

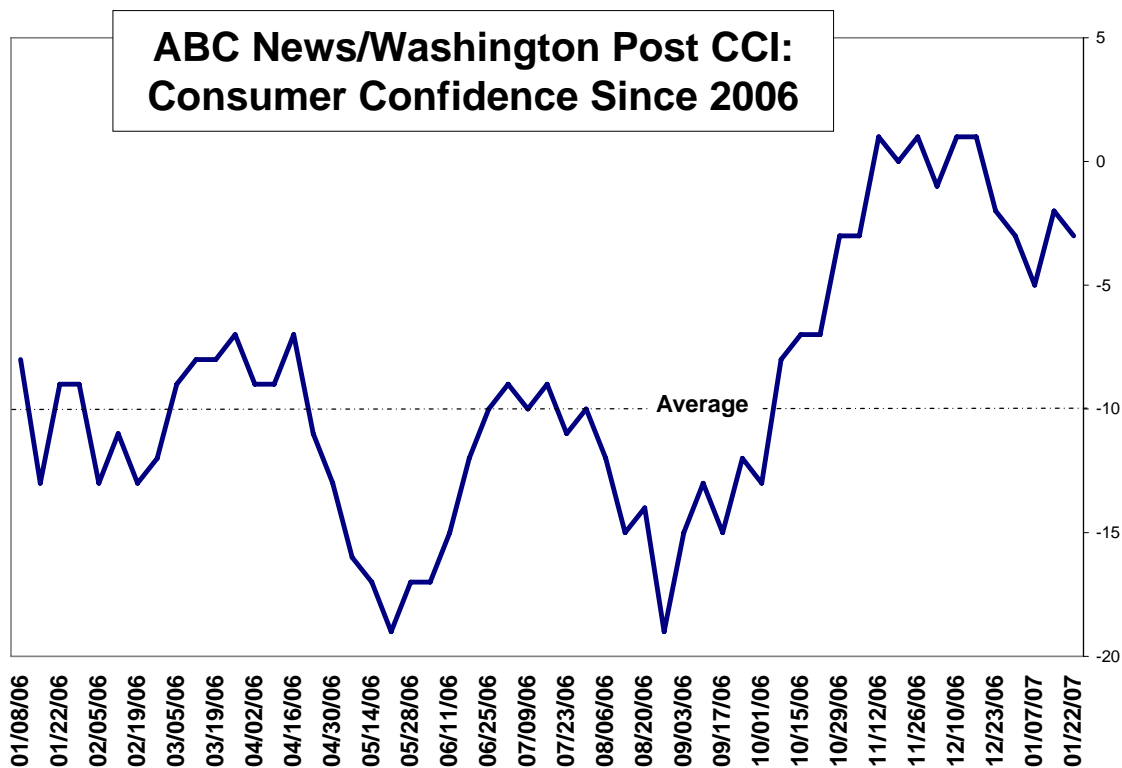
Consumer Confidence

No Help to Bush

Consumer confidence is better now than it was a year ago – not that it's doing much for George W. Bush.

The ABC News/Washington Post Consumer Comfort Index stands at -3 on its scale of +100 to -100, about the same as last week. It was lower, -9, just ahead of last year's State of the Union address, and worse still, a low of -19, as recently as last August.

No credit to Bush, whose job rating matched its career low in a separate ABC/Post poll this week. Consumer confidence aside, Americans by 57-41 percent disapprove of his work on the economy, and by 60-32 percent trust the Democrats more to handle it.



