



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## ***Unparalleled growth in international trade in February***

The value of the international trade in goods went up dramatically in February. The latest trade figures by Statistics Netherlands show that both imports and exports increased in unparalleled fashion. There was a 25% increase in imports compared to February 1999, to a total of 36.5 billion guilders (or 16.5 billion euro); exports saw a 22% increase on February 1999 to 38.2 billion guilders (17.4 billion euro).

The increase in imports and exports concern a whole range of products. Price rises in oil and oil products only account for a fraction of these enormous import and export increases.

There was a positive trade balance in the first two months of the year 2000 of 3.6 billion guilders (1.6 billion euro).

### ***EU trade increasing***

In February 2000 the Netherlands imported 20.9 billion guilders (9.5 billion euro) worth from other EU member states. This brought the imports from the EU up 16% on February 1999. The January increase in imports was 10% on January 1999.

Dutch exports to the other EU member states increased by 21% to 30.1 billion guilders (13.7 billion euro) in February. The January 2000 on January 1999 increase was 12%.

There was a positive trade balance with the other EU member states in the first two months of this year, namely 18.4 billion guilders (8.3 billion euro).

### ***Spectacular increase in trade with non-EU countries***

In February the Netherlands imported 15.6 billion guilders or 7.1 billion euros worth of goods from countries outside the European Union. This constitutes a 39% increase on February 1999. The January on January 1999 increase in imports was 26%. The fastest rising import value was in crude oil from Norway. The increase is partly due to price rises, but there is also an almost 300% increase in the number of litres.

Exports to non-EU countries saw a 26% increase in February 2000 to 8.1 billion guilders (3.7 billion euro). The January exports were up 13%. There was a negative trade balance with the countries outside the EU during the first two months of this year, namely 14.8 billion guilders (6.7 billion euro).

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**Imports and exports, totals 1996-2000 (in billions of guilders)  
In- en uitvoer, totalen 1996-2000 (in miljarden guldens)**

	Imports/Invoer	Exports/Uitvoer	Trade balance/ Handelsoverschot
	mld gld		
1996	308.4	338.8	30.5
1997	346.9	377.8	30.8
1998	371.2	398.3	27.1
1999*	389.9	417.2	27.3
January/Januari	28.7	31.4	2.7
February/Februari	29.2	31.3	2.2
March/Maart	34.3	37.5	3.2
April	31.2	33.0	1.8
May/Mei	30.7	32.1	1.4
June/Juni	33.2	35.4	2.2
July/Juli	31.4	32.6	1.1
August/Augustus	29.8	31.2	1.5
September	34.8	37.0	2.3
October/Oktober	34.2	37.5	3.3
November	36.3	39.2	2.9
December	36.3	39.0	2.7
<b>2000*</b>			
January/Januari*	33.4	35.2	1.8
February/Februari*	36.5	38.2	1.8

\* preliminary figures/Voorlopige cijfers

Bron: CBS

***In- en uitvoer, totalen 1996-2000 (in miljarden euro's)***

	Invoer	Uitvoer	Handels- overschot
	mld euro		
1996	139,9	153,8	13,8
1997	157,4	171,4	14,0
1998	168,4	180,7	12,3
1999*	176,9	189,3	12,4
Januari	13,0	14,2	1,2
Februari	13,2	14,2	1,0
Maart	15,6	17,0	1,5
April	14,1	15,0	0,8
Mei	13,9	14,6	0,7
Juni	15,0	16,1	1,0
Juli	14,3	14,8	0,5
Augustus	13,5	14,2	0,7
September	15,8	16,8	1,0
Oktober	15,5	17,0	1,5
November	16,5	17,8	1,3
December	16,5	17,7	1,2
<b>2000*</b>			
Januari*	15,2	16,0	0,8
Februari*	16,5	17,4	0,8

\* Voorlopige cijfers

Bron: CBS