



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## ***Labour shortage hampers industry***

Dutch industry is increasingly hampered by labour shortage. The survey on September among producers, by Statistics Netherlands, further shows that the degree of production capacity utilisation went up slightly. The order position is virtually unchanged and entrepreneurs are happy with the amount of work in store. Producer confidence remained unchanged in September.

### ***Production hampered by labour shortage***

In September some 10% of industrial enterprises were hampered in their production. This is mainly due to a shortage of labour. It is the highest percentage Statistics Netherlands ever observed since the question on negative influences on production was introduced in 1985. Since early 1999 the group of enterprises confronted with influences hampering production has increased from 3 to 10%. Despite the labour shortage, Dutch industry produced more in September than in August. The degree of utilisation of production-means was 84.7% in September, slightly higher than in June. The index of the order position in September was 101.3 virtually as high as in August (101.4).

### ***Producer confidence high and stable***

Producer confidence in September was the same as in August, namely 7.2. The mood indicator has been at a high level even since September last year. On average producer confidence was 6.7 in the first 9 months of 2000, compared to 2.0 in the same period of 1999.

Industrial entrepreneurs were positive about their order position. Furthermore they feel that their competitive edge has improved in this third quarter. Apart from improvements on the domestic market the entrepreneurs also report positive changes in the competition on the international market. An increase in sales abroad is expected for the fourth quarter of 2000.

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**Producer confidence/Producentenvertrouwen**

	Jan	Feb	Mrt	Apr	Mei	Juni	Juli	Aug	Sep	Okt	Nov	Dec
1996	-0.3	0.4	0.8	0.7	0.1	0.6	2.5	1.5	0.8	2.4	1.0	3.5
1997	3.7	3.7	3.4	4.7	3.9	6.2	6.5	7.1	6.6	6.4	7.2	4.5
1998	5.3	5.3	5.8	5.2	5.3	5.4	4.0	4.8	1.5	1.3	0.2	0.2
1999	0.6	-1.0	0.6	1.2	1.5	2.3	1.4	4.2	7.1	6.9	6.1	5.2
2000	5.3	6.4	6.6	7.8	6.6	6.7	6.8	7.2	7.2			

**Companies and production hampered by/ insufficient demand, labour shortage, insufficient production capacity/ Bedrijven met productiebelemmeringen als gevolg van**

		Onvoldoende vraag	Tekort aan arbeidskrachten	Te geringe productiecapaciteit
			%	
1996	Mrt		11	1
	Juni		10	1
	Sep		10	1
	Dec		10	2
1997	Mrt		8	3
	Juni		6	4
	Sep		6	3
	Dec		5	2
1998	Mrt		5	3
	Juni		6	3
	Sep		7	2
	Dec		9	2
1999	Mrt		9	1
	Juni		8	2
	Sep		7	2
	Dec		6	2
2000	Mrt		4	2
	Juni		6	4
	Sep		4	3

**Source/Bron: Statistics Netherlands/CBS**