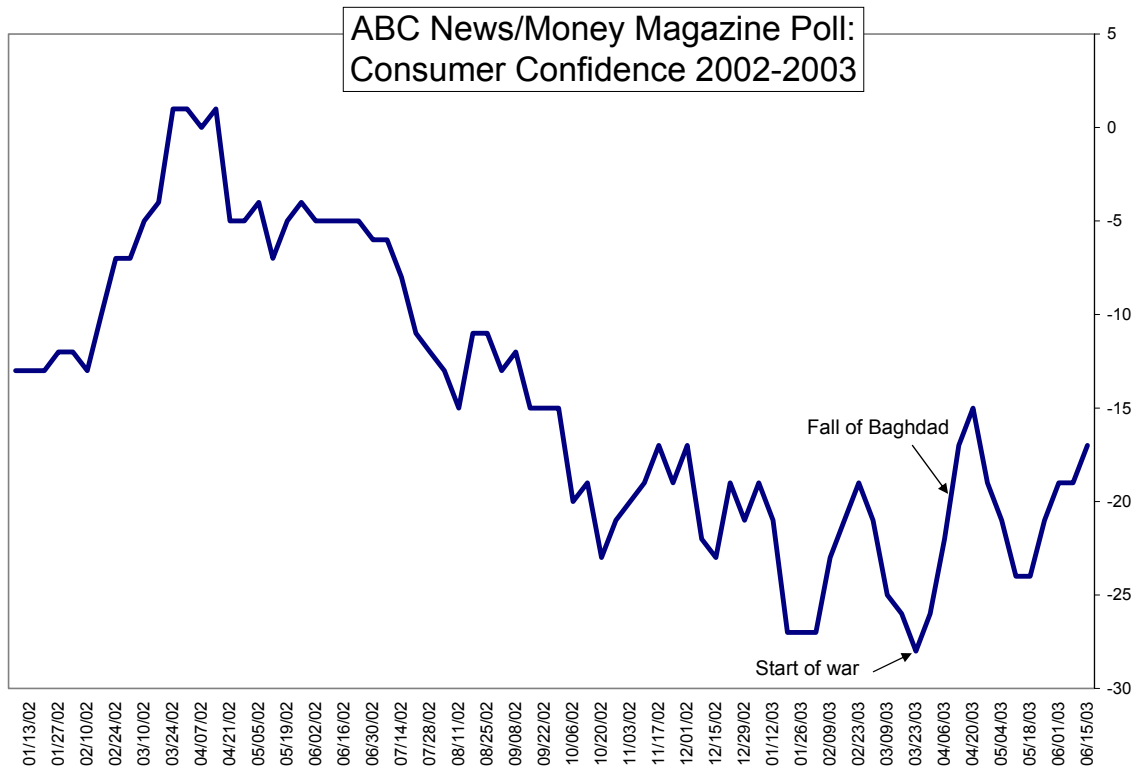


Confidence, Still Weak, Is on a Better Track

Consumer confidence, while still weak, is on a better track: The ABC News/Money magazine index has gained seven points in the last month, bouncing back from a postwar slump.

The weekly Consumer Comfort Index, based on public views of current economic conditions, stands at -17 on its scale of +100 to -100, up from -24 in mid-May. While still worse than average (-9 since December 1985), it's been moving in a positive direction.



	ABC/Money	
	Index	Change
6/15/03	-17	Up 7 in the last month
5/11/03	-24	Postwar slump: down 9
4/20/03	-15	War boost: up 13
3/23/03	-28	

INDEX – The ABC/Money index is composed of ratings of the economy, personal finances and the buying climate. While positive ratings of the economy are the weakest

