



# Press release

PB03-079  
29 April 2003  
9:30 AM

## ***Manufacturers' prices up further***

Selling prices of the Dutch manufacturing industry were 2.6 percent higher in the first quarter of 2003 than in the fourth quarter of 2002. Price increases for oil products were the main cause of the rise. This is the fifth successive quarter that selling prices have risen. Provisional figures from Statistics Netherlands also show that prices of intermediate consumption rose by more than selling prices.

### ***Increase in selling prices***

Manufacturing companies raised the prices of their products by 2.6 percent in the first quarter of 2003 compared with the fourth quarter of 2002. This means that the prices of manufactured goods have risen for five quarters in a row. Products sold on the domestic market cost 2.2 percent more in the first quarter. Exported products cost 2.8 percent more. Developments in oil prices contributed strongly to the increase in selling prices. If the prices of oil products are left out of account the increase in selling prices would have been only 0.8 percent in the first quarter.

The 2.6 percent increase in selling prices in the first quarter was larger than the increase in the four previous quarters, when the rise varied between 0.1 and 1.6 percent. In the first quarter of 2003 selling prices were 6.0 percent higher than in the same quarter last year.

### ***Higher prices for intermediate consumption***

The Dutch manufacturing industry paid 3.7 percent more for raw materials and semi-manufactured products in the first quarter of 2003 than in the previous quarter. Raw materials and semi-manufactured purchased in the Netherlands cost 4.2 percent more, those imported 3.4 percent more. This is the fourth successive quarter that the prices for intermediate consumption have risen.

The price increase for intermediate consumption was larger in the first quarter of 2003 than in previous quarters. On average the price level of intermediate consumption was 8.2 percent higher in the first quarter than in the same quarter last year. The increase is thus larger than that for selling prices in the same period.

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](mailto:persdienst@cbs.nl)