



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## ***Modest growth in industrial production***

After the increase in February, industrial production also increased in March of this year. The volume growth rate was up 0.8% on February. According to the preliminary figures for March by Statistics Netherlands industrial production was more than 3% higher than in March 1999.

### ***Production up in March***

Production in March was 0.8% higher than in February this year. However, not all branches of industry increased their production. There were increases in the food, beverages and tobacco industry (+3.5%) and in the chemical industry (+3.1%), but also drops. For instance, March production in the textile, clothing and leather industry was down 0.2% on February, while there was a 0.8% drop in production in the metal industry.

Compared to March 1999 almost all branches of industry produced more. Total industrial production in March 2000 was up 3.2%. The chemical industry produced the highest growth rate (+8.5%). Furthermore there was substantial growth in the food, beverages and tobacco industry (+ 5.1%) and in wood and building materials (4.3%) on March last year.

Producers expect a further growth in production for the second quarter this year, as was shown in the producer confidence figures published earlier.

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***Table 1 production volume index, average daily production  
(1995=100),***

|          | 1995 | 1996  | 1997  | 1998  | 1999  | 2000  |
|----------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| January  | 92.0 | 92.2  | 95.6  | 105.2 | 104.8 | 101.9 |
| February | 98.9 | 96.4  | 104.3 | 109.8 | 106.2 | 111.2 |
| March    | 99.3 | 102.7 | 109.7 | 111.2 | 111.1 | 114.7 |

|           |       |       |       |       |       |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| April     | 102.2 | 103.2 | 108.3 | 116.1 | 113.5 |
| May       | 103.1 | 103.6 | 109.7 | 112.5 | 115.0 |
| June      | 105.1 | 107.7 | 110.5 | 114.3 | 114.6 |
| July      | 89.6  | 89.7  | 95.5  | 101.0 | 102.7 |
| August    | 88.2  | 90.4  | 94.2  | 93.5  | 94.3  |
| September | 105.5 | 106.7 | 110.9 | 111.7 | 114.6 |
| October   | 105.9 | 107.0 | 112.4 | 113.9 | 117.9 |
| November  | 107.2 | 108.5 | 117.1 | 113.7 | 118.5 |
| December  | 102.8 | 100.3 | 106.7 | 102.8 | 110.1 |

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|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Year | 100.0 | 100.7 | 106.2 | 108.8 | 110.3 |
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**Source: CBS**

**Table 2. Seasonally corrected production volume index (1995=100)**

|           | 1995  | 1996  | 1997  | 1998  | 1999  | 2000  |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| January   | 96.9  | 97.2  | 100.8 | 111.2 | 110.8 | 107.8 |
| February  | 100.1 | 97.3  | 105.3 | 110.8 | 107.1 | 112.3 |
| March     | 98.4  | 101.6 | 108.4 | 109.7 | 109.5 | 113.2 |
| April     | 97.9  | 99.0  | 104.0 | 111.4 | 109.0 |       |
| May       | 99.3  | 99.7  | 105.7 | 108.2 | 110.6 |       |
| June      | 99.8  | 102.2 | 104.9 | 108.5 | 108.7 |       |
| July      | 98.6  | 99.2  | 105.5 | 111.2 | 112.5 |       |
| August    | 100.4 | 102.6 | 107.0 | 106.9 | 108.5 |       |
| September | 102.2 | 103.3 | 107.2 | 107.9 | 110.7 |       |
| October   | 100.9 | 102.0 | 107.3 | 108.6 | 112.5 |       |
| November  | 102.1 | 103.2 | 111.2 | 107.9 | 112.4 |       |
| December  | 103.4 | 101.1 | 107.6 | 103.4 | 110.9 |       |

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|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Year | 100.0 | 100.7 | 106.2 | 108.8 | 110.3 |
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**Source: CBS**