



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Manufacturing turnover down sharply in December

Turnover in the Dutch manufacturing industry fell by 11% in December 2001 compared with twelve months previously. Nearly half of this fall was caused by the 4% drop in selling prices of manufactured products. Domestic sales were 11% down and exports of manufactured products fell by ten percent, according to figures from Statistics Netherlands. On an annual basis, the manufacturing industry only just equalled the record level of turnover achieved in 2000. In 2001 manufacturing turnover for the whole year was 172 billion euro.

Growth turned into fall

Turnover growth slowed down in the successive quarters of 2001 compared with the same quarters one year previously. In the first quarter turnover grew by 5%, in the second by 4%. But in the third quarter manufacturers realised 2% less turnover, and in the fourth quarter the fall continued and turnover was 8% down on one year previously. Sharp drops in turnover in November and December were mainly responsible for this decline.

The decreasing growth and the fall in manufacturing turnover last year were observed on both the domestic and on the export market. Product prices, which fell continuously since May were partly to blame for this. The prices of raw materials and semi-manufactured products used by the manufacturing industry fell even more sharply. Selling prices and prices of intermediate consumption both rose in 2000.

Manufacturing turnover in 2001

Manufacturing turnover was about the same in 2001 as in 2000. In 2000, however, it was 14% higher than in 1999. Domestic turnover fell by 1% in 2001, while exports remained the same. The largest decrease in turnover was in the petro-chemical industry. But metal, engineering and transport equipment companies also booked less turnover. The food industry, on the other hand, did manage to increase turnover.

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