Statistics Netherlands

Press release

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Net profits up for AEX quoted companies

According to provisional figures from Statistics Netherlands, net profits for companies quoted on the Amsterdam Stock Exchange (AEX) came to 12.6 billion euro in the first half of 2003. This is well up on the first half of 2002, when profits were virtually zero.

Turnover for companies quoted on the AEX fell by nearly 4 percent compared with the same period last year. Net profits for non-financial companies were negative in the first half of last year and rose by 12.4 billion euro to 8 billion euro in the first half of this year. Financial companies made net profits of 4.6 billion euro in the first half of 2003, 0.3 billion euro more than twelve months previously.

Telecommunication sector back in the black

Non-financial companies quoted on the AEX netted profits of 8 billion euro in the first half of 2003. In the first half of 2002 they suffered losses worth a total 4.4 billion euro. The increase in net profits for non-financial companies was particularly strong in the transport, storage and communication sector: from 9.7 billion euro in the red to 1.2 billion euro in the black. This result was nearly all realised by telecommunication companies.

In manufacturing, machines and electronics companies increased their net profits by 1.3 billion euro. This improvement was the result of both better management and a strong decrease in negative financial results. Banks and insurance companies, too, realised a net profit of 0.3 billion euro largely through financial results.

In the first half of 2003, 88 of the 124 quoted companies made a profit: a total 13.6 billion euro. The remaining 36 companies suffered losses totalling 1 billion euro.

Turnover down 3.7 percent

The turnover of all AEX quoted companies was 3.7 percent lower in the first half of this year than in the same period last year.

For non-financial companies turnover fell by 0.7 percent on one year previously. Publishing, the machine and electronics sector, trade, and services all had lower turnover figures. Increases in turnover were to be found in other manufacturing, trade, storage and communication and in the chemical industry. In the construction sector, turnover increased by 38 percent; however, this was not a real increase in actual turnover, but a result of takeovers.

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For financial companies turnover in the first six months of this year fell from 63.8 to 56.0 billion euro, a fall of 12.3 percent on the same period last year.