



Press release

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International trade down

The value of goods imported to and exported from the Netherlands was lower in May 2002 than in the same month last year. According to provisional figures from Statistics Netherlands, the value of exports was 5 percent down at nearly 20 billion euro, while imports were 11 percent lower in May at nearly 17 billion euro. Again, international trade fell more sharply in May than in the previous month. This was partly because May had one working day fewer than last year and April had one working day more. In addition prices fell faster in May than in April.

Decreasing EU imports and exports

Nearly 15 billion euro worth of goods were exported to EU countries in May 2002, 9 percent less than in the same month last year. Imports from EU countries fell by 8 percent and totalled nearly 10 billion euro, putting the balance of trade with EU countries for May 2002 at just over 5 billion euro.

More exports to non-EU countries

While exports to EU countries were lower than in May last year, exports to countries outside the EU rose by 7 percent, to nearly 5 billion euro. Imports from non-EU countries fell by 15 percent and amounted to just over 7 billion euro. The trade deficit with countries outside the EU was a relatively modest 2.3 billion euro.

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