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**Hookers and blow can boost your economic output, Dutch edition:** We've noted in recent weeks how economic statisticians in both Italy and the U.K. plan to add prostitution and drugs to their GDP statistics.

Turns out the Dutch have already done so. The wonks there conclude that the nation's famous red-light districts and "coffee shops" add 2.5 billion euros to the economy.

"It's slightly less than the total consumption of bread and probably a bit higher than the total consumption of cheese," says Peter Hein van Mulligen, a spokesman for Statistics Netherlands.



### *More than cheese?*

With this move, the Dutch are getting in line with new standards for economic statistics laid down by the European Union.

Curiously, the French do not plan to comply. "France will not be adding either the illegal drugs trade or illegal prostitution to its calculations of gross domestic output," Reuters reports, "because such transactions are not always based on mutual consent, its national statistics office said last week."

Gee, very little government spending is done by mutual consent either, but *that's* still included in GDP. Go figure..