



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Retail turnover shoots up in February

Retail turnover showed a large increase in February 2000. Figures from Statistics Netherlands show that shops sold 9.8% more than in the same month last year. Non-food outlets did particularly well, increasing takings by 13.5%. Chemists, shops selling consumer electronics and do-it-yourself stores set the tone in the non-food sector. Turnover growth in food stores was less spectacular at 4.8%.

Consumers spent a total 5.2 billion euros in the shops in February, an average total of 780 euros per household.

More custom for chemists

The turnover for chemists' shops was 14.3% higher in February than in the same month last year. This branch has been growing strongly for a long time now: turnover has increased by just over a third in the period 1995-1999. Do-it-yourself stores (+14.2%) and shops selling consumer electronics (+11.3%) also sold a lot more this February. Clothes shops recovered somewhat from a disappointing January, with sales 7.7% up on February 1999. Textile supermarkets also substantially increased their turnover, by 15.9% in February. However, they have had disappointing results for the last few years: turnover for these outlets grew by only 2.6% in the period 1995-1999.

More sales for supermarkets in February

Following an unsatisfactory January, there was 4.9% more money in supermarket tills in February than in the same month last year. Prices of supermarket products fell by 1% in the same month, probably partly as a result of the price war raging between a number of large chains. The volume of turnover has therefore increased by 6%. Also, there was one more shopping day in February this year than last year.

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