



Press release

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Dutch consumer confidence remains low

In June Dutch consumer confidence was about the same as in May. The seasonally corrected figure of the confidence index was -36. Confidence has been stable but very low for six months. The gradual improvement of consumer opinions about the economic climate is offset by a comparable decrease in willingness to buy. This is shown by the latest consumer survey by Statistics Netherlands.

Consumers more negative about their own financial outlook

The seasonally corrected figure on willingness to buy hardly changed from May on June. It reached -23, the lowest level of willingness to buy since 1985. Willingness to buy is one of the two aspects that make up the consumer confidence index. Willingness to buy is based on the opinions consumers expressed about the financial situation of their own household and about making major purchases.

In June, the opinions consumers had about their own financial situation in the last twelve months and the willingness to make major purchases remained the same as in May.

Dutch consumers did become more negative about the expected financial situation over the next twelve months. This is in line with the stated expectations in the last six months, which were relatively stable. Consumer opinions in June fell by 6 points and reached the lowest level since April 1985.

Pessimism about the economy continues

The opinions consumers expressed about the economic climate, the other aspect of consumer confidence, hardly changed on May. The seasonally corrected figure for consumer opinions about the economic climate reached -57, way below the average of -7 of the past decade. The expectations for the next twelve months, however, did increase somewhat again. This indicator went up by 14 points since it reached its lowest score in March.

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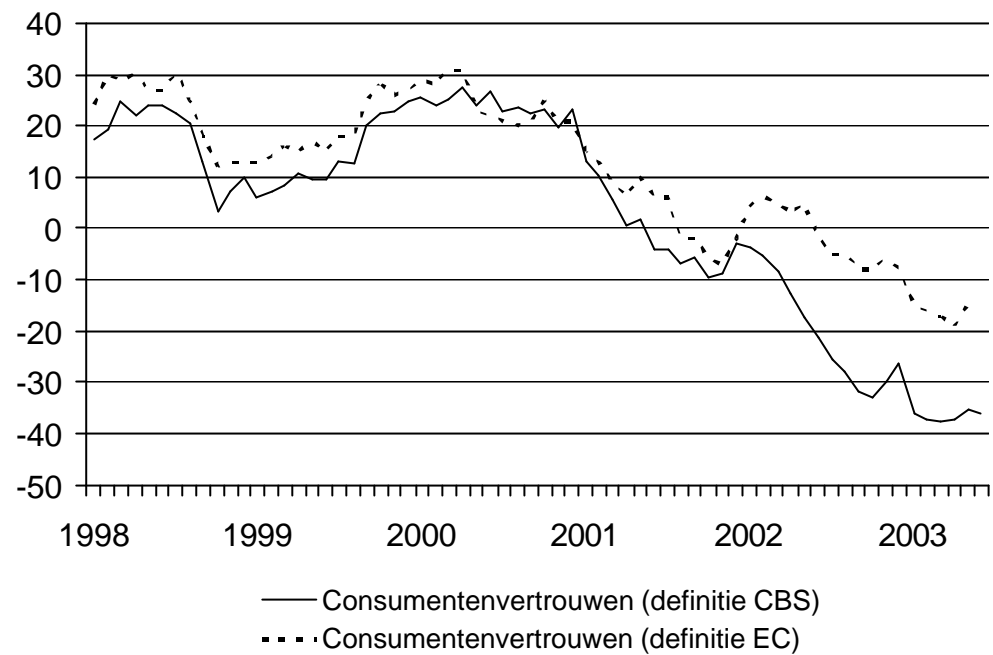
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Graph 1: Consumer confidence according to CBS and European Commission definitions (seasonally corrected figures)



Source: CBS