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Producer confidence slipping a bit

Producer confidence fell slightly in August compared to July. The confidence of industrial entrepreneurs recovered somewhat in July after a long series of dips, however, this was followed by yet another dip in confidence in August. This August figure does not yet show the influence of the terrorist attacks in the USA.

Producers expect a further decrease in productivity

Producer confidence, the mood indicator of the Dutch manufacturing community, was -1.6 in August, slightly worse than the July figure which was -1.4. The dip an be attributed to the fact that producers expect lower productivity for the period September-November and to the negative sentiment about their stocks. On the other hand, they see the order position in a less negative light, which meant that the dip in producer confidence was limited.

Order portfolio slightly smaller

In August the order portfolio fell for the ninth moth in a row. Dutch industrial entrepreneurs received fewer orders in August, however this is not unusual for the time of the year. When the seasonal effects are taken into account, the entrepreneurs were slightly negative about the amount of work in store than they had been in July.

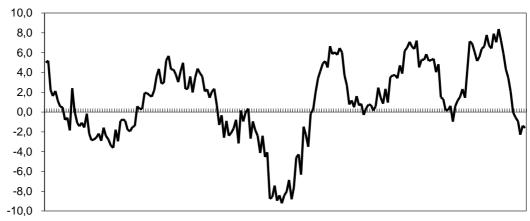
Statistics Netherlands Press Office

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 http://www.cbs.nl/nl/producten/artikelen/bedrijfsleven/industrie.

Or contact J.F.M. Pijpers, tel. (070) 337 48 73

Producer confidence



1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Ма	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Yr
1999	0.6	-1.0	0.6	1.2	1.5	2.3	1.4	4.2	7.1	6.9	6.1	5.2	3.0
2000	5.6	6.4	6.6	7.8	6.7	6.4	7.9	7.1	8.4	7.2	5.9	4.3	6.7
2001	3.5	2.0	0.0	-0.5	-0.9	-2.3	-1.4	-1.6					

Source: Statistics Netehrlands