



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## ***Remarkable upswing in foreign trade during Augustus***

The value of the goods traded internationally saw a remarkable upswing. The latest trade figures by Statistics Netherlands show that both imports and exports were up substantially on August last year. It is the first increase of this magnitude this year. In the first seven months of 1999 imports and exports were at about the same average level as the year before. Statistics Netherlands observed the last increase of more than 10% in March 1998.

### ***Trade up in August***

The value of imports increased by 13% in August to 30 billion guilders, while exports increased by 12% to 32 billion. In the first seven months trade had remained stable compared to the same months a year ago.

There is a positive trade balance for the first eight months of 1999 amounting to 17 billion guilders.

### ***EU trade increasing***

The value of goods imported by the Netherlands from the other EU countries in August 1999 was 17 billion guilders. This means that the import figure from the EU, and the total import figure, were up 13% on August a year ago. In the first seven months imports had still shown a 1% decrease in the year on year figures.

Exports to other EU countries likewise saw a 13% increase in August 1999 to a total of 25 billion guilders. Exports had seen a 1% year-on-year increase in the first seven months of this year. The trade balance with the other EU countries for the first eight months was positive, and worth 60 billion.

### ***Trade outside EU also up***

In August the Netherlands imported 13 billion guilders worth of goods from outside the EU. This

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constitutes a 12% rise on August 1998. In the first seven months the year-on-year growth rate on non-EU imports averaged 3%.

Non-EU exports likewise increased in August 1999: some 10% on August 1998 and totalling 7 billion guilders. In the first seven months non-EU exports had been about the same as the year before. The trade balance with countries outside the European Union is negative for the first eight months of 1999, and valued at 43 billion guilders.

***For more information please contact:***

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***Imports and exports, totals 1996-1999***

	Imports	Exports	Trade balance
	in billion guilders.		
1996	308,4	338,8	30,5
1997	346,9	377,8	30,8
1998	371,7	398,7	27,1
January	30,1	32,0	1,9
February	30,2	32,4	2,3
March	33,8	36,5	2,8
April	31,0	33,0	2,0
May	29,7	31,9	2,2
June	32,5	34,0	1,5
July	30,3	33,1	2,8
August	27,0	28,6	1,6
September	32,2	34,9	2,7
October	32,2	34,8	2,7
November	31,9	33,8	1,9
December	30,9	33,6	2,7
1999*			
January	28,7	31,4	2,7
February	29,2	31,3	2,2
March	34,3	37,5	3,2
April	31,2	33,0	1,8
May	30,7	32,1	1,4
June	33,2	35,4	2,2
July*	31,4	33,1	1,7
August*	30,4	32,0	1,7

\* preliminary figures

Source: CBS