



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## ***Foreign trade growth down in second quarter***

In the second quarter of 2001 the value of imports into the Netherlands was 6% higher than in the same quarter last year. Exports grew by 10%. The growth in the second quarter is lower than in the first quarter, according to provisional figures from Statistics Netherlands. In the first quarter of 2001 imports increased by 11% and exports by 15%. For the whole of 2000 imports grew by 21%, exports by 23%. The lower growth rates in the second quarter are caused by both smaller increases in price levels and in volume than in preceding quarters.

### ***Trade surplus continues strong growth***

The surplus on the balance of trade continued to rise strongly. The balance of trade for June was nearly 2.5 billion euro, bringing the surplus for the first half of this year to nearly 12 billion euro. This increase was the result of import growth decreasing faster than export growth.

### ***Lower growth rate for trade with non-EU countries***

The increase in goods trade with non-EU countries was 4% lower in June 2001 than twelve months previously, the increase in exports was 8% down. These developments were influenced by the slowing growth in global trade. For the whole of 2000 imports from countries outside the EU grew by 32% and exports to these countries by 29%.

In June the Netherlands imported 8.6 billion euro worth of goods from and exported over 4.5 billion euro's worth to countries outside the European Union. The gradual increase in the trade deficit with non-EU countries in recent years has turned around to a slight fall in the last few months. The deficit on the balance of trade for June was nearly 4 billion euro.

### ***Slower fall in growth for EU trade***

The fall in the growth rate for Dutch trade with EU countries in June 2001 is smaller than the decrease in trade growth with non-EU countries. In June 2001, 10.4 billion euro worth of goods were imported in the Netherlands from countries in the European Union, 6% more than in

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June last year. Exports to EU countries rose by 13% in June to nearly 17 billion euro. For the whole of 2000 imports from EU countries grew by 13% and exports to these countries by just over 21%.

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