



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## ***Producers' confidence recovers slightly***

Producers' confidence, the mood indicator of manufacturing companies, rose slightly in January. Statistics Netherlands' business cycle survey further shows that order books have improved somewhat and that manufacturers foresee a period of increased activity in the next three months. At the same time they expect prices of their products to fall further.

### ***Manufacturers more confident***

Manufacturers were slightly more confident in January. At 0.6 the producers' confidence indicator was 0.4 of a per cent point higher than in December and November 1998, when it was at its lowest since the spring of 1996. The increased confidence is based on an improved judgement of the order books position and the expected increase in production in the coming months.

### ***More orders***

Manufacturing companies received slightly more orders than in the preceding month. Manufacturers report better filled order books. The index of the order books rose by 0.7 of a per cent point to 98.7 (March 1996=100). This index is an expression of the work still to be done. Companies foresee an increase in activity in the next three months.

The price decreases which have been occurring for a successive number of months now are not expected to end in the near future. Companies making chemicals and synthetics in particular expect the prices of their products to become cheaper still in the coming months.

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