



Statistics Netherlands

Press release

PB02-131
27 June 2002
9:30 AM

www.cbs.nl

Statistics Netherlands
is a department of
the Ministry of
Economic Affairs

Consumption growth continues at same rate

In the first four months of this year the volume of domestic household consumption was 1.9 percent higher than in the same period last year. This growth rate is about the same as that for the whole of 2001. In April, too, according to Statistics Netherlands' figures, consumption growth was in the same order of magnitude. The volume of domestic consumption was 2.2 percent higher than in April last year.

Strongest growth for durable goods

After correction for price changes consumers spent 3.5 percent more on durable goods in April than in the same month last year. The strongest increase was for spending on means of transport, which was just over 10 percent higher. The growth rate is flattered as the level of spending on means of transport was relatively low in April last year. Many consumers brought forward plans to buy a new car to the end of 2000 in anticipation of the increase in VAT introduced on 1 January 2001. This had an effect on purchases of such items in the first months of 2001.

If means of transport are left out of account, the volume growth of spending on durable goods was 1.6 percent in April. Apart from means of transport, the volume of spending on clothes, textiles, shoes and leatherwear was larger than twelve months previously. Other durables were less popular. Consumers spent less on furniture, electronics and household goods in this month.

The volume of spending on food, drink and tobacco was 1.3 percent up on the same month last year. Higher prices meant that consumers spent five percent more on food, drink and tobacco in April. The volume growth of spending on this category was an average 0.7 percent for the first four months of this year. Such a modest growth rate has become quite usual for this category in recent years.

Consumption of services stable

For the eighth month in a row, the volume growth of spending on services was in the region of two percent. The growth for this category is therefore very stable. With the exception of spending in restaurants and hotels, the volume rose across the board in this category in the first four months of 2002. The highest volume growth was for medical and care services and transport and communications.

For further information please contact K van der Ven; e-mail kven@cbs.nl,
tel. +31 45 570 48 66, or the press office.

Tel. +31 70 337 58 16

Fax +31 70 337 59 71

E-mail: persdienst@cbs.nl