



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

PR01-277  
11 December 2001  
9.30 hrs

## ***Stronger fall in manufacturing output***

The fall in manufacturing output in October was 6.3% compared with twelve months previously, stronger than the decrease in the third quarter (-2.6%). Output stagnated in the second quarter following a 1.5% increase in the first quarter of this year. According to provisional figures from Statistics Netherlands, the manufacturing industry produced 1% less in the period January-October than in the same period last year.

### ***Fourth fall in a row***

The October figure is the fourth successive fall in manufacturing output. The decreases cannot be attributed to one specific sector: production has been down across the board in recent months. The drop in production in the metal industry was largest. The only sector that was able to increase output slightly in the ten months to October was the petrochemical and rubber industry. In the whole of 2000 manufacturing output grew by 4.7%.

### ***Manufacturing output falls by more than turnover***

Last week Statistics Netherlands announced that turnover in the manufacturing industry was 3% down in October. In combination with the 5% decrease in selling prices and one extra working day, this initially indicated a decrease in production of 2% per working day. The fact that the actual decrease is even larger indicates a reduction in stocks of finished product. According to Statistics Netherlands' business sentiment survey an increasing number of manufacturers think their stocks are too large. In October 13% of manufacturing companies thought they had too many products in stock, in July this was 10%. In both months only 4% thought stocks were too low.

For further information, please contact Gert Buiten tel. + 31 (0)70 337 47 78; e-mail: [gbtn@cbs.nl](mailto:gbtn@cbs.nl).

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](mailto:persdienst@cbs.nl)

Statistics Netherlands  
is a department of  
the Ministry of  
Economic Affairs