



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Manufacturing turnover 9% down in February

Turnover in the Dutch manufacturing industry was 9% lower in February than in the same month last year. This is now the sixth successive month that turnover is lower than one year earlier. Nearly all branches of manufacturing had a lower turnover in February; paper and publishing with a 1% rise in turnover was the exception. The provisional figures from Statistics Netherlands show further that turnover on the domestic market was down by 8% while exports were 9% down. How much lower prices contributed to this fall will become clear when the figures are released next week.

Largest falls in oil and chemical industries

Just as in January, the largest decreases in turnover were in the oil industry and in the manufacture of chemical, rubber and synthetic products (-14%). The metal and food industries also saw substantially lower sales: 8% down in both sectors. In other branches of industry turnover was down by 5% or less. The decrease is fairly universal, on both the domestic and the export markets.

Domestic sales were 8% down overall in February 1999 compared with February last year; exports 9% down. Again the largest falls in sales were in the oil and chemical industries, and - to a slightly lesser extent - the metal and food industries.

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