



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## ***Net profits AEX-listed companies drop sharply***

Companies quoted on the Amsterdam stock exchange made profits of 13.9 billion euro in the first half of 2001, more than 8 billion euro less than in the first half of 2000.

Figures from Statistics Netherlands show that the sharp fall in the net operating result was caused entirely by the results of four large corporations. Results of companies in the telecommunications and in the engineering and electronics sectors were down, while profits for construction and food companies were up.

### ***Communications disappointing, construction doing well***

If the four largest companies are left out of account, net profits were up by nearly 1%. For these smaller companies there were large differences between the sectors of industry.

There were sharp falls in net operating results for publishing companies, engineering and electronics and the sector transport, storage and communications. The listed companies in the latter sector saw losses increase by 87% to more than one billion euro, with communications companies suffering most. The business services sector only just managed to stay out of the red, in spite of very disappointing results. The engineering and electronics sector on the other hand did go into the red.

Remarkably, all construction companies did better in the first half of this year than in the same period last year. In the food sector profits were up by nearly 800 million euro.

### ***Turnover up 15%***

The increase in turnover for banks and insurance companies was only small compared with companies in other sectors: 2.9% and 20.6% respectively. The considerable increase in turnover for other companies was mostly realised in the food industry, publishing, trade, and transport, storage and communications. Turnover was down in one sector, namely engineering and electronics.

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