



Statistics Netherlands

Press release

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2002 lean year in retail

In 2002, the turnover volume in Dutch retail trade was down 0.4 percent on 2001. The figures by Statistics Netherlands show that this is the first decrease in the annual turnover volume since 1994. The drop in turnover volume in 2002 was entirely incurred in non-food, where the turnover volume fell by 0.9 percent on 2001. Food stores saw a modest 0.9 percent volume growth in 2002.

Consumers less positive

The decrease in turnover volume in the non-food sector in 2002 fits in with the way consumers are portrayed in the economic survey of Statistics Netherlands. Consumers have indicated since January 2001 that they felt less positive about major purchases. Consumers spent 2.4 percent more money in non-food stores. In 2001, the increase in turnover was more than twice as high. Consumers especially cut back expenditure on home furnishings in 2002, with consumers spending 1.7 percent less in the home furnishings sector than in 2001. In 2001, turnover growth was still 6 percent up on 2000. Drugstores, do-it-yourself stores and textile supermarkets closed 2002 with an above-average turnover growth.

Food prices not increasing as much

In 2002 prices in the food sector were 3.6 percent higher than in 2001. This increase was considerably less than in 2001 when prices in food stores went up by almost 7 percent. In terms of money, turnover was 4.5 percent higher than in 2001. The turnover of supermarkets, the largest of the food sector branches, grew by 5.4 percent. The turnover of special food stores such as butchers and greengrocers stagnated last year.

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