



Statistics Netherlands

# Press release

PB02-109  
3 June 2002  
9:30 AM

## ***Spending on care up sharply in 2001***

According to provisional figures from Statistics Netherlands newly introduced care accounts, spending on care in the Netherlands rose by 9.2 percent in 2001, to more than 46 billion euro. Expenditure on health care rose by 8.3 percent in 2001, while spending on public welfare rose by 11.2 percent. The increases were caused by among other things higher wages for hospital staff, higher fees for independent practitioners and extra capacity to reduce waiting lists. In 2001 2,870 euro was spent per head of the population in the Netherlands.

### ***Care costs nearly 2,900 euro per capita***

In 2001 2,870 euro per head of the population was spent on care, 8.3 percent more than in 2000 (2,649 euro).

The increases in expenditure on both health care and welfare in 2001 were considerably larger than the increase in gross domestic product (GDP). This pushed up the share of spending on care in GDP to 10.8 percent. In the years 1998-2000 it was around 10.5 percent.

### ***Health care spending 8.3 percent up***

Spending on health care rose by 8.3 percent in 2001 to 28.8 billion euro. In 2000 the increase was 6.4 percent. Within health care, most was spent on general hospitals. In 2001 spending on this category rose by 8.7 percent to 7.5 billion euro. Most of this increase was caused by higher wage costs.

Nearly 5.6 billion euro was spent on practices of independent health professionals (general practitioners, specialists, dentists, midwives and paramedics), 7.6 percent more than in 2000. Higher fees were the main cause of this increase.

### ***Welfare spending 11.2 percent up***

At 11.2 percent, the increase in expenditure on public welfare was greater than that for health care, just as in 2000. The difference is caused mainly by extra funds made available to reduce waiting lists. These ended up in nursing and care institutions.

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Statistics Netherlands  
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Within the welfare sector, spending on nursing homes, home care institutions and care for the mentally and physically handicapped rose by more than 10 percent. The increase in spending on care homes was considerably smaller.

### ***Shares of various funding sources remain stable***

Together, the government and social insurance schemes finance 70 percent of care expenditure. In 2001 they spent just over 32.2 billion euro, 9.4 percent more than in 2000. Private care insurance contributed 5.9 billion euro, 9.3 percent more than in 2000. The remaining sources (mainly households, institutions and companies) paid another 7.9 billion euro, 8.2 percent more than in 2000. The shares paid by these sources in the total funding of health care and welfare hardly changed in 2001.