



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## ***International trade continues surge***

The value of foreign trade in goods rose strongly again in April. The newest figures from Statistics Netherlands show that the total value of imports was 14% higher than in April last year, at 16.2 billion euros. Exports were also 14% up compared with April 1999, at 17.0 billion euros. For the first four months of 2000 the balance of trade was just over 3.5 billion euros.

### ***Exports to the European Union continue to rise***

The Netherlands imported 9.2 billion euros worth of goods from EU countries in April 2000, 8% more than in April 1999. In the first quarter imports were 12% higher than one year previously. Exports to EU countries were 15% higher in April at just over 13.4 billion euros. In the first three months of 2000 these exports grew by 17% compared with the same period in 1999. The balance of trade with the EU for the first four months of 2000 was 17.2 billion euros.

### ***Strong growth in imports from outside the EU***

In April just over 7.0 billion euros worth of goods were imported in the Netherlands from countries outside the European Union, 22% more than in April 1999. In the first quarter these imports grew by 25%. Exports to non-EU countries rose by 11% in April 2000 to 3.6 billion euros. In the first quarter these exports rose by 19%.

The trade deficit with non-EU countries for the first four months of this year is 13.8 billion guilders.

### ***Balance of trade down in 1999***

Statistics Netherlands has just released the definite trade figures for 1999. The figures reveal that the balance of trade was substantially lower in 1999 than in previous years. Dutch imports were 6% up at 178.7 billion euros, while exports rose by 4% to 188.6 billion euros. This pushed down the balance of trade

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Statistics Netherlands  
is a department of  
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for 1999 to 9.9 billion euros, from 12.3 billion euros in 1998.

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