

Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Consumers remain positive about the Dutch economy

Dutch consumers remained confident in the economy in February. The indicator showing consumer confidence stands at 24. This is 4 points less than in January, but in general consumers tend to be more optimistic in January than in February. When this effect is taken into account, consumer confidence remains virtually the same, according to the latest figures by Statistics Netherlands.

Economic climate deemed less positive

Dutch consumers were slightly less positive about the economic climate in February. On balance the difference between the percentage of people who are optimistic and those who are pessimistic about the economic climate is 25: 9 points below the January figure. Both the economic situation for the next twelve months and that of the last twelve months was considered less positively. Despite this drop, the total picture remains positive. In January consumers were extremely positive. After this peak, the mood indicator is back to the same level it had in the fourth quarter of 1999.

Willingness to purchase, high and stable

The indicator showing the willingness of consumers to buy stood at the same level in February as it had in January. The indicator has been hovering around 22 for about a year. This is comparable with the high level of the summer of 1998.

Consumers find this a good time for major purchases, such as refrigerators and television sets. Spending on durable consumer goods has not been growing as fast as before since the middle of last year. This means that the willingness to purchase and the actual buying pattern have not been in line in recent months. Consumers feel their own financial situation has remained constant in February.

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Table 1, consumer confidence, economic climate, willingness to purchase, major purchases: balance of positive and negative answers (original series)

Tabel 1: Consumentenvertrouwen, economisch klimaat, koopbereidheid en grote aankopen: saldo van positieve en negatieve antwoorden (oorspronkelijke reeks)

	Consu- menten- ver- trouwen	Economisch klimaat	Koop- bereid- heid	w.o. grote aankopen
1998- September	16	11	20	32
Oktober	4	-13	15	25
November	4	-11	14	19
December	5	-8	13	15
1999-Januari	8	-3	15	22
Februari	6	-7	16	24
Maart	7	-8	17	34
April	9	-9	20	35
Mei	11	-3	20	34
Juni	10	-4	20	35
Juli	15	6	21	38
Augustus	16	6	22	34
September	23	24	22	36
Oktober	23	24	22	31
November	20	17	22	34
December	20	18	21	22
2000-Januari	28	34	24	38
Februari	24	25	24	35

Bron: CBS

Table 2 details economic climate, last year, year to come, balance of positive and negative answers (original series).

Tabel 2: Detailgegevens economisch klimaat: saldo van positieve en negatieve antwoorden (oorspronkelijke reeks)

	Economisch klimaat		
	Afgelopen jaar	Komend jaar	Totaal
1998- September	29	-7	11
Oktober	10	-36	-13

November	5	-27	-11
December	7	-23	-8
1999-Januari	14	-19	-3
Februari	5	-19	-7
Maart	5	-21	-8
April	4	-21	-9
Mei	6	-13	-3
Juni	4	-12	-4
Juli	14	-2	6
Augustus	15	-2	6
September	35	13	24
Oktober	33	15	24
November	32	2	17
December	32	3	18
2000-Januari	47	21	34
Februari	38	12	25

Bron: CBS

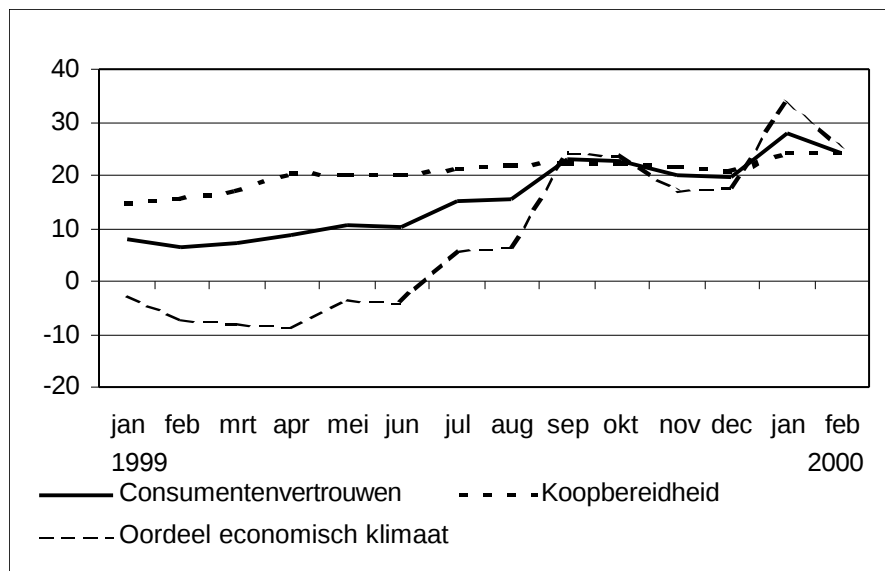
Table 3 seasonally corrected figures
Tabel 3: Consumentenvertrouwen, economisch klimaat, koopbereidheid en grote aankopen: saldo van positieve en negatieve antwoorden (na verwijdering van seizoensinvloeden)

	Consumentenvertrouwen	Economisch klimaat	Koopbereidheid	w.o. grote aankopen
1998-September	12	5	18	30
Oktober	2	-17	16	26
November	6	-9	16	26
December	9	-4	18	27
1999-Januari	7	-4	15	22
Februari	8	-3	16	26
Maart	9	-5	18	35
April	11	-4	21	35
Mei	10	-4	20	33
Juni	10	-4	19	30
Juli	13	4	19	30
Augustus	12	3	19	27
September	19	18	20	34
Oktober	21	19	23	32
November	22	19	24	41
December	23	21	25	34
2000-Januari	27	32	24	39
Februari	26	29	24	37

Bron/source: CBS

Figure 1 consumer confidence, willingness to purchase and consumer sentiments about the economic climate

Figuur 1: Consumentenvertrouwen, koopbereidheid en oordeel over het economisch klimaat



Bron: CBS