



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Surge in trade with US and the Far East

The value of foreign trade in goods rose strongly again in January. The newest figures from Statistics Netherlands show that total imports in January were 16% higher than in January last year, at 15.2 billion euros. Exports were 12% up at 16.0 billion euros. Trade with the United States and the main trading partners in the Far East increased particularly strongly.

The balance of trade for January of this year is 0.8 billion euros.

Further increase in trade with US

The strong increase in trade with the United States of America, which manifested itself at the end of last year, continued into January of this year: imports rose by 24%, exports by 29%.

More telecommunications equipment was imported than in January last year, while for exports the increase was mainly caused by more cars being sold to the US.

Trade with the Far East increases further

Dutch trade with the main trading partners in East Asia seems to have recovered from the financial crisis in the region. The downturn had a profound effect on trade with these countries in the period January 1998 - February 1999. Since September last year exports to East Asia have been increasing by rates of more than 25% per month. In January 2000, too, exports rose sharply, by 36%.

Imports from East Asia, which conversely had increased in the crisis period, rose by 24% in January on the same month last year. Imports of computer parts and telecommunications equipment in particular rose enormously.

The main Dutch trading partners in the Far East are

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Statistics Netherlands
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Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, South Korea, Singapore, China, Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia.

Trade with European Union also up in January

The Netherlands imported 8.5 billion euros worth of goods from countries in the EU in January 2000. This is 10% up on January 1999. In December 1999, too, imports were 10% higher than one year previously. Exports to EU countries rose by 12% in January to 12.7 billion euros. In December 1999 they were 13% up on December 1998. Exports to the United Kingdom increased by as much as 22% in January 2000. The balance of trade with the EU member countries was 4.1 billion euros in January of this year .

Imports from non-EU countries also up strongly

In January 6.6 billion euros worth of goods were imported in the Netherlands from countries outside the European Union, an increase of no less than 26% on January 1999. In December, too, imports from these countries rose strongly: by 22%. The strongest increase was for imports of crude petroleum. But this increase is completely accounted for by higher prices.

Exports to non-EU countries rose by 13% in January to 3.3 billion euros. In December these exports rose by 20%.

The trade deficit with countries outside the EU in January this year is 3.3 billion euros.

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