



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Consumption stable at high level

Volume growth in domestic individual consumption remains high. It rose by 3.3% in the period July-August compared to the same period a year ago. This is almost equal to the second quarter growth rate. According to the latest figures by Statistics Netherlands the growth rate in consumption during the first 8 months of 2000 is 3.8%.

The figures for July and August show substantial fluctuation because of a difference in shopping days. For July the growth rate was rather small, with a 1.0% increase in expenditure. While the consumption level in August was up 5.6% on a year ago.

Growth rate slowing down in durable goods

Expenditure on durables is slowing down. Growth in the first 8 months of this year was 3.7% up on the same period in 1999. For 1998 as a whole the growth rate was 8.8%, while in 1999 it was 7.4%. Car sales were considerably lower in this period than a year ago.

Slight recovery in food

Expenditure on food, beverages and tobacco is picking up. The expenditure level in the first 8 months of this year was up 1.3% on the same period in 1999. In the previous two years the growth rate in this consumption category never exceeded 1%.

Services up

There is an accelerated growth rate in the consumption of services. In 1998 it was 4.0%, in 1999 it was 3.5% while in the first 8 months of 2000 the volume of total expenditure on services was up 4.4% on the same period of 1999. This can be attributed to double-digit growth rates in transport and communication and financial and business services.

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