



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Retail turnover up in January

In the first month of 2000 turnover in the retail trade was 2.1% higher than in January last year. New figures from Statistics Netherlands show that stores selling durable goods increased their sales by as much as 5.7% in January. Food retailers on the other hand saw takings drop by 3%. The non-food retail sector has been doing better business than food shops since the beginning of 1996.

Dutch consumers spent a total 5.2 billion euros in the shops in January, that is just over 780 euros per household.

Large increase in turnover for chemists

Chemists' shops increased sales by 14.8% in January compared with the same month last year, continuing the strong growth of 1999 (10.3%).

Statistics Netherlands' consumer confidence survey shows that consumers feel that it is the right time to buy large items such as furniture, fridges and televisions. This is reflected in the growth in sales in stores selling home furnishings (+12.5%) and consumer electronics (+8.8%) in January. Do-it-yourself outlets also saw sales rise further in January (+8%). Clothes shops on the other hand saw sales fall (-2.6%), perhaps because of the mild and relatively dry January weather.

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Food sector in the red

Just over three-quarters of sales in the food sector were in supermarkets. It is the fall in the turnover in the supermarket sector in January (-3.5%) that put the food sector in the red (-3%), although greengrocers and butchers also had lower takings in January.

The fall in turnover for food shops was partly caused by a difference in the number of shopping days between January 1999 and January 2000. If this

difference is taken into account, turnover is slightly higher: 1%.

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