

**Short economic review of the shopfitting industry in the Netherlands**

**Dutch economic situation**

The Dutch economy contracted 1 percent in 2013. The situation on the Dutch housing and labour market harms consumer confidence, this has serious consequences for consumer spending and retail sales.

**Shop fitting industry**

Only retail formulas are still investing in the interior of their shops, the individual retailer does not invest in the current economic climate. The individual retailer still uses almost 50 percent of the shopping surface. This development has serious consequences for the Dutch shop fitting industry, the market is shrinking and margins are under a lot of pressure.

For the near future we do not expect any improvements, main reasons for this are:

- Building activity will decrease in 2014
- Retail sales will remain on a low level

**Herman Jurrrius, CBM/WWI, Holland**

**Additional comments by Hans Haacke of Klinkers Interieur:**

The difficulties of Dutch retail is very much due to an over-establishment in good years, leading to many closed stores.

The spending on Internet-trade is ca. 16-17 mio Euro, and growing annually with double digits. It's easy, and fortunately leads to establishment of a number of showrooms and Internet Stores, as well as the transport business sector is profiting.

Forecasts say that maybe 35% of the shops will disappear in the coming years. The big question for the Retail Trade, and the CBM is:

"What to do?"

Minutes by Preben Bailey, ISO Secretary General.