



# Press release

PB03-119  
26 June 2003  
9:30 AM

## ***Domestic consumption grows by 0.7%***

The volume of domestic consumption expenditure by households in the first quarter of 2003 is 0.7 percent greater than in the same period of 2002. The growth rate lags slightly behind the average growth rate in consumption over the past two years, which was 1.0 percent.

The growth rate in the first quarter can be attributed mainly to expenditure on goods. Expenditure, corrected for price changes, was up by 1.5 percent. Expenditure on food, beverages and tobacco increased by 0.5 percent and on durable goods by 2.1 percent. According to the latest figures by Statistics Netherlands the volume growth of expenditure on services stagnated.

## ***Consumption of services no longer growing***

The volume growth of expenditure on services is at a standstill. In the first quarter of 2003 it was at about the same level as the year before. In 1999 volume growth in service consumption reached a peak (4.8%). In the following years expenditure on services kept increasing although the level of growth kept decreasing. Half of domestic consumption expenditure by households is spent on services. This includes recurring expenses, such as housing and medical care. Also included is expenditure on hotels and restaurants, culture and recreation, transport, communication and financial services. First quarter expenditure, corrected for price changes, on hotels and restaurants was much lower than the year before.

## ***Monthly figures fluctuating due to shopping day pattern***

The expenditure figure for March, corrected for price changes, was down 0.4 percent on March 2002. In January and February the consumption volume was 1.3 percent higher than last year's level. The developments of the monthly figures in the first quarter differ when compared to the same months in 2002. This is related to the differences in shopping day patterns. The monthly figures for food, beverages and tobacco consumption are highly sensitive to these differences.

www.cbs.nl

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](mailto:persdienst@cbs.nl)