



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Manufacturing capacity utilisation down

Capacity utilisation in the manufacturing industry fell in December 1998. Statistics Netherlands' business cycle survey showed further that manufacturing companies saw output fall slightly. A slight increase in activity is expected for the coming months.

Production installations used less

In December 1998, 83.7% of manufacturing capacity was used, 1.2 percentage points down on September. A growing number of companies report insufficient demand for their products as a curbing factor on their output. In spite of this, manufacturers foresee a slight rise in production for the first quarter of 1999. This prospect is based partly on the slight increase in the number of orders received. The order book index was one percentage point higher at 98.0 (March 1996 = 100). Manufacturers judge their order book position more favourably than in November.

Producers' confidence unchanged

Producers' confidence, the mood indicator for manufacturing companies, was 0.2 in December, the same as in November, but 4.3 percentage points lower than in the same month of 1997.

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