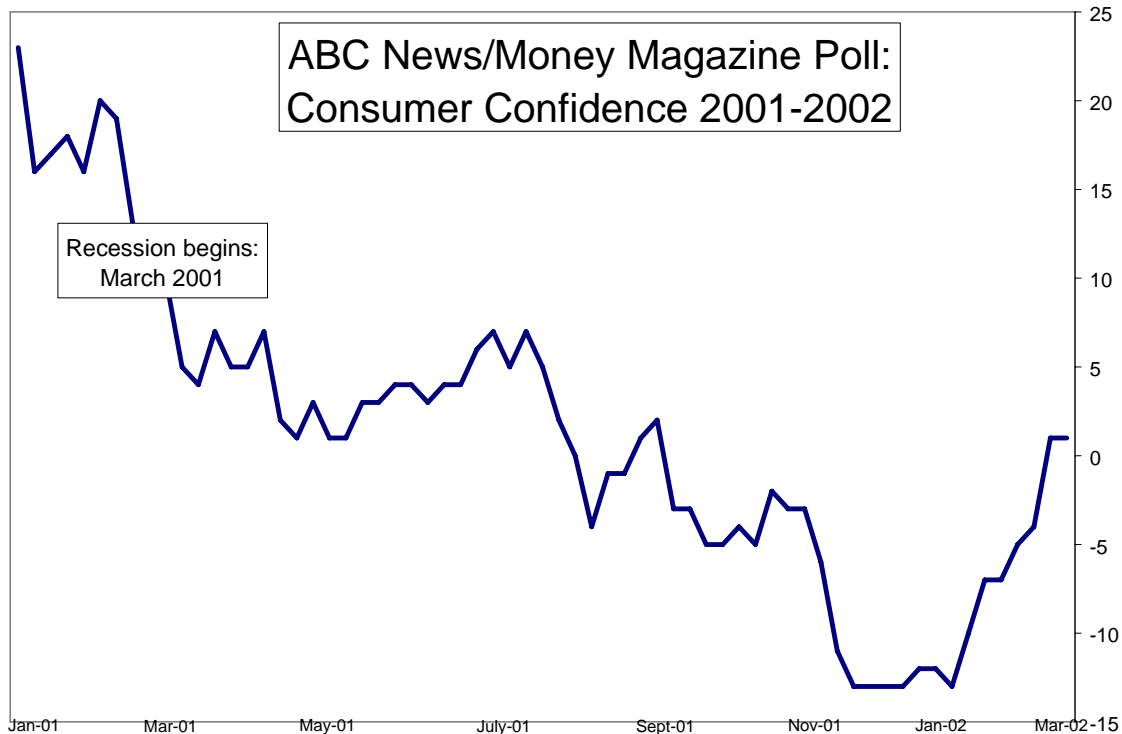


Consumer Confidence Steady, Retaining Last Week's Surge

Consumer confidence held steady this week, closing out the quarter in recovery mode, with Americans' ratings of the national economy and their personal finances their best since last fall.

Forty-five percent of Americans rate the economy positively – still far from its peak, 80 percent in January 2000, but up 14 points this year to the most since Oct. 7. More – 63 percent – say their own finances are good, just seven points from the record high.

