

## Confidence Stands Pat

Consumer confidence held steady this week, halting a modest three-week decline after approaching record levels a month ago.

Confidence still remains high by historical standards. Seventy-six percent of Americans say the economy's in good shape, four points from its record high. Sixty-five percent say their own finances are in good shape and 52 percent call it a good time to buy things, both five points from their respective highs.

	Today	Highest	Lowest	Average
Positive ratings:				
National Economy	76%	80	7	40
Personal Finances	65	70	42	57
Buying Climate	52	57	20	38

INDEX - The ABC News/Money magazine Consumer Comfort Index, based on these ratings, stands at +29 on its scale of +100 to -100, the same as last week. The index has averaged, +29 this year, a point above its record 1999 average. Its lifetime average is -10, depressed by recession in the early 1990s.

	ABC/Money Index	
Today	+29	
Sept. 3, 2000	+34	
Jan. 16, 2000	+38	Record high
2000 average	+29	
1999 average	+28	Best full year
1992 average	-44	Worst full year
Feb. 9, 1992	-50	Record low
Average since 12/85	-10	

Call the ABC News Polling Unit, ext. 2621, for a chart tracking the index over time.

GROUPS - As usual, confidence is higher among better-off Americans: The index is +60 in higher-income households compared to -23 in the lowest, +48 among college graduates but -21 among high-school dropouts, +30 among whites but +17 among blacks and +32 among men but +25 among women.

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

NATIONAL ECONOMY- The poll asks: Would you describe the state of the nation's economy these days as excellent, good, not so good or poor? Seventy-six percent of Americans rate the nation's economy as excellent or good, down one point from last



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GENERAL POPULATION:

Overall Index	29	29	34	25	23	38	22	28
State of Economy	52	54	56	40	40	60	38	48
Personal Finances	30	30	38	36	30	40	28	34
Buying Climate	4	4	8	-2	-2	14	-6	3

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OVERALL INDEX BY DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS

Sex:								
Men	32	32	45	35	34	45	30	36
Women	25	27	23	14	11	30	11	21
Age:								
18 - 34	29	32	34	31	23	37	16	26
35 - 44	26	26	23	20	19	37	13	26
45 - 54	33	31	34	35	20	45	11	31
55 - 64	23	25	51	15	25	51	13	30
65 +	30	28	32	12	25	45	12	29
Income:								
Under \$15K	-23	-23	-14	-30	-26	-12	-36	-24
\$15K To \$24.9K	-5	-11	-9	-8	-7	26	-20	1
\$25K To \$39.9K	14	18	24	12	9	33	8	23
\$40K To \$49.9K	46	48	36	41	46	60	19	38
Over \$50K	60	65	66	56	53	68	53	61
Region:								
Northeast	28	32	34	22	40	48	17	33
Midwest	37	40	42	22	22	46	17	31
South	21	19	26	19	14	31	14	22
West	32	33	36	36	21	43	13	29
Race:								
White	30	33	37	27	27	43	25	33
Black	17	7	7	4	-10	25	-15	1
Politics:								
Republican	44	39	33	31	38	55	31	42
Democrat	33	31	32	17	18	38	7	27
Independent	16	22	39	31	16	39	13	23
Education:								
< High School	-21	-23	-9	-12	-24	13	-24	-9
High Sch. Grad.	24	24	23	15	19	32	8	19
College +	48	50	53	41	40	53	38	46
Home:								
Own	32	35	42	31	28	44	28	36
Rent	17	16	14	7	5	19	-3	8
Marital Status:								
Single	29	27	35	20	20	42	8	25
Married	32	33	37	30	28	44	27	34
Sep/Wid/Div	12	17	19	7	4	27	-9	7
Employ. Status:								
Full-Time	36	40	39	31	30	44	28	35
Part-Time	23	26	39	23	19	40	11	26
Not Employed	20	17	22	15	12	28	8	18

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