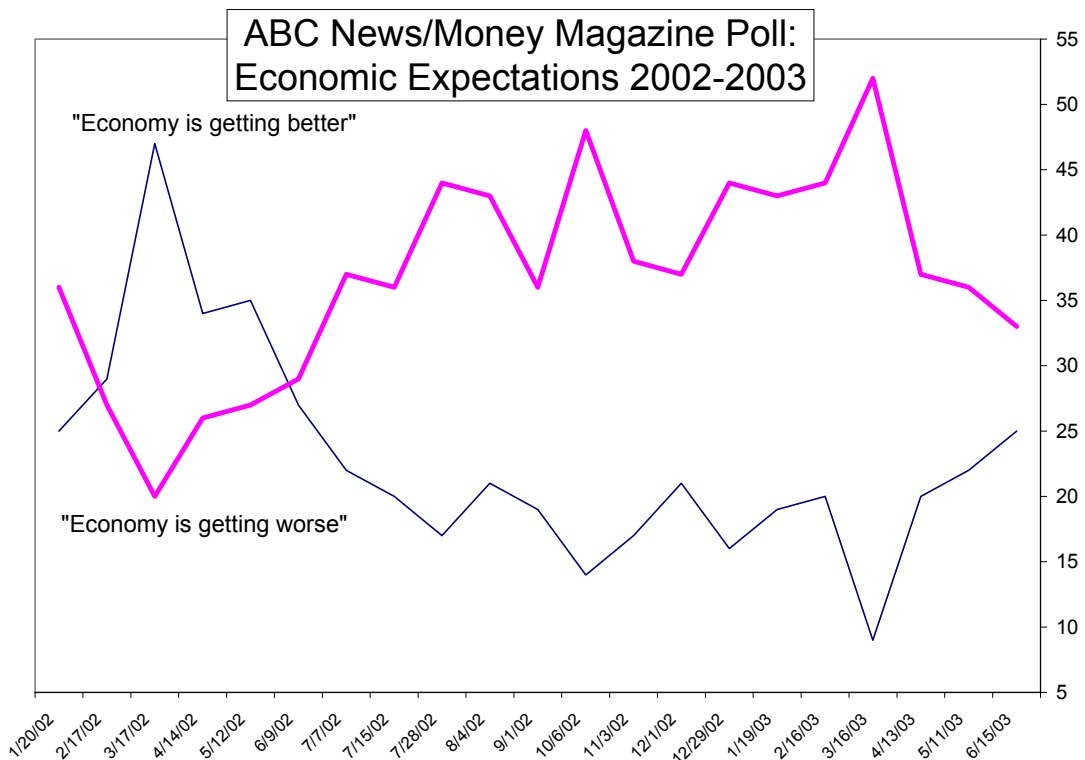
of the three, they're also the most improved: Thirty-one percent of Americans say the economy's excellent or good, up five points in the last month to its best this year.

Fifty-six percent say their own finances are in good shape, up four points in four weeks. Ratings of the buying climate have been flatter – 38 percent positive, compared to 36 percent a month ago.

Positive ratings of:	ABC News/Money magazine poll				
	This week	Last month	2003 high	2003 low	17-yr. avg.
National economy	31%	26	30	21	41
Buying climate	38	36	38	32	39
Personal finances	56	52	60	52	57
Consumer Comfort Index	-17	-24	-15	-28	-9

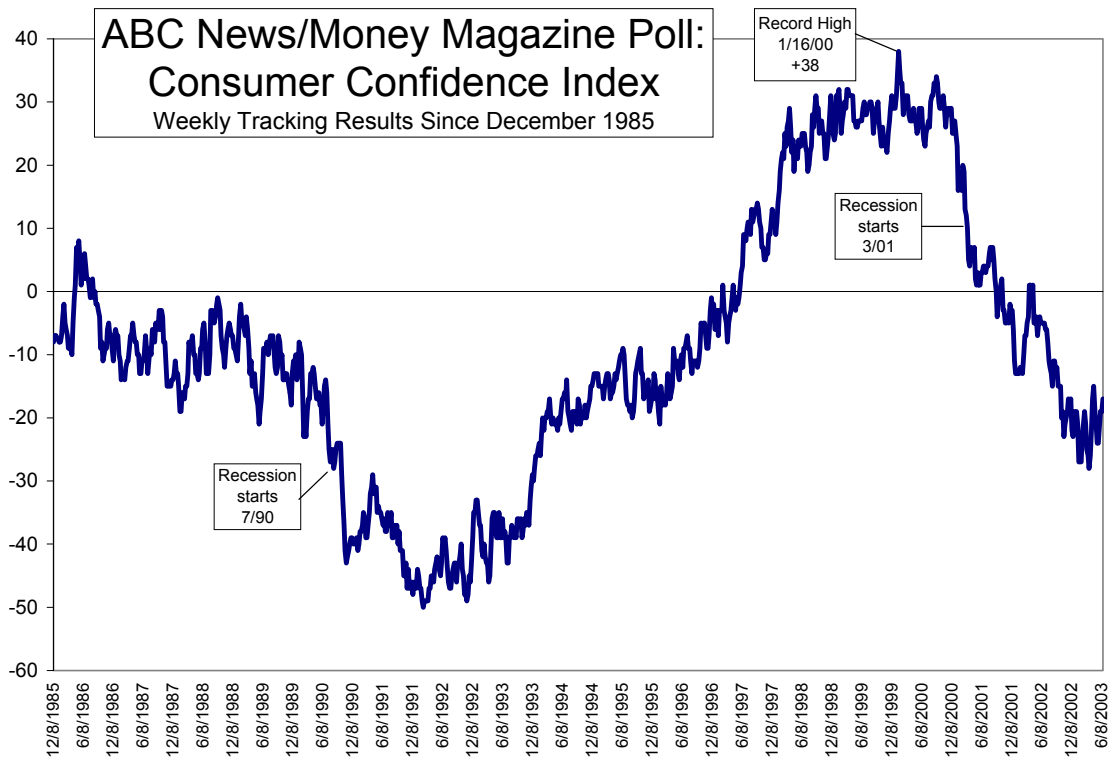
LOOK AHEAD – Expectations, measured separately, show some improvement – a five-point gain since April in the number of Americans who say the economy's improving. Americans still are eight points more likely to say the economy is getting worse rather than getting better, but that's the smallest gap since June 2002.

