



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Investment spending expected to remain high in 2001

Dutch manufacturers expect to maintain the recent high level of fixed capital formation next year. According to figures from Statistics Netherlands, they expect to invest 5% more in 2001 than in 2000.

Investment spending in 2000 is expected to come to 13% more than in 1999, bringing the total amount of fixed capital formation to just over 9.8 billion euros. This year and next year promise to be two top years for investments.

Food industry expects largest growth in 2001

Companies in the food, drink and tobacco industry are most optimistic with respect to capital spending in 2001. According to Statistics Netherlands they expect an increase of 19% on 2000. This is quite remarkable in view of the fact that investment spending in this sector has increased substantially in 2000.

Companies in the metal and engineering industry and the chemical industry have also spent considerably more on investment in 2000. Metal and engineering companies report an increase of 21% compared with 1999, pushing up investment spending to a record 3.1 billion euros. They foresee a slight fall in 2001.

The same pattern can be seen in the chemical industry. Investment spending in this sector has increased by 15% to nearly 2.3 billion euros. Here too, companies expect a slight decrease in 2001.

After a number of years of relatively low investment growth rates, the oil industry expects to have achieved more investment spending in 2000, though they too foresee a decline for next year.

In the other sectors of industry, printers, publishers and companies making construction materials expect to invest more in fixed capital in 2001 than in 2000.

Public utilities foresee recovery in 2001

In 2001 public utility companies expect to increase investment spending by 24% on 2000, a recovery after the fall in 2000, which they had already been foreseen.

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