



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Highest economic growth in Utrecht

The province of Utrecht had the highest economic growth rate of all Dutch provinces in the period 1995-1999, with an average 5.4% per year. For the country as a whole, the average growth in this period was 3.6% per year. Figures from Statistics Netherlands further show that in both Utrecht and nationally, this growth is borne by commercial services such as trade, transport, communications and financial and business services.

Utrecht strong in commercial services

The strong economic growth in the province of Utrecht has its base in the commercial services sector, which accounted for over 60% of growth there, compared with 50% of growth across the country. Commercial services in Utrecht grew by an average 7.5% in the period 1995-1999, and by 5.5% nationally. The urban districts of the cities of Utrecht and Amersfoort contributed most to this positive development.

Flevoland in second place

Flevoland is a good second in the provincial economic growth stakes, with an average growth of 4.6% a year. The growth here is mainly carried by the strongly increasing commercial services sector in the city of Almere.

North Brabant and North Holland above average

North Brabant and North Holland both had average annual growth rates of nearly 4% in the period 1995-1999. In the province of North Brabant, the chemical industry and again commercial services are responsible for the high growth rates. The growth is mainly concentrated around the cities of 's-Hertogenbosch, Eindhoven and the urban district of West-Noord-Brabant. In North Holland the growth is based on developments in wholesale trade, communications, banks and business services, while food manufacturers, publishers and printers also did well in this period. Amsterdam realised above average growth rates: the city's neighbouring areas (Amstelveen, Schiphol and Zaanstreek) showed very strong rates at nearly 5%.

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Rijnmond colours developments in South Holland

Economic growth in South Holland in 1995-1999 was about the same as in the Netherlands as a whole. The rate for this province is below that of the leaders, mainly because the industry in Rijnmond, which includes many chemical manufacturers, hardly increased in volume in this period. The region of The Hague did show an above average growth rate. This is quite a remarkable development for a region with such a concentration of government departments, which have had low volume growth rates in recent decades. However, the commercial services sector in The Hague has apparently more than compensated for this.

Industry curbs economic growth in Gelderland and Overijssel

The two eastern provinces of Gelderland and Overijssel (both 3.3%) and Limburg (3.1%) had a lower growth than the country as a whole. This development is connected with the strong industry sector in these regions, while the volume growth in industry was relatively low in this period.

Lowest growth in northern provinces and Zeeland

The three northern provinces (Drenthe 1.6%, Friesland 2.7% and Groningen 1.7%) and Zeeland (2.1%) were clearly lagging behind the rest of the country. This is because there are fewer companies in the commercial services sectors in these provinces, although Zeeland has also suffered from the downward trend in the chemical industry in the last four years.

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