



# Press release

PB03-167  
16 September 2003  
9:30 AM

## ***Value of exports unchanged in July***

The Netherlands exported 18.7 billion euro worth of goods in July 2003, around the same as in July 2002. Imports were 1 percent down on twelve months previously, at 16.3 billion euro, according to provisional figures from Statistics Netherlands. In the second quarter of 2003 the values of imports and exports were respectively 4 and 3 percent lower than in the same quarter last year.

Prices were slightly lower in July 2003. The volume of imports and exports was also slightly higher than in July 2002. The balance of trade for July 2003 was 2.4 billion euro.

### ***Less exported to Germany and UK***

The Netherlands exported 14.0 billion euro worth of goods to EU countries, about the same amount as in July 2002. Imports from EU countries were also around the same level as one year previously.

Exports to Belgium increased by 4 percent, but these were offset by a 2 percent decrease in exports to our main trade partner Germany and a 4 percent drop in exports to the United Kingdom. Imports from France and Italy fell relatively strongly, by 7 and 8 percent respectively.

### ***Imports from US continue to fall***

Imports from non-EU countries were 3 percent lower in July 2003 than twelve months previously, at 6.9 billion euro. Exports were also 3 percent lower at 4.7 billion euro. Imports from the United states were worth 1.2 billion euro, 15 percent less than in July 2002. This is the fifteenth month in a row that imports from the US fell.