



# Press release

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## ***Modest growth in retail turnover***

In the first quarter of 2003 retail turnover was up 1.9 percent on the same quarter of last year. The figures by Statistics Netherlands show that retail turnover did not grow as fast as in 2002. In the first quarter of 2002 turnover was up by 3.6 percent on the same period of 2001. In the first quarter of 2003 sales in non-food stores did not grow as much as sales in food stores.

### ***Turnover in non-food up by 1.4 percent***

In the first three months of 2003 non-food stores saw a 1.4 percent turnover increase on the same period of last year. The growth rate was down considerably on first quarter growth in 2002, when turnover increased by 3.6 percent.

Turnover in food stores was 2.6 percent higher in the first quarter of 2003 than in the first quarter of 2002. Last year the first quarter turnover in food stores increased by 4.2 percent.

### ***Retail turnover down in March***

Compared to March 2002 the turnover in the Dutch retail trade decreased by 0.6 percent in March 2003. Turnover in food stores fell by slightly over 1 percent. The decrease in turnover in March was partly caused by the unfavourable shopping day pattern. Moreover this year the purchases for Easter were not made in March, whereas they were last year.

### ***2 600 euros worth of shopping***

In total Dutch consumers did about 18.5 billion euros worth of shopping in the first quarter of 2003. This comes down to more than 2 600 euro per household. About 1 600 euro of this was spent in non-food stores and 1 000 euro in super markets and specialist food stores.

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