



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Turnover industry down 3% in May 1999

Dutch industry saw its May turnover figure fall 3% on May 1998. This is partly caused by the 2% fall in the prices of industrial products. Another reason is that May 1999 had one working day less than May 1998. Statistics Netherlands estimates the negative effect of this calendar difference at 5%.

The preliminary figures further show that international turnover has fallen by 3%, likewise showing a price drop of some 3%. Sales in the Netherlands fell by 3% while selling prices fell by 1%.

Turnover wood and construction materials stands out

The only branch of industry that has a positive growth rate is the wood and construction materials industry. As was the case in April, its turnover increased slightly on the same month in 1998. The increase came from the domestic market. According to Statistics Netherlands all other branches of industry have lower turnover figures.

In financial terms the metal industry showed the greatest drop in turnover. Its domestic sales went down. In contrast the food, beverages and tobacco industry saw its turnover drop more in its export market.

Turnover in petroleum and the chemical industry

Since January this year there has been a steady decrease in the turnover drops of the petroleum, chemicals and rubber and plastics industry. In January of 1999 turnover fell by 16% and in February by 14% on a year ago, while selling prices were down by 13%. The turnover drop was reduced to 6% in March, 4% in April and 2% in May. Selling prices rose in reaction to the world markets. Still, in March selling prices

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Statistics Netherlands
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were down by 8%, in April by 4% and in May by 2% on the same month a year ago.

For further information

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