



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Oil puts downward pressure on producer prices

The price level of Dutch industrial products in April this year was down 0.1% on March. In April the selling prices of oil products fell substantially. Elsewhere mostly price increases were observed. The preliminary figures by Statistics Netherlands show that domestic selling prices fell by 0.2% in April. The prices of exported industrial products remained the same. Compared to April a year ago prices for Dutch manufactured goods were up by 11%.

Mainly price increases

Most branches of industry had April on March price increases. In the chemical industry April on March selling prices were up more than 3%. In the food, beverages and tobacco industry there was a 0.3% price increase in products sold. Statistics Netherlands also observed higher prices in the base metal, the paper and cardboard and in the rubber and plastics industries. The only price drops were observed in the oil industry and the clothing branch.

Substantial drop in oil prices

Compared to March 2000, the prices of the oil industry fell by more than 7% in April, which is substantial. Oil prices have been continuously on the rise since March 1999. This is primarily due to developments on the world market. The prices of fuel oil and petrol fell. Despite this the price level in April 2000 was up more than 80% on April 1999. If oil prices are not taken into consideration, the total price level of Dutch manufactured products in April 2000 was not up by 11 but by 5.6% on April a year ago.

Industrial consumption prices down in April

The April prices of raw materials and semi-manufactured goods used by industry were down 1.5% on March. The raw materials and semi-manufactured goods produced in the Netherlands maintained their price, according to Statistics Netherlands. The prices of imported raw materials and semi-manufactured goods fell by 2.5%. This price drop was mainly caused by the lower import prices of petroleum. Compared to April 1999 industrial consumption prices were up by 17%. Imported raw materials and semi-manufactured goods went up nearly twice as much as Dutch produced raw materials and semi-manufactured goods.

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