



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## ***1999 good year for the car trade***

Turnover in the car trade increased in 1999. New figures from Statistics Netherlands show that car importers and service garages did good business. Garages selling cars also increased profits, whereas retail turnover for spare parts and accessories was only very slightly up.

Rising petrol prices had a large effect on the increased turnover for petrol services stations. After adjustment for the price rises, the increase in petrol sales comes to 2.2% compared with 1998.

### ***Good results for importers and garages***

Car importers had a good year in 1999. Compared with 1998, the first quarter of 1999 in particular showed a strong growth, with an increase in turnover of 23.3%. In the last quarter the increase on the previous year was only 0.7%. For the whole of 1999, turnover was 12.5% up on 1998.

The picture for garages selling cars was similar to that for importers. For the whole of 1999 garage turnover was up by 8.7% on 1998. Most of this increase was realised in the first half of the year. In the fourth quarter, turnover grew by only 3.5%.

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### ***Car services increase turnover by more than 10%***

Turnover for garages providing special services for cars (tyre services, bodywork and body repairs, carwashes, reconditioning) shot up last year. In the first quarter of turnover was 15.7% higher, in the second quarter it was 12.9% higher, in the third quarter 9.4% and in the fourth 12.3%. This averaged out to an increase of 12.6% compared with 1998.

Statistics Netherlands  
is a department of  
the Ministry of  
Economic Affairs

### ***Surge in petrol sales***

Petrol stations increased their turnover considerably in 1999 compared with 1998: by 10.1%. The 7.6% increase in petrol prices was an important factor in this growth. After adjustment for the price rises, the increase in petrol sales comes to 2.2% compared with 1998.

### ***Retail trade in spare parts and accessories unchanged***

The very slight increase in turnover for retail outlets of spare parts and car accessories (+0.2%) remains substantially smaller than the growth in other sectors of the motor trade.

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