



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

PR01-185
23 August 2001
9.30 hrs

Consumer confidence steady in August

Consumers are expressing the same level of confidence in the Dutch economy in August as they did in June and July. The value of the consumer confidence indicator is just below zero for the third month in a row. This means that on balance there are slightly more pessimists than optimists. Consumer opinion on the economic climate in the Netherlands is less positive, while the other component of the indicator - willingness to buy - has remained stable, according to Statistics Netherlands' consumer confidence survey.

Consumers more pessimistic about economic climate

Consumers have expressed more negative opinions about the economic climate in August, one of the two components used to measure consumer confidence. Half of those interviewed said they expected the economy to decline. Fewer than one in ten consumers expect the economy to pick up again. The pessimism among consumers about the general economic climate has increased nearly every month since January. Last year, consumers were predominantly optimistic about the Dutch economy.

Willingness to buy stable

Willingness to buy, the other component of consumer confidence, is at the same level in August as in July. Willingness to buy has been lower than in 2000 for the whole of this year. This component of consumer confidence is based on households' opinion of their own financial situation, and whether they are inclined to buy expensive durable items. Consumers are virtually just as positive about their own financial positions as last month. Compared with last month households also have the same opinions on whether it is a good time to buy things like a new TV, fridge or computer.

More consumers expect unemployment to rise

The number of consumers who expect unemployment to rise has soared in August. More than forty per cent of those interviewed expect the number of unemployed to increase in the next twelve months, compared with twenty per cent in July. Only ten per cent think unemploy-

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

ment will fall. In 2000 as many as half of consumers expected unemployment to fall in the subsequent twelve months.

For further information, please contact G. Buiten, tel. + 31 70 337 47 78;
e-mail: gbtn@cbs.nl.