



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## ***Manufacturing output continues to rise***

The volume of production by the manufacturing industry was nearly 3% higher in September this year than in the same month last year. After seasonal adjustment, provisional figures from Statistics Netherlands show that production was 1.2% higher in the third quarter of this year than in the second quarter.

### ***Production speeding up slightly***

Production by the manufacturing industry is increasing by more and more from quarter to quarter. Following a gradual decrease in 1998, output in the first quarter of this year was slightly higher than in the fourth quarter of 1998. The increase continued in the second quarter and now again in the third quarter, even by a little more. This takes production in the first nine months of this year to the same level as in the first nine months of last year. Manufacturing companies expect a further increase in activity in the coming months according to Statistics Netherlands' business sentiment survey for September. They also pronounce favourably on their order book positions and their stocks of finished products. Producer confidence is now at a record high.

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### ***Production rising in several sectors***

For the manufacturing industry as a whole, output in the third quarter was an average 1.2% higher than in the second quarter. Higher growth rates were reported in chemical and rubber industry, food, drink and tobacco, paper and publishing, and the wood industry. Output in the metal industry grew only modestly. Within this sector, basic metal showed a stronger growth. Construction materials and textile, clothing and leather had a lower volume of production than in the second quarter.

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