



Press release

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Fewer dwellings constructed

During the first six months of 2003 some 19 thousand new dwellings were finished. This was 19 percent less than during the first six months of 2002. In turn, fewer new dwellings were finished in 2002 than in 2001. The number of dwellings for which a building permit was issued, however, was up by a quarter during the first six months of 2003 on the first six months of 2002. During the first six months of 2003 building permits were granted for almost 34 thousand dwellings, according to the latest figures by Statistics Netherlands.

Decreasing number of finished dwellings

During the first six months of 2003 there were about 4 500 newly finished dwellings less than during the first six months of 2002. The decrease started early in 2002. The largest decreases occurred in the provinces Gelderland and South Holland, namely over 1 300 dwellings. One in every four newly finished dwellings in the Netherlands is located in South Holland. The only provinces where the number of newly finished dwellings increased were Groningen, Friesland and Drenthe according to Statistics Netherlands.

More building permits issued for dwellings

During the first six months of 2003 building permits were issued for 34 thousand dwellings. This is an increase of almost 6 500 dwellings on the first six months of 2002. The largest increase occurred in the provinces South Holland and North-Brabant. The number of building permits for dwellings increased by more than 1 400 in these two provinces on the first six months of 2002. Statistics Netherlands only observed decreases in the provinces Flevoland and Utrecht.

The total number of dwellings for which building permits were issued has been increasing for some time. There have been increases on the corresponding quarters of the previous year since the fourth quarter of 2002.

Table 1 Housing construction per quarter 2000-2003

Year	Quarter	Building permit 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
	2	16 463	11 972

Source: CBS

Table 2 Finished dwellings per province

	2001	2002	1 half 2002	1 half 2003	change
	<i>number</i>			<i>%</i>	
Netherlands	72 958	66 704	23 950	19 452	-19
Groningen	2 171	2 433	681	859	26
Friesland	2 701	2 299	748	777	4
Drenthe	1 974	2 308	358	432	21
Overijssel	5 002	3 811	1 133	1 081	-5
Flevoland	4 651	3 592	1 337	1 112	-17
Gelderland	6 468	6 539	2 976	1 624	-45
Utrecht	7 026	5 444	2 427	1 581	-35
North Holland	11 153	10 512	3 665	3 373	-8
South Holland	16 965	17 004	6 420	5 037	-22
Zeeland	1 343	1 303	541	375	-31
North Brabant	9 558	7 939	2 307	2 149	-7
Limburg	3 946	3 520	1 357	1 052	-22

Source: CBS**Table 3 Building permit issued per province**

	2001	2002	1 half 2002	1 half 2003	Change
	<i>number</i>			<i>%</i>	
Netherlands	62 326	67 183	27 086	33 569	24
Groningen	3 173	1 758	655	1 271	94
Friesland	2 886	2 432	1 116	1 328	19
Drenthe	2 317	2 092	611	1 062	74
Overijssel	4 816	3 754	1 488	2 093	41
Flevoland	2 285	4 002	1 828	1 785	-2
Gelderland	5 880	7 548	3 123	4 319	38
Utrecht	5 030	5 698	2 235	1 990	-11
North Holland	10 144	10 075	4 440	4 899	10
South Holland	13 289	16 360	5 991	7 429	24
Zeeland	1 155	1 392	487	771	58
North Brabant	7 897	8 843	3 526	4 961	41
Limburg	3 454	3 229	1 586	1 661	5

Source: CBS