

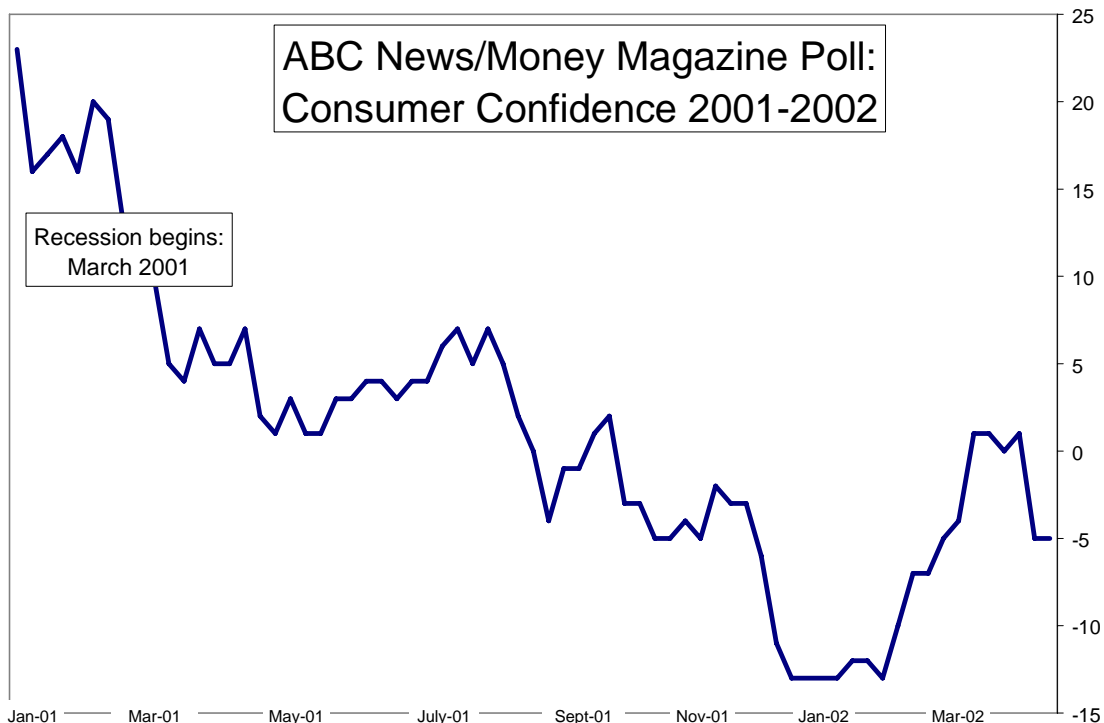
Confidence Stabilizes After Last Week's Fall

Consumer views stabilized this week, after one of their sharpest drops in 16 years.

The ABC News/Money magazine Consumer Comfort Index, based on public views of current economic conditions, stands at -5 on its scale of +100 to -100, unchanged from a week ago. Last week it fell by six points – only its fifth drop that big since December 1985. The last drop of that size was in February 2001, just before the start of the recession.

Gasoline price hikes may be a factor. An ABC News poll this week found a majority of Americans – 53 percent – saying that rising gas prices are causing them financial hardship, the most in the past few years. While prices are lower now than they were in April 2000 or 2001, their rate of increase has been much faster.

The index is composed of ratings of the current economy, buying climate and personal finances. Forty-one percent of Americans rate the national economy positively and 42 percent say it's a good time to buy things. Stronger are ratings of personal finances, at 59 percent positive, but they've slipped this week to their lowest since Feb. 10.



	ABC News/Money magazine poll			
Positive ratings of:	4/28/02	4/14/02	1/6/02	16-yr. avg.
National economy	41%	44	31	42
Buying climate	42	45	43	39
Personal finances	59	63	56	57
Consumer Comfort Index	-5	+1	-13	-8

TREND - The weekly index dropped throughout 2001, starting the year at +23 and finishing it at -13, then began recovering in mid-February this year. It advanced five points the week of March 24, its largest surge since January 1999, and then held steady for a month – until last week’s drop.

The index peaked at +38 on Jan. 16, 2000; its lowest was -50 on Feb. 9, 1992.

	ABC/Money Index	
Today	- 5	
Last week	- 5	
Two weeks ago	+ 1	
Three months ago	-12	
2002 average	- 7	
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 +21 in higher-income households compared to -54 in the lowest, +6 among college graduates while -32 among high-school dropouts, +1 among whites but -38 among blacks and +2 among men while -12 among women.

