



Statistics Netherlands

Press release

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House construction continues to fall

More than 30 thousand new homes were completed in the Netherlands in the first three quarters of 2003. This is 19 percent less than in the same period last year. In 2002 the number of dwellings completed was also less than the year before. Statistics Netherlands' figures further show that permits were granted for the construction of 49 thousand dwellings in the first three quarters of 2003. That is 16 percent more than in the same period last year.

Fewer new homes

The largest decreases in the number of new homes completed were in the provinces South-Holland, Gelderland and Utrecht in the first three quarters of 2003. The only provinces where the more dwellings were completed than last year were Friesland, Drenthe, Overijssel and Flevoland. Overall 7,000 fewer dwellings were completed in the Netherlands than in the first three quarters of 2002. The decrease in the number of completed new homes started at the beginning of 2002.

More permits granted

Official authorities granted building permits for more than 49 thousand new homes in the first three quarters of 2003, 7,000 more than in the first three quarters of 2002. The increase was largest in South Holland, where the number of permits rose by 2,000. In Flevoland, Utrecht and Limburg the number of permits fell, however. The total number of dwellings for which permits are granted has been increasing since the fourth quarter of 2002.

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