



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Foreign trade down in January

The value of international goods trade was down in January. Imports in particular were lower.

Statistics Netherlands figures show that the value of imported goods was 8% lower than in January 1998. Exports were 3% down. In the fourth quarter of 1998 imports were about the same as in the fourth quarter of 1997; exports were 2% lower.

The balance of trade in January 1999 was 3 billion guilders.

Trade with European Union

Trade with member countries of the European Union (EU) was less than in January last year. Following the slight fall in the fourth quarter of 1998 (imports -1%, export -2%) trade slumped further in January: imports fell by 5% to 17 billion guilders, exports by 6% to 24 billion guilders.

The balance of trade with the EU member states for January 1998 was 7 billion guilders.

Trade with non-EU countries

The Netherlands imported 11 billion guilders worth of goods from countries outside the European Union, a hefty 13% less than in January 1998, while in the fourth quarter of 1998 2% more imported goods were imported from non-EU countries.

Exports to non-EU countries rose by 3% to 7 billion guilders. In the fourth quarter of 1998 these exports were 5% down.

The trade deficit with countries outside the EU in January this year was 4 billion guilders.

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