



# Press release

PB02-105  
31 May 2002  
9:30 AM

www.cbs.nl

Statistics Netherlands  
is a department of  
the Ministry of  
Economic Affairs

## ***Dutch people travel 35 kilometres a day***

Last year, the population of the Netherlands aged 12 years and older travelled an average distance of 35 kilometres a day. In 1985 this was still only 30 kilometres. In the last 16 years, therefore, mobility has risen by one percent per year. Total mobility has risen by 30 percent since 1985, to 188 billion kilometres in 2001. According to figures from Statistics Netherlands, this increase in mobility is mainly caused by the growth in the number of kilometres travelled by car

### ***Car drivers contribute most to increasing mobility***

The number of kilometres travelled by car drivers grew by more than 43 percent between 1985 and 2001. They contributed most to the increase in mobility. The number of kilometres travelled by car passengers rose by only 16 percent, which means that car drivers more often travel alone. This trend continued in 2001.

### ***Commuter distances increasing***

The average distance between home and work has been increasing for a number of years now. While people lived an average 13 kilometres from their place of work in 1985, this had risen to nearly 17 kilometres in 2001. People who use the car to travel to work as a driver or passenger cover an average 21 kilometres a day. Until last year the distance for drivers was slightly lower than that for passengers, so people who travel as a passenger in someone else's car to work seem to do so with drivers who travel longer than average distances. However, the figures for 2001 show an opposite trend: passengers travelled shorter distances than drivers in 2001. As the differences are only small and the figures are based on a sample it is too early to draw conclusions from these figures.

The average commuting distance for train passengers rose by 3 kilometres in 2001 to 46 kilometres. People who travel by tram, bus or metro cover about 15 kilometres, while cyclists have been travelling 4 kilometres for years now.

### ***One in five households have more than one car***

The number of cars rose by two million in the period 1985-2001, an increase of nearly 45 percent. In 2001 just over three quarters of all households in the

For further information please contact H. Molnár-in 't Veld; e-mail: [hmnr@cbs.nl](mailto:hmnr@cbs.nl),  
tel. +31 45 570 66 56, or the press office.

Tel. +31 70 337 58 16

Fax +31 70 337 59 71

E-mail: [persdienst@cbs.nl](mailto:persdienst@cbs.nl)

Netherlands had at least one car. Since 1985 the number of households with two or more cars has nearly doubled. In 2001 nearly one in five households had more than one car. One in five two-person households had a second car, while for the larger households more than a third have at least two cars. In the more rural areas more than a quarter of households have two or more cars. While in the most urban areas one in twelve have two or more cars.