



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## ***Companies invest nearly 1.1 billion guilders in environment measures***

In 1998, companies in the industry sector (excluding construction) invested nearly 1.1 billion guilders in measures to protect the environment. This is less than in the top year 1997, according to the provisional figures from Statistics Netherlands. Most money was spent on reducing air pollution.

Statistics Netherlands' figures further show that the chemical industry spent most on environmental measures, while basic metal industry and petroleum industry also invested large amounts.

### ***More than one billion guilders invested***

Following the peak in investment in environmental measures of 1.7 billion guilders in 1997, spending was lower in 1998 but still well above one billion guilders. From 1993 to 1998 industry (excluding construction) spent 7.5 billion guilders on environmental protection. Investments were over one billion guilders in all these years except 1995.

### ***Most spent on air quality measures***

In 1998 over half the total amount of investment - 585 million guilders - was spent on measures to reduce air pollution. Spending on improving the quality of water was about the same as in 1997 at 215 million guilders. Some 140 million guilders was spent on reducing soil pollution and 150 million (compared with 342 million in 1997) on pollution by waste matter, on nature protection and on the reduction of noise nuisance.

### ***Chemical industry spends most***

With 350 million guilders, the chemical industry spent most on the environment in 1998. The basic metal industry came second with 230 million guilders. In 1997 the petroleum industry led the field with 809 million guilders. Of overall investment expenditure in industry, 5% was spent on environment measures in 1998, compared with just over 6.5% in 1997.

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