



Press release

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Imports down in September

In September 2003 the value of the imports of goods was 17.0 billion euro. This is 3 percent less than in September 2002 according to the latest preliminary figures by Statistics Netherlands. The value of exported goods was up by 1 percent on September 2002 and reached 20.5 billion euro. The exports were positively influenced by the exports of an oil rig to Africa. Furthermore September 2003 had one working day more than September 2002.

In the third quarter of 2003 imports were down by 3 percent and exports down by 2 percent on the third quarter of 2002. The lower import and export values can be explained in part by the drop in prices.

Less exports to the United Kingdom and Germany

In the third quarter of 2003, the Netherlands exported 41.8 billion euro worth to the EU countries. This is 3 percent less than in the third quarter of 2002. Imports from the EU countries came to 27.4 billion euro. Imports are also down by 3 percent on the same quarter of 2002.

Dutch exports to the UK and Germany fell by more than average. For imports the same is particularly true for the UK and France.

Trade met non-EU countries

In the third quarter of 2003 exports to the non-EU countries reached 14.3 billion euro. This is 1 percent more than in the third quarter of 2002. The value of the imports was down by 2 percent reaching 20.9 billion euro.

The increase in export value in the third quarter of 2003 was positively influenced by the export of an oil rig to Africa in September 2003. The decrease in import value is almost entirely due to the United States, just like it was in the second quarter of 2003. Imports from the USA reached 3.4 billion euro, down 16 percent on the third quarter of 2002. The decrease in value is related to the 15 percent drop in value of the dollar on the euro.

Imports and exports

	Imports	Exports	Trade surplus	Imports	Exports
	In billion euros			Year on year percentage changes	
2000	216.1	231.9	15.8	21	23
2001	218.3	241.3	23.0	1	4
2002	205.6	232.7	27.1	-6	-4
January	16.6	18.3	1.7	-14	-11
February	16.2	18.4	2.2	-10	-8
March	18.2	20.8	2.6	-10	-8
April	17.7	18.9	1.3	-1	-2
May	17.1	19.7	2.5	-10	-6
June	17.1	19.6	2.5	-9	-7
July	16.5	18.8	2.3	-7	-1
August	15.8	17.8	2.0	-7	-4
September	17.5	20.4	2.9	1	3
October	18.7	20.8	2.1	1	1
November	17.5	20.1	2.6	-3	-1
December	16.7	19.1	2.4	2	1
2003*					
January	17.3	19.7	2.4	4	7
February	17.1	19.3	2.3	6	5
March	18.3	20.9	2.6	1	1
April	16.8	18.8	1.9	-5	-1
May	16.5	18.9	2.3	-4	-4
June	16.3	18.9	2.6	-5	-4
July	16.2	18.6	2.4	-2	-1
August	15.2	16.9	1.8	-4	-5
September	17.0	20.5	3.6	-3	1

* Preliminary figures

Source: CBS