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Atypical Employment in the Netherlands

Discussion Paper

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Research Area

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Project

The Institutional Determinants of Atypical Employment and Social Inequality in Europe, founded by the Hans Böckler Foundation and supervised by Jutta Allmendinger, Johannes Giesecke, and Kathrin Leuze



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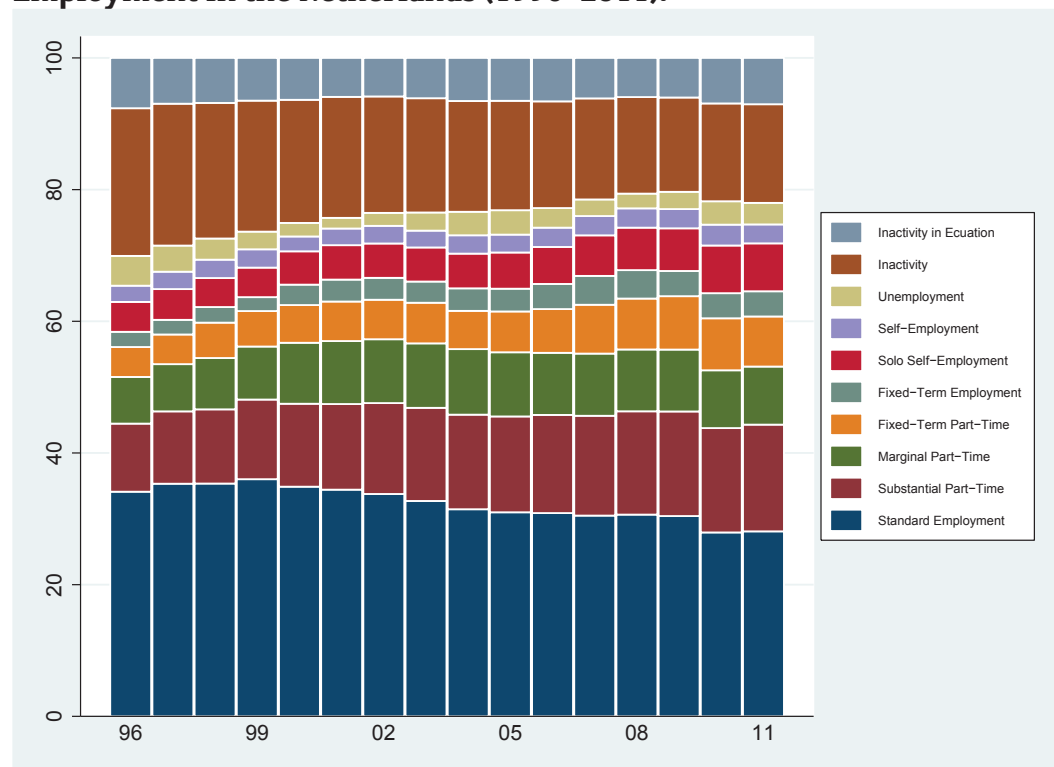
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The Netherlands

The overall trend in the labor market in the Netherlands was positive until the start of the economic crisis. An increase in employment was achieved by creating more flexible employment opportunities. The principal beneficiaries of this were younger and older people, lower-skilled workers, and women. At the same time, standard employment relationships declined in almost all the groups studied, while part-time work expanded greatly. Young employees and low-skilled workers were increasingly affected by marginal part-time employment.

