



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## ***Retail turnover nearly 5% up***

Last year turnover in the retail trade was 4.9% higher than in 1999. Provisional figures from Statistics Netherlands show that this is the third largest increase in the last ten years: only in 1997 and 1998 was the growth rate higher.

Non-food retailers realised particularly high growth rates last year. This branch, which includes chemists, shops selling consumer electronics and do-it-yourself stores, increased takings by 6.1% in 2000. Turnover in the food retail sector grew by 2.5%. Dutch consumers spent a total of over 71 billion euros in the shops in 2000, an average of 10,500 euros per household.

## ***Mail order companies increase turnover substantially***

Sales shot up in a number of non-food branches last year. The turnover of mail order companies rose by over 16% in 2000, while shops selling perfume, toys and consumer electronics sold over 10% more. Turnover growth for textile supermarkets, garden centres and pet shops, on the other hand, was considerably below average, and for shops selling household items sales were even down in 2000 on 1999.

## ***Turnover up for supermarkets and specialist food shops***

Supermarkets closed 2000 with a 2.7% higher turnover than in 1999. For specialist food outlets turnover was 1.8% higher. This trend -higher growth rates for supermarket sales than for those of the specialist food outlets - has been observed for twenty years now. What is noticeable is that the trends within the specialist branch fluctuate strongly. Fishmongers, for example, sold 7% more in 2000, while shops selling potatoes vegetables and fruit sold 6% less, and the turnover for cheese shops was 7.5% down on 1999.

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