



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Production growth slowing in second quarter

Dutch industrial production in the second quarter of this year was down 0.1% on a year ago. This means that production growth slowed down to 1.8% in the first quarter whereas production increased by 3.6% in 2000 according to the latest figures by Statistics Netherlands.

Stagnation due to foot and mouth disease

The stagnation that occurred during the second quarter was partly due to the fact that the food sector produced less because of the outbreak of foot and mouth disease on 21 March. On 26 June the last measures were lifted. However, when the food, beverages and tobacco industry is not taken into account there was hardly any growth in industrial production during the second quarter: 0.5%. Production was lower than last year in the paper and printing industries and in the textile, clothing and leather industries. The metal industry was growing but not as much as in the first quarter.

Effect of anticipatory purchases petering out

The seasonally corrected industrial production figures for the second quarter were a little higher than the first quarter figures, when production was clearly down on the previous quarter. One cause was that consumers bought products earlier than normal in anticipation of the higher VAT rates as of 1 January.

Industrial production in June no longer falling

In the second quarter, the industrial production in May was down 2.1% on May a year ago, whereas the June figure was up 0.6% on June 2000. While the downward trend stopped, producers still remain pessimistic. The previously published survey among producers by Statistics Netherlands held in June showed that they did not expect a recovery in the third quarter.

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**Table 1: Production volume-index (1995=100),
average daily production in manufacturing**

Period	Year on year percentage changes			
	2000	2001	2000	2001
January	102.1	103.1	-2.3	1.0
February	111.4	114.3	5.2	2.6
March	114.6	116.5	3.6	1.6
April	118.7	120.1	5.0	1.2
May	116.0	113.6	1.4	-2.1
June	121.2	122.0	6.3	0.6
July	104.0		1.9	
August	98.8		5.4	
September	119.2		4.5	
October	119.2		1.3	
November	121.3		2.6	
December	118.7		8.5	
Quarter 1	109.4	111.3	2.2	1.8
Quarter 2	118.6	118.5	4.3	-0.1
Quarter 3	107.3		3.9	
Quarter 4	119.7		4.0	
Year	113.8		3.6	

Source: Statistics Netherlands

The figures are compatible with the National Accounts figures 1999

**Table 2: Production volume-index (1995=100),
Seasonally corrected daily production in manufacturing**

Period	Year on year percentage changes			
	2000	2001	2000	2001
January	108.1	109.3	-3.2	-9.9
February	112.2	115.1	3.7	5.3
March	112.7	114.6	0.5	-0.5
April	113.3	114.8	0.5	0.2
May	112.1	109.9	-1.1	-4.2
June	115.1	115.8	2.7	5.4
July	113.9		-1.1	
August	113.7		-0.2	
September	114.9		1.1	
October	112.9		-1.8	
November	114.7		1.6	
December	121.3		5.7	
Quarter 1	111.0	113.0	-0.6	-2.9
Quarter 2	113.5	113.5	2.3	0.5
Quarter 3	114.2		0.6	
Quarter 4	116.3		1.9	
Year	113.8		3.6	

Source: Statistics Netherlands

The figures are compatible with the National Accounts figures 1999