



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Production capacity up

Manufacturing industry produced more in December 1999 than in November. The increased the degree of production capacity utilisation. Statistics Netherlands further observed that producers received more orders than in November and that their order portfolio expanded. Work in store has reached the highest volume level in four years time. Producers are slightly less optimistic for the months to come. Producer confidence, the mood indicator among entrepreneurs in manufacturing, remains at a relatively high level despite a dip in December.

Production and production capacity utilisation up

The increase in production in December led to a higher utilisation degree of the means of production. The utilisation of machinery and equipment increased by 0.2 percentage points to 84.5%. The increase did not pose any problems according to the entrepreneurs in the manufacturing industry. Entrepreneurs who did face production problems mostly said they had a shortage of personnel. This is reported by about 7% of the enterprises.

The new orders received in December together with the production increase mentioned, also led to a large increase in the work in store. The index of the order position in December 1999 was 102.0 (March 1996=100) thereby reaching the highest level since December 1995. Producers are expecting a slight increase in production for the months to come.

Producer confidence down a little

The producer confidence level in December came to 4.9 which is 0.9 points less than in November. Despite this the mood indicator among producers stays at a relatively high level. The drop in producer confidence was entirely due to the expected productivity in the first few months of the year 2000. The number

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of enterprises expecting a production increase is not as high as in recent months. However, the entrepreneurs are more positive about their order position and their stock of finished products.

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Producer confidence / Producentenvertrouwen

	Jan	Feb	Mr	Apr	Ma	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1996	-0.3	0.4	0.8	0.7	0.1	0.6	2.5	1.5	0.8	2.4	1.0	3.5
1997	3.7	3.7	3.4	4.7	3.9	6.2	6.5	7.1	6.6	6.4	7.2	4.5
1998	5.3	5.3	5.8	5.2	5.3	5.4	4.0	4.8	1.5	1.1	0.2	0.2
1999	0.6	-1.1	0.5	1.2	1.6	2.4	1.4	4.1	7.5	7.1	5.8	4.9

Source / Bron: Statistics Netherlands / CBS