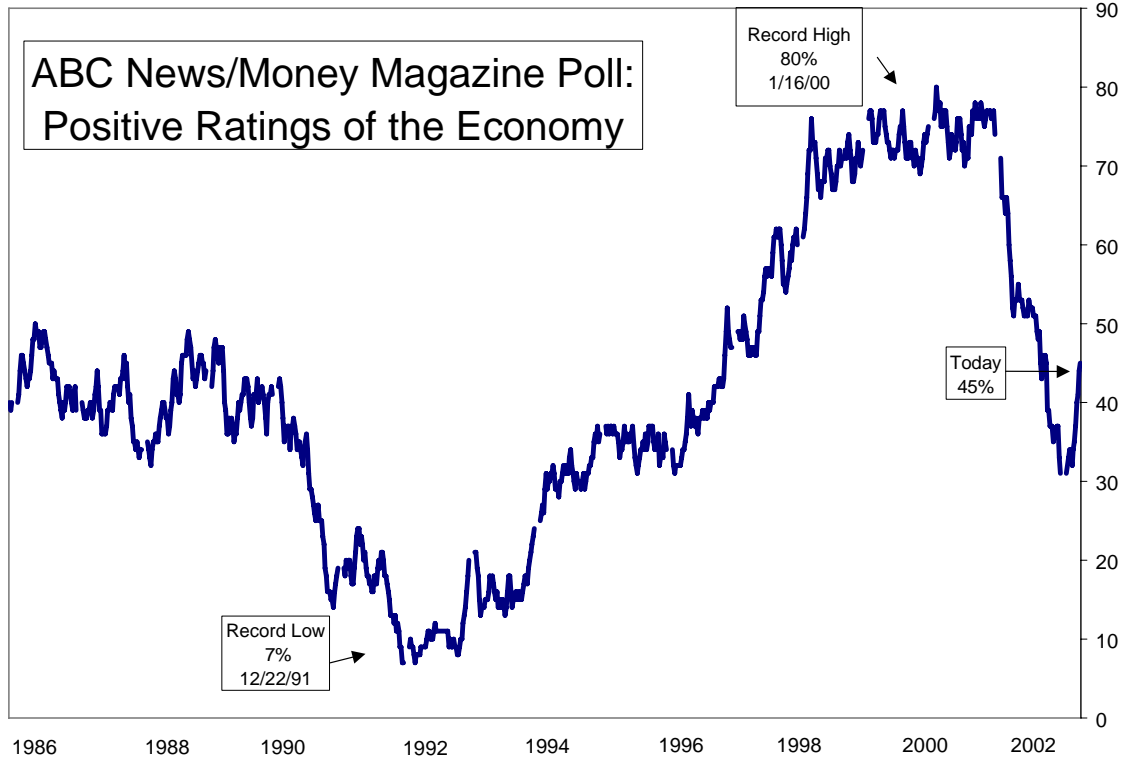
In a third measure, 43 percent call it a good time to buy things – essentially flat this year, and a reminder that inflation, lately including steeply higher gasoline prices, is always a danger.



The ABC News/Money magazine Consumer Comfort Index, based on these gauges of current sentiment, is unchanged this week at +1 on its scale of +100 to -100. The index

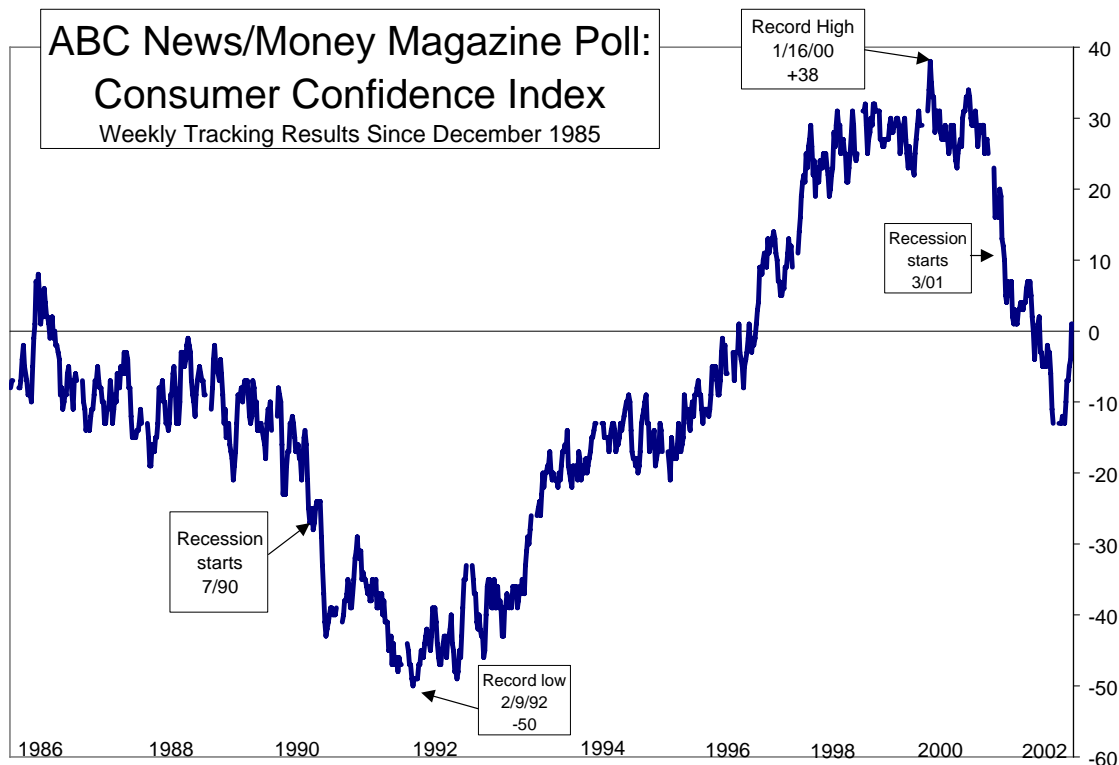
thus held on to last week's rare five-point advance, its largest surge since January 1999. That gain followed a mid-March rise in expectations, to their best in 18 years.

