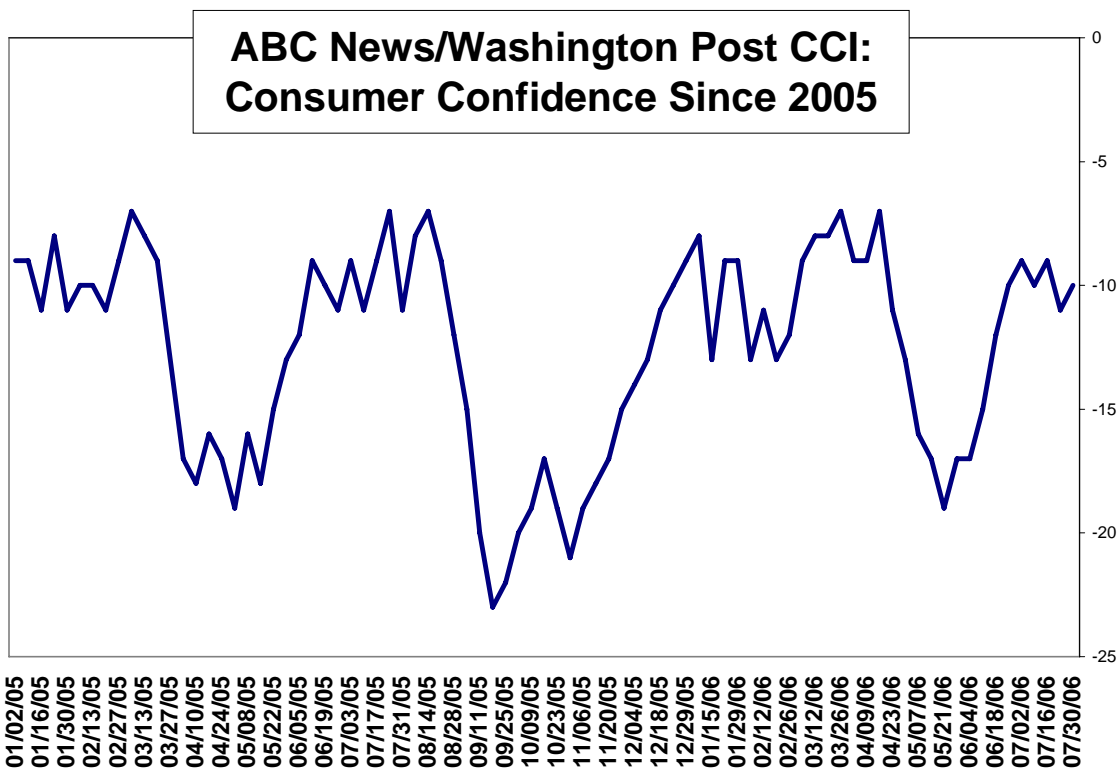


Showing Resilience, Confidence Stays Flat

Consumer confidence continues to hold its own in the face of \$3 gasoline, suggesting that Americans are finding ways to accommodate themselves to the high price of fuel.

The ABC News/Washington Post Consumer Comfort Index stands at -10 on its scale of +100 to -100 this week, essentially unchanged. It's held between -9 and -11 for six weeks straight, while gas has gained 13 cents a gallon to an average \$3.00.

