



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

PR00-068  
23 March 2000  
9.30 hrs

## ***Consumers remain optimistic***

Dutch consumers are just as confident in the economy in March as they were in February. The indicator of consumer confidence for March is 25. Opinions on the economic climate and the willingness to buy both remain unchanged.

### ***Opinion on economic climate unchanged***

Consumers held the Dutch economy in the same favourable regard in March as in February. Their opinions on its performance in the last twelve months remains unchanged, and they are slightly more optimistic about the coming year. In the first three months of 2000 consumers are clearly more positive than last year.

### ***Willingness to buy still stable and high***

Consumers are also just as willing to spend their money in March as in February. The willingness-to-buy indicator has been hovering around 22 points for one year now, comparable with the high level in the summer of 1998. Consumers continue to feel that this is the right time to buy large items such as refrigerators and television sets.

### ***Higher confidence based on higher employment***

An analysis of consumer confidence by Statistics Netherlands shows that the recent strong increase in consumer confidence is based mainly on the greater opportunities on the labour market. Between 1995 and 1999 average consumer confidence has risen by 18 points. But confidence has risen by more than average in groups where labour participation has increased by more than average. For women, for example consumer confidence rose by twenty points, for young people by 22 points and for lone-parent families by 29 points. On the other hand, the indicator for the over 65s rose by only twelve points. This group did not benefit from the increased employment opportunities.

Statistics Netherlands  
Press Office

P.O. Box 4000  
2270 JM Voorburg  
The Netherlands  
tel. +31 70 337 58 16  
fax +31 70 337 59 71  
e-mail:  
persdienst@cbs.nl

Statistics Netherlands  
is a department of  
the Ministry of  
Economic Affairs

For further information, please contact G. Buiten,  
tel. +31 70 337 47 95; e-mail: [gbtn@cbs.nl](mailto:gbtn@cbs.nl).