



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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International trade in 1999, focus on second half

International trade grew substantially in the second half of 1999. There was hardly any growth in the first half, so that Dutch trade abroad saw a modest rise for 1999 as a whole.

The most recent figures produced by Statistics Netherlands show that the value of imported goods went up 4% compared to 1998, bringing the total to 388 billion guilders. The increase took place almost entirely in the second half of 1999 (+9%). There was virtually zero growth in the first half of 1999. The Netherlands exported for more than 414 billion guilders worth of goods in 1999, up 4% on 1998. Here too growth almost entirely took place in the second half of the year (+8%). The positive trade balance came out at more than 26 billion guilders for 1999.

Imports and exports rising fast in December

Statistics Netherlands publishes the December 1999 figures and the figures for 1999 as a whole simultaneously. Both imports and exports showed spectacular increases. December imports increased by 15% to almost 36 billion guilders. Exports saw a 14% increase to 38 billion. The increases are the largest in 18 months.

Imports from the EU countries rose by 9% to 21 billion guilders in December. Exports to the EU countries went up 12% to almost 30 billion guilders. Imports from non-EU countries went up by almost a quarter in December: +24%. Exports to non-EU countries likewise saw a dramatic increase: +20%.

Positive trade balance: up 7 billion for EU in 1999

In 1999 The Netherlands imported 229 billion guilders worth of goods from the EU. This constitutes a 2% increase on 1998. After a 1% drop in the first six months, the 6% increase of the second half of the

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year made for a positive result for the year as a whole.

Dutch exports to the EU countries went up by 4% in 1999 to 324 billion guilders. Exports too show a remarkable difference between the first and the second half of the year: showing +1% and +7% respectively.

There is a positive trade balance with the other EU-member states for 1999 of almost 95 billion guilders. This is 7 billion guilders more than in 1998.

One striking fact with the imports from the EU countries is that trade with Ireland increased by 31% in 1999. The biggest drops in imports were with Portugal (-11%) and Greece (-12%).

In contrast the fastest rising export partners of 1999 were Portugal (+16%) and Greece (+8%).

Imports from non-EU countries up substantially in 1999

Statistics Netherlands estimates the value of imports from countries outside the European Union at 159 billion guilders in 1999. This is up 8% on 1998. In the first six months of 1999 imports increased by 2% on the same period of 1998, in the second half there was a 14% increase.

Exports to non-EU countries in 1999 increased by 4% to a value of 91 billion guilders. The increase took place in the second half of the year (first half: +0%; second half: +9%).

The trade balance with the countries outside the EU is negative for 1999: -68 billion guilders, up 8 billion on 1998.

Recovering trade with East Asia

Dutch trade with East Asia's major trading partners slowly recovered in the course of 1999 from the financial crisis in the region. Exports to these countries increased by 13% in 1999 (1998: -17%). Imports from East Asia saw a 6% increase in 1999 on 1998 (1998: +29%).

The main trading partners for the Netherlands in East Asia are: Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, South Korea, Singapore, China, Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia. Almost 15% of Dutch imports originates from these countries. Cars, computers and computer parts are the main imports. Dutch exports to these trading partners constitutes only 4% of total Dutch exports. Here too computer parts are key products.

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**Imports and exports totals/In- en uitvoer, totalen
1996-1999**

	Imports/ Invoer	Exports/ Uitvoer	Trade balance/ Handels- overschot
	mld gld		
1996	308,4	338,8	30,5
1997	346,9	377,8	30,8
1998	371,7	398,7	27,1
Januari	30,1	32,0	1,9
Februari	30,2	32,4	2,3
Maart	33,8	36,5	2,8
April	31,0	33,0	2,0
Mei	29,7	31,9	2,2
Juni	32,5	34,0	1,5
Juli	30,3	33,1	2,8
Augustus	27,0	28,6	1,6
September	32,2	34,9	2,7
Oktober	32,2	34,8	2,7
November	31,9	33,8	1,9
December	30,9	33,6	2,7
1999*	388,2	414,5	26,3
Januari	28,7	31,4	2,7
Februari	29,2	31,3	2,2
Maart	34,3	37,5	3,2
April	31,2	33,0	1,8
Mei	30,7	32,1	1,4
Juni	33,2	35,4	2,2
Juli	31,4	32,6	1,1
Augustus	29,8	31,2	1,5
September	34,8	37,0	2,3
Oktober*	33,7	36,5	2,8
November*	35,9	38,1	2,2
December*	35,5	38,4	2,9

In- en uitvoer, totalen 1996-1999

	Invoer	Uitvoer	Handels- overschot
	mld euro		
1996	139,9	153,8	13,8
1997	157,4	171,4	14,0
1998	168,7	180,9	12,3
Januari	13,6	14,5	0,9

Februari	13,7	14,7	1,0
Maart	15,3	16,6	1,3
April	14,1	15,0	0,9
Mei	13,5	14,5	1,0
Juni	14,8	15,4	0,7
Juli	13,7	15,0	1,3
Augustus	12,3	13,0	0,7
September	14,6	15,8	1,2
Oktober	14,6	15,8	1,2
November	14,5	15,3	0,9
December	14,0	15,3	1,2
1999*	176,1	188,1	11,9
Januari	13,0	14,2	1,2
Februari	13,2	14,2	1,0
Maart	15,6	17,0	1,5
April	14,1	15,0	0,8
Mei	13,9	14,6	0,7
Juni	15,0	16,1	1,0
Juli	14,3	14,8	0,5
Augustus	13,5	14,2	0,7
September	15,8	16,8	1,0
Oktober*	15,3	16,6	1,3
November*	16,3	17,3	1,0
December*	16,1	17,4	1,3

* Preliminary figures/ Voorlopige cijfers

Bron: CBS