



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Consumer prices in August up 0.6%

According to the latest figures by Statistics Netherlands Dutch consumer prices went up 0.6% in August 1999. Clothing, shoes, fruits and vegetables, petrol and cigarettes became more expensive. Potato prices dropped sharply for the second month in a row.

The inflation rate, that is price developments compared to a year ago, is now 2.6%. This is the highest inflation rate in two years.

Clothing and shoes more expensive

In August the prices for a great many items went up. The price increase for shoes and clothing was steeper than in August last year. The new winter collection was already in the shops more often, and there were fewer summer clothes left on sale.

Vegetables and fruits became more expensive, but potatoes faced a 20% price cut. The high oil prices on the world market and the expensive US dollar the prices for car fuel increased. They are now up 9% on August last year. A pack of cigarettes went up 25 guilder cents in price.

Rising inflation

The inflation rate in the Netherlands is measured in terms of the consumer price index changes compared to the same month a year ago. The August inflation rate was 2.6%, half a percent more than in July.

According to Statistics Netherlands the rise may be caused by a number of incidents. For instance: The price developments in shoes and clothing. The influences caused by the early introduction of the new winter collection may have disappeared by next month. Time will tell whether or not this is the start of a period with higher inflation.

Definite rent increase figure: 3 percent

Last month, Statistics Netherlands published the preliminary figures on the July rent increases. The outcomes are now finalised: the average rent for

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dwellings is adjusted downwardly to 3.0%. This adjustment has no appreciable effect on the July totals.

The Derived Consumer Price Index

The derived CPI by Statistics Netherlands does not include the effect of increases in the indirect tax and consumer tax rates. The derived index for all households was up 0.6% on July this year and 2.1% up on August a year ago.

Harmonised Consumer Price Index

In March 1997 Statistics Netherlands introduced the harmonised CPI for the sake of international comparison within the European Union. This harmonised CPI for the Netherlands is not as capable of showing the national inflation rate as the regular CPI.

In July the average inflation rate in Europe was 1.1%. The harmonised CPI for the Netherlands stood at 1.8%. In August the inflation rate according to the harmonised CPI increased to 2.5% compared to August 1998. So far there are no figures for the other European countries on August.

For more information please contact

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Year on year percentage changes CPI all households

Procentuele verandering CPI-ALLE HUISHOUDENS t.o.v. de overeenkomstige maand een jaar eerder