	Getting better	Getting worse	Staying the same	Difference (better-worse)
6/15/03	25	33	43	- 8
5/11/03	22	36	41	-14
4/13/03	20	37	43	-17
3/16/03	9	52	39	-43



TREND – At -17, the index is both well below its record high, +38 in January 2000, and far from its record low, a dismal -50 in February 1992. But as noted, on average the index has performed better over the course of 17 years, averaging -9.

ABC/Money Index		
Today	-17	
One month ago	-24	
Two months ago	-15	
Recent low	-28	March 2003
Recent high	+1	March, April 2002
2003 average	-22	To date
2002 average	-11	
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	-9	



GROUPS –As usual, confidence is higher among better-off Americans. The index is +15 among people in higher-income households compared to -67 in the lowest, -7 among college graduates while -39 among high-school dropouts, -15 among whites but -35 among blacks and -8 among men while -25 among women.

The index is highest in the South, -7, which is unusual. (It's -13 in the West, -25 in the Midwest and -28 in the Northeast.) It peaks among Republicans at +15 (a point away from its 12-month high in this group), compared to -24 among independents and -31 among Democrats.

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

NATIONAL ECONOMY – Thirty-one percent of Americans rate the nation's economy as excellent or good; it was 28 percent last week. The best was 80 percent Jan. 16, 2000. The worst was seven percent in late 1991 and early 1992.

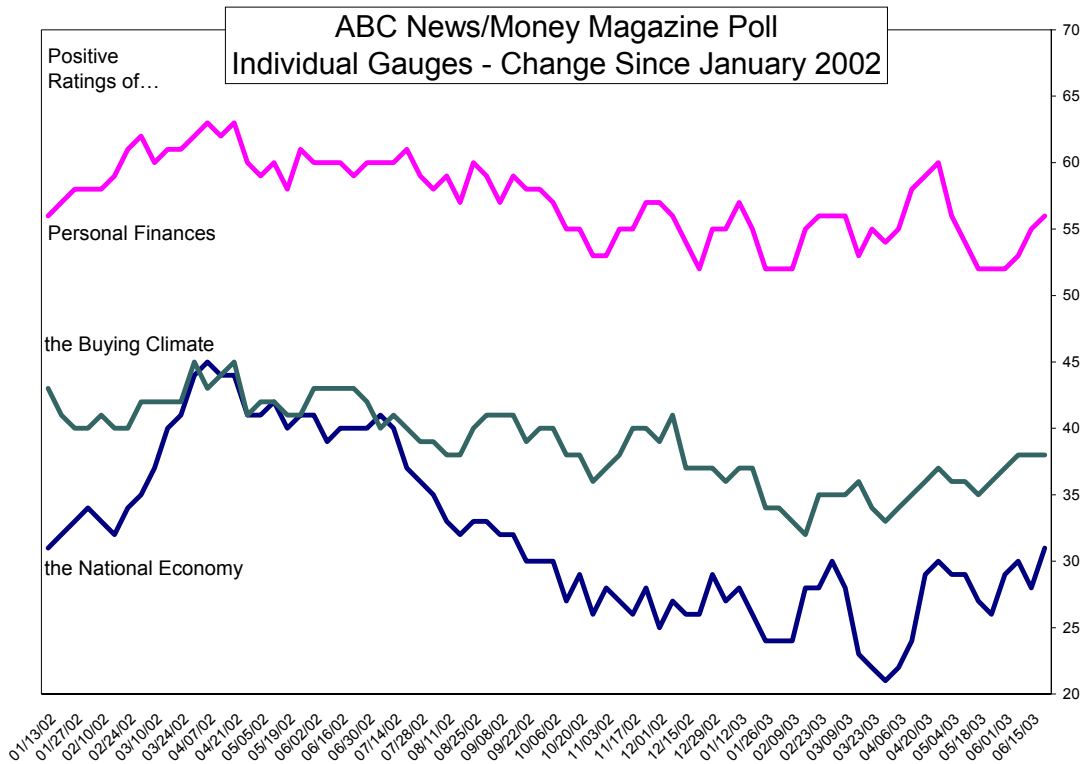
	Pos. NET	Excel.	Good	Neg. NET	Not good	Poor
This week	31	1	30	69	45	24
Avg. since 12/85	41	4	37	59	40	19

PERSONAL FINANCES – Fifty-six percent rate their own finances as excellent or good; it was 55 percent last week. The best was 70 percent, set Aug. 30, 1998, and last matched in January 2000. The worst was 42 percent March 14, 1993.