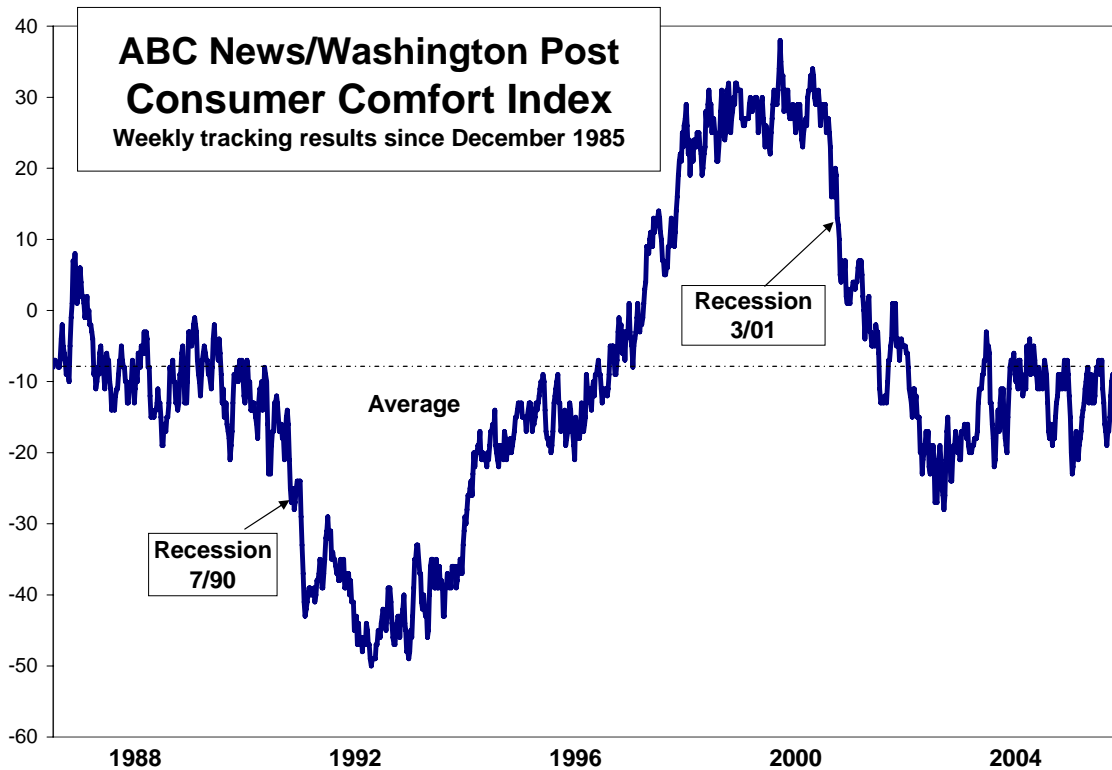
A separate, recent ABC News poll found that many people are dealing with the price of gas by spending less on other goods. A Commerce Department report Tuesday confirmed it, finding a smaller than usual 0.4 percent rise in consumer spending in June.



INDEX – The CCI is based on Americans' ratings of the national economy, the buying climate and their personal finances. This week 61 percent rate their finances positively, four points above the long-term average. Thirty-nine percent say the economy is in good shape and 35 percent call it a good time to buy things, at or near their 2006 and long-term averages alike.

ABC News/Washington Post CCI				
Positive ratings of:	This week	Last week	2006 avg.	20-yr. avg.
National economy	39	38	39	40
Buying climate	35	35	36	38
Personal finances	61	60	58	57
Consumer Comfort Index	-10	-11	-11	-9

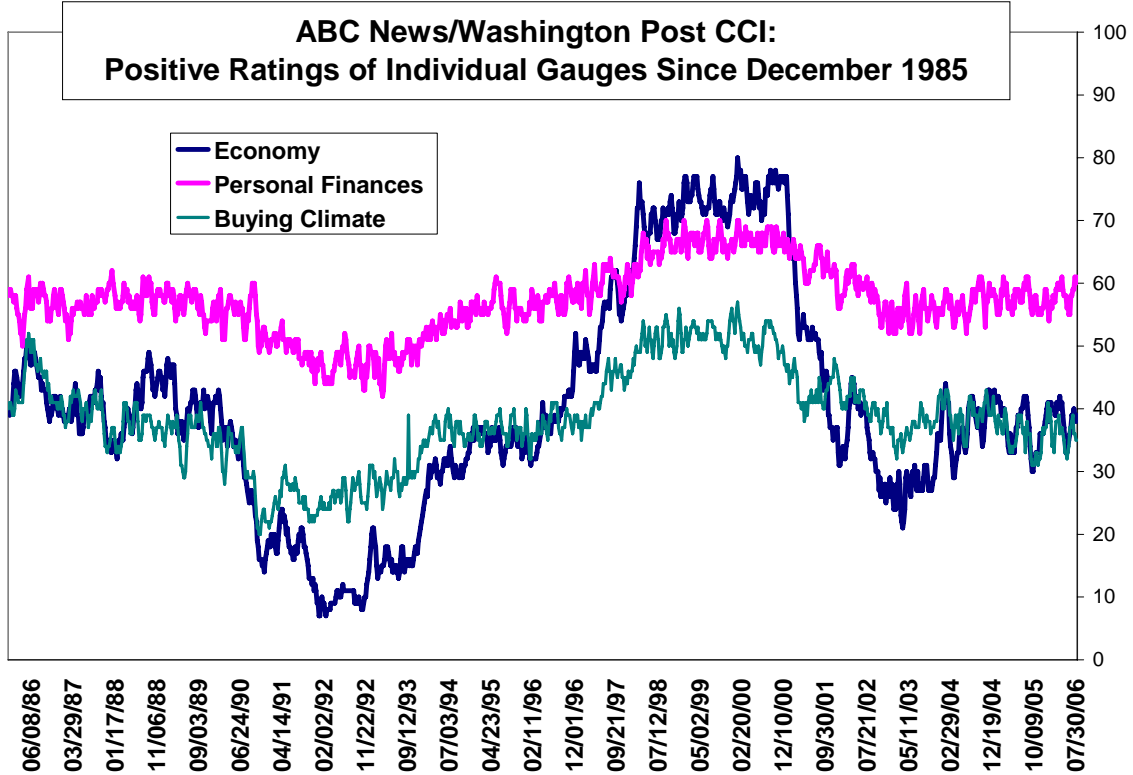
TREND – The index peaked this year at -7 in March and again in April before dropping to a low of -19 in May. Its all-time high was +38 in January 2000; its record low, -50 in February 1992.



