

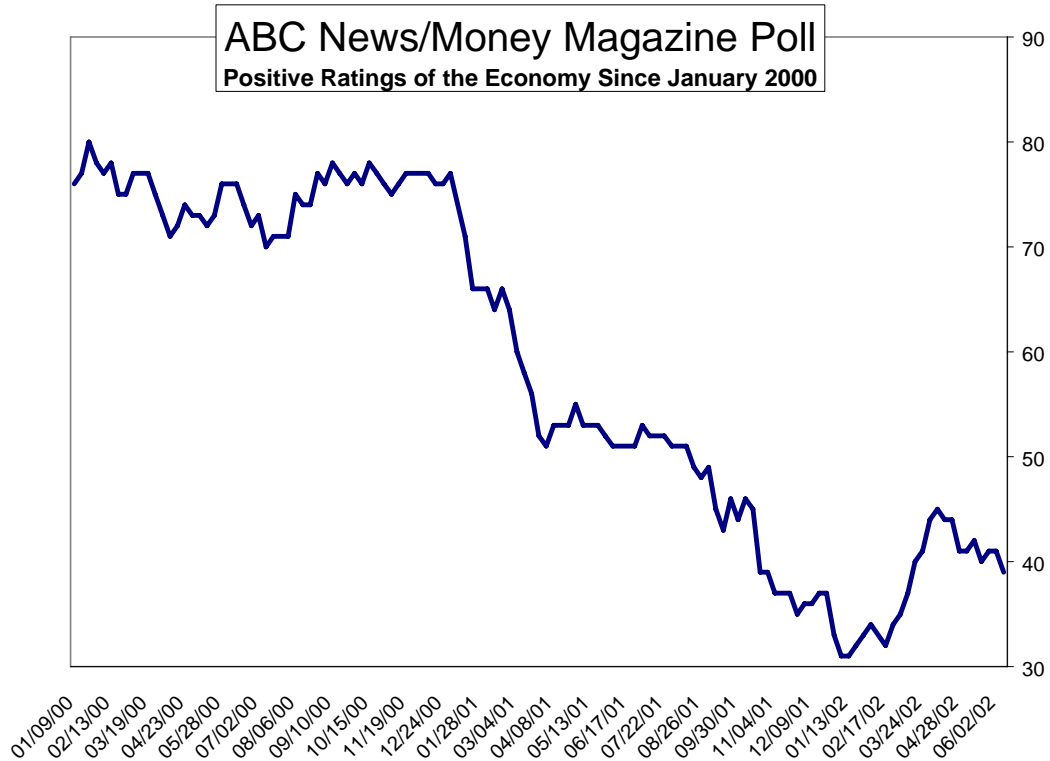
Economy Ratings Reach a Three-Month Low

Positive ratings of the economy slipped this week to their lowest level in three months, putting the brakes on a slight advance in consumer confidence at the end of May.

Just 39 percent of Americans say the economy's in good shape, the fewest since March 3, and down six points since March 31. Two other gauges held steady this week. Forty-three percent call it a good time to spend money, and 60 percent rate their finances positively.

The ABC News/Money magazine Consumer Comfort Index, based on these gauges, gained 14 points earlier this year to a high of +1 in mid-April, then dropped to -7 in mid-May. It inched ahead to -4 last week, but this week it's -5.

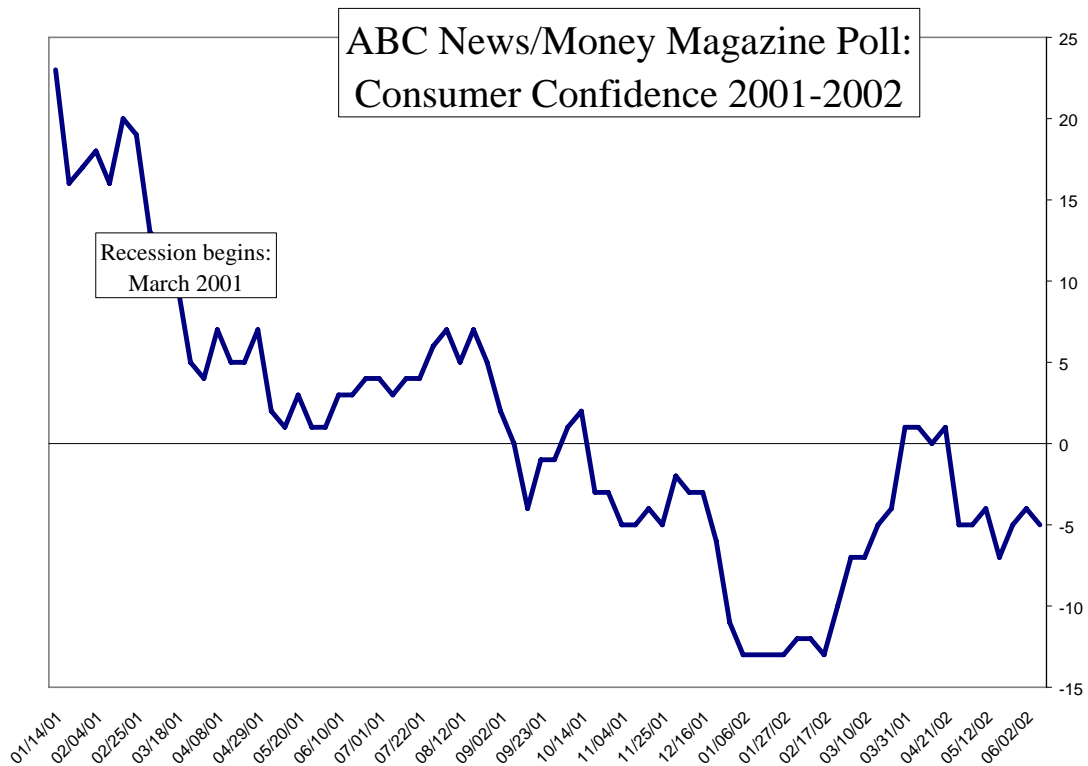
The index is figured on a scale of +100 to -100; its all-time high was +38 in January 2000; its lowest, -50 in February 1992. Its 16-year average is -8.