	Pos. NET	Excel.	Good	Neg. NET	Not good	Poor
This week	56	4	52	44	31	13
Avg. since 12/85	57	5	53	43	30	12

BUYING CLIMATE - Thirty-eight 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	38	3	35	62	45	17
Avg. since 12/85	39	3	36	61	41	20



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 1,006 interviews in the month ending June 15, 2003, and have an error margin of plus or minus three percentage points. The expectations question was conducted among 503 respondents June 4-15; that result has a 4.5-point error margin. 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: Cathie Levine, (212) 456-4934.

06/15/03	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	-17	-19	-24	-26	-5	-5	-28	-18
State of Economy	-38	-44	-48	-56	-20	-18	-58	-42
Personal Finances	12	10	4	10	18	22	4	12
Buying Climate	-24	-24	-28	-32	-14	-14	-36	-25

OVERALL INDEX BY DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS								
Sex:								
Men	-8	-11	-15	-14	4	4	-19	-10
Women	-25	-27	-32	-37	-13	-9	-38	-25
Age:								
18 - 34	-14	-19	-20	-24	-2	3	-25	-11
35 - 44	-18	-16	-17	-18	-6	-1	-31	-17
45 - 54	-9	-21	-40	-37	6	6	-41	-23
55 - 64	-22	-19	-14	-30	-12	-2	-39	-20
65 +	-21	-22	-31	-24	-16	-14	-36	-25
Income:								
Under \$15K	-67	-64	-59	-47	-43	-26	-67	-47
\$15K To \$24.9K	-48	-48	-41	-47	-42	-19	-55	-39
\$25K To \$39.9K	-21	-30	-37	-49	-18	-9	-49	-28
\$40K To \$49.9K	-20	-19	-28	-20	5	12	-32	-14
Over \$50K	15	10	0	0	27	27	-15	4
Region:								
Northeast	-28	-31	-34	-34	-9	-4	-38	-23
Midwest	-25	-22	-14	-30	-4	-4	-34	-18
South	-7	-8	-19	-24	-2	4	-29	-18
West	-13	-25	-34	-17	-7	9	-34	-13
Race:								

White	-15	-17	-19	-23	-1	0	-23	-14
Black	-35	-42	-56	-44	-42	-21	-60	-40
Politics:								
Republican	15	12	8	-3	16	16	-3	8
Democrat	-31	-39	-45	-39	-19	-14	-46	-34
Independent	-24	-25	-26	-33	-8	-8	-38	-22
Education:								
< High School	-39	-50	-48	-41	-36	-18	-59	-39
High Sch. Grad.	-20	-23	-30	-30	-11	-4	-40	-24
College +	-7	-7	-12	-17	9	9	-18	-7
Home:								
Own	-12	-15	-19	-21	2	2	-24	-14
Rent	-31	-35	-36	-35	-23	-9	-40	-27
Marital Status:								
Single	-18	-18	-31	-25	-1	1	-32	-14
Married	-9	-13	-13	-20	-1	2	-27	-14
Sep/Wid/Div	-39	-46	-46	-47	-26	-21	-52	-34
Employ. Status:								
Full-Time	-6	-11	-20	-20	4	4	-20	-11
Part-Time	-29	-29	-26	-25	-9	3	-40	-19
Not Employed	-24	-26	-27	-34	-17	-16	-40	-28

1. Do you think the nation's economy is getting better, getting worse or staying the same?

	Getting Better	Getting Worse	Staying the Same	No Opinion
6/15/03	25	33	43	0
5/11/03	22	36	41	0
4/13/03	20	37	43	0
3/16/03	9	52	39	0
2/16/03	20	44	36	0
1/19/03	19	43	37	0
12/29/02	16	44	39	1
12/1/02	21	37	42	1
11/3/02	17	38	44	0
10/6/02	14	48	37	1
9/1/02	19	36	44	1
8/4/02	21	43	34	0
7/28/02*	17	44	39	1
7/15/02*	20	36	43	2
7/7/02	22	37	41	0
6/9/02	27	29	43	1
5/12/02	35	27	38	0
4/14/02	34	26	40	0
3/17/02	47	20	32	1
2/17/02	29	27	42	2
1/20/02	25	36	39	1

Call for full trend.

*ABC/Post

END