



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## ***Consumer price index February 1999***

In February consumer prices were 0.5% higher than in January 1999, according to figures from Statistics Netherlands. The rise in prices was mainly caused by more expensive clothes and shoes. A rise in prices of around half a per cent point is quite usual at this time of year. Compared with one year ago February prices were 2.1% higher, that is around the same rate of inflation as in January. Dutch inflation remains one to one and a half per cent higher than that in the overall Eurozone.

### ***Consumer prices up 0.5% in February***

Consumer prices rose by 0.5% from January to February 1999. Clothes and shoes in particular were priced higher, as the new spring and summer collections entered the shops. This is quite a usual increase for this time of the year. Fresh fruit, soft drinks and holiday accommodation also cost more. Lower prices were observed for petrol, tools, fresh vegetables and eggs.

### ***Inflation unchanged at 2.1%***

February 1999 prices were on average 2.1% higher than those in February 1998. Inflation remains nearly the same level as in January when it was 2.2%. The harmonised consumer price index, which Statistics Netherlands calculates for comparison with in European Union, shows that internationally speaking this is quite a high rate. The harmonised index for the Netherlands was 2.1% for January, while for the 15 countries in the European Union it was only 0.9% and for the 11 countries in the Eurozone 0.8%. Dutch inflation is therefore one to one and a half per cent above that for the total Eurozone.

The harmonised index for the Netherlands is 2.0% higher than in February 1998. No February figures are yet available for other EU countries.

### ***Derived consumer index***

The derived consumer index eliminates the effects of indirect and consumption taxes. This derived index was 1.6% higher in February than one year ago. Of the

Statistics Netherlands  
Press Office

P.O. Box 4000  
2270 JM Voorburg  
The Netherlands  
tel. +31 70 337 58 16  
fax +31 70 337 59 71  
e-mail:  
persdienst@cbs.nl

Statistics Netherlands  
is a department of  
the Ministry of  
Economic Affairs

total inflation of 2.1%, therefore, 0.5% can be attributed to such indirect and consumption taxes.

For further information please contact the press office, tel. 070 337 58 16; e-mail: [persdienst@cbs.nl](mailto:persdienst@cbs.nl)