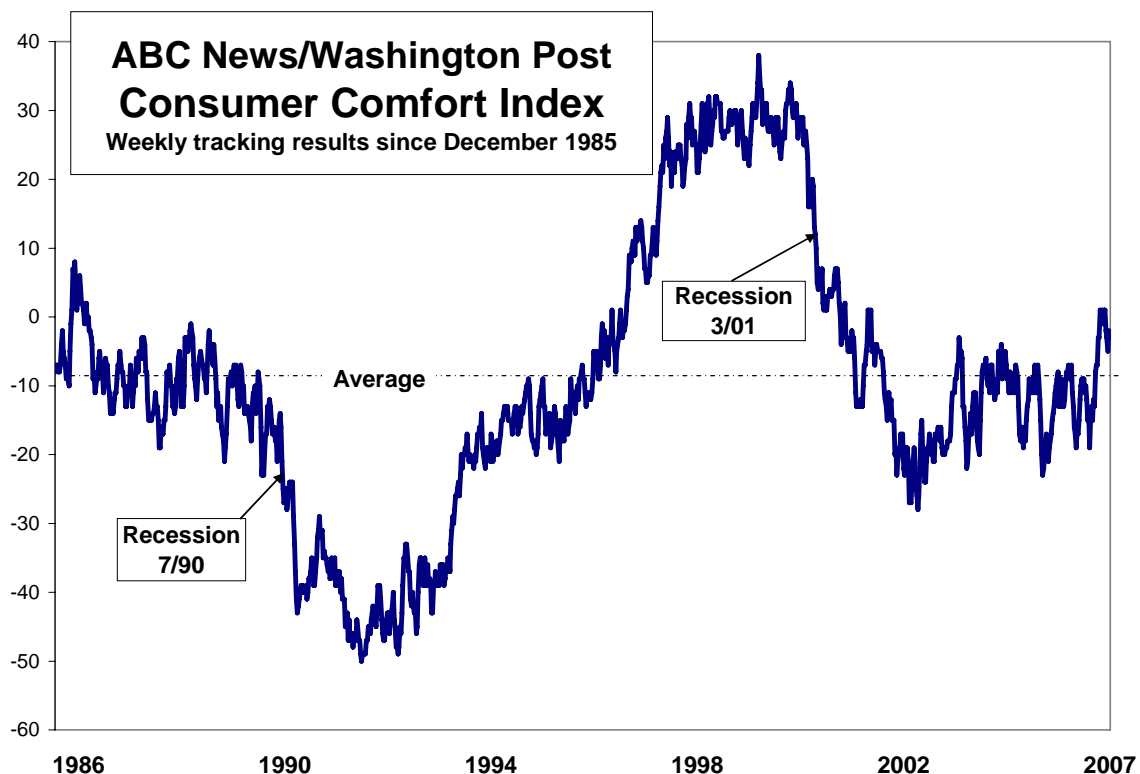
One likely cause for better confidence is declining gasoline prices, down another six cents this week to a national average of \$2.17 a gallon. It was \$2.34 a year ago. Then again it was \$1.47 – and the index was +17 – when Bush took office at this time in 2001.

INDEX – The CCI is based on Americans’ ratings of the economy, the buying climate and their personal finances. This week 46 percent rate the economy positively and 61 percent say their finances are good, each five points higher than a year ago. Thirty-nine percent call it a good time to buy things, about the same as last year.

	ABC News/Washington Post CCI			
Positive ratings of:	This week	2006 avg.	Last SOTU	21-yr. avg.
National economy	46%	40	41	40
Buying climate	39	37	40	38
Personal finances	61	59	56	57
Consumer Comfort Index	-3	-10	-9	-9

TREND – A rally in the last quarter of 2006 lifted the index into the positive range, from its 2006 low of -19 on Aug. 27 to +1 in November and December. In the past two months, the trend flattened, dipped, then flattened again.

The CCI is a long way from its best days, an average of +29 in 2000 (peaking at +38 in January 2000). But it’s been vastly worse – an average of -44 in 1992, bottoming out at -50 that February.

