

**Employment bulletin of the Finnish Ministry of Labour,  
March 2007**

At the end of March, there were 221,500 unemployed job applicants registered at the employment offices, i.e. 36,400 less than a year ago. Compared with February, the number of unemployed job applicants decreased by 13,100. 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 5,100 since March the previous year.

In March, there were 8,900 laid-off workers among the unemployed, i.e. 1,600 less than in February. Since March the previous year, the number of lay-offs decreased by 2,700. There were 1,200 job applicants on short week, this being 300 less than the previous year.

During March, 59,700 new vacancies were reported to the employment offices, i.e. 10,000 more than in March the previous year. In all, the number of open vacancies at the employment offices amounted to 123,900 in March. Of the vacancies, 69,900 were filled during March, 28,400 of them through the employment offices. At the end of March, there were still 61,100 open vacancies at the employment offices, up 9,100 on the previous year.

Of the unemployed job applicants, 120,300 (54%) were men and 101,200 (46%) women. Since February, unemployment among men decreased by 6,200 and among women by 6,900. Compared with March a year ago, unemployment among men decreased by 21,700 (-15%) and among women by 14,700 (-13%).

At the end of March, the number of unemployed job applicants under 25 years of age amounted to 21,100. This is 3,900 less than in March a year ago. Youth unemployment decreased by 2,300 since February. Unemployed job applicants under 20 years of age numbered 4,000. Unemployed job applicants over 50 years of age amounted to 89,400, down 8,700 on the previous year. Unemployed job applicants over 55 years of age numbered 63,800, down 4,200 on the previous year.

At the end of March, the number of long-term unemployed who had been unemployed without interruption for more than a year amounted to 54,900, down 13,200 on the previous year. Of these, persons unemployed without interruption for more than two years numbered 26,400, down 3,500 on the previous year.

At the end of March, the number of persons covered by training and subsidized employment measures arranged by the labour administration amounted to 94,600, up 5,100 on the previous year. Compared with February, the number of measures increased by 300. In all, 3.6% of the labour force was covered by these measures.

At the end of March, the number of people placed under employment subsidy measures arranged by the labour administration was 39,700, up 2,600 on the previous year. Of these placements, 4% were in government jobs, 26% in local government jobs and 70% in the private sector. Since March the previous year, the number of placements in government jobs had increased by 11%, remained at the same level in local government jobs, and increased by 10% in the private sector.

At the end of March, labour market training was attended by 36,400 students, up 2,700 on the previous year. During March, 8,300 new students started labour market training.

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

I EMPLOYMENT SITUATION AT THE END OF MONTH		MARCH 07	MARCH 06	CHANGE	
				PERSONS	%
<b>A. JOB-SEEKERS</b>					
1.	Unemployed	221534	257921	-36387	-14,1
	- laid off	8942	11653	-2711	-23,3
2.	On reduced working week	1214	1538	-324	-21,1
3.	Those who have work	118012	117626	386	0,3
	- in the conventional labour market	71985	74430	-2445	-3,3
	- in subsidized employment	46027	43196	2831	6,6
4.	Persons not in labour force	71996	69571	2425	3,5
5.	Unemployment pensioners	44171	46972	-2801	-6,0
<b>1-5</b>	<b>Total of job-seekers</b>	<b>456927</b>	<b>493628</b>	<b>-36701</b>	<b>-7,4</b>
<b>B. LABOUR DEMAND</b>					
1.	Jobs vacant	61133	52010	9123	17,5
	- notified for over a month	20520	22064	-1544	-7,0
	- notified for over 2 months	8692	7950	742	9,3
<b>C. SUBSIDIZED EMPLOYMENT</b>					
1.	Placement in the state	1690	1523	167	11,0
2.	Placement in the municipalities	10195	10229	-34	-0,3
3.	Placement in the private sector	27824	25325	2499	9,9
<b>1-3</b>	<b>Total employment subsidy measures</b>	<b>39709</b>	<b>37077</b>	<b>2632</b>	<b>7,1</b>
4.	Labour market training	36389	33685	2704	8,0
5.	Trainee work with lab.mark.supp./coaching for working life	12692	13446	-754	-5,6
6.	In job alternation places	5818	5274	544	10,3
<b>1-6</b>	<b>Total measures</b>	<b>94608</b>	<b>89482</b>	<b>5126</b>	<b>5,7</b>
<b>D. STRUCTURE OF UNEMPLOYMENT</b>					
1.	Unemployed women	101246	115925	-14679	-12,7
2.	Under 25 years old	21132	25015	-3883	-15,5
3.	Unemployed over a year	54916	68133	-13217	-19,4
<b>E. UNEMPLOYMENT SECURITY</b>					
1.	Members of unemployment funds	101257	117059	-15802	-13,5
<b>II EMPLOYMENT SITUATION DURING THE MONTH</b>					
1.	Unemployed persons*	250688	284249	-33561	-11,8
2.	Other job-seekers	233191	236502	-3311	-1,4
<b>1-2</b>	<b>Total number of job-seekers</b>	<b>483879</b>	<b>520751</b>	<b>-36872</b>	<b>-7,1</b>
3.	Vacancies during a month	123938	104188	19750	19,0
	- of those new vacancies	59660	49691	9969	20,1
	- vacancies filled during a month	69887	53523	16364	30,6
	- filled with job-seekers at the Employment Service	28435	19270	9165	47,6
4.	Started spell of unemployment	53964	57064	-3100	-5,4
5.	Completed spell of unemployment	59334	63496	-4162	-6,6
6.	New placements with subsidies	10914	9797	1117	11,4
7.	New entrants to labour market training	8288	8754	-466	-5,3

\* Laid offs excluded