



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

PR99-156
22 June 1999
9.30 hrs

Growing confidence in manufacturing industry

Producers' confidence, the mood indicator of the manufacturing industry, rose to 1.6 in May. Statistics Netherlands business cycle survey shows further that manufacturing companies received more orders in May, but that activity did not increase. Manufacturers expect a slight rise in output and prices in the next three months.

Producers' confidence up

The confidence of manufacturing companies, expressed in the producers' confidence indicator, rose for the third month in a row to 1.6 in May. This puts the indicator 0.4 of a point higher than in April and is the highest value in the last nine months. The improved mood among manufacturers was mainly prompted by the expected increase in production in the next three months and their more favourable opinions on the stocks of finished product.

The manufacturing industry reported more orders than in April although this did not lead to increased activity. The increased satisfaction with stocks of finished product might signify that manufacturers expect to supply the increased demand from stocks. For the next three months they expect a slight rise in production.

Prices higher

The prices of manufactured products have risen in recent months according to figures from Statistics Netherlands. Companies expect their prices to rise further in the next months, especially in the chemical and metal sectors.

For further information, please contact G. Taal, tel. +31 70 337 43 62; e-mail: gtaal@cbs.nl.

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