



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

PR01-292
20 December 2001
9.30 hrs

Foreign trade continues to fall in October

For the second month in succession, provisional figures from Statistics Netherlands put the value of imports and exports of goods in October 2001 lower than in the same month last year. Exports were 4% lower at nearly 21 billion euro, imports were 8% down at just over 18 billion euro. The value decrease for both imports and exports is connected with falling producers' prices.

In the third quarter of 2001 both imports and exports were still 1% higher than in the same period last year.

Balance of trade increasing

In spite of the declining growth in the values of imports and exports of goods, the balance of trade increased further in October 2001. This increase was the result of a stronger decrease in the value of imports than in the value of exports. For the first ten months of this year the balance of trade was nearly 19 billion euro, 40% more than in the same period last year.

Trade with EU countries

In October 2001 the Netherlands exported nearly 16 billion euro worth of goods to EU countries, 3% less than in October 2000. In the first three quarters of 2001 exports grew by 9% on the same period last year.

Imports from EU countries were worth 10 billion euro in October, 6% less than twelve months previously. In the first three quarters of 2001 imports from EU countries rose by 4%. For the first ten months of 2001 the balance of trade was just over 57 billion euro.

Non-EU trade

The Netherlands exported nearly 5 billion euro worth of goods to countries outside the EU in October 2001. This is 4% less than in October 2000. In the first three quarters of 2001 exports to non-EU countries rose by 7% on the same period last year.

Imports from non-EU countries were 11% lower in October this year at just over 8 billion euro. In the first three quarters of 2001 these imports

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

rose by 8% on the same period last year. The trade deficit with non-EU countries was nearly 39 billion euro in the first ten months of 2001.

For further information, please contact E. Onat, tel. +31 45 570 73 18;
e-mail: bont@cbs.nl.