



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

PR99-258
8 October 1999
10.30 hrs

Inflation back at 2.2% in September

According to the consumer price index of Statistics Netherlands, the inflation rate was 2.2% for September 1999. This brings inflation back to the average level for the first seven months of this year.

Between August and September prices rose by an average half of one per cent. The prices of clothes and shoes rose, but by less than usual for this month. School and university fees also went up.

Inflation back at 2.2%

Dutch inflation is measured in terms of the increase in the consumer price index compared with the corresponding month in the previous year. In the months January to July this year, inflation was fairly steady at between 2.1% and 2.3%.

In August 2.6% was measured, and at the time Statistics Netherlands pointed out that this could have been caused by incidental factors. The increase for September comes out at 2.2%. This incidental blip in August was almost exclusively caused by the prices of clothes and shoes.

Clothes and shoes

Prices of clothing and footwear have a very clear seasonal pattern. When the new summer or winter collection enters the shops prices shoot up, only to fall again a few months later when the sales start. This is a six-monthly cycle. A small part of the price rise connected with the introduction of the winter collection is measured between July and August, but the largest part between August and September.

Compared with previous years, this year a larger price rise for clothing and footwear than usual was measured between July and August, but a much smaller one between August and September. This is connected with an earlier end to the summer sales and an earlier introduction of the winter collections. In August, clothes and shoes were on average 6.5% more expensive than one year previously, in September this was only 0.3%.

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September prices 0.5% higher than in August

Between August and September consumer prices rose by an average half of one per cent, mainly caused by the rise in prices of clothes and footwear. This is a small increase for the time of year. In addition to clothing and footwear, petrol and eggs cost more and university and school fees also went up.

Derived consumer price index

The derived consumer price index eliminates the effects of rate changes of indirect and consumer-related taxes. The derived index for September was half of one per cent higher than in August and 1.7% higher than in September last year.

Harmonised consumer price index

Statistics Netherlands also compiles a so-called harmonised consumer index for comparison with other countries in the European Union.

The average inflation in the 15 EU countries in August was 1.2%. For the 11 countries in the Eurozone, it was also 1.2%. The Dutch harmonised index was the highest in Europe in August with 2.5%. In September the harmonised index for the Netherlands comes out at 2%. Here, too, the price developments for clothes and footwear are the main cause of the incidentally high August figure. September figures for other EU countries are not yet available.

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