



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Large differences in hotel and restaurant trade

Turnover in the Dutch hotel and restaurant branch rose by an average 6% in 1998 compared with 1997, slightly less than in 1997. The small increases in cafés, pubs and bars dampened down the growth rate. Hotels and restaurants had a very good year, on the other hand. There are thus large differences within the branch.

The disappointing weather in the summer of 1998 certainly put a damper on business in cafés and pubs. In accordance with the general development of the economy, in this branch too, the first half of the year was better than the second half.

Growth in hotel trade continues

Turnover in the hotel branch, which includes boarding houses and conference centres, rose by 10.5% in 1998. Hotel turnover has been increasing strongly in recent years: in 1996 and 1997 it rose by an average 9%. Hotels have realised the largest growth rate within the branch for the fourth year running.

Growth rate for restaurants higher than average

Restaurants can also look back on a solid rise in turnover in 1998; 8.3% up on 1997. Like hotels, they improved on their 1997 growth rate (7.2%). If the 2% price rise in 1998 is taken into account, the growth comes out at 6.2%.

Cafés did less well

Cafés, including snack bars, lunchrooms and fast-food restaurants had a disappointing year in 1998, with turnover up by only 2.8%. The third quarter was the worst of the year, with an increase of less than 1%, probably because of the bad weather. There is a noticeable difference between large and small outlets: the smaller cafés and snack bars saw turnover rise by only 2.1%, while larger businesses (mainly fast-food restaurants) increased takings by 4.8%.

Turnover pubs and bars down on 1997

Turnover in pubs and bars rose very slightly in 1998, by only 2.6%. However if the price increase (3.1%) is taken into account, turnover was down 0.4% in 1998 on 1997.

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