



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Record level growth in retail

The first quarter of the year 2000 has been the best quarter for retail in a decade. The most recent figures by Statistics Netherlands show that turnover in shops was up by 5.7% on the first quarter of last year. However, this year's first quarter had one shopping day more than last year.

Substantial first quarter growth was reported primarily in non-food such as drugstores, furniture stores, consumer electronics (+7.3%). The growth rate in the food sector, such as supermarkets and green grocers lagged behind (+ 3.2%).

First quarter retail turnover exceeded 36 billion guilders (16.4 billion euro). This is the equivalent of each household spending 5400 guilders (2450 euro). Almost two thirds is spent in non-food.

Personal care popular

Personal care products are very popular with consumers. This year, drugstores saw a 13.4% turnover increase on the first quarter of last year. The home is also well within the sphere of consumer interest. Business was brisk in home furnishings ((+7.2%) and DIY (+10.4%). Other non-food branches that were up were supermarkets in textiles (+6.6%) and shops selling consumer electronics (+9.1%). The clothing branch saw a modest improvement of 1,5% in its turnover.

Turnover of supermarkets

Food stores had a turnover increase of 3.2% on the first quarter of last year. About 80% of the turnover in food is generated by supermarkets, which saw a 3% growth rate in this year's first quarter

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