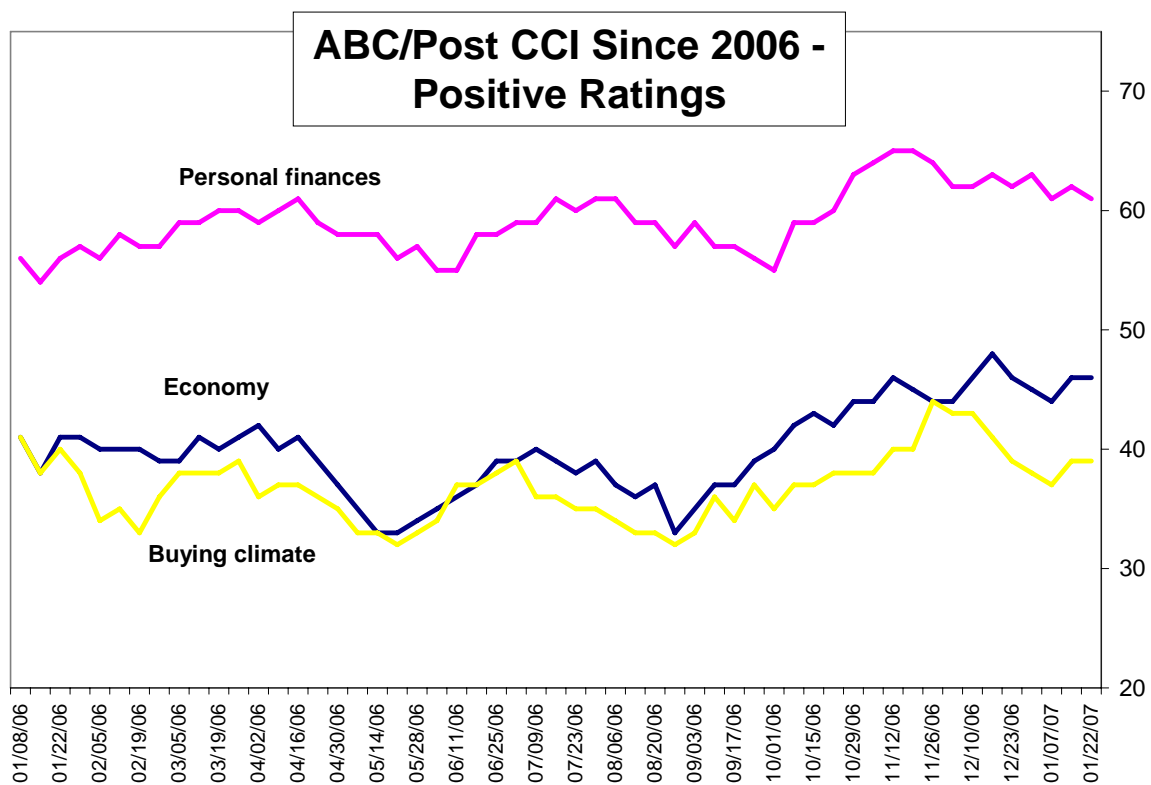


	ABC/Post CCI	
This week	-3	
2006 high	+1	Dec. 17, Dec. 10, Nov. 26, Nov. 12
2006 low	-19	Aug. 27, May 21
2006 average	-10	

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, the index is higher in better-off groups – far better, for example, among higher-income Americans, college graduates and whites. It's +2 among men while -6 among women – a closer spread between the sexes than usual.

Huge partisan differences remain: The CCI is +36 among Republicans, but -5 among independents and -28 among Democrats.



Here's a closer look at the three components of the ABC/Post CCI:

NATIONAL ECONOMY – Forty-six percent of Americans rate the economy as excellent or good, the same as last week. The highest was 80 percent on Jan. 16, 2000. The lowest was seven percent in late 1991 and early 1992.

	Pos. NET	Excel.	Good	Neg. NET	Not good	Poor
This week	46	5	41	54	38	16
Avg. since 12/85	40	4	37	60	40	20

PERSONAL FINANCES – Sixty-one percent say their own finances are excellent or good; it was 62 percent last week. The best was 70 percent on Aug. 30, 1998, matched in January 2000. The worst was 42 percent on March 14, 1993.

