



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Car sales continue to rise

The high turnover rates in the motor branch in 1998 continued unabated into the first half of 1999. Provisional figures from Statistics Netherlands show that the turnover in the motor trade in the first half of 1999 is significantly higher than in the first half of 1998. Importers of cars, too, have also improved their turnover figures.

A record number of 376,400 new cars were sold in the first six months of this year, and, with 615,000 sold in the same period, used cars also remained popular

Sales dominate turnover

The continuing rise in turnover for car traders in the first half of 1999 was dominated by car sales. In the first six months of 1999, 64,300 more new cars were sold than in the same period last year, bringing the total to 376,400, and breaking the record of 357,400 in the first half 1987.

Figures on consumer spending in the first half of 1999 (+8.9%) had already shown that households were willingly spending more on luxury items, including new cars.

Used cars also popular

Sales of used cars also continued to increase in the first six months of the year, to 615,000. In spite of the increased sales, garages still have large stocks of second-hand cars, as exports have been stagnating.

Importers increase turnover

The increase in sales of new car increased turnover for importers by around 18% in the first half of 1999 compared with the same period last year. In the first quarter, turnover was even 22% higher.

The car trade did well, increasing its turnover by 13% in the first six months, continuing the trend which started in 1998.

Service garages keep pace

Car service garages kept pace with the sales and repair sector. Turnover in this sector in the first

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half of 1999 was 15% higher than in the same period last year. A backlog in the repairs of the many cases of hail damage in 1998 and a notable increase in smashed car windows may have had an effect on turnover in this period.

Retailers of car parts and accessories reported a 5% turnover rise on the first six months of last year.

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