



Press release

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Consumer confidence recovers slightly

According to Statistics Netherlands' consumer confidence survey, consumer confidence has recovered slightly in August. After correction for seasonal effects, the index climbed to -34, from -40 last month. The improvement was mainly caused by increased optimism among consumers for the near future. They were more positive about the economic climate in particular, and to a lesser extent about their own financial situation. Consumers' willingness to buy remained low, at the same level as in July.

Less sombre about economic climate

One of the two components making up the consumer confidence indicator is consumer opinions on the economic climate. Consumers were less sombre about this aspect in August, mainly because of a more optimistic view of the Dutch economy in the coming year. In July consumers were more pessimistic than in June. Their opinion on the economic climate in the last twelve months was also less negative, although at -49 it is still very low. The average value for the last ten years is -7.

Consumers still not willing to spend much

In spite of the fact that they have a less negative picture of the future, consumers' willingness to buy did not change in August from July. Corrected for seasonal effects, this component was -24. Willingness to buy is based on consumers' opinions on their own financial position and whether they think it is a good time to buy large expensive items. Consumers were slightly more optimistic about their own situation in the coming twelve months, but slightly more negative than in July about their position in the past twelve months. They also think it is still not a good time to buy large durable goods, such as refrigerators, TVs and computers.