



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Producer confidence remains high

Sentiments among goods producers hardly changed in October compared with September. The producer confidence indicator was 7.3 in October. Statistics Netherlands' business sentiment survey shows further that producers expect to increase output slightly in the coming months. Companies were positive about their order books, and still happy with their stocks of finished products. Producers expect selling prices to increase in the next few months.

Goods producers remain confident

Companies producing goods were just as optimistic about the business climate in October as in September. The producer confidence indicator was one tenth of one per cent higher, at 7.3. Confidence among goods producers has been high since September 1999. The average producer confidence score in the period January to October of this year was 6.8; one of the highest averages ever. In the first ten months of last year, the indicator averaged 2.5.

Goods producers expect a slight increase in output in the period November to January 2001.

Companies satisfied with orders and stocks

The order books index in October was 100.8 (June 2000=100), half a point down on September. The amount of work in hand is still satisfactory, previous positive reports on this aspect remain unchanged in October. Stocks of finished products do not seem to be a concern either: again, reports remain favourable, just as in September.

Producers do not expect prices of goods to stop increasing in the near future. They predict selling prices to continue to rise in the period November-January 2001.

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