



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Real estate a good investment in first half of 2000

In the first half of 2000 the total yield of real estate funds on the Amsterdam Stock Exchange was 15%. The average return on all Dutch shares lagged way behind this at 2%, although the shares on the Amsterdam Stock Exchange did do better than the world average (+1%).

Share prices nearly unchanged in first six months

Share prices on the Amsterdam Stock Exchange hardly changed at all in the first half of 2000. The CBS share price index closed 1% up at the end of June at 943.1.

Including dividend, the return on Dutch shares was just over 2% in the first half of this year. This puts the Amsterdam Stock Exchange just above the world average. The MSCI world index rose by nearly 1% in the same period.

Real estate companies popular with investors again

After a number of moderate years, real estate companies realised investment returns of 15% in the first half of 2000, doing substantially better than both Dutch shares (+2%) and bonds (+2%). The best buys were funds which invest directly in real estate worldwide (17%). Funds investing in Dutch real estate lagged behind somewhat with an 11% increment.

Share investment funds yield better than AEX average

Investment funds which invest in Dutch shares did well in the first half of 2000, with a return of 5%. This is more than the yield of all shares together (+2%). With a 3% yield, funds investing on foreign markets also did better than the average for the markets on which they invested (1%). On the other hand share funds investing in the Far East suffered a downfall in value (-5%).

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Large differences between sectors of industry

There are large differences in share yields between the various sectors of industry. The capital goods industry leads the field with returns of 39%. The main funds in this sector are Philips and ASM Lithography. The construction industry showed a positive result again after a few disappointing years (+15%). Non-financial services, the sector which includes many IT companies, showed the worst results, with yields of -15%.

Share prices of small funds fluctuate strongly

Share prices of small and medium-sized stock exchange securities showed large fluctuations in the first half of 2000. In the first quarter the yield for small and medium-sized companies was still substantially higher at 15% than that for large companies (-1%). This increase was wiped out completely in the second quarter. The CBS/NIB share prices index for non-listed companies ended up 3% down at the end of June 2000. The AEX index, with the 25 most traded shares, closed nearly unchanged.

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