



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Consumption high and stable

The level of domestic individual consumption in May was up 3.7% on May 1999. The growth rate of expenditure on services (3.6%) was a little lower than the volume increase of expenditure on goods (3.8%), according to the latest figures by Statistics Netherlands.

Household consumption has been growing fast for some time. The volume of domestic consumption in the first quarter of 2000 was up by 4.5% on the same quarter in 1999. The increase averaged 4% in the months January through May.

Food, beverages and tobacco more in demand

Expenditure on food, beverages and tobacco increased by 0.4% in May. The volume changes in this consumption category can vary tremendously between months because of differences in shopping days. In the first five months of the year the volume growth rate stands at 2%, which is a relatively great increase for this category. In the last two years the annual increase was less than 1%. So it seems that recovery set in during the first months of 2000.

Purchase of durables growing substantially

The volume growth of expenditure on durable goods in May was 6.4%. Consumers spent most on clothing, shoes, consumer electronics and furnishings. In January through May the volume of expenditure on durables was up almost 6% on the same period in 1999. The great increase in the purchasing of durable goods compares well with the outcomes of the monthly consumer survey carried out by Statistics Netherlands. It shows a high degree of willingness to purchase, great confidence in the economy and in the respondents' own financial situation.

Continuous growth for services

The volume of consumption of services in May was up 3.6% on May 1999. The largest increase in the first months of 2000 took place in transport and communication services. The growing popularity of mobile telephones stimulates growth. Services are the largest consumption category. The expenditure on services shows a series of very consistent growth figures, staying around 3.5% in the last three years.

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Statistics Netherlands
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Expenditure on other goods up 3.0%

The volume of expenditure on other goods increased by 3.0% in May. This consumption category includes energy, fuel and non-durables such as flowers, plants, magazines, newspapers, medicine, make-up and cleansers.

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