



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

PR01-259
15-11-2001
9:30 AM

Economic growth rate diminishing fast

In the third quarter of 2001 the Dutch economic growth rate was up 0.4% on the same quarter last year. This is the lowest growth rate observed since early 1993. The growth rate for the first three quarters together was 1.1%.

In the course of 2001 the growth rate continued to fall. During the third quarter the growth rate in exports started sliding in particular. The price increases in the Gross Domestic Product are slowing down, standing at 4.6% according to the first estimates of the Quarterly Accounts by Statistics Netherlands.

Quarter-on-quarter growth rate slightly negative

In the third quarter of 2001 the GDP volume fell by 0.4% on the second quarter. Corrections for calendar effects and seasonal influences are included in this figure. Such a low growth rate hasn't occurred since 1992. In the second quarter of 2001 the GDP volume growth rate was barely positive (0.4%).

Export growth rate sliding

The volume increase of the exports of goods and services is really sliding. After a high of 9.5% in 2000, the growth rate has been falling every quarter. In the third quarter exports increased by just 1.5% on the same quarter last year. Part of exports, namely re-exports, was higher again. The export of Dutch produced goods actually fell in the third quarter. The worldwide economic slowdown is now clearly felt by Dutch export companies.

The volume increase in imports was 3.3%, almost identical to the growth rate last quarter. However, here too it is much lower than in 2000.

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

Modest growth in household consumption

Household consumption in the third quarter was up by 1.3%. Household consumption for the first three quarters is virtually the same. The slower growth rate in 2001 is manifest mostly in the expenditure on durable consumer goods. Car sales showed signs of recovery this quarter after the slump in the first six months. There is a considerable slowdown in the consumption growth rate of commercial services. This is related to a slump in demand for banking and insurance services and in hotels and restaurants etc.

Investments were down by 2.4% in the third quarter. Investments in construction are at last year's level. The slowdown is mainly in investments in machinery and computers. The fact that there were no major new projects, such as energy plants, finished this quarter played a part in the machinery investments. But also when major projects are not taken into consideration investments are down on last year.

Industrial production down

Dutch industrial production fell by more than 2% on the third quarter of last year. The growth rate in commercial services is slumping. This is true for trade and transport as well financial and business services. Aviation actually shows negative growth. The production level in construction is not much different from a year ago. In agriculture the harvest is down on last year, while the outbreak of foot and mouth disease still affects production in the sectors it hit.

The non-commercial services such as the care sector and the public sector show a completely different picture. This sector grows at twice last year's rate.

Price increase GDP slowing down

The GDP price increase in the third quarter of 2001 was 4.6%. This is higher than last year, but not as high as the 5.7% in the first quarter. Falling energy prices clearly manifest themselves in the switch in import and export price increases. The import and export prices of this quarter are barely above last year's level. The price increase in consumption slowed down to 4.6%.

For more information please contact M.M.J. Vergeer, tel. (070) 337 40 77.

Table 1: GDP (at market prices)

<i>year</i>	<i>Original</i>	<i>Seasonally corrected</i>	<i>Trend</i>
	<i>Changes on: Same period last</i>	<i>previous quarter</i>	<i>previous quarter</i>
<i>Volume changes in %</i>			
1999	3.7	--	--
2000	3.5	--	--
1999-I	3.1	0.8	0.8
II	3.3	1.0	1.0
III	3.7	1.2	1.2
IV	4.8	1.1	1.2
2000-I	4.7	0.8	0.9
II	4.0	0.6	0.7
III	3.1	0.6	0.6
IV	2.2	0.4	0.4
2001-I	1.4	0.0	0.1
II	1.4	0.4	0.0
III	0.4	-0.4	0.0
2001 I-III	1.1	--	--

Table 2: Value and price developments in GDP (at market prices)

	<i>Value</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Value change</i>	<i>Price change</i>
	<i>billion euro</i>	<i>Billion guilders</i>	<i>in % on the year before</i>	
1999	373.7	823.4	5.5	1.7
2000	401.1	883.9	7.3	3.7
1999-I	89.7	197.7	4.6	1.5
II	94.8	208.9	5.1	1.8
III	90.7	199.9	5.4	1.7
IV	98.5	217.0	6.7	1.9
2000-I	97.0	213.8	8.1	3.3
II	102.1	225.0	7.7	3.6
III	97.0	213.7	6.9	3.7
IV	105.0	231.4	6.6	4.4
2001-I	103.9	229.0	7.1	5.7
II	108.7	239.5	6.5	4.9
III	101.9	224.5	5.0	4.6

Source: Statistics Netherlands