



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

PR99-143  
4 June 1999  
10.30 hrs

## *Consumer price index May 1999*

According to Statistics Netherlands figures, on average consumer prices were as high as in April. Compared with May 1998 consumer prices were 2.3% higher.

### *Consumer prices May the same*

The average consumer price did not change between April and May. Fruit, petrol and furniture were more expensive this month while fresh vegetables, potatoes, coffee, eggs, clothing and shoes were slightly cheaper.

### *Inflation 2.3%*

In May 1999 prices were on average 2.3% higher than in May 1998, bringing the inflation to a slightly higher level than in the 2.2% of the preceding months.

Last year prices fell slightly around May, this year the prices remained about the same. The difference is particularly due to a slight drop in prices of clothing and shoes in May 1999.

### *Harmonised consumer price index*

In addition to the national consumer price index Statistics Netherlands also compiles the harmonised consumer price index; although this index facilitates comparisons between European countries, it does not give a complete picture of the Dutch national index.

In April the harmonised index in the Netherlands was 1.9% higher than in the previous year, in the 11 countries of the Eurozone the increase was 1.1%. Thus the inflation in the Netherlands was 0.8% higher than the average in the Eurozone; in January it was 1.3% higher in the Netherlands. In May the harmonised index puts Dutch inflation at 2.1%. The figures for May for the other countries of the Eurozone are not yet available.

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***Derived index***

In the derived index of Statistics Netherlands the effect of changes in the prices of indirect taxes and consumption taxes are eliminated from the price developments. In May 1999 the derived consumer price index was 1.8% higher compared with last year.

For further information, please contact Statistics Netherlands tel. + 31 70 337 58 70; press office: tel. + 31 70 337 58 16.