



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

PR02-20
30-1-2002
9:30 AM

Consumption growth in November 2.6%

The volume of domestic consumption expenditure in November 2001 was up 2.6% on November 2000. The growth rate in October was also in this range. November 2001 had a more favourable pattern of shopping days than November 2000.

Consumers spent 3.1% more on goods in November, which is the figure corrected for price changes. Consumer spending on services increased by 2.2% according to the latest figures by Statistics Netherlands.

Expenditure on durable goods recovering

The volume growth in the consumption of durable goods was 4.0% in November 2001. Sales in shoes, leather products and household articles were the only ones that fell. Expenditure on durable goods recovered in the course of 2001 from a dip in the first quarter. The purchase of new cars turned increasingly positive.

The volume of expenditure on food, beverages and tobacco was up 2.4% on November the year before. The price increases in this category were not as high as in previous months.

Consumption growth rate nearly halved in 2001

The year on year comparisons show that domestic consumption increased by 1.8% in the first eleven months of 2001. 1998 was a record year in consumption, with a 4.5% increase. The growth rate remained high for several years, with a 3.5% growth rate observed in 2000. The fact that the growth rate in consumption was halved in 2001 should be attributed mainly to the modest development of expenditure on durable goods. The volume growth rate for the first eleven months of 2001 was barely 1%. Consumers mainly bought fewer cars. In previous years the expenditure on durable goods increased between 5 and 10%.

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Household consumption*Year on year % changes*

	2001 Q 2	2001 Q 3	2001 Sep	2001 Oct	2001 Nov	2001 Jan- Nov
VOLUME CHANGES						
Food	-2.0	-2.2	-6.2	2.2	2.4	-0.5
Durables	0.9	1.7	2.5	4.4	4.0	0.7
Other goods	3.2	2.2	0.9	3.2	2.2	2.5
Services	2.7	2.1	1.9	2.1	2.2	2.4
Individual domestic consumption	1.9	1.5	1.0	2.7	2.6	1.8
<i>(consumption in the</i>						
<i>Individual national consumption</i>	2.1	1.6	0.8	2.7	2.5	1.9
<i>(consumption by the Dutch)</i>						
VALUE CHANGES						
Food	6.0	5.5	1.4	10.0	8.9	6.6
Durables	4.4	5.3	6.0	6.6	6.4	3.6
Other goods	10.3	6.7	5.2	5.7	5.2	8.4
Services	7.0	6.6	6.4	6.7	6.8	6.7
Individual domestic consumption	6.8	6.2	5.6	6.9	6.7	6.3
<i>(consumption in the</i>						
<i>Individual national consumption</i>	6.9	6.2	5.4	6.8	6.5	6.4
<i>(consumption by the Dutch)</i>						

**Source: Statistics
Netherlands**