



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Prices of manufactured products down slightly in January

Prices of Dutch manufactured products were 0.2% lower in January this year than in December 1998, and 5% lower than in January 1998. Prices of food products fell particularly strongly, while chemical products and office equipment also cost less. Prices of products in the oil industry on the other hand were much higher.

Prices up for some products and down for others

Lower prices were observed for among other things products manufactured by the food, drinks and tobacco industry, the chemical industry and the basic metal industry. Prices of food products were 0.9% down in January on December. The price of pork in particular dropped sharply (-10%). In the chemical industry prices were 0.8% down; prices for raw materials in this branch were lower. Lower prices were also observed for office equipment (-3.1%). Prices in the basic metal industry were about the same as one month earlier: -0.1%, a very slight drop compared with the price decreases of previous months.

In addition to these lower prices, Statistics Netherlands also observed price rises: in the oil industry prices were up 3.7% on December. If the oil industry is left out of account, prices of Dutch manufactured products were 0.4% lower in January 1999 than in December 1998. Machinery manufacturers saw prices rise by 0.5%, while textiles and textile products were 0.4% more expensive.

Prices of raw materials also down

Prices of the raw materials and semi-manufactures used in the manufacturing industry were 1% lower in January 1999 than in December 1998. Raw materials and semi-manufactures bought on the domestic market cost 1.7% less, those imported 0.4% less.

Compared with January last year, the prices of raw materials and semi-manufactures were 9.7% lower: those bought on the domestic market 8% lower, those imported 11% lower.

For further information please contact P. Luyten, tel. 070 337 47 16; e-mail pltn@cbs.nl.

Statistics Netherlands
Press Office

P.O. Box 4000
2270 JM Voorburg
The Netherlands
tel. +31 70 337 58 16
fax +31 70 337 59 71
e-mail:
persdienst@cbs.nl

Statistics Netherlands
is a department of
the Ministry of
Economic Affairs