



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## ***Manufacturers' prices slightly up in January***

Prices of products of the Dutch manufacturing industry were 0.3% higher in January this year than in December last year. Provisional figures from Statistics Netherlands show that prices on the domestic market prices rose by 0.8%. Export prices were around the same level as in December. Compared with January 1999, prices of manufactured products were 8.7% higher.

### ***Sharp rises and falls in prices***

There were substantial price rises in a number of branches of manufacturing between December and January. The largest increases in prices were in the paper and cardboard industry (+1.7%), the chemical industry (0.9%) and the wood industry (+0.8%). Lower prices were observed in the food industry (-0.5%) and the sector making office machinery and computers (-2.1%).

### ***Moderate price increase for petroleum products***

Developments on the global market pushed prices of oil products slightly up in January on their December levels (+0.3%). Prices on the domestic market in this branch rose by 2.3%, while export prices fell by 0.4%. Compared with January 1999 prices of oil products were 115.4% higher.

If the developments in the oil industry are left out of consideration, the price increase for manufactured products in January 2000 compared with the same month last year would be 3% instead of 8.7%. If the effects of the exchange rates are also discounted it would have been only 2.5%.

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### ***Raw materials cost more in January***

The prices of raw materials and semi-manufactured products used by the manufacturing industry were 1.4% higher in January than in December. Prices of Dutch raw materials and semi-manufactures were 1.5% higher, while those imported cost nearly 1.4% more. Compared with January 1999, the prices of this intermediate consumption were 18.7% higher. The increase in the price of imported raw materials was nearly three times that of those purchased on the domestic market in this period.

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