



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

PR01-039
22 February 2001
9.30 hrs

Consumer confidence weakens further

Consumers were less confident in the Dutch economy in February than in January: the consumer confidence indicator was four points down on last month. The lower level of confidence has not translated into a reluctance to spend money, however. The willingness to buy remains at the same level as in January. The economic climate indicator has dropped sharply in February and is now even negative, according to Statistics Netherlands' monthly consumer confidence survey.

Willingness to buy unchanged

The indicator on consumers' willingness to buy remains unchanged in February compared with January, even after seasonal adjustment. This indicator is based on answers to questions concerning the financial position of the household. Most consumers by far are positive on this aspect in February. Moreover, they think it is the right time to buy large durable items. Although opinions are roughly the same as in January, up to now this year consumers have felt that it is a slightly less favourable time to spend a lot of money than last year.

Consumers more pessimistic about economic climate

Consumer opinions on the economic climate have deteriorated strongly in February compared with January. The indicator for the economic climate shows a fall of 11 points. This is mainly caused by the more pessimistic expectations for the coming twelve months: there were 18% more pessimists than optimists in this respect in February. The indicator has not been this negative since April 1999.

For further information, please contact K. van der Ven, tel. + 31 70 337 4866; e-mail kven@cbs.nl.

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