



# Press release

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## ***Slight rise for retail turnover***

The turnover in the retail sector was 3.6 percent higher in February 2003 than in the same month last year. Figures from Statistics Netherlands further show that turnover rose by 4.4 percent in January. However, the January figure is flattered by a more favourable pattern of shopping days than in the same month last year. The turnover growth in both months was in line with the overall increase in 2002.

## ***Consumers spend 5.7 billion euro in Dutch shops***

Consumers spent a total 5.7 billion euro on shopping in February. This is the equivalent of 820 euro per household. Some sixty percent of this was spent in shops selling non-food items, the remaining forty percent in shops selling food, drink and tobacco.

## ***Non-food below average***

Shops selling non-food items realised 3.3 percent more turnover in February than in the same month last year. This is lower than the average February growth in the last five years. The turnover in February was on average twice as high in the last five years.

In January non-food retailers booked a modest 1.8 percent more turnover. These smaller increase rates fit in with the overall economic picture in which consumers have been feeling less positive about spending large amounts of money.

## ***Turnover up in food sector***

The turnover in shops selling food, drink and tobacco was 4.1 percent higher in February than twelve months previously. In January turnover in this sector rose by as much as 8.5 percent. However, January did have more shopping days in 2003 than last year.

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