Employment bulletin of the Finnish Ministry of Labour, February 2007

At the end of February, there were 234,700 unemployed job applicants registered at the employment offices, i.e. 36,300 less than a year ago. Compared with January, the number of unemployed job applicants decreased by 9,100. Unemployment decreased from the previous year in the areas of all Employment and Economic Development Centres. The number of placements through the training and subsidized measures of the labour administration increased by 9,000 since February the previous year.

In February, there were 10,500 laid-off workers among the unemployed, i.e. 700 more than in January. Since February the previous year, the number of lay-offs decreased by 2,500. There were 1,300 job applicants on short week, this being 300 less than the previous year.

During February, 59,200 new vacancies were reported to the employment offices, i.e. 7,500 more than in February the previous year. In all, the number of open vacancies at the employment offices amounted to 105,100 in February. Of the vacancies, 37,900 were filled during February, 14,700 of them through the employment offices. At the end of February, there were still 66,400 open vacancies at the employment offices, up 10,700 on the previous year.

Of the unemployed job applicants, 126,500 (54%) were men and 108,100 (46%) women. Since January, unemployment among men decreased by 3,300 and among women by 5,800. Compared with February a year ago, unemployment among men decreased by 21,200 (-14%) and among women by 15,100 (-12%).

At the end of February, the number of unemployed job applicants under 25 years of age amounted to 23,500. This is 4,400 less than in February a year ago. Youth unemployment decreased by 2,400 since January. Unemployed job applicants under 20 years of age numbered 4,500. Unemployed job applicants over 50 years of age amounted to 92,400, down 8,100 on the previous year. Unemployed job applicants over 55 years of age numbered 65,100, down 3,800 on the previous year.

At the end of February, the number of long-term unemployed who had been unemployed without interruption for more than a year amounted to 56,600, down 13,500 on the previous year. Of these, persons unemployed without interruption for more than two years numbered 27,100, down 3,300 on the previous year.

At the end of February, the number of persons covered by training and subsidized employment measures arranged by the labour administration amounted to 94,300, up 9,000 on the previous year. Compared with January, the number of measures increased by 5,000. In all, 3.6% of the labour force was covered by these measures.

At the end of February, the number of people placed under employment subsidy measures arranged by the labour administration was 41,000, up 4,600 on the previous year. Of these placements, 4% were in government jobs, 26% in local government jobs and 70% in the private sector. Since February the previous year, the number of placements in government jobs had increased by 21%, in local government jobs by 5%, and in the private sector by 15%

At the end of February, labour market training was attended by 34,500 students, up 3,600 on the previous year. During February, 8,400 new students started labour market training.

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

I EMPLOYMENT SITUATION AT THE END OF MONTH		FEB. 07	FEB. 06	CHANGE PERSONS	%
A.	JOB-SEEKERS				
1.	Unemployed	234660	270988	-36328	-13,4
	- laid off	10540	13010	-2470	-19,0
2.	On reduced working week	1264	1574	-310	-19,7
3.	Those who have work	114179	113666	513	0,5
	- in the conventional labour market	69076	71578	-2502	-3,5
	- in subsidized employment	45103	42088	3015	7,2
4.	Persons not in labour force	66406	62155	4251	6,8
5.	Unemployment pensioners	44078	47452	-3374	-7,1
1-5	**Total of job-seekers**	460587	495835	-35248	-7,1
B.	LABOUR DEMAND				
1.	Jobs vacant	66365	55635	10730	19,3
	- notified for over a month	22039	19512	2527	13,0
	- notified for over 2 months	4022	3614	408	11,3
C.	SUBSIDIZED EMPLOYMENT				
1.	Placement in the state	1734	1430	304	21,3
2.	Placement in the municipalities	10575	10094	481	4,8
3.	Placement in the private sector	28699	24910	3789	15,2
1-3	**Total employment subsidy measures**	41008	36434	4574	12,6
4.	Labour market training	34549	30989	3560	11,5
5.	Trainee work with lab.mark.supp./coaching for working life	13258	12971	287	2,2
6.	In job alternation places	5525	4993	532	10,7
1-6	**Total measures**	94340	85387	8953	10,5
D.	STRUCTURE OF UNEMPLOYMENT				
1.	Unemployed women	108138	123231	-15093	-12,2
2.	Under 25 years old	23470	27833	-4363	-15,7
3.	Unemployed over a year	56578	70094	-13516	-19,3
E.	UNEMPLOYMENT SECURITY				
1.	Members of unemployment funds	108409	124201	-15792	-12,7
II EMPLOYMENT SITUATION DURING THE MONTH					
1.	Unemployed persons*	258092	291365	-33273	-11,4
2.	Other job-seekers	226429	227939	-1510	-0,7
1-2	**Total number of job-seekers**	484521	519304	-34783	-6,7
3.	Vacancies during a month	105065	91181	13884	15,2
	- of those new vacancies	59158	51644	7514	14,5
	- vacancies filled during a month	37899	35248	2651	7,5
	- filled with job-seekers at the Employment Service	14667	14241	426	3,0
4.	Started spell of unemployment	48347	49404	-1057	-2,1
5.	Completed spell of unemployment	55149	56594	-1445	-2,6
6.	New placements with subsidies	10022	9207	815	8,9
7.	New entrants to labour market training	8397	7649	748	9,8

* Laid offs excluded