



Statistics Netherlands

Press release

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Moderate growth in Dutch international trade

In the year 2001 Dutch international trade in goods was up on 2000 in terms of value, despite a dip in the fourth quarter. Preliminary figures by Statistics Netherlands show that the value of exported goods went up by 4% in 2001 to a total of nearly 241 billion euro. Imports increased by nearly 1% to over 217 billion euro. The increase in imports and exports can be explained in part by a slight price increase in 2001.

Quarterly developments

In the first quarter of 2001 the growth rate was well over 10%. After that the growth rate turned negative. The last quarter of 2001 saw imports fall by 12% and exports by 6%. This is partly due to the developments in import and export prices. Both started slipping in the course of the year.

Imports and exports down in December

In December 2001 imports and exports were down on December 2000. Imports were 14% less and exports 7%. So the trend of the previous two months continued.

Trade with the EU countries

Imports from the other EU countries amounted to almost 119 billion euro in 2001. In comparison with 2000 imports hardly increased. The stagnation is mainly due to the fourth quarter, where imports fell on 2000.

The value of exports to the other EU countries amounted to over 187 billion euro in 2001. Compared to 2000 the increase is 5%. The high growth rate in the first few months of 2001 compensated for the negative growth rate in the fourth quarter, resulting in export growth in 2001 anyway.

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Statistics Netherlands
is a department of
the Ministry of
Economic Affairs

For more information on this subject please contact E. Onat, tel. **+31 45 570 73 18**.

For general information please contact the press office at Statistics Netherlands.
Tel. +31 70 337 58 16 Fax +31 70 337 59 71 E-mail: persdienst@cbs.nl

Trade with non-EU countries

In 2001 the Netherlands imported over 98 billion euro worth of goods from countries outside the EU.

Compared to 2000 the imports increased by 1%. There was growth during the first few months of 2001, but in the final quarter the growth had turned negative.

Exports to non-EU countries amounted to almost 54 billion euro in 2001. Compared to 2000 exports increased by almost 2%. The cause of this low growth rate lay in the last quarter of 2001.

Trade balance positive

The trade balance for 2001 was high and positive: almost 24 billion euro. This is the highest amount in years. The positive trade balance in 2000 amounted to 16 billion euro.

In 2001 the trade balance of the Netherlands was positive with all other EU countries except Ireland. The trade balance with the EU countries increased in 2001 on 2000 because exports increased faster than imports.

In 2001 the trade balance with countries outside the European Union and the Netherlands was negative. The same was true in previous years. The main contributors to this negative trade balance were the USA, China and Japan. Imports from China increased remarkably in 2001 on 2000, by more than a quarter.

Table 1. Imports and exports, totals 2000–2001

	Imports	Exports	Trade balance
	<i>billion euro</i>		
2000	216.1	231.9	15.8
Jan	15.5	16.3	0.8
Feb	16.8	17.8	1.0
March	18.7	20.4	1.7
April	16.5	17.4	0.9
May	18.4	19.9	1.5
June	17.9	19.0	1.1
July	16.7	17.9	1.2
Aug	16.8	18.7	2.0
Sept	18.9	20.7	1.8
Oct	20.0	21.3	1.3
Nov	20.8	22.2	1.3
Dec	19.1	20.3	1.2
2001	217.2	240.8	23.7
2001*			
Jan	19.1	20.6	1.6
Feb	17.8	19.7	1.9
March	20.0	22.3	2.4
April	17.8	19.4	1.6
May	18.9	21.0	2.1
June	19.0	21.0	2.0
July	17.8	18.9	1.2
Aug	17.0	18.5	1.5
Sept	17.3	19.7	2.5
Oct	18.3	20.5	2.2
Nov	17.9	20.2	2.4
Dec	16.4	18.9	2.5

Source: Statistics Netherlands.

* Preliminary figures.

Table 2. Year on year changes in imports and exports

Year	Imports	Exports
	<i>% change</i>	
2000		
Q 1	20	22
Q 2	22	24
Q 3	19	25
Q 4	22	21
2001*		
Q 1	11	15
Q 2	5	9
Q 3	-1	0
Q 4	-12	-6

Source: Statistics Netherlands.

* Preliminary figures.