	Pos. NET	Excel.	Good	Neg. NET	Not good	Poor
This week	61	6	55	39	30	9
Avg. since 12/85	57	5	52	43	30	13

BUYING CLIMATE – Thirty-nine percent say it's an excellent or good time to buy things, same as last week. The best was 57 percent on Jan. 16, 2000. The worst was 20 percent in fall 1990.

	Pos. NET	Excel.	Good	Neg. net	Not good	Poor
This week	39	2	37	61	42	19
Avg. since 12/85	38	3	36	62	41	21

METHODOLOGY – Interviews for the ABC News/Washington Post Consumer Comfort Index are reported in a four-week rolling average. This week's results are based on telephone interviews among a random national sample of 1,000 adults in the four weeks ending Jan. 22, 2007. The results have a three-point error margin. Field work by ICR-International Communications Research of Media, Pa.

The index is derived by subtracting the negative response to each index question from the positive response to that question. The three resulting numbers are 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 Peyton M. Craighill.

ABC News polls can be found online at <http://abcnews.com/pollvault.html>.

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01/22/07	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	-3	-2	-2	-7	-9	1	-19	-9
State of Economy	-8	-8	-8	-16	-18	-4	-34	-20
Personal Finances	22	24	24	20	12	30	10	19
Buying Climate	-22	-22	-22	-24	-20	-12	-36	-27

OVERALL INDEX BY DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS								
Sex:								
Men	2	2	17	10	-1	17	-12	2
Women	-6	-7	-20	-23	-16	-5	-32	-19
Age:								
18 - 34	-1	-2	-5	1	-17	6	-24	-5
35 - 44	11	9	0	-16	5	11	-23	-8

45 - 54	-12	-12	-2	-18	-10	2	-30	-15
55 - 64	-4	-6	-4	3	-9	4	-25	-9
65+	-10	-3	2	-8	-8	3	-31	-12
Income:								
Under \$15K	-43	-44	-46	-52	-62	-26	-72	-52
\$15K To \$24.9K	-36	-37	-33	-30	-41	-15	-62	-41
\$25K To \$39.9K	-26	-22	-17	-8	-31	0	-37	-18
\$40K To \$49.9K	-5	-8	-20	3	3	15	-41	-13
Over \$50K	32	29	34	21	24	35	6	19
\$50K To \$74.9K	25	15	16	2	15	25	-20	3
\$75K To \$99.9K	36	35	44	14	20	44	7	21
Over \$100K	41	44	44	46	40	56	25	37
Region:								
Northeast	-7	-7	-18	-23	-18	7	-30	-15
Midwest	-4	-2	-3	-9	-6	-2	-33	-15
South	-2	0	3	0	-15	6	-19	-8
West	2	-3	5	-3	5	23	-13	1
Race:								
White	-1	0	1	-2	-3	10	-12	-4
Black	-25	-30	-36	-42	-50	-25	-57	-42
Politics:								
Republican	36	36	44	33	30	45	12	31
Democrat	-28	-27	-20	-25	-32	-17	-46	-30
Independent	-5	-12	-18	-19	-12	-5	-25	-17
Education:								
< High School	-32	-32	-30	-31	-31	-18	-60	-38
High Sch. Grad.	-16	-18	-15	-15	-25	-6	-30	-18
College +	16	18	16	5	9	18	-9	6
Home:								
Own	5	7	10	-3	2	10	-12	-2
Rent	-22	-25	-33	-18	-37	-16	-44	-29
Marital Status:								
Single	-9	-11	-20	-13	-28	1	-32	-15
Married	11	11	15	4	7	16	-9	2
Sep/Wid/Div	-33	-33	-26	-28	-29	-19	-45	-32
Employ. Status:								
Full-Time	8	7	15	8	-1	15	-12	0
Part-Time	2	0	-20	-25	-15	13	-29	-11
Not Employed	-18	-16	-17	-24	-18	-11	-43	-23

END