



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Manufacturing production 2% up in May

After seasonal adjustment the volume of production by the manufacturing industry was 2.1% higher in May this year than in April, according to figures from Statistics Netherlands. This growth pushed up production to the same level as in the first quarter of 1998, when manufacturing output reached a peak. Compared with the same month last year, the increase is also 2.1%, but in May last year production fell strongly.

Manufacturing output back at high level of 1998

The rise in May brings the level of manufacturing production back to its high level at the beginning of 1998. Compared with the first five months of 1998, however, average output in the first five months of this year was still lower (-0.9%). The exceptions are paper and publishing and wood and construction materials, where output increased.

With the high production figures for May the manufacturing industry seems to be picking up again. This is in line with the expectations voiced by companies in the business cycle survey in April and May; they stated that they expected output to rise slightly in the period May-August.

Average January-May output higher than second half of 1998

In the first five months of this year the average production by manufacturing companies was nearly 1% higher than the average production in the second half of 1998. By far the strongest growth was measured for the wood and construction materials sector, while the food industry, chemical and metal sectors and paper and publishing all had average growth rates well above the average for the overall manufacturing industry in the first five months. In other sectors the either the growth rate was lower or output was less.

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