



Statistics Netherlands

Press release

PB02-111
5 June 2002
9:30 AM

Slowdown in industrial production

According to the latest preliminary figures by Statistics Netherlands Dutch industrial production in April 2002 was down 5.6% on April 2001. This means that production slowed down more than in the first quarter, when production was down by 3.6% on a year ago. When the figure was adjusted for seasonal influences it turned out that production in April was also down on March. Production decreased most in the metal industry.

Greatest decrease in production among consumer goods

The decrease in production in April was greater than in the first three months of 2002. Industrial production is following the developments in producer confidence in the manufacturing industry. Producer confidence had been improving gradually since December 2001 up until March. In April producer confidence fell slightly. This worsening was mainly observed in the consumer goods industry. The production data also show a slowdown in the consumer goods industry, which mainly operates on the domestic market. The continuous decrease in production can be attributed mainly to domestic developments. The international markets is starting to show relatively better results.

Production down by most in the metal industry

In April production decreased most in the metal industry, as had been the case in previous months. Dutch production in April was down over 10% on last year's level. The metal industry accounts for about a third of total industrial production. In the oil, chemical and rubber industry production was actually 1.5% higher in April this year than a year ago. This branch has a share of around 20% in total industrial production. All other branches of industry saw production go down in April as compared to a year ago. In the wood, construction materials, furniture and other industries the 6.7% decrease may have been negatively influenced by a strike in construction in April.

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Table 1: Year-on-year changes in production volume

Branch	2001	January- April	April
		2002	2002
	%		
INDUSTRY	-2.1	-4.1	-5.6
Among which			
Food	-0.9	-0.9	-2.0
Textiles	-1.9	-5.4	-6.0
Paper and printing	-3.8	-3.3	-6.6
Oil	-1.0	2.1	1.5
Metal	-2.6	-9.9	-10.9
Wood. construction	-2.8	-4.5	-6.7

Source: Statistics Netherlands

The figures are in line with the National accounts 2000.

Table 2: Volume index of industrial production (1995=100) average daily production

Period	Year-on-year percentage change			
	2001	2002	2001	2002
January	104.5	100.5	1.0	-3.8
February	114.7	109.5	2.1	-4.5
March	116.5	113.5	1.0	-2.6
April	119.8	113.1	0.1	-5.6
May	114.0		-2.4	
June	121.9		-0.1	
July	101.4		-3.0	
August	97.3		-2.4	
September	115.5		-2.5	
October	111.2		-6.6	
November	114.3		-5.4	
December	111.9		-6.3	
Q1	111.9	107.8	1.4	-3.6
Q2	118.6		-0.8	
Q3	104.7		-2.7	
Q4	112.5		-6.1	
Year	111.9		-2.1	

Source: Statistics Netherlands

The figures are in line with the National accounts 2000.

Table 3: Volume index of industrial production (1995=100). Seasonally corrected average daily production

Period	Year-on-year percentage change			
	2001	2002	2001	2002
January	111.1	106.9	-8.5	-6.0
February	114.9	109.8	3.4	2.7
March	114.0	111.2	-0.8	1.2
April	114.1	107.8	0.1	-3.0
May	110.6		-3.1	
June	115.2		4.2	
July	110.9		-3.8	
August	111.8		0.9	
September	112.0		0.2	
October	106.2		-5.2	
November	108.4		2.1	
December	113.8		5.0	
Q1	113.3	109.3	-2.8	-0.1
Q2	113.3		-0.1	
Q3	111.6		-1.5	
Q4	109.5		-1.9	
Year	111.9		-2.1	

Source: Statistics Netherlands

The figures are in line with the National accounts 2000.