



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Sharp fall in imports

According to provisional figures from Statistics Netherlands, the value of goods imported into the Netherlands was 14 percent lower in November 2001 than twelve months previously, at nearly 18 billion euro. This is the third month in succession that imports were down on the corresponding month in 2000. Such a fall has not been observed in the last five years. The value of exports was 9 percent down on November 2000, at just over 20 billion euro. The strong decline in both imports and exports can partly be explained by a fall in producers' prices. In addition the values of imports and exports were exceptionally high in November 2000.

Fewer imports from United Kingdom and Japan

In terms of value the most significant falls were for imports from the United Kingdom and Japan. For Japan this is remarkable as only four percent of total imports come from this country. In November fewer video games were imported from Japan, and less oil and fewer computers and telecommunications components from the United Kingdom.

Imports from EU countries were 11 percent down on November 2000, at nearly 10 billion euro; imports from non-EU countries were 18 percent down at 8 billion euro.

Strong fall in exports to non-EU countries

The largest decrease in exports was for products exported to non-EU countries. Exports to these countries were 11 percent down on November 2000 at nearly 5 billion euro. Exports to the United States and Turkey showed the largest falls.

Balance of trade continues to grow

The balance of trade continued to increase strongly and was more than 2 billion euro in November 2001. For the first eleven months of 2001 the balance was 21 billion euro. This surplus increases as imports fall by more than exports.

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