



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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38 thousand new enterprises in 2000

In 2000 some 38 thousand new enterprises were started. The number of enterprises that seized all activities last year is 19 thousand. The number of enterprises therefore increased by 19 thousand to a total of 715 thousand enterprises as of 1 January 2001, according to the latest figures by Statistics Netherlands. In eight years time the number of enterprises increased by almost 20%, meaning an increase by 116 thousand enterprises.

More enterprises in construction, fewer enterprises in agriculture

There are great differences between branches as far as the development in the number of enterprises is concerned. In construction and business services the number of enterprises has increased above average by 70% since 1993. In agriculture the number of enterprises fell by 16% according to Statistics Netherlands.

More small enterprises

The number of small enterprises mainly grew through the start of new enterprises. New enterprises usually start out small. The number of agricultural holdings, which are often quite small, decreased. On balance the number of small enterprises has grown substantially in eight years time. Small enterprises have less than 10 employees. Over 90% of all enterprises have less than 10 employees.

Major increase in the number of large enterprises

The number of enterprises with 500 or more employees has grown fast in recent years. At the start of 1993 there were 985 large enterprises, and on 1 January 2001 there were 1 325. This is mainly the consequence of mergers, specifically of education and health institutions.

For more information please contact W.G. Kloek, tel. (045) 570 69 32.

Statistics Netherlands
Press Office

P.O. Box 4000
2270 JM Voorburg
The Netherlands
tel. +31 70 337 58 16
fax +31 70 337 59 71
e-mail:
persdienst@cbs.nl

Statistics Netherlands
is a department of
the Ministry of
Economic Affairs