



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## ***Retail turnover down in third quarter***

In the third quarter of this year the volume of retail sales was 0.5% down on the same period last year, according to figures from Statistics Netherlands. In the first and second quarters volume was still growing, by 2.4% and 1.4% respectively. The value of retail turnover did increase in the third quarter, by 5.2%. Again, retail prices increased substantially in this period: +5.7%.

### ***Shoppers spend nearly 19 billion euro***

Dutch consumers spent a total 18.9 billion euro in shops in the third quarter, nearly 2,770 euro per household on average. Nearly two-thirds of this amount was spent in non-food outlets, including chemists, consumer electronics outlets and clothes stores.

### ***Consumer electronics more and more popular***

Stores selling consumer electronics booked a relatively large growth in retail turnover (+6.8%). These include shops selling household appliances, audio-visual equipment and computers. Chemists also realised a large growth (+6.7%). The lowest increases were for do-it-yourself outlets (+3.7%) and shops selling interior decoration articles (+3.3%).

### ***Turnover volume down in September***

In September the volume of retail trade was 2.5% lower than in the same month last year. The value of retail sales was 3.3% higher and prices were up 5.9% on September 2000, the largest price increase this year. The increase in turnover was tempered by the fact that September had a less favourable pattern of shopping days this year.

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