



Press release

PB03-067
7 April 2003
9:30 AM

Price rises push up manufacturing turnover

Turnover in the Dutch manufacturing industry was 5 percent higher in February this year than twelve months previously, according to figures from Statistics Netherlands. The petrochemical industry accounted for a large part of this increase: prices in this sector were substantially higher than in February last year. Selling prices for total manufacturing were on average 7.3 percent higher in February 2003; prices of intermediate consumption were 9.5 percent higher. Statistics Netherlands reported earlier that producers' confidence remained low in March. It was measured in the first two weeks of March, before the war in Iraq started.

Domestic and export turnover up

Manufacturing turnover on the domestic market was 4 percent higher in February this year than in the same month last year. In the Netherlands selling prices were 5.2 percent higher than twelve months previously. On the export market turnover was 5 percent higher. Export prices were 8.6 percent higher.

Largest increase again in petrochemical industry

Since October last year, the petrochemical sector has constantly accounted for the largest increase in manufacturing turnover. The sector retained this position in February 2003, upping its turnover by 16 percent. Selling prices in this sector were 20 percent higher than in February last year, a consequence of strong increases in crude oil prices. Prices of intermediate consumption were nearly 25 percent higher than in February last year. In addition to sectors who increased turnover, there were also sectors where turnover decreased. The largest fall was in the wood and construction materials industry.

For further information please contact the press office.

Tel. +31 70 337 58 16

Fax +31 70 337 59 71

E-mail: persdienst@cbs.nl