



# Press release

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## ***International trade up 6 percent***

According to provisional figures from Statistics Netherlands, the value of both imports and exports of goods to and from the Netherlands rose by 6 percent in January 2003 compared with twelve months previously. Exports were worth nearly 20 billion euro and imports just over 17 billion euro. This is the fifth month in a row that exports have risen. The value increase was largely the result of higher prices. Overall in 2002 exports fell by 3 percent and imports by 6 percent. The trade surplus in January 2003 amounted to 2.4 billion euro.

### ***Increased trade with EU countries***

The Netherlands exported more than 15 billion euro worth of goods to EU countries in January 2003, 4 percent more than in the same month last year. Imports from EU countries amounted to nearly 10 billion euro in January, 5 percent more than a year previously. In 2002 exports fell by 5 percent and imports by 3 percent. The trade surplus with EU countries in January 2003 was 5.5 billion euro.

### ***Substantial rise in exports outside the EU***

Exports to non-EU countries rose by 15 percent compared with January last year, to nearly 5 billion euro. Imports rose by 7 percent to nearly 8 billion euro, putting a stop to a series of sixteen consecutive months of decrease. The trade deficit with countries outside the EU was 3.1 billion euro.

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