



Press release

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Imports up by 2 percent

According to the latest preliminary figures calculated by Statistics Netherlands, the value of the imports of goods in March 2003 was 18.4 billion euro. This is 2 percent up on March 2002. The value of goods exports was 20.8 billion euro, about the same as in March 2002.

Compared to the first two months of 2003, March does not provide such a positive picture. In the first quarter of 2003 imports were up by 5 percent on the first quarter of 2002, and exports by 3 percent. Furthermore, there were slight price increases in the first quarter of 2003 in imports and exports.

Exports of live poultry and hatching eggs down

On 1 March the export ban of live poultry and hatching eggs came into effect. In the first quarter of 2003, the export of live poultry and hatching eggs was valued at 49 million euro. This is a third less than in the same period last year.

More trade with Belgium, less with the United Kingdom

During the first quarter of 2003, the Netherlands imported 29.7 billion euro worth of goods from the other EU countries. This was 5 percent more than in the first quarter of 2002.

Exports to the other EU countries were worth 45.8 billion euro. This means exports were up by 2 percent on the same quarter a year ago.

Trade with Belgium increased above average during the first three months of 2003. Imports were worth 5.9 billion euro, which was 16 percent higher than in the first quarter of 2002. Exports, worth 7.4 billion euro, were up 6 percent.

In contrast, trade with the UK fell: imports by 7 percent and exports by 1 percent. The 9 percent decrease in value of the British pound on the euro plays a role in this. Belgium and the UK belonged to the top five trading partners in 2002.

Trade with non-EU countries

In the first quarter of 2003 the imports from non-EU countries was valued at 23.3 billion euro. This is up 5 percent on the first quarter of 2002. The value of exports was also up by 5 percent, reaching 14.0 billion euro.

Much of the increase in imports comes from Malaysia and China. The imports from Malaysia were worth 1.1 billion euro. This constitutes a 21 percent

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increase. The exports from China were worth 2.5 billion euro, a 15 percent increase.

Imports from the USA were down by 10 percent in the first quarter, reaching 4.1 billion euro. In contrast, exports to the USA during this period were up by 8 percent totalling 2,9 billion euro. However, the dollar lost 22 percent of its value on the euro.

Imports and exports

	Imports	Exports	Trade surplus	Imports	Exports
	In billion euros			Year-on-year percentage changes	
2000	216.1	231.9	15.8	21	23
2001	218.3	241.3	23.0	1	4
2002*	205.0	234.3	29.3	-6	-3
January	16.4	18.7	2.3	-15	-9
February	16.1	18.5	2.4	-11	-7
March	18.0	20.9	2.9	-11	-7
April	17.5	18.9	1.5	-2	-2
May	17.1	19.7	2.6	-10	-6
June	17.1	19.8	2.7	-10	-6
July	16.5	18.9	2.4	-7	0
August	15.5	18.0	2.4	-9	-3
September	17.4	20.4	3.0	0	4
October	18.8	21.0	2.1	2	1
November	17.6	20.3	2.6	-3	0
December	17.0	19.4	2.4	4	2
2003*					
January	17.2	19.7	2.5	5	5
February	17.3	19.3	2.0	8	5
March	18.4	20.8	2.4	2	0

* preliminary figures

Source: CBS