



# Persbericht

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## ***Consumer confidence remains the same***

According to the latest figures by Statistics Netherlands Dutch consumer confidence comes to  $-1$  in January, up 6 points on December. This level of increase is not unusual for the time of the year, so the seasonally corrected consumer confidence figure remains virtually the same. Consumer confidence was recovering in December from a steep decline that mainly took place in the first six months of 2001.

## ***Less willingness to purchase hampers recovery of consumer confidence***

The two aspects of the consumer confidence index move in opposite directions. Optimism about the economic climate is increasing among consumers, while willingness to purchase is falling. The latter is because consumers do not find this a good time for major purchases. This in turn hampers the recovery of consumer confidence.

The decrease in willingness to purchase may have incidental causes. The consumer survey took place within the first ten working days of the month and the fact that consumers were less willing to purchase then may be related to the introduction of the euro.

## ***Consumers far less pessimistic about the economic future***

In January Dutch consumers were again clearly less pessimistic about the economic climate, especially about the developments in the next twelve months. This was also the case in December. The number of pessimists in January was only slightly higher than the number of optimists. Consumers are also slightly more positive about unemployment and inflation.

## ***Not a good time for major purchases***

Willingness to purchase mainly fell because consumers do not find this a good time for major purchases. This may be related to the introduction of the euro. Perhaps consumers need time to get used to the euro prices for durable goods and want to check them out. The way consumers feel about their own financial situation remains positive. The

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Economische Zaken

number of consumers foreseeing an improvement of their financial situation is greater than the number who predict that it will worsen.

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

	Consumer confidence	Economic climate	Willingness to purchase	Major purchases
2000-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
August	-5	-35	15	21
September	-5	-33	14	17
October	-10	-41	12	12
November	-11	-45	11	11
December	-7	-36	12	10
2002-January	-1	-19	10	0

**Source: Statistics Netherlands**

**Table 2: Details on economic climate: balance of positive and negative answers (original series)**

	Economic climate		
	Last year	Next year	Total
2000-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
August	-28	-43	-35
September	-28	-38	-33
October	-24	-59	-41
November	-35	-55	-45
December	-38	-34	-36
2002-January	-33	-5	-19

**Source: Statistics Netherlands**

**Table 3: Consumer confidence, economic climate, willingness to purchase and major purchases: balance of positive and negative answers (seasonally corrected figures)**

	Consumer confidence	Economic climate	Willingness to purchase	Major purchases
2000-November	20	17	22	35
December	24	17	28	48
2001-January	13	6	18	21
February	12	1	19	24
March	7	-11	18	24
April	1	-21	16	21
May	2	-20	16	23
June	-4	-28	12	18
July	-5	-31	13	16
August	-8	-38	12	15
September	-8	-38	13	15
October	-10	-44	12	14
November	-8	-41	14	17
December	-2	-33	18	24
2002-January	-3	-23	10	-1

**Source: Statistics Netherlands**