



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## ***Slightly higher inflation in April***

The Dutch inflation rate in April 2000 was slightly higher than in the first quarter of this year. Compared to a year ago consumer prices went up by an average of 2.1%, according to the latest Consumer Price Index figures by Statistics Netherlands.

There was an increase of 0.4% on average on March. Fresh fruit and vegetables became more expensive, as did package holidays. Petrol was slightly cheaper.

### ***Inflation rate at 2.1%***

Dutch inflation is measured in terms of year on year increases in the consumer price index (CPI). The comparison with April 1999 and April 2000 shows an inflation rate of 2.1%. This means that it exceeded the first quarter inflation rate. In January and February there was a 2.0% inflation rate followed by 1.9% in March. This slight increase is mainly due to price rises in fresh fruit and vegetables.

### ***Derived consumer price index***

The derived CPI calculated by Statistics Netherlands has eliminated the effect of changes in indirect and consumption-related taxes on price developments. The Derived CPI in April 2000 was up 1.7% on April 1999.

### ***Slight April on March increase***

On average April consumer prices were up 0.4% on March. Fresh fruits and vegetables became more expensive, as did coffee. Package holidays for this summer are 3.8% more expensive than last year. Holiday accommodations in the Netherlands were also more expensive this month.

Car fuel was cheaper in April than in March, the price of potatoes continued to fall.

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### ***Harmonised consumer price index***

On March 1997 Statistics Netherlands started with the harmonised CPI on the Netherlands. It is calculated for the benefit of comparison between the EU member states, but is not the best way to show national inflation.

The average inflation rate in March for the 15 EU member states was 1.9%. In the 11 countries in the Eurozone the average observed was 2.1%. According to the European standard, Dutch inflation stood at 1.6% in March. It is the second lowest behind Portugal within the Eurozone. The inflation rate was also lower in two EU countries that did not join the monetary union, the UK and Sweden.

In April the Dutch inflation rate according to the European standard stood at 1.7%. There are no April figures available yet on the other member states.

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### ***For further information please contact***

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Percentage changes CPI of all households on the same month the year before