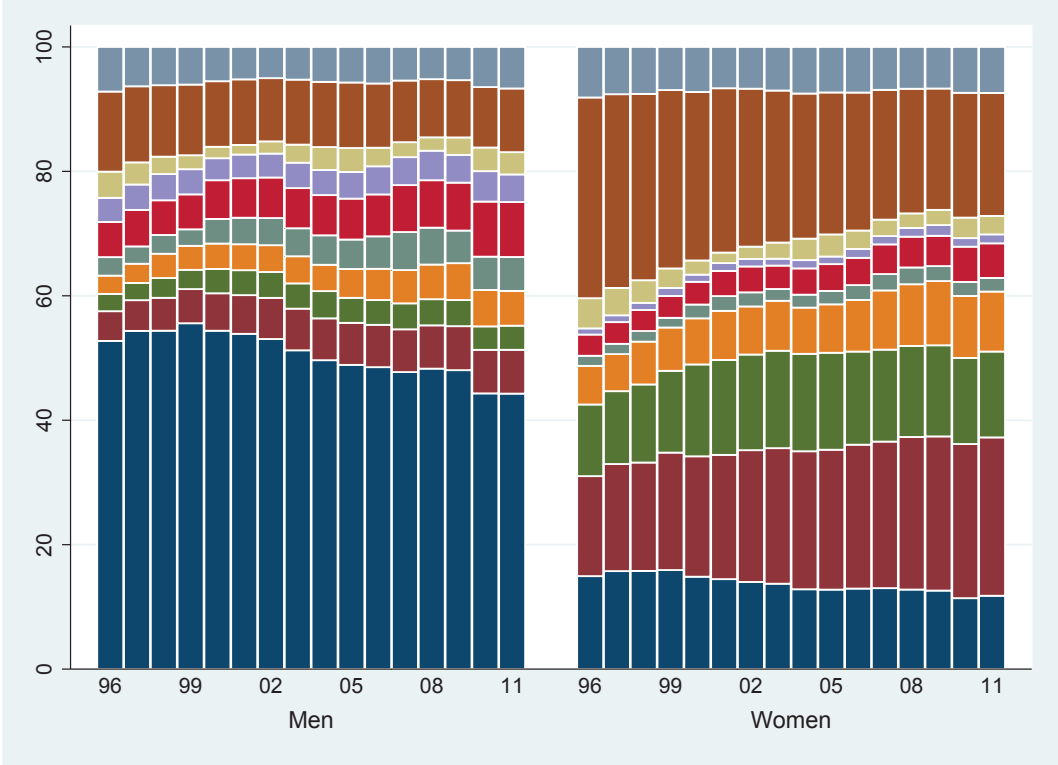
With the dramatic fall in economic growth in the year 2009, employment in the Netherlands dropped by 2.5 percentage points. Although a drop was observed in all population groups, younger people were strongly affected. Employment in this group fell by 5.6 percentage points.

Employment in the Netherlands (1996–2011).



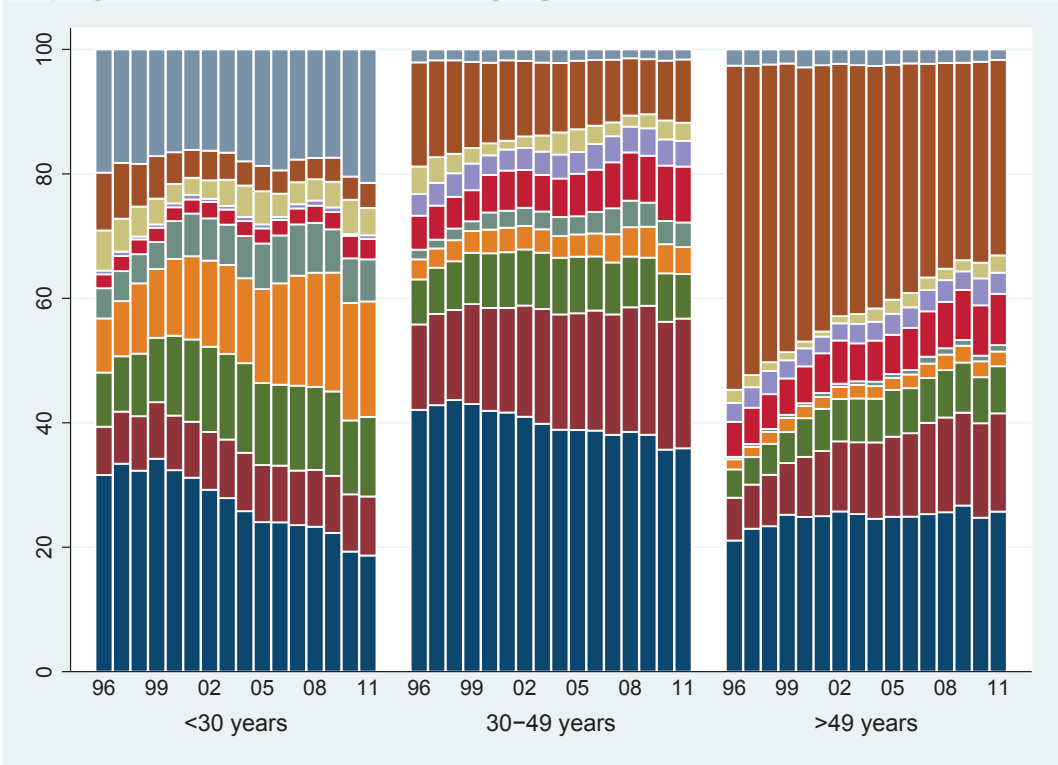
Data source: ELFS (second quarter based on yearly and quarterly surveys).

