



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Consumers end year in optimistic mood

Consumers are looking forward to the new year. Consumer confidence remained stable at its high November level in December. This is surprising, as it usually decreases somewhat at this time of year. After seasonal adjustment, consumer confidence even reached its highest level since 1986, when Statistics Netherlands first started to correct the figure for seasonal effects. Both willingness to buy and consumers' opinions of the economic climate were again higher than the average for the last two years.

Consumers still positive about economic climate

Consumers are still optimistic about the general economic climate. Their opinions on both the past and the coming twelve months are just as positive as in November. Consumer confidence seems now to have quite definitely recovered from the dip at the end of last year.

Willingness to buy remains high

Consumers continue to be willing to spend their money, while a decrease in this willingness is usually observed at this time of year. After seasonal adjustment, this willingness to buy even surpasses the record level of November.

The high level is maintained mainly on the basis of consumers' positive judgement of their own financial situation. They do think it is a less appropriate time than in the last few months to purchase large durable items, though. But, although this decrease is stronger than that usually reported in December, consumers are still relatively positive about spending money on durable goods.

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