



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Foreign trade slightly up in second quarter

The value of international goods trade with the Netherlands rose slightly in the second quarter of 1999. Both imports and exports were higher than in the same period last year. As foreign trade was down slightly in the first quarter of this year, the level remained stable in the first six months of 1999 compared with the same period last year.

New trade figures from Statistics Netherlands show a balance of trade of 14 billion guilders for the first half of 1999.

Imports from the United States recovered in the second quarter after a fall in the first quarter.

Trade slightly up in second quarter

The value of imports in the second quarter was 2% higher at 95 billion guilders. Exports also rose by 2% to 101 billion guilders. In the first quarter imports fell by 2% and exports by 1%.

June trade

In June 1999 33 billion guilders worth of goods were imported, about the same value as in June last year. Exports were 3% higher at 35 billion guilders. The balance of trade for June 1999 was 2 billion guilders.

Slight rise in exports to EU

Exports to countries in the European Union were 2% higher in the second quarter at 79 billion guilders. In the first quarter they fell by 1%.

The value of goods imported from EU countries was 57 billion guilders, about the same as in the corresponding period last year. In the first quarter they had decreased by 2%.

The balance of trade with EU countries for the first six months of 1999 was 45 billion guilders.

Trade with non-EU countries improved

In the second quarter of 1999 the Netherlands imported 38 billion guilders worth of goods from countries outside the European Union, 5% more than in the second quarter of 1998. In the first quarter of 1999 imports fell by 3%. Imports from the United States in particular rose strongly in the second quarter (+8%). In the first quarter they fell in value by 9%.

Exports to non-EU countries also rose in the second quarter of 1999. Compared with last year they were 3% higher at 23 billion guilders. In

Statistics Netherlands
Press Office

P.O. Box 4000
2270 JM Voorburg
The Netherlands
tel. +31 70 337 58 16
fax +31 70 337 59 71
e-mail:
persdienst@cbs.nl

Statistics Netherlands
is a department of
the Ministry of
Economic Affairs

the first quarter exports were still only at the same level as the same quarter one year previously.

The trade deficit with non-EU countries for the first six months of this year was 31 billion guilders.

For further information, please contact G. van Dam, tel. + 31 45 570 66 82; e-mail: gdam@cbs.nl.