



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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International trade up in third quarter

The value of foreign trade in goods rose in the third quarter of 1999. New figures from Statistics Netherlands show that international trade increased by 7% to 96 billion guilders. Exports rose by 6%, to 101 billion guilders. Imports from Ireland and the United States show the largest increases in the third quarter. In addition, Dutch exports to the Far East also rose strongly.

In the first half of 1999, Dutch imports and exports were stable compared with the same period in 1998. For the first nine months of this year the balance of trade was 19 billion guilders.

Increased trade in September

Thirty-four billion guilders worth of goods were imported into the Netherlands in September 1999, 7% more than in September last year. Exports rose by 5%, to 37 billion guilders. The balance of trade for September 1999 was 2 billion guilders.

Fifty per cent increase in imports from Ireland

The value of goods imported into the Netherlands from EU countries reached 56 billion guilders in the third quarter, 6% more than in the same period last year. Imports from Ireland were even as much as 50% up in the third quarter on last year's figure. Exports to EU countries were also 6% higher in the third quarter, at 79 billion guilders.

In the first half of 1999 imports from the EU were still 1% down, while exports to EU countries were only 1% up on the same period last year.

The balance of trade with EU countries for the first nine months of 1999 was 68 billion guilders.

Increasing trade with non EU countries

In the third quarter of 1999 the Netherlands imported 40 billion guilders worth of goods from countries outside the European Union. This is 10% more than in the third quarter of last year.

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Imports from the United States in particular grew strongly (+14%). Exports to non-EU countries also increased in this period. Compared with last year, exports to these countries grew by 5% to 23 billion guilders. Exports to East Asia showed the largest increase (+19%) in the third quarter. In the first half of 1999 imports from non-EU countries rose by 2%, while exports remained at the same level. The trade deficit with countries outside the EU for the first nine months of this year was 49 billion guilders.

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