



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

PR01-271
29-11-2001
9:30 AM

Third quarter consumption growth 1.5%

The volume of domestic individual consumption in the third quarter was up 1.5% on the same period last year. During the first nine months of this year the growth rate was about the same. According to the latest figures by Statistics Netherlands consumption is still showing some growth, in contrast to several other economic indicators, even if the increase is smaller than last year.

Recovery of consumption of durable goods

The consumption of durable goods continues on the road to recovery. The dip in the first quarter (-3.1%) was followed by a modest volume increase (0.9%) in the second quarter. Third quarter growth came down to 1.8%. The increase in expenditure on clothing and textile, transport and consumer electronics compensated for the decrease in expenditure on shoes, household furnishings and articles. The third quarter growth rate of this year was positively influenced by the relatively low level of expenditure on means of transport during the third quarter of 2000.

When price corrections are taken into account, consumers spent 2.2% less on food, beverages and tobacco during the third quarter compared to the same period last year. There was already a dip during the second quarter. In terms of value the expenditure in the third quarter increased by over 5%. Food, beverages and tobacco went up quite a bit in price this year.

The volume of expenditure on other goods was up 2.2% on the third quarter in 2000. This consumption category includes expenditure on medicines, cosmetics, flowers and plants, cleanser, books, energy and fuel.

Slowdown in growth rate for consumption of services

The volume increase in expenditure on services is clearly lower than in previous years. Consumption in services was up 2.0% in the third quarter. The volume of expenditure is down for hotel and restaurant services and for financial and business services. While the high growth rates in transport and communication have kept sliding further and further this year, the expenditure on medical and social services has starting to climb

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Statistics Netherlands
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Household consumption
Year-on-year percentage changes

	2001 Q 2	2001 Q 3	2001 Jul	2001 Aug	2001 Sep	2001 Jan- Sep
VOLUME CHANGES						
Food	-2.0	-2.2	-2.4	2.2	-6.3	-1.1
Durables	0.9	1.8	0.5	2.6	2.4	-0.1
Other goods	3.2	2.2	2.8	2.9	1.0	2.5
Services	2.7	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.5
Domestic individual consumption <i>(inside the Netherlands)</i>	1.9	1.5	1.3	2.3	1.0	1.6
National individual consumption <i>(By the Dutch)</i>	2.1	1.6	1.7	2.2	0.9	1.7
VALUE CHANGES						
Food	6.0	5.3	5.1	9.8	1.1	5.9
Durables	4.4	4.5	3.3	5.2	5.0	2.6
Other goods	10.3	6.4	7.0	7.2	4.9	8.9
Services	7.0	6.3	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.7
Domestic individual consumption <i>(inside the Netherlands)</i>	6.8	5.9	5.7	6.7	5.3	6.1
National individual consumption <i>(By the Dutch)</i>	6.9	5.9	6.0	6.6	5.1	6.2

Source: Statistics Netherlands