



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Consumption 2.7% higher in June

Domestic consumption expenditure was 2.7% higher in June this year than in the same month last year. This was the first time this year that all categories of consumption showed an increase in volume, according to figures from Statistics Netherlands. The volume of spending on goods was 3.0% up on June last year, that of spending on services 2.4%.

Durable goods most popular

The volume increase in spending on durable goods such as consumer electronics, clothes, furniture and cars was 4.3% in June. The sharp fall in spending on means of transport in the first months of this year seems to have come to an end, although in June too, less was spent on this category. For the first time since March spending on food increased modestly in June (0.6%). The volume of spending on other goods was 3.4% higher than in June last year. This category includes consumption of energy and motor fuels. Spending on services was 2.4% higher in June. The growth rate of spending on services was clearly lower in the first half of 2001 than in recent years.

Consumption 1.6% up in first half of 2001

The volume of domestic consumer spending was 1.6% higher in the first half of this year than in the same period last year. This is a smaller growth than in recent years. The increase in the second quarter of 2001 was a fraction higher than that in the first quarter, partly because of incidental factors. Extra spending at the end of last year slowed down growth in the first quarter of this year.

Consumption growth in the first half of 2001 was strongly affected by the decrease in spending on cars. Partly because much less was spent on these items than twelve months previously, the volume of spending on these durable goods was much lower in the first six months of 2001. Consumers started to spend more again on cars in the course of the second quarter.

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