



Press release

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Manufacturing output and turnover down

Production and turnover by the manufacturing industry were both lower in the second quarter of 2003 than in the same period last year. Following a slight improvement in the first quarter, production and turnover both fell again in the second quarter, according to figures from Statistics Netherlands.

Production down in second quarter

Manufacturing production was 3 percent lower in the second quarter of 2002 than in the same quarter last year. Compared with the first quarter this year it was 1 percent lower after adjustment for seasonal effects. In the first six months of this year 2 percent less was produced than in the first half of 2002. This means that the fall in production is slightly less strong than it was in 2002 compared with 2001. The only sector to increase production in the first half of 2003 was the petroleum, chemical and rubber industry. All other sectors realised lower production than in the same period last year, although the fall in the metal industry in the first half of 2003 was smaller than in 2002.

Manufacturing turnover down

Turnover in the manufacturing industry in the second quarter was 3 percent down on the same period last year. In the first quarter of 2003 turnover was 2 percent up. The fall in turnover in the second quarter was slightly larger on the foreign than on the domestic market. In the first quarter of 2003 prices were 6 percent higher than one year previously, in the second quarter they were only 1 percent higher. This meant that the volume of turnover in both the first and the second quarter was 4 percent lower this year than in the same quarters in 2002. In the first six months total manufacturing turnover was about the same as in the first half of 2002. This was mainly caused by the higher turnover in the petroleum, chemical and rubber industry. If this sector is left out of account, manufacturing turnover comes out 3 percent lower than in the first half of 2002.

Lower production and turnover in June too

In June 2003 manufacturing production was 3 percent lower than in the same month last year. Turnover was 2 percent lower than in June 2002, while selling prices were 1 percent higher. On the domestic market turnover was around the same, while prices were 2 percent higher. Manufacturing exports were 3 percent lower than in June 2002, with unchanged prices.