



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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More consumer confidence

Consumers had more confidence in the Dutch economy in July than they did in June. People mainly see the economic climate as more positive. The willingness to purchase remains high, according to figures by Statistics Netherlands. This means a further boost in consumer confidence, after it had slipped in September and October 1998.

Economic climate viewed more positively

In July consumers became more positive about the general economic situation. On balance 2% of the consumers are pessimistic about the developments in the next twelve months. In June this was still 12%. On the one hand, the number of people expecting the economy to improve increased from 12% to 17%, on the other hand, the group of pessimists fell from 24% to 19%. More than half of all respondents saw no change in either month.

Developments over the last twelve months were also judged more favourably by consumers than a month ago. In June on balance 4% of the consumers felt the economic situation had improved over the last twelve months. The July figure was 14%.

Willingness to purchase remained high

The willingness to purchase continued to stay at a relatively high level. Just like in May and June some 12% on balance of the consumers expect their own situation to improve in the next year. The opinion on changes in the previous twelve months likewise remained unchanged.

The consumer became somewhat more positive about major purchases, not uncommon for this time of the year. Over 47% of the consumers surveyed in July considered it a favourable time for major purchases. The June figure was 45%. In both months some 10% did not consider it a good time for major purchases.

For further information

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Table 1: Consumer confidence: balance of positive and negative answers (original series)

	Consumer Confidence	Economic climate	Willingness to purchase	Of which M Purchases
1998-Juni	25	28	22	4
Juli	25	28	22	3
Augustus	24	26	22	4
September	16	11	20	3
Oktober	4	-13	15	2
November	4	-11	14	1
December	5	-8	13	1
1999-Januari	8	-3	15	2
Februari	6	-7	16	2
Maart	7	-8	17	3
April	9	-9	20	3
Mei	11	-3	20	3
Juni	10	-4	20	3
Juli	15	6	21	3

Table 2: Details economic climate: : balance of positive and negative answers (original s

	Economic climate		
	Previous year	Next year	Total
1998-June	38	18	28
July	36	20	28
August	39	13	26
September	29	-7	11
October	10	-36	-13
November	5	-27	-11
December	7	-23	-8
1999-January	14	-19	-3
February	5	-19	-7
March	5	-21	-8
April	4	-21	-9
May	6	-13	-3
June	4	-12	-4
July	14	-2	6