



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Manufacturing turnover shoots up in December

The turnover of the Dutch manufacturing industry increased substantially in December 1999. Provisional figures from Statistics Netherlands show that sales were 24% higher than in December 1998. Over half of this explosive growth can be attributed to higher prices (+8%) and one extra working day (+5%).

In the fourth quarter of 1999 sales were 14% higher than in the same quarter of the previous year. This surge helped break the turnover record of 1998. For the whole year, turnover in the manufacturing industry in 1999 was just over 330 billion guilders, 2% more than in 1998.

Manufacturing turnover recovers in 1999

Turnover in manufacturing fell in the course of 1998 because of constantly decreasing prices. In the last quarter of 1998 turnover was 5% lower than in the same quarter one year previously. In the first quarter of 1999, too, it fell by 5%, but in the second quarter this decrease was only 1%, and it was followed by a slight increase of 2% in the third quarter. According to Statistics Netherlands' figures the 14% growth in the fourth quarter on the same quarter in 1998 was mainly realised in the last two months of 1999. The increasing prices of products pushed up the growth. The price rises are mainly caused by the continual increase in oil prices.

Largest turnover growth in petro-chemical sector

In 1999 manufacturing turnover was 2% higher than in 1998. Domestic sales were 3% up, exports 2%. According to Statistics Netherlands, the largest increases were in the petrochemical sector, the metal industry, the electrical engineering and transport equipment industry and the wood and construction

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materials industry. Just over half of the growth in the petrochemical industry is attributable to exports, while two-thirds of the increase for metal, electrical engineering and transport equipment was realised on the domestic market. The increase in sales of products from the wood and construction materials industry was achieved completely on the national market.

Turnover for companies in the food, drinks and tobacco industry fell. Sales for this sector were down on both the domestic and the export markets.

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