



Statistics Netherlands

# Press release

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## ***Foreign trade down in March***

The value of goods imported into and exported from the Netherlands was lower in March 2002 than twelve months previously. According to provisional figures from Statistics Netherlands, exports fell by six percent to just under 21 billion euro, while imports were ten percent down at just over 18 billion euro. This is the seventh month in succession that imports are lower than the same month in the previous year, and the eighth month in a row that exports are lower. Part of the explanation for the decreases lies in lower prices. The trade surplus for March 2002 was three billion euro.

### ***EU exports down***

The Netherlands exported more than 16 billion euro worth of goods to EU countries in March 2002, eight percent less than in March 2001. Imports from other EU countries were worth 10 billion euro, seven percent less than the same month last year. The balance of trade with EU countries in March 2002 was six billion euro.

### ***Non-EU exports up***

Exports to countries outside the EU grew by two percent compared with twelve months previously. Nearly five billion Euro worth of goods were exported to non-EU countries. Imports from outside the EU were 12 percent down on March 2001, at just under eight billion euro. The trade deficit with non-EU countries in March 2002 was just over three billion euro.

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