



Press release

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Consumer confidence remains low

After correction for seasonal effects, Dutch consumer confidence in March is at about the same level as in February. The confidence index is -38, the lowest since the end of 1983. Statistics Netherlands' consumer confidence survey also shows that both consumer opinions on the economic climate and their willingness to buy remain about the same in March.

Consumers negative about large purchases

Willingness to buy has hardly changed compared with February. This component is based on consumer opinions on the financial situation of their own household and whether it is a good time to buy large expensive items. Consumers were slightly more positive about their financial situation, both in the last twelve months and for the coming twelve months. They are considerably more negative about whether it is a good time buy large consumer goods. This was also the case in previous periods of uncertainty, although the present survey was conducted in the first two weeks of March, before the outbreak of the war in Iraq.

Continued pessimism about the economy

Consumer opinions on the economic climate have also hardly changed from February. After correction for seasonal effects, their opinions for both the last twelve months and the coming twelve months were 1 point lower. Consumers have not been so pessimistic about the economy since May 1983.

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