



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Pension funds invest more than 850 billion guilders

Half way through 1999 investment by Dutch pension funds had reached a value of 853 billion guilders. The value of shares and bonds on foreign markets rose, while that of stock on the Amsterdam exchange fell. The value of real estate investment rose, while private loans decreased in value.

Statistics Netherlands' figures further show that premium revenues for new life insurance policies in the first half of this year were 11% up on the same period last year. Investment policies are very much in demand.

Total investment 10% up

Total investment by pension funds rose from 777 billion guilders at the end of 1998 to 853 billion at the end of June 1999. This 10% rise is the result of a 20% value increase of shares and a fall in the value of private loans by 11%.

Most money invested on foreign markets

Nearly half of all the money pension funds invest (48%) is put into shares and bonds on foreign markets. These were worth 406 billion guilders at the end of June 1999, 261 billion guilders in shares and 145 billion in bonds. The value of this foreign stock rose by 43% in the first half of this year, while the rise in the value of shares and bonds on the Dutch stock market fell by 12% and 14% respectively. The value of government loans and bonds also fell sharply (-22%).

Investment insurance extremely popular

Investment insurance policies make up a very large part of new life insurance policies, according to figures from Statistics Netherlands. In the first half of 1999 they accounted for 46% of these policies, compared with 40% in the first half of 1998. Sales of these policies were up by 28% compared with the same period last year. The sale of conventional life insurance policies, which yield a lump sum in

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guilders was at the same level as in the first half of last year. Total premiums received for life insurance policies came to 7,126 million guilders, 10% more than in the same period of 1998.

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