



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Balance of trade higher in first quarter

The balance of trade in the first quarter of 1999 was 2 billion guilders higher than in the same period in 1998. New figures from Statistics Netherlands show that the value of exported goods in the first quarter of 1999 rose. The value of imports on the other hand was down.

First quarter: exports up, imports down

The value of exports was 1% higher than in the same period in 1998, at 101 billion guilders. Imports were 1% down at 92 billion guilders.

The balance of trade in the first three months of 1999 is 9 billion guilders; in the first three months of 1998 the balance was 7 billion. The increase is caused by a smaller trade deficit with countries outside the European Union.

Foreign trade down in February...

In February 1999 the Netherlands exported 32 billion guilders worth of goods, 2% less than in February 1998. Imports were 3% down on February 1998. The balance of trade in February was just over 2 billion guilders.

... and up in March

In March 37 billion guilders worth of goods were exported, 3% more than in March 1998. Imports rose by 2% to 34 billion guilders, bringing the balance of trade to 3 billion guilders.

Stable trade with European Union

Goods trade with countries in the European Union in the first quarter of 1999 was about the same as in the same period of last year. Exports to EU countries were 80 billion guilders; imports were 56 billion guilders.

Smaller trade deficit with non-EU countries

In the first quarter of 1999 the Netherlands exported 22 billion worth of goods to countries outside the European Union, 3% more than in the first three months of 1998. Imports from non-EU countries fell by 3% to 36 billion guilders. The trade deficit with non-EU countries was 15 billion guilders.

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