



Statistics Netherlands

Press release

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Manufacturing turnover hardly up

New figures from Statistics Netherlands show that turnover in the Dutch manufacturing industry was 1 percent higher in April this year than in the same month last year. Selling prices were 1.7 percent higher on average than in April 2002, while intermediate consumption cost only 0.2 percent more on average. This had a net positive effect on profit margins. At the end of May Statistics Netherlands reported that after two months of increase producers' confidence fell again in May because of less optimistic expectations about production. For the period May to July manufacturers expect production to stabilise, while in April they still expected it to increase.

Turnover in petrochemical industry unchanged

In the first quarter of 2003 the increase in turnover for the total manufacturing industry was mainly driven by that in the petrochemical sector. This sector booked 13 percent more turnover than in the first quarter of last year, mainly because of higher selling prices: on average prices were 16.4 percent higher than twelve months previously, pushed up by substantially higher prices for crude petroleum.

As the price of crude petroleum dropped sharply in the course of April 2003, prices for products from this sector also fell considerably. Selling prices were only 1.8 percent higher than in April 2002. Partly because of this the turnover in the petrochemical industry was only 1 percent higher in April 2003 than in the same month last year.

Higher turnover in food industry

Manufacturers of food, drinks and tobacco products in particular realised a higher turnover in April 2003 than twelve months previously. This sector increased its turnover by 5 percent. Alongside to sectors with a higher turnover, there were those where turnover was lower than in April last year: in metal, electrical engineering and transport equipment turnover was 2 percent less than in April last year.

Turnover up slightly both at home and abroad

Manufacturing turnover was 1 percent higher both on the domestic and the export markets. However, selling prices in the Netherlands were 2.5 percent higher, while export prices were 1.2 percent higher than in April last year.

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

www.cbs.nl