



Statistics Netherlands

# Press release

PB02-253  
10 December 2002  
9:30 AM

## ***Manufacturing output down again***

According to provisional figures from Statistics Netherlands the Dutch manufacturing industry produced 1.4 percent less in October 2002 than in the same month last year. The year-on-year decrease is smaller than in September, when it was 2.8 percent down on twelve months previously. The present period of decline in manufacturing output began in September last year, which means that production is now being set off against relatively low levels of twelve months previously. Statistics Netherlands recently released figures showing that higher selling prices were the main basis of the higher turnover of the manufacturing industry in October compared with last year.

### ***Month-on-month decrease continues***

To determine the turning point in a trend it is best to use seasonally corrected figures. Compared with September this year production in October fell by 3.0 percent after adjustment for seasonal effects. In September, too, there was a fall in production compared with the previous month. The continuing fall indicates that production by the manufacturing industry has not started to recover yet.

### ***Production up only for food, textiles and chemicals***

Higher production than twelve months previously was only realised in the food, drink and tobacco sector, the textile, clothing and leather industry and the petroleum, chemicals and rubber industry. The trend has been unsteady in the food and textile sectors, while the chemical industry has increased output for eleven months in a row now.

In the metal industry production fell again, although less sharply than in the first half of this year. The metal sector is the largest in the manufacturing industry, accounting for nearly one third. In October production in this sector was 2.0 percent down on twelve months previously, while in April it was ten percent lower. In wood, construction materials, furniture and other manufacturing the decrease has also been levelling off in recent months. In paper and publishing, on the other hand, the decrease was larger.

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