



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## *Retail trade flourishing in November*

Turnover in the retail trade in November 1999 was up 6.8% on November 1998. The most recent figures by Statistics Netherlands show that the non-food retail sector in particular profited from a substantial growth rate. The turnover in this sector, which includes drugstores, furniture shops and DIY outlets, increased by 8.8%. Food stores saw their turnover go up 4.5%.

In total the consumer spent 12.9 billion guilders (5.9 billion euro) in retail outlets; This comes down to 1925 guilders (874 euro) per household. Almost two thirds is spent in non-food outlets.

### *Turnover drugstores up*

In November the non-food branches seem to have really profited from the booming economy. Topping the list were the drugstores, which sold 16.9% more than in November 1998. November is traditionally the month to shop for presents (6 December is the Sinterklaas celebration). Toy stores came in second with a 16.1% plus. Consumers spent 13.7% more at DIY stores and furniture and furnishings saw an 8.2% improvement. In comparison the 3.6% turnover increase in clothing stores was quite modest.

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## ***The year 1999***

In the first 11 months of 1999 retail sales increased by 4.2% on the same period the year before. For Food the increase was 1.3%, while Non-Food saw a 6.4% increase during this period. These figures provide a good indication for the growth rate for 1999 as a whole. Compared to 1998 retailers will have a lower turnover growth rate, but it needs to be said that 1998 was an exceptionally good year for retail with a 6.2% increase in turnover in the first 11 months.

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**Retail trade. Year on year percentage changes**

	1999					1998
	Nov.	Okt.	Q3	Q2	Jan-Nov.	Year
<b>Retail total 1)</b>	6,8	0,2	3,8	4,7	4,2	6,9
Price	0,8	0,7	1,1	1,7	1,5	1,9
Volume	5,9	-0,5	2,7	2,9	2,6	4,9
Turnover in money:						
<b>Food</b>	4,5	-3,5	2,6	1,8	1,3	3,2
among which:						
Super markets	4,7	-3,5	3,0	2,2	1,6	4,1
<b>Non-food</b>	8,8	2,8	4,6	7,1	6,4	8,7
among which:						
Drugstores	16,9	12,1	11,2	9,1	10,4	10,7
Clothing stores	3,6	4,1	-3,9	6,5	3,9	7,2
Textile supermarkets	6,9	13,0	-3,1	7,2	5,1	0,7