



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Consumption growth in May 2.0%

Domestic consumption increased by 2.0% in May compared to May last year. Expenditure on durable consumer goods was higher than in May last year, whereas the year-on-year comparison for the previous four months had been lower. The only category on which consumers spent slightly less in May was on food, beverages and tobacco, according to the latest figures by Statistics Netherlands, which are corrected for price changes.

Modest volume growth in expenditure on goods

There was a modest volume growth in the expenditure on goods. The volume of expenditure on durable goods in May was 1.2% higher than in May 2000. The purchase of means of transport was again lower than last year but less so than in the previous four months.

Expenditure in May on food, beverages and tobacco were 0.3% below last year's level. There have been remarkably big price increases in this category during the first five months. In May, the products fish, meat, potatoes, vegetables and fruits went up in price by more than 10% compared to May 2000.

The consumption of energy, fuel and other goods increased by 2.8%.

Consumption of services levelling off

In May consumers the growth rate in services was 2.6%. In the first months of the year the volume increase in expenditure on this consumption category lagged behind that of previous years. The high growth rate levels have been falling in financial and business services and in transports and communication. Nearly 60% of domestic consumption is services-related

Consumption growing less than in 2000

The average growth rate of domestic individual consumption by households during the first five months of this year stood at 1.4%. For the year 2000 as a whole the growth rate was nearly twice that figure. So far the new tax system hasn't produced any observable positive effect on consumption yet.

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

For more information please contact K. van der Ven, tel. (070) 337 48 66

Household consumption
Year-on-year percentage changes

	2000 Year	2001 Q1	2001 Mar	2001 Apr	2001 May	2001 Jan-May
VOLUME CHANGES						
Food	0.9	1.5	2.4	-6.4	-0.3	-0.5
Durables	4.5	-3.3	-0.9	-3.1	1.2	-2.3
Other goods	2.8	2.5	3.2	1.4	2.8	2.4
Services	4.4	2.8	2.5	2.4	2.6	2.7
Domestic individual consumption <i>(within the Netherlands)</i>	3.8	1.5	2.0	0.3	2.0	1.4
National individual consumption <i>(consumption by the Dutch)</i>	3.8	1.8	2.2	0.5	2.6	1.7
VALUE CHANGES						
Food	2.2	6.6	8.8	0.9	7.6	5.7
Durables	4.8	-1.1	1.9	-0.7	3.7	0.0
Other goods	10.1	10.8	10.1	8.9	9.3	10.1
Services	7.8	6.5	6.3	6.5	6.7	6.5
Domestic individual consumption <i>(within the Netherlands)</i>	6.9	5.7	6.3	4.8	6.5	5.7
National individual consumption <i>(consumption by the Dutch)</i>	6.9	6.0	6.5	4.9	7.1	6.0

Source: Statistics Netherlands

