



Statistics Netherlands

Press release

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Modest growth in consumption during November

In November 2002, the volume of domestic consumption was up 0.5 percent on the same month of 2001. The growth was modest despite the relatively favourable shopping day pattern.

Consumers spent 1,2 percent less on durable goods than the year before. This is the price corrected figure. The increase in household consumption expenditure has been modest for some time. The volume growth has been around 1 percent for about two years, according to Statistics Netherlands.

Less spent on durable goods

In November consumers spent 1,2 percent less on durable goods. This is the price corrected figure. With the exceptions of consumer electronics and means of transport, expenditure was substantially lower in all commodity groups within this consumption category. The greatest decrease was observed in the purchase of leather goods, shoes and home furnishings.

The purchase of means of transport was positively influenced by incidental facts during the final months of 2002. On 1 January 2003 the regulations stimulating the use of clean, energy efficient cars came to an end. Against this background, the sales of new cars to private individuals increased drastically during the final months of 2002.

The consumption of food, beverages and tobacco was 1,5 percent higher in November 2002 than in November 2001. Expenditure in this consumption category recovered in 2002 from a stagnation in 2001. In the first eleven months volume growth increased by 1.5 percent, which is the same level as before 2001.

Expenditure on services growing by 0.5 percent

Expenditure on services in November 2002, corrected for price changes, grew very little (0.5 percent). Expenditure on services does not react immediately to economic changes. Still the volume growth steadily decreased, after a 4.8% top in 1999.

Half of domestic consumption is spent on services, which includes housing, medical care, culture, recreation and consumer expenditure on transport, communication and on hotels, restaurants etc.

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