



Press release

PB03-154
20 August 2003
9:30 AM

Turnover drops for non-food retailers

Turnover in the non-food sector of the retail trade was 6.3 percent lower in May 2003 than in the same month last year. Turnover in shops selling food was 2.6 percent higher, according to provisional figures from Statistics Netherlands. Overall retail turnover was 3.2 percent down on twelve months previously. The figures for May 2003 were positively affected by a more favourable pattern of shopping days than in May last year.

Sharp drop for turnover in furniture stores

Consumers spent a lot less in shops selling items for the home such as furniture and soft furnishings. In May the turnover in these stores was 10 percent down on the same month last year. Other retail branches with lower turnover were clothes shops and stores selling consumer electronics. In some branches turnover increased: chemists, shops selling household articles and textile supermarkets. In the latter shops, in particular, turnover was substantially higher than in May last year: + 9 percent.

Higher turnover for food sector

Turnover for shops selling food, drink and tobacco rose by 2.6 percent compared with May last year. Supermarkets account for some 80 percent of turnover in this sector. They increased their turnover by 3.8 percent.

Households spent 980 euro in the shops in May

The nearly seven million private households in the Netherlands spent an average 980 euro per household in shops in May. Together consumers spent about 6.8 billion euro in Dutch shops.