



# 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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