



Press release

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Manufacturing output falls again

According to figures just released by Statistics Netherlands, the Dutch manufacturing industry produced less in January 2003 than in January 2002. This month the fall was 2.3 percent. It is the seventeenth month in a row that manufacturing output is lower than twelve months previously.

No sign of an upturn yet

The output of the Dutch manufacturing industry was 2.3 percent lower in January 2003 than in the same month in 2002. In previous months, too, output was lower than twelve months previously. Although the fall was smaller in January 2003 than the 6.7 percent in December 2002, there is no clear sign of improvement yet: after adjustment for seasonal effects, output in January was hardly higher than in December (+0.4 percent).

Production up in chemical sector alone

In January only factories in the chemical and rubber industries produced more than in the same month last year. Production in this branch also increased last year. For all other sectors production was down again.

Similar development in UK and France

Output figures for January were also released in Germany, France and the United Kingdom earlier this week. The Dutch trend resembles those in the UK and France most. There, too, there was a small rise in production on the December figures after seasonal adjustment: 0.3 percent in the UK and 0.6 percent in France. German manufacturing output rose more substantially, by 2.6 percent.

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