



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

PR02-007
14 January 2002
9.30 hrs

Manufacturing output down substantially again

Manufacturing output was 5.3% lower in November 2001 than twelve months previously. Again this is a substantial decline, although less than in October (-6.4%). Production was slightly higher than its low level in October. Over the period January-November 2001, the manufacturing industry produced nearly one and a half percent less than the same period in 2000, according to provisional figures from Statistics Netherlands.

Fifth fall in a row

The October figure is the fifth 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 in November at nine percent. The only sector that has been able to equal the 2000 output level in the eleven months to November was the petrochemical and rubber industry. Output growth for the whole of 2000 was 4.7%.

Stocks down

Last week Statistics Netherlands announced that turnover in the manufacturing industry was 9% down in November. In combination with the fall in selling prices (- 5%) this seems to indicate a fall in turnover volume (- 4%) compared with November 2000. The fact that production fell more sharply indicates a depletion in the stocks of finished product, just as in October. According to Statistics Netherlands' business sentiment survey, the percentage of manufacturing companies who judged their stock levels as too high rose from 10 to 13 in the period July to October. In November the percentage fell slightly to 12.

For further information, please contact Gert Buiten tel. + 31 70 337 47 78; e-mail: 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

Statistics Netherlands
is a department of
the Ministry of
Economic Affairs