



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## ***Labour shortage in Dutch industry***

Dutch manufacturers increasingly find labour shortage a problem in their production. The June figures on the Dutch economy, published by Statistics Netherlands, show that there is hardly a change in new orders and productivity when compared to May. The order portfolio is full. Producer confidence, the mood indicator among entrepreneurs in industry, stands at 6.7 in June.

### ***Labour shortage rising***

About 9% of industrial enterprises has production problems due to a shortage of qualified labour. This is the highest percentage ever observed since Statistics Netherlands introduced the question on production problems in the manufacturing industry as a whole in 1985. However, industrial enterprises do expect to hire more personnel in the third quarter.

Dutch industrial entrepreneurs reported that the new orders they received in June and their productivity were at about the same level as in May. The order portfolio is rather full, and producers expect a slight third quarter production increase on the basis of this. The degree of capacity utilisation of the production means in June was 84.2%, which is about half a percentage point down on March.

### ***Producer confidence high***

Producer confidence, the mood indicator of entrepreneurs in the manufacturing industry, went up by 0.1 point in June and stands at 6.7. The indicator has been high ever since the second half of 1999. The third quarter predictions by entrepreneurs are that their international sales will increase and their selling prices will rise.

Dutch entrepreneurs feel that their competitive edge both on the Dutch and on the EU market is better than in March.

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***Producer confidence/Producentenvertrouwen***

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1996	-0.3	0.4	0.8	0.7	0.1	0.6	2.5	1.5	0.8	2.4	1.0	3.5
1997	3.7	3.7	3.4	4.7	3.9	6.2	6.5	7.1	6.6	6.4	7.2	4.5
1998	5.3	5.3	5.8	5.2	5.3	5.4	4.0	4.8	1.5	1.3	0.2	0.2
1999	0.6	-1.0	0.6	1.2	1.5	2.3	1.4	4.2	7.1	6.9	6.1	5.2
2000	5.3	6.4	6.6	7.8	6.6	6.7						

***Source/Bron: CBS***