



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## ***Investment funds perform better than AEX average***

In the first quarter of 2000 the total yield of shares on the Amsterdam Stock Exchange was 1%. Investment funds which invest in these shares did better than this, with a return of 4%. Investment funds investing their money on the global markets also performed better. Amsterdam share prices were quite unpredictable in the first quarter, varying from a negative start of the year to an all-time high at the end of March. High-tech stocks have continued their march upwards on the Amsterdam exchange.

### ***AEX unchanged after turbulent quarter***

Amsterdam share prices started the quarter negatively. The CBS All-share index closed at its lowest point in the quarter at the of January: 850.3, 9% down on the end of 1999. It picked up again subsequently, though, to reach a new record of 972.6 on 28 March. After correcting itself in the last three days of March, the return, including dividends came out at 1%.

### ***Investment funds outperform shares and bonds***

Investment funds investing in Dutch shares realised a profit of 4% in the first quarter. This is higher than the average of all Dutch shares. With a 10% yield, funds investing on foreign markets also did better than the average for the markets on which they invested (6%).

Just as in 1999, the average yield for all investment funds together (including those investing in bonds) was better than that of shares and that of bonds.

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### ***Amsterdam lagging behind world average***

The total yield on Dutch shares was 1% less than the world average. The MSCI world index rose by 6% in the first quarter of 2000.

### ***High-tech shares: onwards and upwards***

The yields in the various sectors of industry are showing an increasing contrast between the 'old' and the 'new' economy. The barometer of the tech funds, the CBS-MIT index, rose by 16% in the first quarter. This index covers all stocks in the field of micro-electronics, information technology and telecommunications. Financial values (-10%), trade (-6%) and manufactured goods (-6%) all booked a negative results.

### ***Smaller funds perform better***

The share prices for small and medium-sized stock market funds rose more quickly in the first quarter of 2000 than those of large companies. The CBS/NIB index for non-quoted AEX funds rose by 12%. The AEX index, which includes the 25 most traded funds, lagged well behind with a fall of just over 1%.

### ***Negative results for property funds***

The CBS/SBV index for real estate funds fell in the first quarter of 2000. The total yield was minus 1%. Funds investing in Dutch real estate were a positive exception in this sector, though, with a total return of +7%. Just as in 1998 and 1999, investing in Dutch property is apparently more profitable than putting money into real estate outside the Netherlands.

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