



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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International trade continues to rise

The value of Dutch goods trade with overseas countries was again substantially higher in July than in the same month last year. The newest figures from Statistics Netherlands show that the total value of imports was 15% higher than in July last year, at nearly 17 billion euros. Imports from outside the European Union in particular were much higher. Exports were 18% higher than July last year at just over 17 billion euros. The increases are slightly smaller than in the first six months of this year, but this is partly explained by a difference in the number of working days.

Imports and exports up

Just as in the preceding months, foreign trade continued its strong rise in July. The Netherlands imported nearly 17 billion euros worth of goods, 15% more than in July last year. Exports were 18% higher than July last year at just over 17 billion euros. In the first half of 2000 imports rose by an average 19%, exports by 20%. Although the increases are slightly smaller than in the first six months of this year, this can partly be explained by a difference in the number of working days. There were two working days more in the first six months of 2000 than in the same period last year, while July had one working day fewer than July last year. The balance of trade in the first seven months of 2000 was 7 billion euros.

Trade with the European Union

The Netherlands imported 9 billion euros worth of goods from countries in the EU in July, 9% more than in July 1999. In the first six months of 2000 imports from EU countries was 13% higher than in the same period last year. Imports from Greece rose by most. Exports to EU countries rose by 19% in July to 14 billion euros. In the first six months of 2000 exports to EU countries were 20% higher than in the same period last year, The balance of trade in the first seven months of 2000 was nearly 32 billion euros.

Non-EU trade

In July 2000, 7 billion euros worth of goods were imported in the Netherlands from countries outside the European Union, 24% more than in

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July 1999. These imports increased by 28% in the first six months of 2000.

The value of imports from Russia even doubled. Crude oil and refinery products were mainly responsible for this, mainly because of their higher prices.

Exports to non-EU countries rose by 14% in July 2000 to 4 billion euros. In the first six months of the year, these exports rose by 23%.

The trade deficit with countries outside the EU for the first seven months of 2000 was nearly 25 billion euros.

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