



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Dutch mobility slightly down

The Dutch population travelled 191.5 billion kilometres within the Netherlands in 1998, 1 billion less than in 1997 according to new figures from Statistics Netherlands. Train journeys increased again, while travelling by bicycle and car fell slightly compared with 1997.

Fewer cyclists, less mobility

After a strong growth in 1997 cycling decreased in 1998; last year 12.6 billion kilometres were covered by bicycle, almost 1 billion less than the year before. The bad weather in 1998 probably contributed to this.

Car use decreased by 0.6 billion to just over 142 billion kilometres in 1998. Train travel increased strongly by 1 billion kilometres. About 8.4 billion kilometres was covered by bus, metro and tram, the same as in 1997.

720 thousand people carpool to work

On an average weekday in 1998 about 5 million people of the 6.6 million strong workforce travelled from home to work. The 2.6 million cars used for commuter traffic conveyed about 3 million people.

Statistics Netherlands figures show that 309 thousand cars are used for carpooling; with an average of 2.3 people in each car, this means that 720 thousand people travel to work together.

Fewer kilometres per car

The number of cars increased strongly in 1998 to 6,051 thousand. On average cars drive 16,110 kilometres per year, of which 14,940 within the Netherlands. Last year cars covered on average 440 kilometres less than in 1997. The decrease was observed for all purposes.

Most journeys for private purposes

In the past year Dutch people undertook about 3.6 journeys a day; the majority of these, about 70%, were for private purposes such as visits, picking up or dropping off people, going for a drive, or bicycle ride or going for a walk. One in four journeys is for shopping, which is mostly done by car or bicycle. Another almost one in four journeys are for commuting, business purposes or education.

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