



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Retail turnover up in first half of 1999

According to the most recent figures by Statistics Netherlands turnover in the retail trade went up 4.7% in the first six months of 1999 compared the same period in 1998. The only time in the last five years that retail turnover saw a higher growth rate was in the first half of 1998.

The main growth stimulator in retail was the non-food sector (+7.6%). Food retail lagged behind with its 1.1% increase on the first six months of 1998.

Non-food retail profits on a wide scale

Virtually all non-food branches in retail profited from the willingness to buy among the shoppers. There was much interest in personal hygiene products. Drug-stores increased their turnover by 8.7% on the first six months of 1998 and clothes stores grew by 6.8%. Furthermore the consumer spent more on products for in and around the home. The furniture branch was up 9.2%, consumer electronics 7.2% and DIY sold 8.3% more than in the first six months of 1998.

Food sector lags behind

The growth rate in food retail had not been so low ever since 1994 (+1.1%). This low growth rate is due in part by the high growth rate of the first six months in 1998.

The supermarkets, which have an almost 80% share in food sales, saw their turnover increase by 1.2%. A remarkable slow down was manifest in the turnover of liquor stores, with a drop in turnover of 5.2% for the first half of this year.

Retail turnover in June up 7.6%

June was a very good month for retailers. Turnover went up 7.6% on June last year, reaching a level of 13.1 billion guilders. This comes down to an expenditure of some 2 thousand guilders per household.

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In June 1999 the food sector also profited from the growing sales. Statistics Netherlands observed a 3.8% increase in turnover among food stores.

Non-food stores even saw a 10% increase in sales compared to June last year. This brings their turnover to 8.3 billion guilders, or an expenditure of 1250 guilders per household.

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