



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## ***Consumer confidence stable in July***

Consumer confidence in July was almost identical to that in June. The consumers do not feel that the Dutch economy in general is deteriorating. Willingness to buy, the other component in consumer confidence, is not diminishing according to the consumer survey conducted by Statistics Netherlands.

### ***Consumer pessimism about the economic climate not growing***

The fact that confidence did not dwindle was mainly due to the opinions about the economic climate. This is one of the two aspects with which consumer confidence is measured. Consumers were just as pessimistic about the economy in July as they were in June. Pessimism has increased by the month since February this year. In July about 40% of the consumers surveyed expected a continued deterioration of the economy. Only 1 in 10 expected an improvement. Last year consumers were still predominantly optimistic about the economic climate.

### ***Willingness to buy stable***

Willingness to buy is the other component of consumer confidence. It is about as high in July as it was in June. So the drop that started in June did not continue. The level of willingness to buy has been lower than in 2000 throughout this year. This aspect of consumer confidence is based on the opinions of households about their own financial situation and about major purchases. Households found July just as favourable as June for major purchases, such as televisions, refrigerators and computers. The consumers see their own financial situation in July as slightly more positive than in June.

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**Table 1: Consumer confidence, economic climate, willingness to buy and major purchases : Balance of positive and negative answers (original series)**

	Consu-mer confidence	Economic climate	Willingness to buy	Major purchases
2000-March	25	27	23	36
April	26	30	24	36
May	25	26	24	37
June	27	27	27	43
July	25	25	25	42
August	26	24	27	41
September	24	23	25	38
October	23	21	24	35
November	17	14	19	29
December	19	14	22	34
2001-January	15	10	19	22
February	11	-1	19	21
March	5	-13	18	25
April	0	-26	17	21
May	3	-20	17	25
June	-4	-29	13	25
July	-2	-28	15	24

**Source: Statistics Netherlands**

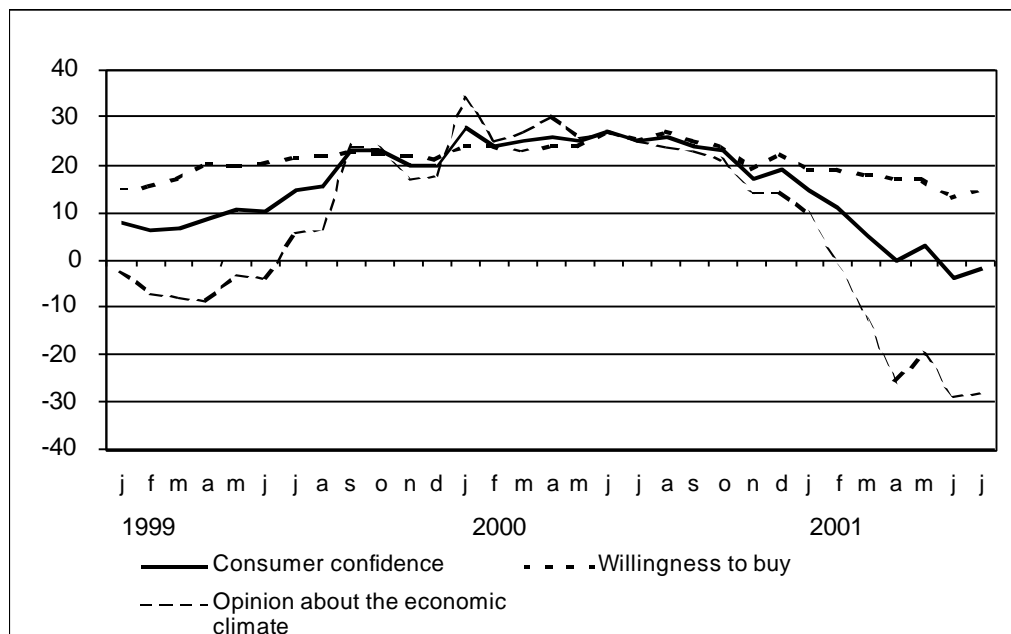
**Table 2: Details economic climate (original series)**

	Economic climate		
	Last year	Next year	Total
2000-March	38	17	27
April	40	19	30
May	38	14	26
June	37	16	27
July	35	14	25
August	35	14	24
September	36	10	23
October	33	9	21
November	25	2	14
December	24	4	14
2001-January	27	-7	10
February	16	-18	-1
March	5	-32	-13
April	-13	-40	-26
May	-12	-27	-20
June	-21	-38	-29
July	-22	-35	-28

**Source: Statistics Netherlands**

**Table 3: Consumer confidence etc (seasonally corrected figures)**

	Consumer confidence	Economic climate	Willingness to buy	Major purchases
2000-March	26	29	24	35
April	27	33	23	36
May	24	26	23	35
June	26	27	25	36
July	22	22	22	35
August	23	21	24	34
September	21	18	23	37
October	22	18	25	38
November	21	18	23	38
December	24	19	27	47
2001-January	14	7	18	20
February	12	2	18	22
March	6	-12	18	25
April	0	-23	16	21
May	2	-20	17	22
June	-5	-29	11	18
July	-5	-31	12	16

**Source: Statistics Netherlands****Figure 1: Consumer confidence, willingness to buy and opinion about the economic climate****Source: Statistics Netherlands**