



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Consumer confidence up slightly in April

Statistics Netherlands consumer sentiment survey for April 1999 shows that consumers seem to have more confidence in the Dutch economy in April than in the foregoing months. The improvement is based mainly on a higher value of the indicator for willingness to buy, which is back at the level of May and June last year.

Consumers willing to spend money...

The indicator for the willingness to buy is the average score of the replies to three questions which consumers are asked monthly: two on their own financial situation (in the past twelve months and for the coming twelve months) and one on whether they consider it a good time to buy expensive items. The more favourable opinions on the own financial situation pushed the willingness to buy indicator up. The number of positive answers to the question on whether this was the right time to buy expensive items retained its high level of March in April.

... and less pessimistic about the economy

In April consumers were less pessimistic about developments in the economy. Although negative answers outnumbered positive ones to the question on the economy for the seventh consecutive month, the difference had dropped to -3% in April (after seasonal adjustment), from an average -7% in the six preceding months.

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