



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

PR99-
26 May 1999
9.30 hrs

More orders manufacturing industry

Manufacturing companies received more orders in April than in March 1999. The opinions on the order books and the stocks of finished products were more optimistic in April and therefore the producers' confidence increased. The sentiment indicator of the manufacturers in April was 1.2. Statistics Netherlands' business cycle survey shows that the manufacturing industry expects a small increase in production for the next three months.

Receipt of orders increased in April

The value of orders received increased in April. The trend reported by manufacturing companies is stronger than foreseen on the basis of the seasonal pattern, and manifested particularly in the sectors semi-manufactured products and investment goods. The work to be done, which is expressed in the order books index, increased by 0.3 index point and reached a value of 99.0 (March 1996 = 100).

Opinion on order books and stocks more optimistic

In April manufacturers' opinions on the work to be done and the stocks finished products were more optimistic. Owing to these opinions in particular, the producers' confidence was higher in April. The sentiment indicator of manufacturing companies rose to 1.2; this is 0.7 point higher than in March, pushing the level of producers' confidence in April up higher than in the preceding five months.

Manufacturers reported higher output levels in April than in March. On the basis of the trend of the order books they foresee a continuing increase of activity for the next three months.

Statistics Netherlands
Press Office

P.O. Box 4000
2270 JM Voorburg
The Netherlands
tel. +31 70 337 58 16
fax +31 70 337 59 71
e-mail:
persdienst@cbs.nl

Statistics Netherlands
is a department of
the Ministry of
Economic Affairs

For further information, please contact G. Taal. Tel:
+ 31 70 337 43 62. E-mail: gtal@cbs.nl

More information is available from our press office.
Tel: + 31 70 337 58 16