



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Consumer confidence stable

Consumer confidence is virtually the same in December as it was in November. Willingness to buy has increased slightly, while opinions on the economic climate remain largely unchanged. The latter has become slightly less positive in the course of this year. In spite of this, average consumer confidence in 2000 has been the highest by far since 1987, when Statistics Netherlands started the survey.

Opinions on economic climate unchanged

Consumer opinions on the Dutch economic climate are just as favourable in December as in November, although these opinions have become less positive, especially in the second half of the year. Opinions on both the last twelve months and the expectations for the coming twelve months are less favourable. But the optimists still outnumber the pessimists in this respect.

Willingness to buy

Consumers are slightly more willing to spend their money in December than last month, especially after seasonal adjustment. Willingness to buy has been more or less stable throughout the year. Consumers have hardly changed their minds about their own financial situation, or about whether now is the right time to buy large consumer items.

Confidence high in 2000

Consumer confidence has been very high in 2000 compared with recent years. The average score of 24 is the highest by far since 1987, when Statistics Netherlands started the survey, breaking the 1988 record value of 17. The lowest annual average was in 1993, when consumer confidence was -22. At that time there were more pessimists than optimists.

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