



Statistics Netherlands

Press release

PB03-027
11 February 2003
9:30 AM

Prolonged decline manufacturing output

In the fourth quarter of 2002, Dutch manufacturing output was 2.7 percent down on the same quarter in the previous year, as provisional figures by Statistics Netherlands show. It was the sixth consecutive quarterly fall. The rate of the decline, however, levelled off. After seasonal adjustments, the fall in the fourth quarter (-1.5%) was virtually the same as in the third quarter.

Only chemicals output up in 2002

In 2002, manufacturing output was 2.8 percent down on the previous year. For the first time since 1993, manufacturing output dropped, practically in all sectors of manufacturing industry, with the exception of petroleum, chemicals and rubber. Food, beverages and tobacco remained stable.

The most significant drop by 6.6% was in the metal sector, the largest in manufacturing industry covering almost one third of the total manufacturing output. Paper and publishing also dropped considerably by 4.9 percent.

December output shrinking

The daily output in December 2002 was 6.8 percent down on last year, notably lower than the 0.4 percent decrease in November 2002. Production was relatively high in December 2001, which had a negative effect on the output in December 2002.

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