



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## ***Consumer spending 4.7% up in November***

The volume of domestic consumer spending was 4.7% higher in November 2000 than in the same month in 1999. This relatively high growth rate was partly caused by a favourable pattern of shopping days. For durable consumer goods, the volume was 8.3% higher in November than one year earlier. Within this category, consumer electronics and means of transport were especially popular according to figures from Statistics Netherlands.

### ***Consumption growth stable at lower level***

The volume of consumption volume rose by 3.6% in the first eleven months of 2000. With the effect of the leap day, the growth was largest in the first quarter, weakening in subsequent quarters. For October and November together consumption growth was 3.3%, in line with the increase in spending in the second and third quarters. The growth in spending on durables levelled off: in the first eleven months of 2000 growth was only 3.5%, less than half of the 7.4% observed for the whole of 1999.

### ***New cars affect spending on durable goods***

Spending on durable goods was 8.3% up in November on the same month in 1999. Most noticeably, consumers spent considerably more on means of transport, while until then the number of new cars bought in 2000 was much lower than the high figures in 1999. Consumers may have purchased such items in November in anticipation of the increase in VAT which took effect on 1 January 2001.

### ***Spending on services remains high***

Compared with November 1999, the volume of spending on services was 4.3% higher in November 2000. In the first eleven months of 2000, spending on financial and business services, and on transport and communication rose particularly strongly. Spending on cultural activities and recreation, housing, medical care and in hotels and restaurants, etc. increased more moderately, by two to three per cent.

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