



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

PR99-99
23 April 1999
9.30 hrs

Profits AEX companies stagnate

Dutch companies listed on the Amsterdam Stock Exchange made net profits of 49.3 billion guilders in 1998, 0.7 billion (just over 1%) less than in 1997. This fall puts an end to a five year increase. The turnover of all companies together in 1998 rose by 4% to 790.1 billion guilders, according to survey results from Statistics Netherlands in Heerlen.

The manufacturing industry had a large influence on the stagnation of the profits. The results in this sector vary strongly, with sharp rises and falls in profits. On balance profits of manufacturing companies fell by 12%.

Manufacturing industry shows varying picture

Accounting for nearly half of all companies, the manufacturing industry has an important position on the stock market. Net profits in this sector in 1998 fell by 3.7 billion guilders to 26.7 billion guilders in 1998. Within this sector the trends vary strongly: on the downside, profits in the chemical industry fell by 75% to 3.2 billion. In the publishing sector on the other hand, net profits were up 137% to 2.7 billion guilder. These results are strongly influenced by the trends in some individual companies.

Ups and downs

Four sectors - financial institutions, trade, construction and services - showed a hefty growth in 1998. The net profits of financial institutions for the whole of 1998 rose by 17% to 13.5 billion guilder. Net profits in construction, trade and services rose by 25%.

The sector transport and communication is discordant. In this sector net profits, without the annual returns of airline KLM, fell by 5% to 2.9 billion guilders.

Most companies improved on 1997

Of the 136 companies in the survey, 108 had better net results in 1998 than in 1997 (+14.7 billion guilders). The results of the other 28 companies listed on the Amsterdam Stock Exchange deteriorated (-15.4 billion

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Statistics Netherlands
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guilders). Together, ten companies suffered a total loss of 265 billion guilders.

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