23,9
3.	Those who have work	102879	113756	-10877	-9,6
	- in the conventional labour market	65516	71951	-6435	-8,9
	- in subsidized employment	37363	41805	-4442	-10,6
4.	Persons not in labour force	55716	57706	-1990	-3,4
5.	Unemployment pensioners	47094	44392	2702	6,1
1-5	Total of job-seekers	425620	463793	-38173	-8,2
B. LABOUR DEMAND					
1.	Jobs vacant	26687	26875	-188	-0,7
	- notified for over a month	8254	7518	736	9,8
	- notified for over 2 months	3572	3208	364	11,3
C. SUBSIDIZED EMPLOYMENT					
1.	Placement in the state	1098	1707	-609	-35,7
2.	Placement in the municipalities	8267	10068	-1801	-17,9
3.	Placement in the private sector	23889	26104	-2215	-8,5
1-3	Total employment subsidy measures	33254	37879	-4625	-12,2
4.	Labour market training	28321	29059	-738	-2,5
5.	Trainee work with lab.mark.supp./coaching for working life	9481	10748	-1267	-11,8
6.	In job alternation places	5977	5509	468	8,5
1-6	Total measures	77033	83195	-6162	-7,4
D. STRUCTURE OF UNEMPLOYMENT					
1.	Unemployed women	104414	117813	-13399	-11,4
2.	Under 25 years old	21857	25726	-3869	-15,0
3.	Unemployed over a year	47679	58942	-11263	-19,1
E. UNEMPLOYMENT SECURITY					
1.	Members of unemployment funds	100068	112608	-12540	-11,1
II EMPLOYMENT SITUATION DURING THE MONTH					
1.	Unemployed persons*	228756	258614	-29858	-11,5
2.	Other job-seekers	215890	224552	-8662	-3,9
1-2	Total number of job-seekers	444646	483166	-38520	-8,0
3.	Vacancies during a month	56797	55438	1359	2,5
	- of those new vacancies	29138	30249	-1111	-3,7
	- vacancies filled during a month	29855	29457	398	1,4
	- filled with job-seekers at the Employment Service	12892	11424	1468	12,9
4.	Started spell of unemployment	57631	64028	-6397	-10,0
5.	Completed spell of unemployment	38776	41563	-2787	-6,7
6.	New placements with subsidies	5139	5548	-409	-7,4
7.	New entrants to labour market training	2288	2656	-368	-13,9

* Laid offs excluded