



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Consumption in October: modest increase

The volume of individual consumption in the Netherlands in October 1999 was up 2.2% on the same month in 1998. This was the lowest monthly growth rate observed by Statistics Netherlands in the first ten months of 1999. Household consumption saw an exceptionally high growth rate of more than 4% in 1998. This levelled out, albeit at a high level, in the course of 1999. The average consumption increase in the first ten months of 1999 was 3.6%.

Food: expenditure influenced by calendar

The level of spending on food, beverages and tobacco in October 1999 was down 3.9% down on October 1998. This was mainly due to differences in calendar days. In 1998, 1 November was a Sunday, so much of the food shopping for this Sunday had been done in October. October 1999 had one Sunday more and one Thursday less, which is a less favourable shopping day pattern than last year.

Durable goods: growth rate slowing down

Expenditure on durable consumer goods grew less, especially in the second half of 1999. The volume increase in this consumption category stood at 2.7%, the lowest change observed so far in the months of 1999. Due to the high growth rate of the first half of 1999 the average for the first 10 months remains relatively high (7.0%). In this period people spent more on new cars and household appliances.

Other goods: slow growth

The expenditure level on other goods, including energy and fuel was up 0.7% on October 1998. There was a drop in energy consumption.

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Services: stable growth

The volume of expenditure on services was up 3.7% on October 1998. This brought the average growth rate for the first ten months of 1999 at 3.5%. During this period there were substantial increases in transport and communication and in financial and business services.

Services form by far the largest consumption category. Services include housing, hotels, restaurants, medical care and welfare, transport and communication. Services make up about half of domestic consumption.

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Domestic Individual consumption. Percentage changes on the previous year/
Ontwikkeling van de individuele consumptie (binnenlands)
 Procentuele mutaties t.o.v. dezelfde periode een jaar eerder

1999	Q/Kw 2	Q/Kw 3	Aug.	Sep.	Oct .	Jan- Oct.
Volume changes						
VOLUMEMUTATIES						
Food, beverages, tobacco/Voedings- en genotmiddelen	0,0	1,9	-1,9	3,2	- 3,9	-0,6
Durable goods/Duurzame goederen	8,2	4,2	3,5	4,6	2,7	7,0
Other goods/Overige goederen	3,3	4,2	4,7	2,2	0,7	3,4
Services/Diensten	3,4	3,4	2,9	3,8	3,7	3,5
Domestic individual consumption/Individuele consumptie binnenland	3,8	3,5	2,7	3,7	2,2	3,6
National individual consumption/Individuele consumptie nationaal	4,1	3,7	3,3	3,5	2,5	3,9
Valuechanges/						
WAARDEMUTATIES						
Food, beverages and tobacco/Voedings- en genotmiddelen	2,0	3,2	-0,3	4,8	- 2,6	1,3
Durable goods/Duurzame goederen	9,0	5,0	5,3	4,5	2,3	7,6
Other goods/Overige goederen	5,4	8,5	9,2	6,8	4,7	5,9
Services/Diensten	6,3	6,2	5,7	6,6	6,9	6,3
Domestic individual consumption/Individuele consumptie binnenland	6,2	5,9	5,3	6,0	4,5	5,8
National individual consumption/Individuele consumptie nationaal	6,3	6,1	5,9	5,8	4,9	6,0

Source/Bron: Statistics Netherlands/CBS

