



# Press release

PB03-213  
27 November 2003  
9:30 AM

## ***Retail trade in the third quarter down again***

In the third quarter of 2003, the Dutch retail trade sold 4.7 percent less than in the third quarter 2002. It is the second quarter in a row that retail trade turnover was lower than in the same quarter of 2002. The decrease in sales is entirely found in the non-food stores, where turnover in the third quarter was 8.1 percent less than the year before. Food stores, on the other hand, saw a 1.4 percent increase in turnover on the third quarter of 2002, according to the latest figures by Statistics Netherlands.

### ***Substantial loss of turnover in clothes stores***

Dutch consumers spent over 14 percent less in clothes stores in the third quarter of 2003 than in the third quarter of 2002. They also spent over 11 percent less in home furnishing stores in the third quarter than they did in the same quarter of 2002. Consumer electronics and DIY shops also saw their turnover in the third quarter drop. This is in line with an earlier CBS survey showing that consumers are less willing to buy. Drug stores and stores in household articles saw an increase in turnover.

### ***Higher turnover in super markets***

Super markets increased their turnover by almost 3 percent in the third quarter of 2003 compared to the same quarter of 2002. Specialised stores in food, beverages and tobacco on the other hand, such as butchers and green grocers, saw their turnover in the third quarter diminish by almost 5 percent.

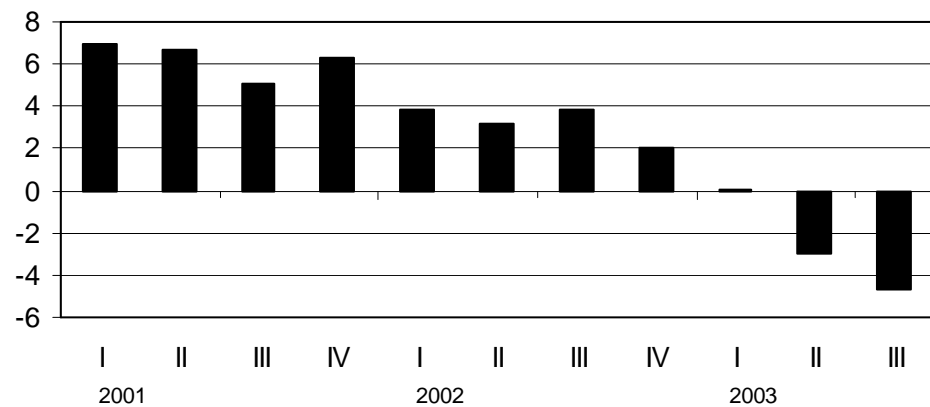
### ***Turnover retail trade in September down***

The situation in September was the same as in the third quarter. Turnover in the retail trade in September fell by 4 percent compared to September 2002. The non-food and food sectors in the retail trade showed contrasting developments. Non-food stores saw their turnover fall by almost 8 percent on last year whereas food stores saw an increase of almost 3 percent in their turnover. The September figures were positively influenced by a shopping day pattern that was more favourable than in September 2002.

### ***Turnover retail trade, Year-on-year percentage changes, per quarter***

### Omzet detailhandel

*procentuele mutatie t.o.v. een jaar eerder*



### Turnover retail trade

*Year-on-year percentage changes, per quarter*

2001				2002				2003		
I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III
7.0	6.7	5.1	6.3	3.8	3.2	3.8	2.0	0.1	-3	-4.7

**Source: CBS**