



# Press release

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## ***Foreign trade down in April***

The value of both Dutch imports and exports was lower in April this year than in April 2002. According to provisional figures from Statistics Netherlands, exports were 1 percent down at 18.8 billion euro, and imports were 4 percent lower at 16.8 billion euro. The balance of trade was 2.0 billion euro, just over one third higher than twelve months previously. The lower values were caused by the lower prices for both imports and exports compared with April last year.

### ***Trade with EU countries***

The Netherlands exported 14.1 billion euro worth of goods to countries in the European Union in April, 1 percent less than in April last year. Imports from EU countries were also 1 percent down at 9.6 billion euro. The balance of trade with EU countries was 4.6 billion euro in April, around the same amount as in April last year.

### ***Non-EU imports down***

Goods worth 4.6 billion euro were exported to countries outside the EU in April 2003. This is about the same amount as in April last year. Imports from countries outside the EU amounted to 7.2 billion euro, 7 percent lower than twelve months previously. The trade deficit with non-EU countries fell from 3.1 billion euro in April 2002 to 2.6 billion euro in April this year.

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