



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## ***Consumer confidence stable***

Dutch consumer confidence in February was down 3 points on January. Such a drop is not unusual for the time of the year. Therefore the seasonally corrected figure remains unchanged. This means the recovery that started in the last months of 2001 did not continue. In the first half of 2001 consumer confidence fell sharply, but it stabilised in the second half of the year. The willingness to purchase in February was slightly lower than in January. Consumers were a bit more positive about the economic climate, according to the latest figures by Statistics Netherlands.

### ***Less willingness to purchase***

Consumer willingness to purchase among was down slightly in February. In January it was already down on the previous month. Willingness to purchase is the lowest since December 1996. It is one of the two aspects that make up the consumer confidence index. Willingness to purchase is based on the consumers opinions about their financial situation and about making major purchases. The drop in February was mainly due to the less positive opinion consumers have about their own financial situation.

### ***More positive about the economic climate***

The seasonally corrected figure on consumer confidence in the economic climate in February was slightly more positive than in January. The recovery continued in this aspect of consumer confidence. The dip came after the terrorist attacks in the USA in September last year. The number of consumers who expect an increase in unemployment went down again in February. The number of households foreseeing less inflation is on the increase.

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**Table 1: Consumer confidence: 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
February	-4	-20	6	-3

**Source: Statistics Netherlands**

**Table 2: Details 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
February	-36	-4	-20

**Source: Statistics Netherlands**

***Table 3: Consumer confidence, balance of positive and negative answers  
(seasonally corrected figures)***

	Consumer confidence	Economic climate	Willing- ness 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
February	-3	-18	6	0

**Source: Statistics Netherlands**