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

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

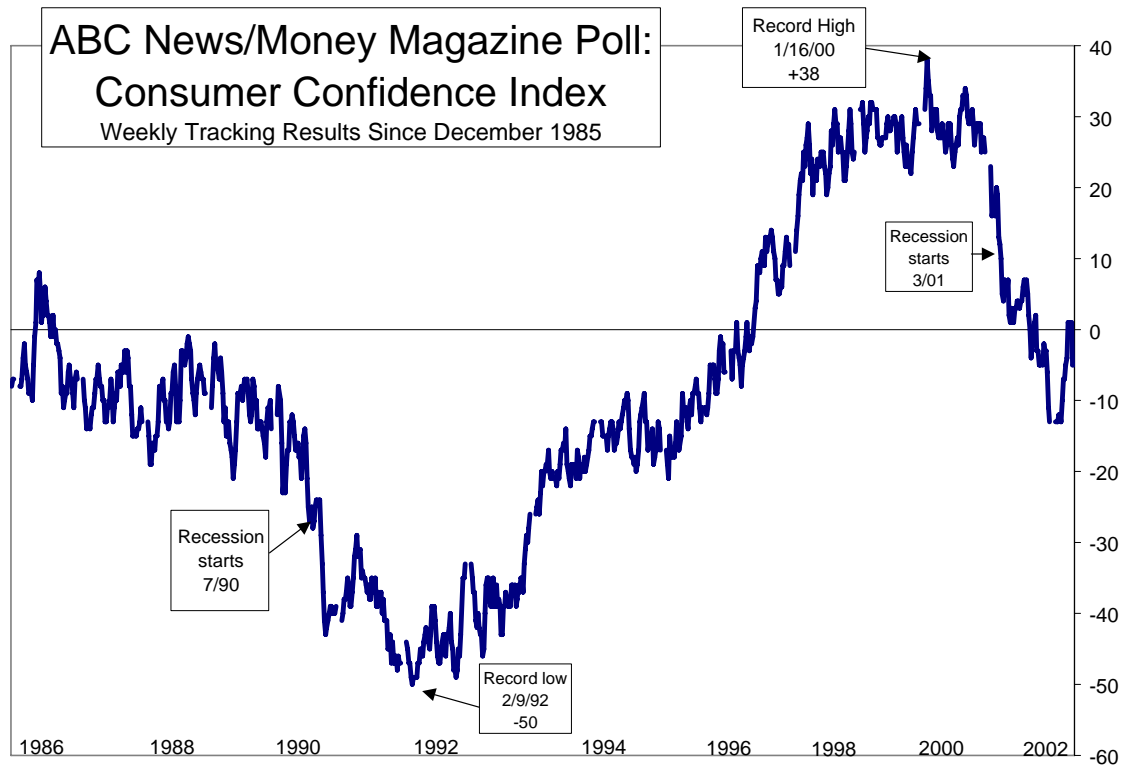
	Pos. NET	Excel.	Good	Neg. NET	Not good	Poor
This week	41	1	40	59	45	14
Avg. since 12/85	42	4	38	58	39	19

PERSONAL FINANCES – Fifty-nine percent rate their own finances as excellent or good, down 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	59	6	53	41	29	12
Avg. since 12/85	57	5	53	43	30	12

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

	Pos. NET	Excel.	Good	Neg. net	Not good	Poor
This week	42	2	40	58	40	18
Avg. since 12/85	39	3	36	61	41	21



METHODOLOGY - The ABC News/Money magazine Consumer Comfort Index represents a rolling average based on telephone interviews with a random sample of about 1,000 adults nationwide each month. This week's results are based on 1,004 interviews in the month ending April 28, 2002 and have an error margin of plus or minus three percentage points. Field work by ICR-International Communications Research of Media, Pa.

The ABC/Money index is derived as follows: The negative response to each index question is subtracted from the positive response to that question. The three resulting numbers are then added and divided by three. The index can range from +100 (everyone positive on all three measures) to -100 (all negative on all three measures). The survey began in December 1985.

Analysis by Dalia Sussman.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com on the Internet, at:
<http://abcnews.go.com/sections/us/PollVault/PollVault.html>

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04/28/02	This Week	Last Week	4 Wks Ago	3 Mo. Ago	1 Yr. Ago	12 Mo High	12 Mo Low	12 Mo Avg

Group	-----							
GENERAL POPULATION:								
Overall Index	-5	-5	1	-12	2	7	-13	-2
State of Economy	-18	-18	-10	-32	6	6	-38	-14
Personal Finances	18	20	26	16	24	32	12	23
Buying Climate	-16	-18	-14	-20	-24	-4	-24	-15

OVERALL INDEX BY DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS								
Sex:								
Men	2	3	7	-2	9	13	-6	5
Women	-12	-12	-4	-21	-4	6	-21	-8
Age:								
18 - 34	4	7	1	-4	11	21	-8	4
35 - 44	-13	-17	-1	-10	6	9	-17	-3
45 - 54	-7	-9	2	-17	-4	4	-22	-6
55 - 64	-5	1	19	-18	-9	20	-30	-3
65 +	-10	-11	-10	-14	-5	9	-22	-8
Income:								
Under \$15K	-54	-46	-41	-49	-22	-22	-54	-41
\$15K To \$24.9K	-28	-29	-31	-31	-37	-14	-40	-25
\$25K To \$39.9K	-9	-8	-8	-12	-8	11	-24	-8
\$40K To \$49.9K	10	5	10	-9	18	18	-14	3
Over \$50K	21	20	33	15	31	39	3	23
Region:								
Northeast	-1	2	-2	-12	-8	9	-17	-4
Midwest	-4	-9	1	-13	8	13	-15	-1
South	-6	-4	-1	-10	2	8	-13	-1
West	-9	-9	7	-13	6	10	-21	-4
Race:								
White	1	0	6	-7	7	12	-8	3
Black	-38	-32	-33	-31	-31	-8	-51	-30
Politics:								
Republican	26	27	30	13	19	34	5	21
Democrat	-19	-18	-15	-23	-7	2	-29	-13
Independent	-8	-9	-4	-12	-2	4	-19	-6
Education:								
< High School	-32	-31	-20	-43	-23	-12	-49	-31
High Sch. Grad.	-7	-8	-7	-12	-2	6	-18	-7
College +	6	6	13	-1	14	26	-5	10
Home:								
Own	5	3	8	-8	7	16	-10	4
Rent	-28	-26	-20	-21	-9	-6	-28	-17
Marital Status:								
Single	-2	-4	-12	-7	3	15	-19	-2
Married	-3	-2	11	-5	11	13	-7	4
Sep/Wid/Div	-14	-17	-25	-39	-25	-10	-42	-24
Employ. Status:								

Full-Time	8	4	9	1	11	19	-4	8
Part-Time	-15	-5	9	-11	-5	11	-15	-3
Not Employed	-19	-18	-14	-27	-8	-5	-28	-15

END