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Manufacturing output remains high

The volume of production by the Dutch manufacturing industry was about the same in November 1999 as in October. Compared with November 1998 it was nearly 4% higher. Provisional figures from Statistics Netherlands further show that manufacturing output in the first eleven months of 1999 was just over 0.7% higher than in the same period in 1998.

Strong increase in chemical and construction products

Manufacturing output grew by nearly 4% in November 1999 compared with November 1998. The increase was mostly based on the strong growth in production in the chemical industry and the wood and construction materials industry. Production increased by more than 10% in both sectors, according to Statistics Netherlands.

Output was 1% down on the previous year's figure in the textile, clothing and leather industry.

Steady growth in manufacturing output

In spite of a fall in the first four months of 1999, manufacturing output in the first eleven months of the year was still higher than in the same period in 1998, thanks to a substantial increase from September 1999 in the chemical and the wood and construction materials industries. Increases, albeit less drastic, were also observed for the food sector and the rubber and synthetics industry. Production by the metal industry in the first eleven months of 1999 was at about the same level as in 1998, and only the textile, clothing and leather industry had a lower level of production than in 1998.

It is worth noting in this respect that production in the first eleven months of 1998 was considerably higher than in the first eleven months of 1997.

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 For further information, please contact Hans Pijpers tel. +31 70 337 48 73; e-mail: jpps@cbs.nl.