



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

PR99-242
20 September 1999
9.30 hrs

Strong increase in producer confidence

Producer confidence, the sentiment indicator for manufacturing industry, leapt up in August. Statistics Netherlands business cycle survey further shows that manufacturing companies received more orders in August than in July, and therefore expect to increase production in the coming months. In addition, manufacturers expect their prices to rise. The number of companies which reported too large stocks of finished product fell further in the last month.

Confidence in manufacturing industry leaps up

Following a slight dip in July producer confidence shot up again in August. This indicator, which expresses the business sentiment of the manufacturing industry, was 4.1 in August, 2.7 points higher than in July. Such a strong growth in the sentiment indicator is quite rare; it is the largest increase since March 1994 and brings producer confidence to its highest level in the last twelve months, according to Statistics Netherlands.

Order books fuller

The Dutch manufacturing industry received more orders in August than in July. The index of the order position, which expresses the stock of work, rose to 99.8 in August. Companies are more optimistic about the work in stock than in the previous twelve months. The influx of orders will lead to an increase in activity in the coming months and producers also predict a further price rise for their products.

Fewer and fewer manufacturing companies report stocks of finished products as being too high. Three per cent of companies report this in August, according to Statistics Netherlands, the lowest percentage since July 1998. In February this year, one in every ten companies thought their stocks were too high.

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