



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Surging profits for AEX listed companies

Dutch companies quoted on the Amsterdam Stock Exchange (AEX) reaped 70% more profits in the first half of this year than in the same period last year. The combined net profits amounted to 22.6 billion euros. The various sectors of industry contributed to this in differing degrees. The highest profits were made in manufacturing and financial institutions. Trade results doubled to reach 1.1 billion euros, while companies in the services, communications and telecommunications sectors did less well.

Strong recovery for manufacturing

Profits of manufacturing companies increased by 124% in the first half of 2000 to 12.9 billion euros. Most of the profits were realised in the machinery and electronics sectors and in the chemical sector. The strong increases were affected by both improved company results and important incidental factors. Rising oil prices pushed up profits in the chemical sector.

Financial institutions stand their ground

Up to 1999 banks and insurance companies never accounted for more than 30% of overall profits of stock exchange companies. In 1999 this share rose to 40%, and in the first half of 2000 financial institutions have retained this high level, with 39% of total profits. The net result for financial institutions in the first half of 2000 rose by 48% to 8.9 billion euros.

Losses for telecommunications and IT companies

Telecommunications companies quoted on the AEX suffered heavy losses in the first six months of 2000: company results plummeted from a profit of 232 million euros in the first half of 1999 to a loss of 942 million euros in 2000.

The net result for IT companies fell by just over 6%. Four of the sixteen companies in this sector closed the first half year with losses.

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Profit developments

In the first six months of 2000 105 of the AEX listed companies managed to improve their performance, while 45 did less well than last year. The total loss of the 21 companies who closed the first half of 2000 in the red was 1.2 billion euros.

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