



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Environmental measures cost private sector 1.9 billion euro

Private sector companies had to pay 1.9 billion euro for environmental taxes and measures in 2000, 7% more than in 1999 according to provisional figures from Statistics Netherlands. Environmental costs have been pushed up strongly since 1997 because of large investments in measures to protect the environment. In 2000 companies invested over 506 million euro in the environment, mostly in measures to reduce air pollution. The chemical industry invested most in the environment in 2000.

Environmental costs up sharply

Costs on behalf of environmental measures rose to over 1.9 billion euro in 2000. The interest, depreciation and current costs of past investments in environmental measures rose particularly strongly. Last year the private sector spent nearly 0.7 billion euro on interest and depreciation, and 0.45 billion on current costs such as maintenance.

Environmental investment up

Private sector investment in environmental measures amounted to half a billion euro last year, more than 22.5 million euro more than in 1999. In the period 1993-1999 the average amount invested was 0.54 billion euro.

The share of environmental investment in total investment amounted to 5% in 2000. This is slightly below the average of 5.5% in the period 1993-1999; in this period a total 3.9 billion euro was invested in environmental measures.

Chemical industry invests most

With over 195 million euro the chemical industry invested most on behalf of the environment, while the oil industry (86 million euro) and the food industry (45 million euro) were also among the largest investors.

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Highest investment in air and water quality

In 2000 most was invested (263 million euro) in measures to reduce air pollution; another 116 million euro was spent on improving water quality, while 57 million euro was invested in prevention of soil pollution. Companies also invested 38 million guilders in reducing waste pollution and nearly 32 million euro on reducing noise pollution.

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