| | ABC News/Money magazine poll | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|------|------|-------------|
| Positive ratings of: | 6/2 | 4/14 | 2/10 | 16-yr. avg. |
| National economy | 39% | 44 | 32 | 42 |
| Buying climate | 43 | 45 | 40 | 39 |
| Personal finances | 60 | 63 | 59 | 57 |
| Consumer Comfort Index | -5 | +1 | -13 | -8 |

TREND – The weekly ABC/Money index started 2001 at +23 and finished 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.

| | ABC/Money Index | |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Today | - 5 | |
| Last week | - 4 | |
| 2002 high | + 1 | |
| 2002 low | -13 | |
| 2002 average | - 6 | |
| 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 +27 in higher-income households compared to -46 in the lowest, +11 among college graduates while -35 among high-school dropouts, -1 among whites but -41 among blacks and +7 among men while -17 among women.

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

NATIONAL ECONOMY – Thirty-nine percent of Americans rate the nation's economy as excellent or good, down two points from last week. The best was 80 percent Jan. 16, 2000. The worst was seven percent in late 1991 and early 1992.

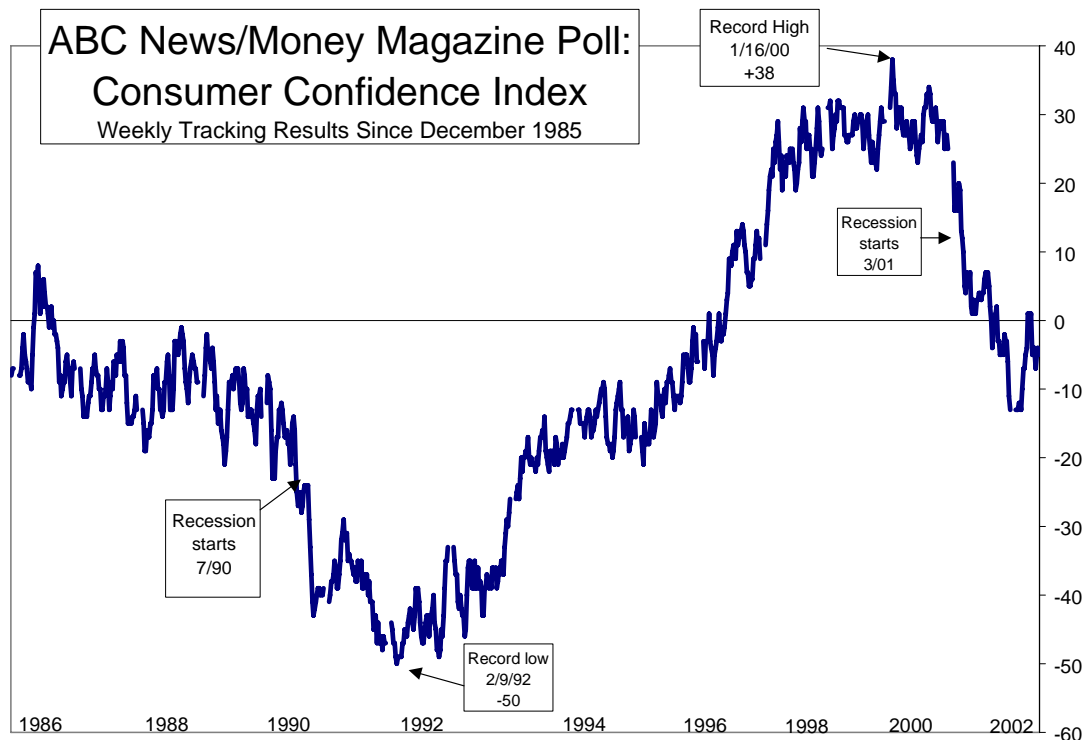
| | Pos. NET | Excel. | Good | Neg. NET | Not good | Poor |
|------------------|----------|--------|------|----------|----------|------|
| This week | 39 | 2 | 37 | 61 | 48 | 13 |
| Avg. since 12/85 | 42 | 4 | 38 | 58 | 39 | 19 |

