



Press release

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More building permissions for new dwellings

In the first quarter of 2003 building permits were issued for more than 17 thousand dwelling. This is 39 percent more than in the first quarter of 2002. Over 7 thousand dwellings were newly finished in the first quarter of 2003. This is 17 percent less than in the same quarter of 2002, according to the latest figures by Statistics Netherlands.

Number of building permits increased most in South Holland

In the province of South Holland the number of dwellings for which a permit was issued in the first quarter of 2003 increased most on the year before. Statistics Netherlands also observed increases in all other provinces except Friesland and Utrecht.

In the first quarter of 2003 the number of building permits issued nationwide was up on the year before. The same was the case in the fourth quarter of 2002. In the preceding quarters the number of permits was down on the year before. The number of building permits issued is an indication of the expected production in dwellings.

Number of newly finished dwellings continues to fall

In the first quarter of 2003 the number of newly finished dwellings was down by 17 percent on the first quarter of 2002. It was the fifth quarter in a row in which the number of newly finished dwellings was lower than in the same quarter of the previous year. Some 65 thousand dwellings were newly finished between 31 March 2002 and 31 March 2003.

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Table 1 Housing construction per quarter 2000-2003.

Year	Quarter	Building permits issued	Finished
<i>number</i>			
2000	1	20 509	10 835
	2	20 841	14 377
	3	18 303	14 892
	4	18 910	30 546
2001	1	15 119	11 133
	2	13 451	15 193
	3	17 549	15 931
	4	16 207	30 701
2002	1	12 281	8 961
	2	14 805	14 989
	3	15 291	13 390
	4	24 806	29 364
2003	1	17 106	7 480

Source: Statistics Netherlands**Table 2 Building permits for dwellings per province.**

	2001	2002	1 ^e quarter 2002	1 ^e quarter 2003	Change
<i>number</i>					
Netherlands	62 326	67 183	12 281	17 106	4 825
Groningen	3 173	1 758	198	708	510
Friesland	2 886	2 432	705	576	- 129
Drenthe	2 317	2 092	182	536	354
Overijssel	4 816	3 754	695	1 045	350
Flevoland	2 285	4 002	1 197	1 230	33
Gelderland	5 880	7 548	1 437	2 245	808
Utrecht	5 030	5 698	1 477	1 233	- 244
North Holland	10 144	10 075	1 634	2 314	680
South Holland	13 289	16 360	2 089	3 963	1 874
Zeeland	1 155	1 392	194	378	184
North Brabant	7 897	8 843	1 652	1 980	328
Limburg	3 454	3 229	821	898	77

Source: Statistics Netherlands

Table 3 Newly finished dwellings per province.

	2001	2002	1 quarter 2002	1 quarter 2003	Change
	<i>number</i>				<i>%</i>
Netherlands	72 958	66 704	8 961	7 480	-17
Groningen	2 171	2 433	299	386	29
Friesland	2 701	2 299	297	286	-4
Drenthe	1 974	2 308	162	155	-4
Overijssel	5 002	3 811	561	387	-31
Flevoland	4 651	3 592	576	307	-47
Gelderland	6 468	6 539	1 124	647	-42
Utrecht	7 026	5 444	1 061	772	-27
North Holland	11 153	10 512	1 134	1 586	40
South Holland	16 965	17 004	2 072	1 538	-26
Zeeland	1 343	1 303	222	164	-26
North Brabant	9 558	7 939	1 028	754	-27
Limburg	3 946	3 520	425	498	17

Source: Statistics Netherlands