

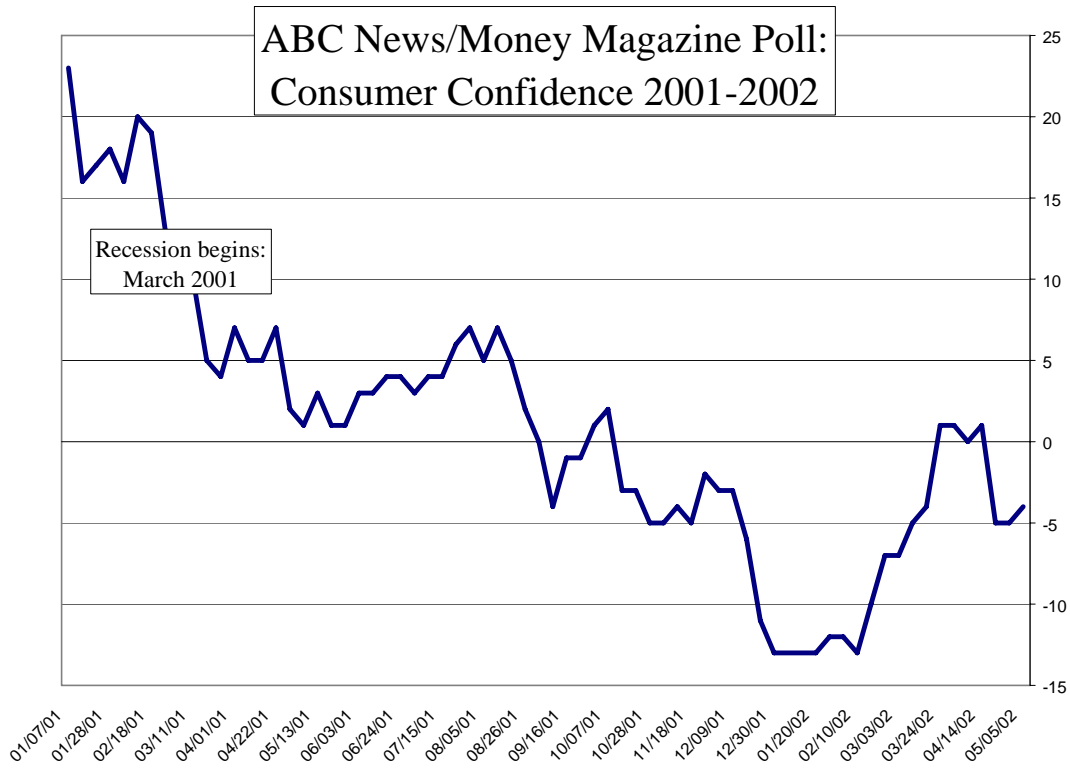
Confidence Still Steady After April Drop

Consumer confidence was stable again this week, steadying after its steep April fall.

Americans' ratings of the economy, the buying climate and their own finances were essentially unchanged for the second week straight. Forty-two percent rate the national economy positively and 42 percent say it's a good time to buy things. More, 60 percent, say their own finances are in good shape. Each is at or just above its 16-year average.

The ABC News/Money magazine Consumer Comfort Index, based on these three gauges of current economic conditions, stands at -4 on its scale of +100 to -100; it was -5 the last two weeks after falling six points the week of Apr. 21.

	ABC News/Money magazine poll			
Positive ratings of:	5/5/02	4/14/02	1/6/02	16-yr. avg.
National economy	42%	44	31	42
Buying climate	42	45	43	39
Personal finances	60	63	56	57
Consumer Comfort Index	-4	+1	-13	-8

