



Statistics Netherlands

Press release

PB03-09
15 January 2003
9:30 AM

Revenues of local taxes up by 7.5 percent

Taxes levied by the provinces, municipalities and water boards districts will increase by 7,5 percent in 2003, according to the preliminary results of a study of local authority budgets, carried out by Statistics Netherlands. This brings the total local tax burden on citizens and companies to 8.8 billion euro. The municipalities collect 6.1 billion euro of the amount. The remainder goes to the provinces and water boards. Municipal taxes will increase by 8.0 percent this year, provincial taxes by 8.3 percent, while the water boards will have the smallest raise, namely 5.4 percent.

Users of real estate are going to pay more

Municipal real estate tax (OZB) will yield an expected revenue of 2.9 billion euro. This is almost half of the total revenue in local municipal taxes. Real estate owners will pay 7.5 percent more in 2003, and users 9.2 percent. The revenues are increasing because of newly constructed real estate and higher rates.

The share paid by users is increasing by more than the share paid by owners, percentage wise. This is because many municipalities used to provide a fixed deduction for this part of the municipal real estate tax, called the *Zalmsnip*. In 2003, some municipalities will no longer pay out the *Zalmsnip* as a discount on the municipal real estate tax, but they will provide a discount on other taxes. Without the *Zalmsnip* effect the real estate users would see their municipal real estate tax rise by 6,9 percent.

Other major municipal taxes, apart from the municipal real estate tax, are sewerage and waste disposal tax. They will increase by slightly less than the average.

More revenues from parking and construction

The construction fees and parking tax will go up by more than 10 percent. In both cases rates are raised. The construction fees are expected to rise as well by an increase in the number of municipal building permissions issued. Parking revenues will also go up because paid parking zones will be extended, so that people will pay parking fees in more places and/or for more hours a day. Moreover, some municipalities have finished new covered parking facilities, which will yield more revenue.

For further information please contact the press office.

Tel. +31 70 337 58 16

Fax +31 70 337 59 71

E-mail: persdienst@cbs.nl

www.cbs.nl

Commuter taxes going up

The rise in commuter taxes is remarkable. Some municipalities have introduced or extended commuter tax at the expense of tourist tax. This has consequences for the owners of holiday chalets and permanently fixed caravans located in these municipalities. Few municipalities levy commuter tax which means that the policies of a few municipalities have an enormous influence on the nation-wide growth rate.

Although commuter tax replaces tourist tax in some municipalities, tourist tax is not decreasing. For one thing, tourist tax yields a far greater revenue, so that shifts are less noticeable. Furthermore, various municipalities are budgeting a far greater yield for 2003 than for 2002. After the 11 September 2001 attacks in New York, the number of foreign tourist was expected to decrease substantially, which led to lower tourist tax estimates in the 2002 budget.

Small decreases

The revenues of some local taxes will decrease, but few citizens will notice. A few local by-laws will be abolished, leading to lower yields for the municipal budgets to embellish parks and shopping centres. Privatisation will result in a lower yield of market fees.

The provincial budgets will have the greatest decreases in revenue. The taxes for ground water and dumping grounds will yield less in 2003. This will not be of much direct advantage to consumers because few citizens have to pay these taxes.