



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Continuing surge in household spending

In the first quarter of 1999 the volume of domestic spending was 4% higher compared with the same period last year. The strong growth of household spending is strong contributor to Dutch economic growth, keeping it at the same level. According to figures from Statistics Netherlands the increase in spending has exceeded the Dutch economic growth for four quarters in a row. In the first quarter economic growth, estimated in terms of the volume trend of the GDP, amounted to 3.0%

Durable goods favourite

Of the consumption categories distinguished, durable consumer goods, which are the most sensitive to economic moods, had the highest growth rate in the first quarter (10.5%), continuing the strong volume growth of spending on durable goods in 1998. In the first quarter households spent more on transport, home furnishing and consumer electronics.

Less spent on food

Consumers spent less on food, drink and tobacco in the first quarter compared with the same period last year, the volume of was 2.9% down. The largest decrease was for potatoes, fruit and vegetables. Spending on food, drink and tobacco had already been under pressure throughout 1998 and it has hardly grown this year either.

Volume growth services and other goods 3.7%

About 66% of the total domestic spending was on the consumption category services and other goods, such as, spending on housing, gas and electricity, medical care, financial services and eating and drinking out. The volume of this spending was about 3.7% higher than in the first quarter of 1998, with consumers

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Statistics Netherlands
is a department of
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spending more money mainly on financial services, motor fuels, transport and communication.

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