



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Prices manufactured products slightly up

Prices of Dutch manufactured products rose for the second month in a row in March. Their level is slightly higher than in February (+ 0.3%). This increase follows a period of substantial price increases last year, and a subsequent period of decreasing prices from November last year to January this year. Figures from Statistics Netherlands show that prices of food products in particular rose sharply, partly as a consequence of foot-and-mouth crisis in Europe. Compared with March 2000 prices of Dutch manufactured products were 5.1% higher on average in March this year.

Sharp price increases for food products

On the domestic market prices of pork products rose by 19% in March. Export prices of both beef and pork-based products were over 15% higher. These price increases are caused by the foot-and-mouth crisis among other factors. In England the first cases of foot-and-mouth were established the end of February, by the end of March the disease had been confirmed in the Netherlands.

Lower prices in oil industry

The prices of oil products were 1.4% lower in March than in February. Prices of these products had increased in February, following decreases in the three previous months. Compared with one year earlier, prices were only 1.7% higher in March. In March 2000 prices were more than 122% higher than twelve months previously.

Higher prices for intermediate consumption

The prices of raw materials and semi-manufactured products used by the manufacturing industry were 0.5% higher in March than in February. Raw materials and semi-manufactures bought on the domestic market were considerably higher in price (+3.4%), especially agricultural products (+13.4%). Imported raw materials, on the other hand, were cheaper (-1.8%). Compared with March last year, prices of intermediate consumption by the manufacturing industry were 6.1% higher:

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