



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Manufacturing production down in January and February

The volume of production by the manufacturing industry was 1.5% lower in January and 3.5% lower in February than in the corresponding months of 1998. These lower figures show that production has now been declining for four months in a row, compared with figures for one year previously.

Compared with average output in the last quarter of 1998 production in January and February is fractionally higher (0.4%) after seasonal adjustment.

Manufacturing production back at the level of mid 1997

The level of production by the manufacturing industry has been declining gradually since the second quarter of 1998. The present level is just about the same as that in the third quarter of 1997. Manufacturing companies do not expect an increase in output for the period March to May 1999, according to Statistics Netherlands' business cycle survey.

The lower output figures for the first two months of this year were reported in all branches of the manufacturing industry, although it should be taken into account that the figures for the first quarter of 1998 were exceptionally high. The output figures for paper and publishing were slightly higher in January and February than last year, mainly on the basis of the publishing part of this branch. Mineral extraction and the water and energy companies also had a higher output, but these sectors were partly affected by the mild winters of the last two years.

N.B. From the January 1999 figure, the production indices are now based on 1995=100, and thus not comparable with previously published figures. For more details see press announcement.

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