

PR00-091 25 April 2000 9.30 hrs

Consumers remain optimistic

Consumers are just as confident in the economy in April as in March, according to figures from Statistics Netherlands. With consumers more positive than last month about the economy and still very willing to spend their money, the consumer confidence indicator rose to 26.

Consumers feel even better about economic climate

Consumers are slightly more positive about the Dutch economy than in March, expressing more favourable opinions on both the past and the coming twelve months. Up to now consumers have clearly been more positive about the economy in 2000 than they were in 1999.

Willingness to buy still high

Consumers are just as willing to spend their money in April as they were in March. For a yaer now the indicator for willingness to buy has been hovering between 20 and 24 points. This is comparable with the high values measured in the summer of 1998. The high level of willingness to buy is reflected in the fact that consumers think it is a good time to buy large items like refrigerators and television sets.

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

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

Statistics Netherlands is a department of the Ministry of Economic Affairs