



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Oil prices push non-EU imports up

The value of imports from countries outside the European Union was 10% higher in July this year than in the same month last year. The increase was largely caused by the increase in the price of crude oil. The new international trade figures from Statistics Netherlands also show that exports to non-EU countries have decreased slightly.

There are no big changes in trade with EU countries, both imports and exports were at the same level as in July 1998.

Total imports rose by 4% while total exports were at the same level as one year previously.

Oil prices push up imports

In July of this year 13 billion guilders worth of goods were imported from countries outside the European Union (EU), 10% more than in July 1998. Partly because of higher prices, 800 billion guilders more petroleum was imported from countries such as Kuwait, Norway and Saudi Arabia. Exports to non-EU countries fell in July, just as in June, by 2%, to 8 billion guilders.

The trade deficit with countries outside the EU for the first seven months of 1999 is 36 billion guilders.

Trade with EU countries stable

In July the Netherlands imported nearly 19 billion guilders worth of goods from EU member countries, about the same as in July last year. In June too imports were at the same level as a year ago. Exports to EU countries were also the same: 25 billion guilders. The balance of trade with EU member countries for the first seven months of 1999 was 52 billion guilders.

Total imports up

At just over 31 billion guilders, the value of imports was 4% higher in July 1999 than one year previously. In June imports were at the same level as in the same month last year.

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Exports were at the same level as July 1998 at 33 billion guilders; in June they had risen by 3%.

The balance of trade for the first seven months of 1999 was 26 billion guilders.

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