



Press release

PB03-007
15 January 2003
9:30 AM

No further fall for manufacturing output

Production by the Dutch manufacturing industry was at about the same level in November 2002 as twelve months previously. According to provisional figures just released by Statistics Netherlands, production per working day was 0.1 percent higher than one year previously. This is the first time since August 2001 that output was not lower than twelve months previously.

Production up in food and chemical industry

Only the food, drink and tobacco and the petrochemical and rubber industries actually produced more than twelve months previously. For the food industry this was the third time in a row that they increased output. In the petrochemical industry production has risen for twelve months in succession.

The metal industry is still suffering from declining production levels, although the decreases are becoming smaller each month. The metal sector is the largest within Dutch manufacturing, accounting for about a third. Output by this sector was 0.5 percent down on the same month in 2001, in April it was still more than 10 percent down on twelve months previously. In the wood, construction materials and furniture, and other manufacturing sectors, too, the decrease has been slowing down in recent months. In paper and publishing the fall in production was relatively small in November, following decreases in September and October that were significantly higher than those in the first half of 2002.

Production in November up on October

After adjustment for seasonal effects, output in November was 3.2 percent higher than in October. The seasonally adjusted figures are a more reliable basis for determining a change in the trend. In September and October output was lower than in the previous month. It is still too early to say whether this is a turning point in the trend. Earlier in 2002, too, increases alternated with decreases in seasonally adjusted manufacturing output every one or two months.

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