



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## ***Higher retail sales in August***

Turnover in retail went up substantially in August. The most recent figures from Statistics Netherlands show that the turnover was up 10.4% on August last year. Both food (+9.2%) and non-food stores (+10.6%) did brisk business in August. The high growth rate is partly caused by the fact that this year's August had a more favourable pattern of shopping days than August last year. The growth rate also reflects a great willingness to purchase, which has been evident for quite a while in the consumer surveys carried out by Statistics Netherlands.

### ***Consumers buy for almost 6 billion Euro***

The nearly 100 000 shops in the Netherlands generated a turnover of 12.9 billion guilders (5.9 billion Euro) in August. This comes down to an average of more than 1 900 guilders (873 Euro) per household. Almost two-thirds of this amount was spent in non-food.

### ***Consumer electronics stands out***

Consumer electronics, with a nearly 14% growth rate in August, stood out in the non-food sector. The high growth rate in consumer electronics has been observed over a longer period. For the first eight months of this year the turnover growth rate in this branch was up almost 12% on 1999.

Another fast growing branch in non-food was drugstores (+13.8%). Clothing stores saw a slightly weaker turnover increase (+6.5%) and as did stores in household goods (+3.8%)

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