Press release

Statistics Netherlands

Sharp increase in the number of motor vehicles in 1999

On 1 January 2000 over 7.6 million motor vehicles were registered in the Netherlands, including 6.3 cars. This means a 4% increase on the previous year. The number of cars increased by 3.5%, the highest growth rate in 20 years. According to Statistics Netherlands, some 10% of the total number of cars are registered in the name of a company. The information is based on the registration of license plates carried out by the Centrum voor Voertuigtechniek en Informatie (RDW).

Record car sales

A record number of new motor vehicles was sold in 1999. Over 610 thousand new cars were sold, 12.5% more than in 1998. This great increase follows a decade in which the car market seemed to have reached its saturation point. During the decade the number of cars increased by an average of 1.5% a year. Furthermore, more than 116 thousand new commercial vehicles were sold in 1999. The number of vans grew by some 11%, the number of lorries by 8%. The total number of commercial and non-commercial vehicles saw beyond average growth.

More diesel, less LPG

The number of cars with diesel engines is still increasing. In 1999 their number went up by 11%. One in eight cars now runs on diesel.

With LPG it is quite a different story. While a decade ago one in ten cars ran on LPG, the number is now down to one in twenty.

Almost 700 thousand delivery vans

On 1 January 2000 there were over 880 thousand commercial vehicles in the Netherlands. Almost 80% are delivery vans (696 thousand); trucks (83 thousand) and trailers (57 thousand) together form 15%. Than there are another 36 thousand special vehicles (service and auxiliary) and 11 thousand buses.

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