



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Manufacturing output up

The volume of production by the manufacturing industry was 4.6% higher in February than in January 2000, although it must be taken into account that the January figure was relatively low. According to Statistics Netherlands output was higher than in January in all sectors of manufacturing. Productivity was 5.3% higher than in February last year.

Sharp rises in the wood and building materials industry

Partly because of the mild weather in February this year output in the wood and furniture industry shot up by 16% compared with the same month last year. Production volumes were also considerably higher in the food industry (+7.4%) and the chemical industry (+6.8%). In the metal industry output in February this year was 3.8% higher than in February last year.

Productivity higher than in fourth quarter 1999

While manufacturing productivity in February 2000 was well over the level in the fourth quarter of 1999, the average for the first two months of this year was below the level in the fourth quarter. The low January figure kept this average down.

Previously published figures from Statistics Netherlands' business sentiment survey further show that manufacturers expect a further increase in production in the period March to May.

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