



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Manufacturing industry remains confident

Manufacturing companies maintained their high level of confidence in October. Producer confidence was only slightly lower than the record level in September. According to manufacturers, both orders received and production increased in October. Statistics Netherlands' business sentiment survey further shows that manufacturers expect a further increase in production and a rise in prices in the next three months.

Manufacturers very optimistic

Producer confidence, the sentiment indicator of manufacturing companies, was 7.3 in October, continuing the high level at only 0.2 of a point below the record level achieved in September. The optimism among manufacturers is based on their positive views on their order positions and stocks of finished products.

Production increases further

Manufacturers received more orders in October than in September, and production increased. The increase in received orders and activity was strongest in the sector making consumer goods.

In view of the present influx of orders, manufacturing companies expect to increase production even further in the next three months. Sales prices are also expected to increase, as they have been doing since March 1999.

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