



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

PR99-203  
11 August 1999  
9.30 hrs

## Production in manufacturing up

The seasonally corrected figure for the volume of industrial production in the second quarter of 1999 was up 1.1% on the first quarter. In June production fell 1.5% below the relatively high level of May, but it was up 1% on June last year according to preliminary figures by Statistics Netherlands.

### Slow recovery

After the high production level reached in the first quarter of 1998, production slowed down somewhat in the three subsequent quarters. The first quarter of 1999 again showed some growth, albeit slowly. For the first six months of 1999 production was up 0.8% on the second half of 1998, according to Statistics Netherlands.

Entrepreneurs in the manufacturing industry expect further production growth in the next few months.

Producer confidence was up in June for the fourth month in succession. It was mainly fed by the positive expectations producers had about productivity in the next few months.

### Production slightly under first half of 1998

Despite the slight recovery made in the first six months of 1999, production was still under the level produced in the first six months of 1998. However, production then was at a record high. Increases were observed only in the wood and construction materials, and in the paper and printing industries.

Production in the chemical industry was still 2% below the first six months of last year. The seasonally corrected production figure for the second quarter of 1999, however, is substantially higher than in the first (+4.8%).

### For further information

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