



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

PR99-312
2 December 1999
9.30 hrs

Meagre October for retail trade

Retail turnover was only 0.6% higher in October this year compared with the same month last year. This small increase is partly explained by the very good results of October last year. Also, the pattern of shopping days was less favourable this year than last year. The newest figures from Statistics Netherlands reveal that the two most important retail sectors show opposite developments. Food retailers sold less (-2.9%), while non-food stores improved takings by nearly the same percentage (+2.7%). Shoppers spent a total of nearly 13 billion guilders, that is nearly 2,000 guilders per household. Almost two thirds of this was spent in non-food shops.

Retail trade in 1999

The turnover for the first ten months is usually a good indicator for the year figure. Up to now shop owners will be less satisfied with 1999 than they were in 1998. Retail turnover was 3.9% higher than in the first ten months of 1998. This is significantly lower than the growth rate for the first ten months of 1998 compared with 1997: nearly 6%. Ultimately, the increase for the whole of 1998 was 6.1%.

Non-food sector divided

Statistics Netherlands observed opposing trends within the non-food sector in October. Compared with the same month last year, chemists reported a substantial growth (10.9%); and after a relatively warm September, consumers turned to their winter wardrobes, pushing up turnover in clothes shops by 5%. Do-it-yourself enthusiasts also spent generously, increasing takings in this branch by 6.9%. Stores selling consumer electronics were less popular with shoppers (-0.5%), while home enhancement outlets also lagged behind, with only 0.8% growth in October.

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