



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## ***More retail sales in the first six months of this year***

Turnover in the first six months of 2000 by the Dutch retail trade was up 4.7% on the same period of 1999. It is the highest first-six-month growth rate in five years except for the first six months of 1998, according to the latest figures by Statistics Netherlands. Retail turnover in June was up 2.9% on June 1999.

### ***Non-food profits most***

The non-food sector in retail could improve its turnover substantially (+5.6%). The food sector, with a 3.3% growth rate did not stay far behind.

### ***Modest growth rate in June***

Dutch retail saw a modest increase in June of almost 3%. This is remarkable because June 2000 had a Thursday and Friday more than June 1999 and a Tuesday and Wednesday less. On Thursdays and Fridays turnover tends to be higher than on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The warm, dry summer weather in June may have had a dampening effect on shopping.

Food stores saw a far higher growth rate in June (+7.4%) than non-food stores (+0.4%). This is noteworthy because during an economic boom the turnover of non-food stores generally grows fastest. Apart from the warm weather, the European football championships may have played a role.

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### ***Shopping to a tune of 13.6 billion guilders***

In June consumers spent 13.6 billion guilders (6.2 billion euro) in retail stores. This comes down to 2000 guilders (920 Euro) per household. About two thirds of this amount ends up in the cash registers of non-food stores, the rest is spent in food stores.

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