



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

PR99-087
14 April 1999
9.30 hrs

Strong increase in savings in 1998

Never has the Dutch population saved as much money as last year. At the end of 1998 there was 18 billion guilders more in savings accounts than at the end of 1997, bringing the total savings balance to 269 billion guilders. Statistics Netherlands figures show that company savings schemes remain popular. At the end of 1998 more than 4 million company savings accounts had been opened, 10% more than one year earlier. The amount in each savings account was an average 3,456 guilders.

Savings accounts contain 17 thousand guilders per inhabitant

In 1998 the total savings balance including company saving schemes increased by 7% to 269 billion guilders, the equivalent of 17 thousand guilders per inhabitant of the Netherlands. This was nearly 1,200 guilders per person more than in 1997 and four times the total amount twenty-five years ago.

Company savings also increasing strongly

The amount saved under company salary savings schemes grew by 2.3 billion guilders to a total of over 14 billion guilders. Some 4.7 billion guilders was put into company savings schemes, a little more than in 1997. The save-as-you-earn schemes where a fixed amount of the monthly wage is put aside were the most popular savings form, accounting for nearly three quarters of all company schemes.

Less money unfrozen

A total of 2.7 billion guilders was withdrawn from the wage-savings accounts; 1.8 billion guilders of this was released from unblocked accounts. Under the scheme, the accounts can only be unblocked if the money is used to by a home, a life insurance policy or if the employment is terminated.

In 1998 the first amounts were released without accounts having to be unfrozen; the total amount released in 1998 was 900 million guilders, only 40% of the amount put into the accounts in 1994..

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

For further information, please contact W. Vissers, tel. (070) 337 4576;
e-mail: wvss@cbs.nl.