



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## ***Consumption: growth rate levelling off***

The volume of domestic private consumer spending in the third quarter of 1999 was up 3.5% on the same period last year. The growth rate is not as high as in the previous quarters: 4.1% in the first and 3.8% in the second, although it remains substantial. Spending on durable goods in particular is not growing as fast as in previous quarters.

### ***Food: largest increase in two years***

In the third quarter, the level of spending on food, beverages and tobacco was up 2.0% on the same period of 1998. This volume increase may be modest, but it is the largest in two years. Despite this recovery, there is a slight reduction in the average spending on this consumption category in the nine months of 1999.

### ***Durable goods: growing slower***

The third quarter expenditure on durable goods was up 4.2% on the same period last year. This percentage is substantially lower than the growth rate of the previous quarters. Consumers hardly spent more on home decoration than in the third quarter of 1998, whereas substantially less was spent on the purchase of shoes and clothing. Consumer electronics and means of transport remained popular, although the growth rate there was not as high.

### ***Other goods: growth rate 4.1%***

Expenditure levels on other goods, such as energy and fuel were up 4.1% on the third quarter of 1998. Energy use fell under the influence of the beautiful weather.

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**Services: stable growth**

Services are the largest consumption category. The volume of third quarter expenditure was up 3.4% on a year ago. Transport and communications, as well as financial and commercial services saw major volume increases. Consumers also spent a lot more money in hotels and restaurants, under the influence of the beautiful weather.

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**Percentage changes in domestic consumer spending**

*Percentage changes on the previous year*

1999	Q2	Q3	Jul.	Aug.	Sep	Jan. - Sep.
<b>VOLUME CHANGES</b>						
Food	0,0	2,0	4,5	-1,8	3,1	-0,2
Durables	8,2	4,2	4,3	3,6	4,7	7,6
Other goods	3,3	4,1	6,0	4,2	2,3	3,7
Services	3,4	3,4	3,5	3,0	3,8	3,5
<b>Private consumption domestic</b>	<b>3,8</b>	<b>3,5</b>	<b>4,1</b>	<b>2,7</b>	<b>3,7</b>	<b>3,8</b>
Private consumption national	4,1	3,9	4,4	3,2	3,9	4,1
<b>VALUE CHANGES</b>						
Food	2,0	3,3	5,2	-0,2	4,7	1,7
Durables	9,0	5,0	5,1	5,5	4,6	8,3
Other goods	5,4	8,5	9,8	8,7	6,9	6,0
Services	6,3	6,2	6,4	5,8	6,5	6,2
<b>Private consumption domestic</b>	<b>6,2</b>	<b>5,9</b>	<b>6,4</b>	<b>5,3</b>	<b>6,0</b>	<b>6,0</b>
Individual consumption national	6,3	6,3	6,7	5,9	6,3	6,2

**Source, Statistics Netherlands**