



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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International trade growing slower

The increase in the value of Dutch international trade in goods was lower in February 2001 than in previous months. According to the latest figures by Statistics Netherlands imports increased by 7% on February and exports by 12%. The monthly figures on international goods trade tend to fluctuate because of incidental factors. In January the growth rates were still high. The average increase in the period January-February was 15% for imports and 19% for exports. This is less than the growth rate in 2000, when imports increased by 19% and exports by 21%.

The value of imports in February was 39.4 billion guilders (17.9 billion euro) while the export value was 43.9 billion guilders or 19.92 billion euro. The trade balance was positive, and stands at 4,5 billion guilders or 2.04 billion euro in February.

Trade balance with other EU-countries

There was a positive trade balance with the other EU member states in February this year, namely 12 billion guilders, against 10 billion a year ago (4.54 vs 5.45 billion euro) . The Netherlands imported 22 billion guilders or 9.98 billion euro worth from the other EU countries, up 6 % on last year. The import increases from Ireland and the UK (computers) and Germany are the highest in terms of value. Imports from Belgium fell slightly (-4 %).

The exports to the other EU countries were up 12% on February a year ago, reaching 34 billion guilders or 15.43 billion euros. The increase mainly concerns natural gas exported to Germany and Italy.

Trade deficit with non-EU countries

Traditionally the Netherlands has a trade deficit with countries outside the EU. In February the negative balance was 8 billion guilders (3.63 billion euros) . Compared to the February 2000 the value of goods imports from non- EU countries increased by 9 % to 17 billion guilders (7.71 billion euros). The main contributing factors were the import increases from Japan (mainly video games), Nigeria (crude oil), China and Taiwan. In February there were no imports of crude from Iran, and imports from Norway was nearly halved. The total oil imports remained stable because more oil came from Nigeria, Kuwait and Saudi-Arabia.

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Imports from Hong Kong fell sharply (-65 %). They consist mainly of electrical equipment. In February exports to non-EU countries were valued at 10 billion guilders or 4.54 billion euros, up 16 % on the February 2000. The biggest export increase lies in computers and computer parts to Japan.

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Imports and exports, totals 1996-2001 (in billion GUILDERS)

	Imports	Exports	Trade- balance
	billion guilders		
1996	308.4	338.8	30.5
1997	346.9	377.8	30.8
1998	371.2	398.3	27.1
1999	393.8	415.6	21.8
2000*	469.8	505.0	35.2
January	33.6	35.6	2.0
February	36.7	39.0	2.3
March	40.5	43.7	3.2
April	36.3	38.1	1.7
May	40.5	43.4	2.8
June	39.4	41.5	2.1
July	36.8	39.7	2.9
August	37.2	41.0	3.8
September	40.7	45.2	4.5
October	42.7	45.3	2.6
November	44.9	47.3	2.4
December	40.4	45.1	4.7
2001*			
January	41.5	45.0	3.5
February	39.4	43.9	4.5

* Preliminary figures

Source: CBS

Imports and exports. totals 1996-2001 (in billion EURO's)

	Imports	Exports	Trade- balance
	billion euro		
1996	139.9	153.8	13.8
1997	157.4	171.4	14.0
1998	168.4	180.7	12.3
1999	178.7	188.6	9.9
2000*	213.2	229.1	16.0
January	15.3	16.2	0.9
February	16.7	17.7	1.1
March	18.4	19.8	1.5
April	16.5	17.3	0.8
May	18.4	19.7	1.3
June	17.9	18.8	1.0
July	16.7	18.0	1.3
August	16.9	18.6	1.7
September	18.5	20.5	2.0
October	19.4	20.5	1.2
November	20.4	21.5	1.1
December	18.3	20.5	2.1
2001*			
January	18.8	20.4	1.6
February	17.9	19.9	2.0

* Preliminary figures

Source: CBS