



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## ***Cost of health care up by more than 6%***

The cost of health care went up by 6.3% in the year 2000 according to the preliminary figures by Statistics Netherlands. The total amount involved was 72.8 billion guilders (33.0 billion euro). In 1999 the increase in costs was 5.6%. The increase in 2000 was due to higher wages in intramural health care, higher rates charged by GPs, dentists, physiotherapists and midwives, and extra capacity hired for clearing the waiting lists (in care for the disabled and home care).

In 2000 the increase in costs was below the GDP growth rate. The share of health insurance funds and the AWBZ (exceptional medical expenses act) in financing health care both increased.

### ***Share in GDP down slightly***

Health care costs went up by 5.6% in 1999 and 6.3% in 2000. The Gross Domestic Product in market prices increased by 5.6% in 1999 and by 7.1% in 2000. This development means that the share of the cost of health care in GDP fell from 8.3% in 1999 to 8.2% in 2000.

### ***Cost of intramural care up 5.8%***

The cost of intramural health care, not including psychiatric hospitals went up by 5.8% in 2000 to a total amount of 34.0 billion guilders (15.4 billion euro). This is almost half the total cost for health care as a whole. The costs for institutions caring for the mentally disabled went up by 6.9%, for nursing homes by 5.6% and for hospitals by 5.7%. These increases are mainly caused by higher wages in these sectors.

### ***Extramural care 7.0% more expensive***

Extramural health care, excluding regional health care went up by 7.0% to 30.0 billion guilders (13.6 billion euro). The costs increase among independent practitioners varied from 3.7% in physiotherapists to 17.5% for midwives. In the latter category the increased rates played a dominant role. Medicine went up 6.5%. Home care costs were 13.5% higher mainly because of the extra capacity and the extra financial means involved in clearing the waiting lists.

Statistics Netherlands  
Press Office

P.O. Box 4000  
2270 JM Voorburg  
The Netherlands  
tel. +31 70 337 58 16  
fax +31 70 337 59 71  
e-mail:  
persdienst@cbs.nl

Statistics Netherlands  
is a department of  
the Ministry of  
Economic Affairs

### ***Mental health care costs up 7.0%***

Mental health care costs went up by 7.0% to 5.7 billion guilders (2.6 billion euro). Mental health care includes psychiatric hospitals, regional mental health care, independent psychiatrists, as well as regional institutions for living in sheltered care.

### ***Share health insurance funds and Exceptional Medical Expenses Act***

The Health Insurance Funds absorb the greatest amount of health care financing. According to Statistics Netherlands the outlays by health insurance funds went up by 9.6% in 2000 to 28.3 billion guilders (12.8 billion euro). This substantial increase is also caused by the influx of the self-employed in the health insurance fund and by clearing the backlog in financing of hospital nursing.

The cost financed under the Exceptional Medical Expenses Act increased by 8.3% in 2000 to 22.0 billion guilders (10.0 billion euro), because of the extra financial means laid out for clearing the waiting lists mainly in the care for the disabled and home care. Government financing went up by 3.3% to 3.0 billion guilders (1.4 billion euro).

For more information please contact. J.M. Smit, tel. (070) 337 52 94.