



Press release

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Increasing producer confidence

Dutch producer confidence, the mood indicator among entrepreneurs in the manufacturing industry, was on the increase in September. The indicator rose by 2.2 points and reached -4.8. The increase is due to growing optimism about production over the next three months. The economic survey conducted by Statistics Netherlands further shows that the order portfolio decreased again in September.

Production increase expected

Producer confidence in September reached -4.8, a 2.2 point improvement on August. The increase was caused by growing optimism about expected production in the next three months. In August the number of optimists and pessimists was more equally balanced.

Many entrepreneurs in the consumer goods sector foresee an increase in production. This is also the case, but to a lesser degree, in the sectors of semi-manufactured goods and investment goods.

Producer confidence is not only made up of opinions about expected production, but also of opinions on order position and stocks of finished products. The latter two components remained stable in September.

Order position down

The volume of orders received in August fell slightly. This was caused by fewer domestic orders. The reception of new orders has been decreasing ever since the start of the year.

The index of the order position showing the volume of the order portfolio fell from 91.2 in August to 90.1 in September. The August index stood at the lowest level observed since the indicator started in 1989.

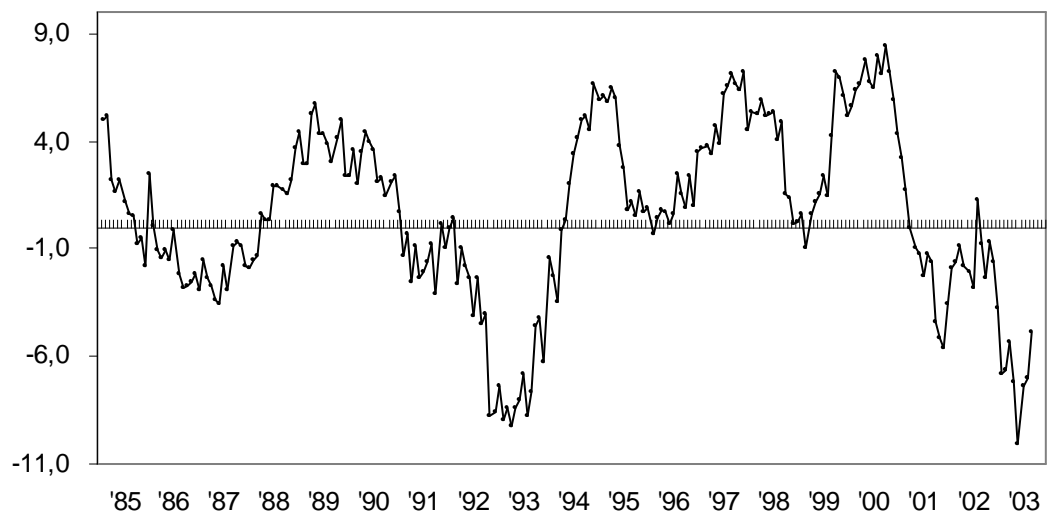
On balance 16 percent of the entrepreneurs expect to have less personnel in the next few months. The number of entrepreneurs predicting falling employee numbers has been greater than the number of entrepreneurs predicting increases in employment since July 2001.

Producer confidence in Dutch industry (seasonally corrected figures)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Ma	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	year
2000	5.2	5.6	6.4	6.6	7.8	6.7	6.4	7.9	7.1	8.4	7.2	5.9	6.8
2001	4.3	3.2	1.7	0.0	-1.0	-1.3	-2.2	-1.3	-1.7	-4.4	-5.2	-5.6	-1.1
2002	-3.5	-1.9	-1.6	-0.9	-1.8	-2.1	-2.8	1.3	-0.8	-2.4	-0.7	-1.7	-1.6
2003	-3.8	-6.8	-6.6	-5.3	-7.2	-10.1	-7.4	-7.0	-4.8				

Source: CBS

Producentenvertrouwen in de industrie



Source: CBS