



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## ***Exports up 14 per cent in April***

The value of goods exported from the Netherlands this April was 14% higher than in April 2000, at more than 19.7 billion euro. Imports rose by 9% to nearly 18.0 billion euro, according to figures from Statistics Netherlands. This growth is slightly lower than that in the first quarter of 2001. Because the value increase for exports is higher than that for imports, the balance of trade for goods increased further. For the first four months of 2001, the balance of trade was just over 17 billion euro.

### ***Foot-and-mouth crisis pushes down balance of trade by 10%***

The consequences of the foot-and-mouth crisis for foreign trade could be expected to be insignificant as the trade in cattle, meat and dairy products only accounts for 2% of total imports and 5% of total exports. However, this sector of the food branch does generate a large trade surplus: nearly 6.2 billion euro in 2000. The negative effect of the transport and export ban in the livestock sector on the trade surplus in April is an estimated 0.2 billion euro, the equivalent of 10% of the total trade surplus in this month.

Imports of meat products were 43% higher in April 2001 than in the same month last year. The value of exports and imports of livestock fell by some 35% compared with April last year.

### ***Trade with EU countries***

The Netherlands imported 9.7 billion euro worth of goods from EU countries in April, 5% more than last year. Imports from Spain and Belgium were down slightly. Exports to EU countries were 14% higher in April than twelve months previously, at 15.3 billion euro. The increases in exports to Germany, Belgium, the United Kingdom and Italy are higher than average. Exports of natural gas, electrical equipment and machines in particular are up. The balance of trade with Germany rose by 34% in April to nearly 2 billion euro. The trade surplus with Belgium and the United Kingdom also rose sharply. The total balance of trade with EU countries amounted to 5.6 billion euro.

### ***Non-EU trade***

Compared with last year the value of imported goods from non-EU countries rose by 15% in April to 8.3 billion euro. Imports from the United States and China accounted for an important part of this in-

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crease. Exports rose by 16% to 4.4 billion euro. The trade gap with the United States was 25% higher than April last year, at 1.0 billion euro, while that with China rose by 0.2 billion euro to 0.5 billion euro. The total trade gap with non-EU countries in April 2000 was 3.9 billion euro.

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