



Press release

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Trade balance down in February

The value of Dutch imports rose by more than the value of exports in the period February 2002 to February 2003. Imports were 7 percent higher at 17.2 billion euro. Exports were 5 percent higher at 19.4 billion euro, according to figures from Statistics Netherlands. The increases in imports and exports were caused by increases in prices. The balance of trade in February 2003 was 2.2 billion euro, 9 percent down on the same month last year.

Trade with EU countries up 5 percent

The Netherlands imported 9.8 billion euro worth of goods from EU countries in February 2003, 5 percent more than twelve months previously. Exports to EU countries were worth 14.8 billion euro, again 5 percent more than the same month last year. The balance of trade with EU countries was also 5 percent higher.

Non-EU imports rise faster than exports

Imports from outside the EU were 10 percent higher in February 2003 than in the same month last year, at 7.5 billion euro. This is the highest rate of increase since April 2001. Exports rose by 5 percent to 4.6 billion euro. The trade deficit with countries outside the EU was 18 percent higher than one year previously.

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