



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## Consumer confidence unchanged

The indicator of consumer confidence fell slightly in February. However, a slight decline is normal for this time of year. After adjustment for seasonal effects it remains stable, according to the consumer sentiment survey of Statistics Netherlands.

## Economic climate and willingness to buy both remain stable

The indicator for the economic climate usually reacts sharply to both favourable and unfavourable developments in the economy. Actual consumer behaviour is much more moderate and is reflected better in the course of the other underlying indicator, that of willingness to buy. Last September and October the economic climate indicator fell by a record level, in the following months the fluctuations were less extreme and the economic climate indicator remained fairly stable. This remains so for the February figure.

The indicator of willingness to buy which expresses what consumers think of their own financial situation also shows a certain stability in recent months. Asked whether it is the right time to buy large items, many more consumers continue to reply affirmatively than negatively. And the particularly high consumer spending on durable goods in 1998 shows that they are keeping their word on this matter.

## For further information please contact:

Mr. W. Ludwig, tel. +31 70 337 48 13; e-mail: [wldg@cbs.nl](mailto:wldg@cbs.nl).

Statistics Netherlands  
Press Office

P.O. Box 4000  
2270 JM Voorburg  
The Netherlands  
tel. +31 70 337 58 16  
fax +31 70 337 59 71  
e-mail:  
[persdienst@cbs.nl](mailto:persdienst@cbs.nl)

Statistics Netherlands  
is a department of  
the Ministry of  
Economic Affairs