



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

PR00-104
8 May 2000
9.30 hrs

Manufacturing turnover up in first quarter

In the first quarter of 2000 turnover in the manufacturing industry was 15% higher than in the first quarter of last year. According to provisional figures from Statistics Netherlands turnover was up in all sectors of manufacturing. At 13%, the increase on the domestic market was smaller than that on the export market: 17%. Some two thirds of the turnover growth was realised by the petrochemical industry, where it was mainly based on higher selling prices.

Oil industry leaves its mark

In the first quarter of 2000 the selling prices of manufactured products were on average 11% higher than in the same period last year. However, if the price increases in the oil industry are left out of account, the total price rise comes to only 4%. Moreover, the first quarter in 2000 had two working days more than that of 1999, which are also estimated to have an effect of 3 to 4%. In March 2000 sales by the manufacturing industry were 13% higher than in March 1999.

Higher turnover in March 2000

The higher prices were an important factor in the 13% increase in sales by the manufacturing industry. The selling prices were just over 11% higher than in March last year. Again, if we exclude the price increases in the oil industry, the price rise is reduced to 5%.

The petrochemical industries account for three quarters of the total increase in manufacturing turnover, while, according to Statistics Netherlands, exports account for two thirds.

Statistics Netherlands
Press Office

P.O. Box 4000
2270 JM Voorburg
The Netherlands
tel. +31 70 337 58 16
fax +31 70 337 59 71
e-mail:
persdienst@cbs.nl

Statistics Netherlands
is a department of
the Ministry of
Economic Affairs

Sharp rise in sales by petrochemical industry

The sales of products manufactured by the petrochemical and the rubber and synthetics industries were over 40% higher in the first quarter of 2000 than in the same quarter last year. It should be taken into account, though, that turnover in these sectors was 10% lower in the first quarter of 1999 than in the first quarter of 1998. These opposing fluctuations are mainly caused by price developments: low prices in the first quarter of 1999 versus high prices in the first quarter of 2000. Global trends pushed oil prices down in the course of 1998, but since March 1999 they have shown an unabated increase.

For further information, please contact H.M.P. van der Bosch, tel. +31 45 570 63 33; e-mail: hbsh@cbs.nl.