



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## **Consumer confidence stable**

Consumers' confidence in the developments of the Dutch economy remained at the same level in May. Seen over a longer period of time there has been a slight recovery since it reached a low at the end of last year. In May the general economic situation is judged more positively than in April, the willingness to buy remains at the same level, according to the results of Statistics Netherlands consumer sentiment survey for May 1999.

## ***More positive opinion on economic climate***

This May consumers' feelings are more positive about the general economic situation in the next twelve months. An increasing group of interviewees thinks that the economic situation will not deteriorate and some think it will even improve. In April pessimists outnumbered optimists by 21% points, in May by only 13% points.

The opinions about the past period have been fluctuating around the same level for a number of months now. There has been no obvious improvement since the downturn in October last year.

## ***Willingness to buy remains high***

The willingness to buy remains at the same, relatively high level. Just as in April about 13% of consumers are positive about their financial situation and on balance about 34% think this is a sensible time to buy large items. The level of the willingness to buy is comparable with that of September last year, just before the downturn in consumer confidence.

In the past few months the willingness to buy expensive items has improved compared with the end of last year. The opinion about the financial situation of the household stays on the same level as in December.

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