



Press release

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Consumer confidence stays low

Dutch consumer confidence in April stayed at the same level as in March. The seasonally corrected confidence index stands at -37. Consumers were slightly more negative about their own financial situation, but more positive about the economic climate. This came out of the economic survey among consumers conducted by Statistics Netherlands. The survey took place during the first two weeks of April, that is after the war on Iraq started.

Willingness to purchase remains low

Willingness to buy in April hardly changed on March. Willingness to buy is based on the opinions consumers expressed about the financial situation of their own households, and on making major purchases. Consumers were slightly more negative about their own financial situation in the future. Their opinions on major purchases did not differ much from March. Consumers have not been as negative as this since 1984.

More positive about the economy

Consumers were more positive about the economic situation than last month. This is shown in the seasonally corrected figure. The opinions expressed for the past twelve months rose by 4 points and for the next 12 months by 3 points. It is the first time since December that consumers are more positive about the economic climate.

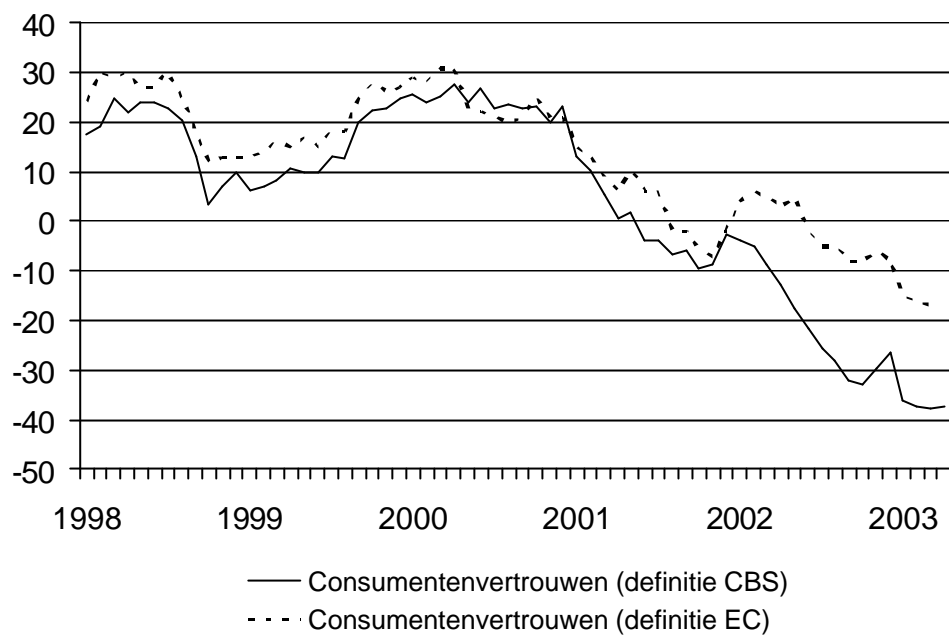
For further information please contact the press office.

Tel. +31 70 337 58 16

Fax +31 70 337 59 71

E-mail: persdienst@cbs.nl

Graph 1: Consumer confidence as defined by Statistics Netherlands (CBS), and the European Commission (EC) (seasonally corrected figures)



Source: Statistics Netherlands