



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Strong surge in manufacturing output

The volume of production by the manufacturing industry grew strongly again in April, 1.3% up on the March figure, and just over 5% higher than in April 1999, according to provisional figures from Statistics Netherlands. This is the third month in a row that manufacturing production has increased, and the present level is a new record.

Strong rise in production the last three months

Production was 2.5% higher in the period January-April this year than in the same period last year. Production levels have leapt up since February in particular. Previously published figures from Statistics Netherlands' business sentiment survey further show that manufacturers expect a further increase in production in the the period May to July. Producer confidence, the mood indicator for manufacturing companies was at its highest ever in April.

Output increases in all sectors

All sectors of industry have contributed to the strong growth of production in the first four months of this year compared with the same period last year. The strongest growth was measured for the wood and construction materials industry (+5%). But the food industry (+3.5%), and the petrochemical, rubber and synthetics industry (+3.5%) also reported solid growth rates. In the other sectors growth rates were in the order of 1%.

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