PERSONAL FINANCES – Sixty percent rate their own finances as excellent or good, the same as 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 | 6 | 54 | 40 | 29 | 11 |
| 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, unchanged 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 | 43 | 3 | 40 | 57 | 41 | 16 |
| 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 1,032 interviews in the month ending June 2, 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>

Media contact: Todd Polkes, (212) 456-4586

| 06/02/02 | 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 | -4 | -4 | -7 | 3 | 7 | -13 | -3 |
| State of Economy | -22 | -18 | -16 | -26 | 2 | 6 | -38 | -17 |
| Personal Finances | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 22 | 32 | 12 | 23 |
| Buying Climate | -14 | -14 | -16 | -16 | -16 | -4 | -20 | -15 |
| ----- | | | | | | | | |
| OVERALL INDEX BY DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS | | | | | | | | |
| Sex: | | | | | | | | |
| Men | 7 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 13 | -6 | 4 |
| Women | -17 | -9 | -8 | -17 | -3 | 6 | -21 | -9 |
| Age: | | | | | | | | |
| 18 - 34 | 4 | 8 | 2 | -2 | 2 | 21 | -8 | 4 |
| 35 - 44 | -8 | -5 | -5 | -15 | 3 | 9 | -17 | -4 |
| 45 - 54 | 1 | -7 | -8 | 0 | 1 | 4 | -22 | -6 |
| 55 - 64 | -10 | -1 | 3 | -16 | 7 | 20 | -30 | -4 |
| 65 + | -22 | -21 | -16 | -14 | -1 | 9 | -23 | -10 |
| Income: | | | | | | | | |
| Under \$15K | -46 | -38 | -51 | -51 | -40 | -23 | -54 | -42 |
| \$15K To \$24.9K | -44 | -42 | -26 | -26 | -25 | -14 | -44 | -26 |
| \$25K To \$39.9K | -13 | -10 | -9 | -1 | -16 | 11 | -24 | -9 |
| \$40K To \$49.9K | -3 | -2 | 12 | 7 | 10 | 15 | -14 | 3 |
| Over \$50K | 27 | 25 | 20 | 14 | 31 | 39 | 3 | 22 |
| Region: | | | | | | | | |
| Northeast | -18 | -16 | -2 | -6 | -2 | 9 | -18 | -4 |
| Midwest | 4 | 3 | -1 | -14 | 4 | 13 | -15 | -2 |
| South | 0 | 2 | -9 | -4 | 6 | 8 | -13 | -2 |
| West | -12 | -9 | -2 | -6 | -1 | 8 | -21 | -5 |
| Race: | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| White | -1 | 2 | 1 | -2 | 7 | 12 | -8 | 2 |
| Black | -41 | -34 | -35 | -47 | -21 | -8 | -51 | -31 |
| Politics: | | | | | | | | |
| Republican | 17 | 22 | 24 | 7 | 21 | 34 | 5 | 21 |
| Democrat | -26 | -19 | -16 | -16 | 0 | 2 | -29 | -15 |
| Independent | -5 | -10 | -10 | -7 | -12 | 4 | -19 | -7 |
| Education: | | | | | | | | |
| < High School | -35 | -36 | -30 | -36 | -42 | -12 | -49 | -32 |
| High Sch. Grad. | -14 | -5 | -5 | -4 | -3 | 6 | -18 | -8 |
| College + | 11 | 8 | 6 | 0 | 20 | 26 | -5 | 10 |
| Home: | | | | | | | | |
| Own | 2 | 3 | 4 | -1 | 9 | 16 | -10 | 3 |
| Rent | -24 | -20 | -26 | -21 | -14 | -6 | -28 | -18 |
| Marital Status: | | | | | | | | |
| Single | 6 | 10 | -4 | -12 | -10 | 15 | -19 | -2 |
| Married | -2 | 0 | -1 | 0 | 12 | 12 | -7 | 3 |
| Sep/Wid/Div | -26 | -26 | -16 | -34 | -22 | -10 | -42 | -24 |
| Employ. Status: | | | | | | | | |
| Full-Time | 6 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 11 | 19 | -4 | 7 |
| Part-Time | -2 | 14 | -6 | 3 | 0 | 14 | -15 | -3 |
| Not Employed | -22 | -20 | -18 | -21 | -8 | -5 | -28 | -16 |

END