



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

PR01-122  
8-6-2001  
9:30 AM

## ***Inflation rate in May as high as in April***

According to the latest Consumer Price Index by Statistics Netherlands, the Dutch inflation rate in May 2001 reached 4.9%, the same as in April. This is the highest level since October 1982.

The energy prices contributed less to the inflation rate than in April.

Statistics Netherlands not only calculates the National CPI but also the European harmonised CPI for the Netherlands. The inflation rate derived from it went up slightly by 0.1% on April to 5.4% in May. The April figure was the highest in the European Union.

### ***Influences of energy and food***

The Dutch inflation rate is measured in terms of the increase in the consumer price index on the same month the previous year. Dutch inflation rate in May 2001 was 4.9%, the same as in April. According to Statistics Netherlands the inflation rate has been on the rise since the spring of 2000. For instance, the inflation rate was 2.1% in April 2000, and 2.4% in May 2000. The increase then could be attributed mainly to higher energy prices. This is one reason why the price increase in energy prices for May 2001 compared to May 2000 was lower than the April on April increase. On the other hand, the prices of food and in hotels, restaurants etc increased more in May 2001 than in April 2001 on the same months in 2000.

In virtually all categories of expenditure prices are up on a year ago. Food prices increased most, by 9.0%, against 8.6% in April. In this category, vegetables, potatoes meat and fish became much more expensive.

Although the share of energy products in the growing inflation fell slightly, it remains high. Electricity and gas went up 13.9% in price in one year. Car fuels are almost 6% more expensive than a year ago, against 9.3% in April.

### ***Prices up 0.3% in May***

The May on April 2001 consumer price increase averaged 0.3%. Food prices went up by 0.9%, with fruit, vegetables and potatoes becoming

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

much more expensive. Car fuel prices also went up in May albeit not as much as last month.

### ***Derived CPI***

In May and April the derived CPI for households of employees on a low income was up by an average of 4.0% on a year ago. This index is often used in adjusting government rates, collective wage agreements (CAO) and other contracts.

The effects of higher VAT and Ecotax rates that took effect in January are eliminated in the derived CPI.

### ***Dutch inflation rate far above the European average***

Statistics Netherlands calculates the national consumer price index and the European harmonised CPI for the Netherlands. The harmonised CPI is part of the inflation rate figure for the Eurozone, the official guideline for monetary policy at the European Central Bank.

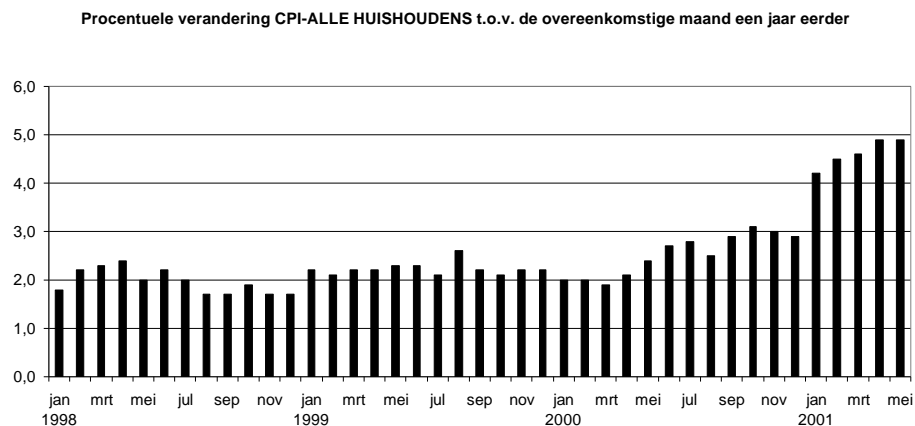
In May 2001 the Dutch inflation rate according to the harmonised CPI stood at 5.4%. In April 2001 it was 5.3% according to the European standard, the highest in the EU. Eurostat will publish the results for the Eurozone and all member states on 18 June.

In April the inflation rate in the Eurozone averaged 2.9%. The second highest inflation rate is found in Portugal, with 4.6%. Then come Ireland with 4.3% and Spain with 4.0%.

For more information about inflation please contact Jan Eefting, tel. (070) 337 55 11.

### ***CPI all households***

#### ***Percentage changes on the same month a year ago***



## Harmonised CPI, the Netherlands, EU-15, Euro-12

Geharmoniseerde index van consumentenprijzen (1996=100)

### Nederland

	Jan.	Febr.	Maart	April	Mei	Juni	Juli	Aug.	Sept.	Okt.	Nov.	Dec.	Jaar
1996	98,7	99,2	100,4	100,7	100,3	99,8	99,5	99,3	100,4	100,7	100,5	100,4	100,0
1997	100,4	100,6	101,6	101,7	101,9	101,3	101,4	101,8	102,9	103,0	103,0	102,6	101,9
1998	102,0	102,7	103,8	104,2	104,0	103,5	103,2	103,2	104,2	104,5	104,5	104,1	103,7
1999	104,1	104,8	105,9	106,2	106,2	105,7	105,1	105,8	106,3	106,4	106,6	106,1	105,8
2000	105,8	106,4	107,6	108,0	108,3	108,3	108,0	108,4	109,4	109,8	109,7	109,2	108,2
2001	110,6	111,6	112,9	113,7	114,1	*)							

### EU-15

	Jan.	Febr.	Maart	April	Mei	Juni	Juli	Aug.	Sept.	Okt.	Nov.	Dec.	Jaar
1996	98,8	99,2	99,6	99,9	100,1	100,2	100,0	100,1	100,4	100,5	100,5	100,7	100,0
1997	100,9	101,2	101,3	101,4	101,7	101,7	101,7	101,9	102,1	102,2	102,3	102,4	101,7
1998	102,2	102,5	102,7	103,0	103,2	103,3	103,2	103,2	103,3	103,3	103,3	103,4	103,0
1999	103,2	103,4	103,8	104,2	104,3	104,3	104,3	104,4	104,6	104,6	104,8	105,1	104,3
2000	105,0	105,4	105,8	106,0	106,1	106,5	106,5	107,1	107,2	107,5	107,5	107,5	106,4
2001	107,3	107,8	108,2	108,8	*)								

### EURO-12, CPIMU <sup>1)</sup>

	Jan.	Febr.	Maart	April	Mei	Juni	Juli	Aug.	Sept.	Okt.	Nov.	Dec.	Jaar
1996	98,9	99,3	99,7	99,9	100,1	100,1	100,2	100,1	100,2	100,4	100,4	100,6	100,0
1997	100,9	101,2	101,3	101,2	101,5	101,5	101,6	101,8	101,9	101,9	102,0	102,1	101,6
1998	102,0	102,3	102,4	102,6	102,8	102,9	102,9	102,9	102,9	102,8	102,8	102,9	102,7
1999	102,8	103,1	103,4	103,7	103,8	103,8	104,0	104,1	104,1	104,2	104,3	104,7	103,8
2000	104,8	105,2	105,6	105,7	105,8	106,3	106,4	106,5	107,0	107,0	107,3	107,4	106,3
2001	107,3	107,9	108,3	108,8	*)								

<sup>1)</sup> Consumentenprijsindex voor de monetaire unie.