



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Inflation down in October

In October the Dutch inflation rate was 2.1%, according to the consumer price index of Statistics Netherlands, 0.1 of a percent point lower than in September.

Prices rose by an average 0.1% between September and October. Fresh vegetables and new cars were more expensive, while fresh fruit, potatoes and clothes were cheaper.

Prices slightly up between September and October

On average, consumer prices rose by 0.1% between September and October. Fresh vegetables and new cars were more expensive. Holiday accommodation was also slightly more expensive than in September because of the autumn half-term holiday. Fresh fruit, potatoes, cd's, clothes and footwear were cheaper. Clothes even cost slightly less than in October 1998.

Inflation lower

Inflation in the Netherlands is measured as the increase in the consumer price index compared with the same month in the previous year. Between October 1998 and October of this year prices rose by an average 2.1%. This is slightly less than the average in the first nine months of this year.

The slight fall in inflation is mainly caused by the price developments for clothing and footwear. The price of tobacco products remained unchanged from September to October this year, while last year prices rose strongly mainly because of an increase in the price of tobacco.

Derived consumer price index

In the derived consumer price index of Statistics Netherlands the effect of changes in the rates of

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indirect and consumption-related taxes are eliminated from the price developments. The derived index in October was 0.1% higher than in September and 1.5% higher than in October last year.

Harmonised consumer price index

In addition to the national consumer price index, since March 1987 Statistics Netherlands also compiles a so-called harmonised consumer price index for the European Union (EU). The harmonised index is used to compare inflation between countries of the EU, but is less accurate for national developments.

In September average inflation for the 15 countries of the EU was 1.2%. In the 11 countries of the Eurozone it was also 1.2% on average. In September inflation in the Netherlands according to the harmonised index was 2.0%.

In October the Dutch rate according to the harmonised index had fallen to 1.8%. No figures for October are available for the other EU countries.

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