



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

PR99-153
16 June 1999
9.30 hrs

Oil pushes manufacturers' prices up again

Prices of Dutch manufactured products were 0.6% higher in April 1999 than in March. Provisional figures from Statistics Netherlands show that export prices were up 0.7% while the increase in domestic prices was 0.4%. The higher price levels are caused by price rises of products in the petroleum industry.

Compared with one year ago prices were 3.1% lower. The decrease was caused by strong price decreases in the preceding months.

Prices of oil products surge again

In April the prices of products in the petroleum industry rose strongly for the second successive month (+14%) compared with the previous month. Developments of the world oil market are behind this. Domestic prices in this branch were 9.4% higher, while export prices rose by 16%. This development alone caused a 0.6% price rise for the entire manufacturing industry. Indeed if the developments in the oil industry are not taken into account, the price level of manufactured products would have fallen by 0.3% in April.

Less drastic developments in other sectors

Prices in April were higher than in March in the chemical industry (+0.6%) and for machinery and equipment (+0.5%).

In addition to price increases, Statistics Netherlands also observed lower prices for some products: in the food industry prices fell by just over 1.5%. Export prices of beef and pork were the main underlying cause (-10%).

Prices for intermediate consumption up

Prices of raw materials and semi-manufactures used in the manufacturing industry rose by 1.8% in April compared with March. Raw materials and semi-manufactures imported from other countries cost 4.3% more while those bought on the domestic market were 1% cheaper. Compared with April last year intermediate consumption prices were 4.2% lower; import prices were 3.3% lower, domestic prices 5.2% lower.

For further information, please contact P. Luyten, tel. +31 70 337 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