



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Exports 5% down in September

The value of foreign trade in goods fell in September. Exports were 5% down on September 2000 at just under 20 billion euro, according to provisional figures from Statistics Netherlands. In the first eight months of 2001 exports were 10% higher than in the same period last year. Imports were 7% lower than in September 2000 at nearly 18 billion euro, while in the first eight months of the year these too had risen, by 8%. The decrease in value of both imports and exports can partly be explained by lower producers' prices. In addition September 2001 had one working day fewer than September 2000.

Strong fall in trade with US

The value of exports to the United States in September 2001 was just under one billion euro, nearly 16% down on twelve months previously. The fall was mainly on account of cameras, cars and turbojet engines. Outside the European Union, the United States is the most important trading partner for the Netherlands, accounting for 4% of Dutch exports. The value of imports from the United States also fell by 16% in September to just under two billion euro.

Exports to all non-EU countries totalled more than four billion euro in September 2001, just over 9% less than one year previously. The Netherlands imported just over eight billion euro worth of goods in September 2001, 11% down on September 2000.

Exports to Germany down 8%

Exports by Dutch companies to Germany were worth considerably less in September 2001 than in September last year: they were down 8% at five billion euro. About 20% of this decrease was caused by falling exports of gas oil and computer chips. Germany, by far the Netherlands' most important trading partner, accounts for some 25% of Dutch exports. The value of imports from Germany was up 1% in September at over three billion euro.

Total exports to EU countries in September 2001 amounted to just over 15 billion euro, 4% down on one year previously. In September the Netherlands imported nearly 10 billion euro worth of goods from EU countries, again 4 % down on one year previously.

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