Employment in the Netherlands by Gender (1996–2011).



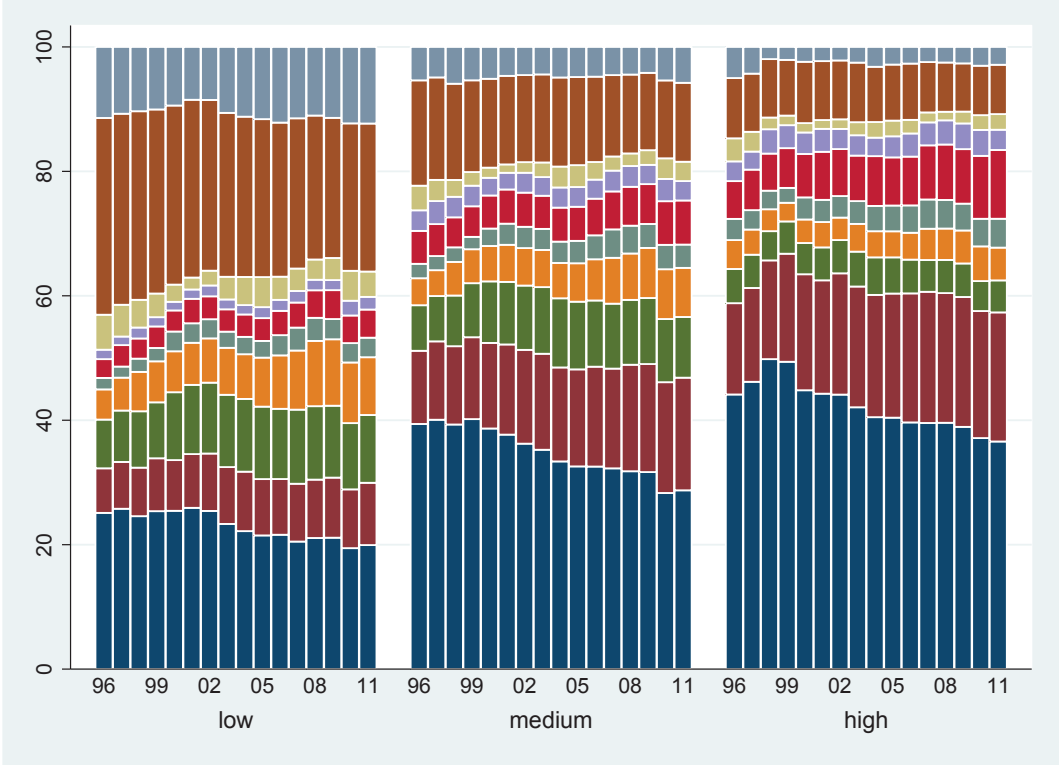
Data source: ELFS (second quarter based on yearly and quarterly surveys).

Employment in the Netherlands by Age (1996–2011).



Data source: ELFS (second quarter based on yearly and quarterly surveys).

Employment in the Netherlands by Education (1996–2011).



Data source: ELFS (second quarter based on yearly and quarterly surveys).

Important terms

The **population studied** includes all people who were of working age (between 15 and 64 years of age) at the time of the survey but excludes those living in collective living quarters (monasteries/convents, hospitals, etc.) and those doing military service.

A person was considered **employed** if they were working in the private or public sector, either in a dependent or self-employed capacity, for at least one hour a week and received a salary, wage, or other monetary remuneration for this.

Individuals were considered **unemployed** if they were not employed but were actively seeking work and were available to the labor market or if they were entering employment within the following three months.

Those who were neither employed nor unemployed were considered economically **inactive**. Inactive individuals who were in education or training were assigned to the inactive **in education or training** category.

A **standard employment relationship** exists when an individual is in a dependent employment relationship for at least 35 hours weekly and has a permanent employment contract.

Marginal part-time employment is employment with fewer than 20 hours a week.

Substantial part-time employment is employment with 20 hours and more a week but less than 35 hours a week.

Fixed-term employment exists when the period during which a contract is valid is limited. We differentiate between fixed-term employment (35 hours and more a week) and fixed-term part-time employment (less than 35 hours a week).

Self-employment exists when an individual's main economic activity is not dependent employment.

Solo self-employment refers to self-employment without employees.

The **educational/skill levels** "low," "medium," and "high" are based on the ISCED classification of qualifications developed by UNESCO.

The aggregated data used in our country profiles can be downloaded from the project's website (www.wzb.eu/atypical). Interested users can also find explanations regarding some of the methodological problems that exist for certain years or variables.