Press release

Statistics Netherlands

Manufacturing output down in May

According to figures from Statistics Netherlands, production by the Dutch manufacturing industry was 2.0% lower in May this year than in May 2000,. This is the third month in a row that the growth rate has fallen. Lower output by the food industry as a consequence of the foot-and-mouth crisis is only partly to blame for the decrease in May. Output in the paper and publishing and in the textile clothing and leather industries was also substantially lower than one year previously, and production was also down in the metal sector. For the first five months of 2001, production growth in the manufacturing industry was 0.8%.

Lower production across manufacturing

Production was down in most sectors of the manufacturing industry. In the food, drink and tobacco industry it fell by nearly 5%. Just as in April, this decrease was mainly the result of the consequences of the foot-and-mouth outbreak for abattoirs. In April, output by the metal industry and the wood, construction materials and furniture industry showed an increase. In the textile, clothing and leather industry and in paper and publishing, output was already declining. Only in the petroleum, chemical and rubber industry was production in May 2001 higher than twelve months previously.

Growth rates declining

The fall in output in May was the third in a row for the manufacturing industry. For the first five months of 2001, production growth in the manufacturing industry was 0.8%. In the first quarter of this year it was still 1.8%. Moreover, Statistics Netherlands' business sentiment survey indicates that manufacturers are pessimistic about order receipts for the coming months.

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