



Press release

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Dwindling economy in four provinces

Nationwide, the economy grew by 0.2 percent in 2002. This modest growth rate was not evenly spread across the twelve provinces.

Groningen (2.1 percent) and Flevoland (2.4 percent) were well above average. The economy was dwindling in four provinces, namely Friesland, Drenthe, Noord-Brabant and Limburg, as figures by Statistics Netherlands show.

In the period 1995-2001, the economic growth rate in the provinces of Utrecht, Flevoland, Noord-Holland and Noord-Brabant was still above average; in 2002, however, Noord-Holland and Noord-Brabant fell by the wayside.

Declining industry mainly affects regions outside the Randstad

With the exception of Groningen, industry declined in all provinces in 2002. The positive development in this province is mainly caused by the extraction of natural gas, whereas the extraction of natural gas had a negative impact on the economic growth in the provinces of Friesland and Drenthe.

Much industrial activity is typical of all provinces where the economy shrank in 2002. All these provinces are outside the Randstad. For the Netherlands as a whole, the industry contributed almost 26 percent to the total value added in 2001. The provinces of Friesland, Drenthe, Noord-Brabant and Limburg, where the economy was in decline in 2002, have more industry (30 to 32 percent) than the Netherlands on average.

Growth commercial services stalls in virtually all provinces

The national and regional development is strongly affected by the commercial services sector (nationwide 48 percent, in the Randstad well over 50 percent). In 2002, the economic growth rate for this sector was zero, except in the provinces of Flevoland and Groningen. The relatively high growth rate in Flevoland, almost 3 percent, is predominantly found in Almere and the central part of Flevoland, for instance in Lelystad. The growth rate in these regions has been above average for years now. The positive growth rate in the province of Groningen is partly due to a high growth rate of the relatively extensive post and telecommunications sector.

Health, welfare and public sector fuel economy

Health and welfare (5.1 percent), the public sector (2.4 percent) and education (0.8 percent) were the main contributors to the economic growth in 2002. These sectors made a positive contribution to the economy of all provinces.

Volume development value added (gross base prices) of all Dutch provinces

Provinces	Average growth 1995-2001	Change 2002 on 2001
	%	%
The Netherlands (growth GDP)	3.3	0.2
Groningen	1.9	2.1
Friesland	2.8	-1.2
Drenthe	2.0	-0.8
Overijssel	3.0	0.1
Flevoland	6.0	2.4
Gelderland	2.8	0.1
Utrecht	4.4	0.5
Noord-Holland	3.5	0.2
Zuid-Holland	3.3	0.5
Zeeland	1.5	0.5
Noord-Brabant	3.5	-0.1
Limburg	3.3	-0.3

Source: Statistics Netherlands