



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Inflation in August hardly changed

In August the Dutch inflation rate increased to 4.7%, up 0.1% on last month. Rounding up plays a major role in this increase, according to the consumer price index (CPI) calculated by Statistics Netherlands.

Apart from the national consumer price index Statistics Netherlands also calculates the European harmonised consumer price index for the Netherlands. According to these criteria The Dutch inflation rate was 5.2% in August, down 0.1 % on July.

Hardly any significant price changes in August

In August 2001 the inflation rate in the Netherlands was 4,7 %. Tobacco products became more expensive during the month. Fresh fruit hardly changed in price, so that it contributed less to inflation this month; last year fresh fruit prices increased in August. For the rest there is no product group that changed the inflation rate in any significant way this month.

Between December 2000 and January 2001 prices increased rapidly, from 2.9 to 4.2 %. In the next few months the inflation rate fluctuated between 4.5 and 4.9 %. The average inflation rate during the first eight months of this year was 4.6 % while during the same period in 2000 the inflation rate was 2.3 %.

Rent prices up 2.7 %

The price of renting a house increased by 2.7% on 1 July this year. The final outcome of the rent survey, which are now available, confirm the preliminary figures published last month.

Prices in August up by an average of 0.3 %

Between July and August 2001 consumer prices increased by an average of 0.3%, mainly because of higher prices for clothing and shoes. These increases are normal for the time of the year, due to introduction of the new winter collection. Dairy products and tobacco likewise went up in price, potatoes were a bit cheaper.

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Derived consumer price index

The derived index for employee households on a low income was up by an average of 3.8% on August a year ago. This index is often used for adjusting government rates, collective agreements and other contracts.

In the derived index the effects of the VAT and Ecotax rate increases as of 1 January have been eliminated.

Dutch inflation rate well above the European average

Statistics Netherlands not only calculates the national consumer price index but also the European harmonised consumer price index for the Netherlands. This index makes up part of the inflation rate of the Eurozone, which is the official guideline for the monetary policy by the European Central Bank.

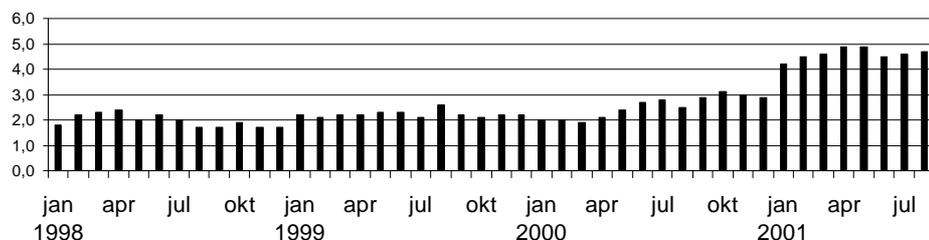
In July the inflation rate in the Eurozone averaged 2.8 % whereas the Dutch inflation rate according to the harmonised index was 5.3 %. This made it again the highest inflation rate in the Eurozone. Moreover, compared to June the Dutch inflation rate increased by 0.2% whereas the average inflation rate in the Eurozone fell by 0.2 %.

In August 2001 the inflation rate for the Netherlands, according to the harmonised index was 5.2%. Eurostat will publish the August figures on the Eurozone and on the European Union member states on 18 September.

For more information please contact Jan Walschots, tel. (070) 337 55 11.

Month on month percentage changes CPI all households

Procentuele verandering CPI-ALLE HUISHOUDENS t.o.v. de overeenkomstige maand een jaar eerder



Source: CBS

Harmonised CPI for the 15 EU member states

*)

	Total index	Jul-01
	1996=100	t.o.v.
	Jul-01	Jul-00
France	106,6	2,2
Luxembourg	109,6	2,4
Germany	108,1	2,6
Finland	109,7	2,6
Belgium	108,4	2,7
Austria	107,1	2,8
Italy	111,6	2,8
Spain	114,1	3,7
Ireland	116,4	4,0
Greece	118,7	4,2
Portugal	114,9	4,3
Netherlands	113,7	5,3
CPIMU	109,4	2,8
UK	106,9	1,4
Denmark	110,8	2,3
Sweden	107,4	2,9
EURO-15	109,3	2,6

*) preliminary figures.

Source: Eurostat/CBS