



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## ***Investments postponed to 2002***

Dutch entrepreneurs in the industry, mining and quarrying, and public utilities sectors adjusted their investment plans substantially for 2001 and 2002 as the latest figures by Statistics Netherlands show. Many entrepreneurs postponed the investments they had planned for 2001. In the spring the expected growth rate for 2001 was 19% on 2000. During the fall the entrepreneurs no longer expected that their investments for 2001 would be greater than in 2000.

### ***Postponed until 2002***

The negative adjustments of the expected investments for 2001 go hand in hand with more positive expectations for 2002. This is true across the board. Whereas the growth rate expectations for 2002 were still very negative in the spring, the entrepreneurs now expect positive growth. This means that the investments planned for 2001 were postponed to 2002. There is no indication so far that the investments planned will be cancelled on a large scale.

### ***Shift in autumn***

This autumn the entrepreneurs in all branches of industry adjusted their investment expectations downward for 2001. For the oil processing and the metal industry this meant decreases of 44 and 30% on 2000 respectively. Entrepreneurs in mining and quarrying see their investments for 2001 decrease by 32%. The entrepreneurs in these branches were not very optimistic during the spring either. The other branches of industry still see growth compared to 2000 despite their downward adjustment.

### ***Optimism in spring***

In the spring of 2001 entrepreneurs in the industry, mining and quarrying, and public utilities sectors were generally optimistic about their investments for 2001. One exception was the oil processing industry, which expected a drop. Entrepreneurs in mining and quarrying and in the metal industry did not expect any growth but also no substantial decrease. They were less optimistic for 2002 and foresaw a decrease in investments then.

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