



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## ***More offices to be built***

For the first time ever, architects received more than 4 billion guilders worth of commissions in 1998 to design office buildings. Just over three quarters of this amount was commissioned by companies in the business services sector, according to Statistics Netherlands. Most money was spent on building plans for the province Noord-Holland.

### ***Most building plans for business services***

Architects received commissions to design office buildings worth 4.4 billion guilders in 1998, 19% more than in 1997 and even twice as much as in 1996. The increase in planned office space is a consequence of the increased activities in the business services sector. In 1996 the amount commissioned by this sector was 1 billion guilders, in 1997 2.5 billion guilders and in 1998 as much as 3.4 billion guilders.

### ***Most buildings planned in Noord-Holland***

Most of the office construction projects are planned in the province of Noord-Holland: 26% of the total amount (1.2 billion guilders). The fewest buildings are planned for Zeeland, only 31 billion guilders worth of office space.

### ***Fewer construction permits granted***

Architects are commissioned to design a building well before an application is made for the required permission. The figures show this: in 1998 municipalities granted 2.8 billion worth of permits for office buildings, 45% more than in 1997. About two-thirds of these are for offices for business services companies.

### ***More work still to be started***

The number of architects' projects where work has yet to be started increased from 3.1 billion guilders at the end of 1996 to 6.2 billion at the end of 1998. Two provinces still had projects worth more than a billion guilders in the pipeline; Noord-Holland (1.6 billion guilders) and Zuid-Holland (1.3 billion

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Statistics Netherlands  
is a department of  
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guilders). The value of projects where work started in 1998 was 2.3 billion guilders.

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