ABC News/Money Magazine Poll			
			16-year average
Positive ratings of:	3/31/02	1/6/02	
National economy	45%	31	42
Buying climate	43	43	39
Personal finances	63	56	57
Consumer Comfort Index	+1	-13	-8



TREND – The weekly index dropped throughout 2001, starting the year at +23 and finishing it at -13. It stayed there for the first six weeks of this year before moving up starting in mid-February. The index peaked at +38 on Jan. 16, 2000; its lowest was -50 on Feb. 9, 1992.

	ABC/Money Index	
Today	+ 1	
Last week	+ 1	
Two weeks ago	- 4	
Seven weeks ago	-13	
2002 average	- 8	
2001 average	+ 4	
2000 average	+29	Best full year
1992 average	-44	Worst full year
Jan. 16, 2000	+38	Record high
Feb. 9, 1992	-50	Record low
Average since 12/85	- 8	



GROUPS – As usual, confidence is higher among better-off Americans. The index is +33 in higher-income households compared to -41 in the lowest, +13 among college graduates while -20 among high-school dropouts, +6 among whites but -33 among blacks and +7 among men while -4 among women.

Here's a closer look at the three components of the ABC/Money index:

NATIONAL ECONOMY – Forty-five percent of Americans rate the nation's economy as excellent or good, up one point from last week. The best was 80 percent Jan. 16, 2000. The worst was seven percent in late 1991 and early 1992.

	Pos. NET	Excel.	Good	Neg. NET	Not good	Poor
This week	45	2	43	55	42	13
Avg. since 12/85	42	4	38	58	39	19

PERSONAL FINANCES – Sixty-three percent rate their own finances as excellent or good, up one point from last week. The best was 70 percent, set Aug. 30, 1998 and last matched in January 2000. The worst rating was 42 percent on March 14, 1993.

	Pos. NET	Excel.	Good	Neg. NET	Not good	Poor
This week	63	7	56	37	27	10
Avg. since 12/85	57	5	53	43	30	12

BUYING CLIMATE – Forty-three percent say it's an excellent or good time to buy things they want and need, down two points from last week. The best was 57 percent Jan. 16, 2000. The worst was 20 percent in fall 1990.

Republican	30	28	7	16	28	34	5	21
Democrat	-15	-15	-16	-26	-7	2	-29	-13
Independent	-4	-3	-7	-19	2	4	-19	-6
Education:								
< High School	-20	-20	-36	-41	-36	-15	-49	-32
High Sch. Grad.	-7	-7	-4	-18	-2	6	-18	-7
College +	13	13	0	-1	24	26	-5	11
Home:								
Own	8	8	-1	-9	12	16	-10	4
Rent	-20	-20	-21	-23	-9	-1	-27	-16
Marital Status:								
Single	-12	-10	-12	-16	5	15	-19	-1
Married	11	9	0	-7	16	17	-7	5
Sep/Wid/Div	-25	-23	-34	-31	-28	-10	-42	-25
Employ. Status:								
Full-Time	9	12	1	-1	11	19	-4	8
Part-Time	9	7	3	-12	9	11	-15	-3
Not Employed	-14	-18	-21	-27	-2	-1	-28	-14

END