

Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Minimal growth in international trade

In August 2001 the value of goods exports went up by only 1% on August last year to a total of almost 19 billion euro (42 billion guilders). This is the lowest growth rate in two years according to the latest preliminary figures by Statistics Netherlands.

The value of imports increased by over 3% on August to more than 17 billion euro. The trade balance for the first eight months of 2001 is positive, by more than 14 billion euro.

Growth rate in imports and exports decreasing

In the first seven months of this year exports were up by 11% on the same period in 2000. Imports saw an 8% growth rate during the first seven months. The lower growth rate in August can be explained in part by the fact that producer prices were down slightly on August last year.

Hardly any increase in trade with EU countries

The value of exports to EU countries in August 2001 hardly increased. It totalled over 14 billion euro, which means that this is the lowest growth rate observed since July 1999. In the first seven months exports were up 12% on the same period in 2000.

The Netherlands imported over 9 billion euro worth from EU-countries, up 1% on August 2000. In the first seven months of 2001 imports from EU countries went up by 5% on the same period in 2000. The trade balance with the EU countries for the first eight months is positive to a tune of almost 46 billion euro.

Trade with non-EU countries

In August exports to non-EU countries amounted to over 4 billion euro, up 3% on the year before. In the first seven months of 2001 exports to countries outside the EU increased by 10%.

In August 2001 the Netherlands imported for more than 8 billion euro worth of goods from countries outside the EU, up 5% on August 2000. In the first seven months of 2001 imports still increased by 12%. The trade balance with non-EU countries was negative to a tune of more than 31 billion euro during the first eight months.

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Table 1. Imports and exports, totals 2000-2001 (in billion EURO)

	Imports	Exports
2000	216.1	231.9
January	15.5	16.3
February	16.8	17.8
March	18.7	20.4
April	16.5	17.4
May	18.4	19.9
June	17.9	19.0
July	16.7	17.9
August	16.8	18.7
September	18.9	20.7
October	20.0	21.3
November	20.8	22.2
December	19.1	20.3
2001*		
January	19.1	20.6
February	17.8	19.7
March	20.0	22.3
April	17.8	19.4
May	18.9	21.0
June	19.0	21.0
July	18.0	19.2
August	17.3 (38.1 billion guild- ers)	18.9 (41.7 billion guild- ers)

* Preliminary figures

Source: CBS

Figure 1. trade with EU countries, year-on-year monthly growth rate

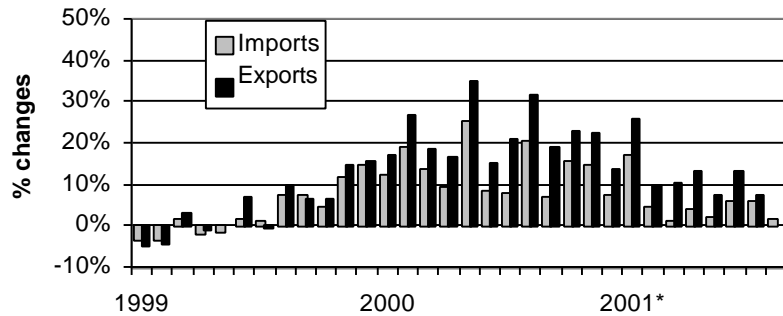
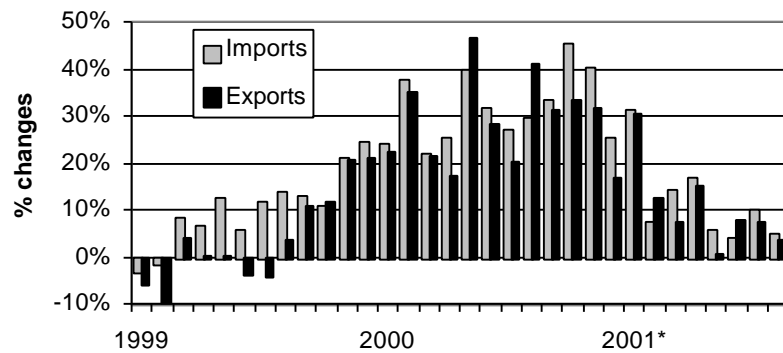


Figure 2. trade with non-EU countries, year-on-year monthly growth rate



- Preliminary figures

Source: Statistics Netherlands