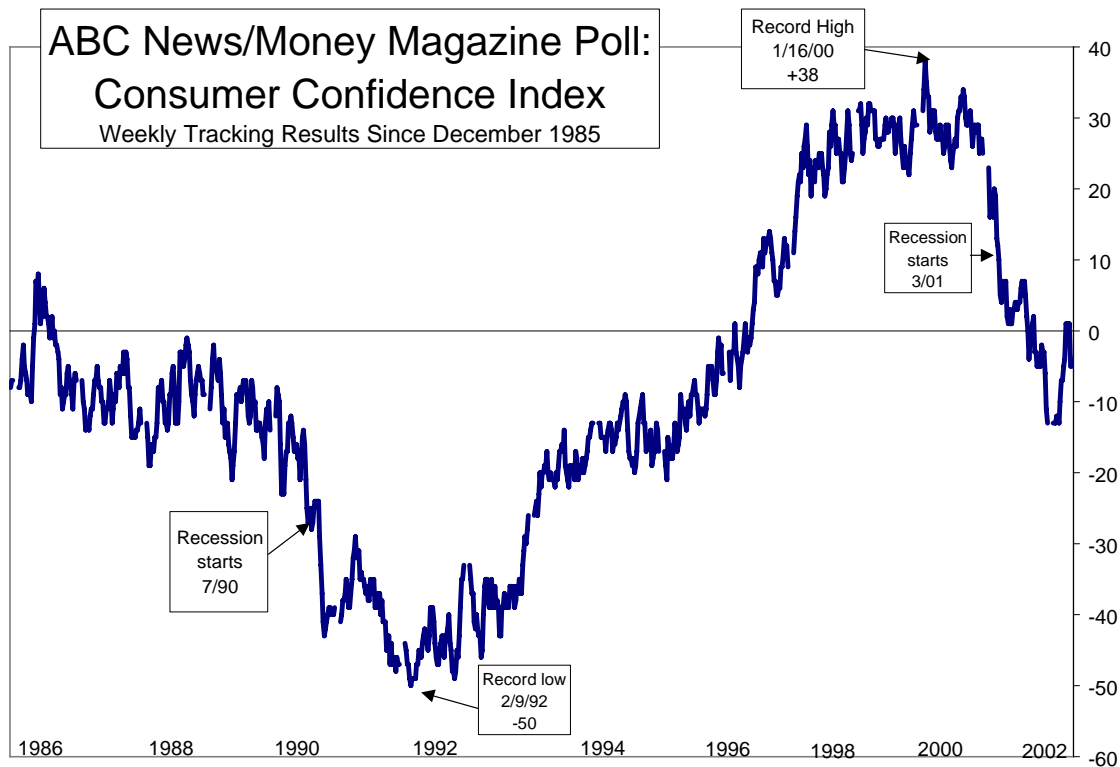


TREND - The weekly index dropped throughout 2001, starting the year at +23 and finishing it at -13, then began recovering in mid-February this year. It advanced five points the week of March 24, held steady for a month, and then dropped six points the week of April 21 – its steepest decline since just before the start of the recession.

The index peaked at +38 on Jan. 16, 2000; its lowest was -50 on Feb. 9, 1992. It's averaged -7 this year; its lifetime average is -8.

	ABC/Money	Index	
Today	-	4	
Last week	-	5	
Three 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 +20 in higher-income households compared to -51 in the lowest, +6 among college graduates while -30 among high-school dropouts, +1 among whites but -35 among blacks and 0 among men while -8 among women.



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

NATIONAL ECONOMY - Forty-two 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	42	2	40	58	44	14
Avg. since 12/85	42	4	38	58	39	19

PERSONAL FINANCES – Sixty 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	60	7	53	40	30	10
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, the same as 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	41	17
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 May 5, 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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05/05/02	This Week	Last Week	4 Wks Ago	3 Mo. Ago	1 Yr. Ago	12 Mo High	12 Mo Low	12 Mo Avg
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Group

GENERAL POPULATION:

Overall Index	-4	-5	0	-12	0	7	-13	-2
State of Economy	-16	-18	-12	-34	0	6	-38	-15
Personal Finances	20	18	24	16	0	32	12	23
Buying Climate	-16	-16	-12	-18	0	-4	-22	-15

OVERALL INDEX BY DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS

Sex:								
Men	0	2	6	-3	0	13	-6	4
Women	-8	-12	-5	-21	0	6	-21	-8
Age:								
18 - 34	2	4	7	-6	0	21	-8	4
35 - 44	-5	-13	-3	-11	0	9	-17	-3
45 - 54	-8	-7	-5	-19	0	4	-22	-6
55 - 64	3	-5	7	-12	0	20	-30	-2
65 +	-16	-10	-5	-17	0	9	-22	-8
Income:								
Under \$15K	-51	-54	-43	-44	0	-23	-54	-41
\$15K To \$24.9K	-26	-28	-31	-31	0	-14	-40	-25
\$25K To \$39.9K	-9	-9	1	-15	0	11	-24	-8
\$40K To \$49.9K	12	10	3	-14	0	15	-14	3
Over \$50K	20	21	27	12	0	39	3	23
Region:								
Northeast	-2	-1	-3	-14	0	9	-17	-3
Midwest	-1	-4	-4	-14	0	13	-15	-1
South	-9	-6	1	-9	0	8	-13	-1
West	-2	-9	7	-14	0	10	-21	-4
Race:								
White	1	1	5	-7	0	12	-8	2
Black	-35	-38	-26	-33	0	-8	-51	-30
Politics:								
Republican	24	26	31	11	0	34	5	21
Democrat	-16	-19	-15	-23	0	2	-29	-14
Independent	-10	-8	-4	-13	0	4	-19	-6
Education:								
< High School	-30	-32	-15	-39	0	-12	-49	-31
High Sch. Grad.	-5	-7	-9	-12	0	6	-18	-7
College +	6	6	12	-3	0	26	-5	10
Home:								
Own	4	5	7	-10	0	16	-10	4
Rent	-26	-28	-18	-17	0	-6	-28	-18
Marital Status:								
Single	-4	-2	-5	-5	0	15	-19	-2
Married	-1	-3	7	-4	0	13	-7	4
Sep/Wid/Div	-16	-14	-19	-42	0	-10	-42	-24
Employ. Status:								
Full-Time	6	8	12	0	0	19	-4	7
Part-Time	-6	-15	0	-13	0	11	-15	-3
Not Employed	-18	-19	-15	-25	0	-5	-28	-15

END