



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Investment funds doing well

Investing through investment funds was more lucrative in the first nine months of 2000 than direct investments in shares. The figures by Statistics Netherlands show that investment funds focussed on Dutch shares during this period, which yielded 5%. This is higher than the total return of all Dutch shares together, which yielded 3%. The investment funds focussing on worldwide shares, yielding 10%, managed to beat the MSCI total return index which yielded 6%.

Mood changes at the Amsterdam Stock Exchange

After reaching a new record level on 4 September 2000, Dutch share prices saw a price correction. A large number of cautionary remarks on profit and turnover worldwide caused a mood change at the stock exchange. In the Netherlands the CBS-share index closed at 943.8 by the end of September, down 5% on the record earlier that month. Compared to late 1999, share prices have seen hardly any change on balance (+1%).

Amsterdam shares lag behind worldwide index

The yield of Dutch shares, including dividends, in the first nine months this year, was 3%. The total return in Amsterdam lagged behind the world average, which yielded 6% according to the MSCI-worldwide total return index in the same period.

Property funds doing well

Of all Dutch total return indices the real estate sector had the best results with a 16% total return in the first nine months of this year. That is considerably higher than the average returns of investment funds in shares (+9%) and bonds (+6%). Mixed funds (+8%) and the money market (+4%) also didn't do as well as the property funds.

Major differences within industry

There are considerable differences between the various branches of industry. Shares in construction were outperforming themselves with a 34% yield, followed by the capital goods industry (+32%). The sector

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transport, storage and communications was hit hard, with returns dropping 40%. The telecom-shares lost much of their popularity with the investors.

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