ABC/Post CCI	
This week	-10
Last week	-11
2006 high	-7 April 16, March 26
2006 low	-19 May 21
2006 average	-11
2005 average	-13
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. It's +29 among higher-income Americans while -65 among those with the lowest incomes, +4 among college graduates while -53 among those who haven't finished high school, -7 among whites but -38 among blacks and +6 among men while -25 among women.

Regionally, the index is best in the West, at +6, compared with -13 to -17 elsewhere. Confidence continues to vary widely by political affiliation: The index is +24 among Republicans, but -19 among independents and -34 among Democrats.



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

NATIONAL ECONOMY – Thirty-nine percent of Americans rate the economy as excellent or good; it was 38 percent 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	39	3	36	61	40	21
Avg. since 12/85	40	3	37	60	40	20

PERSONAL FINANCES – Sixty-one percent say their own finances are excellent or good; it was 60 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
61	1	60	39	40	21

This week	61	8	53	39	27	12
Avg. since 12/85	57	5	52	43	30	13

BUYING CLIMATE – Thirty-five percent say it's an excellent or good time to buy things, the 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	35	2	33	65	43	22
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 July 30, 2006. 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 Tanveer Ali.

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

Media contact: Cathie Levine, (212) 456-4934.

07/30/06	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	-10	-11	-9	-13	-11	-7	-23	-13
State of Economy	-22	-24	-22	-26	-18	-16	-40	-25
Personal Finances	22	20	18	16	18	22	8	16
Buying Climate	-30	-30	-22	-30	-34	-18	-38	-29

OVERALL INDEX BY DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS								
Sex:								
Men	6	2	-3	-3	2	7	-14	-2
Women	-25	-22	-14	-22	-22	-11	-36	-22
Age:								
18 - 34	-4	-8	1	-2	-6	1	-28	-9
35 - 44	-14	-7	-15	-15	-12	5	-27	-11
45 - 54	-21	-20	-8	-22	-16	-6	-31	-17
55 - 64	-10	-19	-19	-11	-7	0	-36	-13
65+	-6	-5	-13	-24	-14	-1	-31	-16
Income:								
Under \$15K	-65	-58	-39	-45	-45	-33	-72	-53

\$15K To \$24.9K	-44	-48	-45	-47	-51	-28	-65	-45
\$25K To \$39.9K	-7	-11	-17	-23	-14	-7	-44	-26
\$40K To \$49.9K	-6	-3	-21	-8	-12	26	-41	-11
Over \$50K	13	12	13	21	16	26	4	16
\$50K To \$74.9K	-9	-15	-3	16	-1	17	-15	2
\$75K To \$99.9K	22	22	18	19	21	31	-1	17
Over \$100K	29	27	26	28	40	50	18	34
Region:								
Northeast	-13	-3	-8	-21	-16	-3	-41	-19
Midwest	-13	-22	-11	-18	-19	-4	-29	-16
South	-17	-15	-13	-10	-3	2	-27	-13
West	6	2	-1	-6	-10	7	-19	-4
Race:								
White	-7	-7	-5	-7	-7	-1	-18	-8
Black	-38	-40	-27	-52	-25	-25	-57	-42
Politics:								
Republican	24	25	24	28	24	38	9	26
Democrat	-34	-30	-27	-40	-40	-27	-46	-36
Independent	-19	-19	-15	-20	-13	-10	-31	-19
Education:								
< High School	-53	-46	-34	-37	-32	-23	-63	-42
High Sch. Grad.	-14	-18	-14	-23	-25	-13	-35	-22
College +	4	4	2	0	6	12	-9	2
Home:								
Own	-3	-2	-3	-6	-5	2	-17	-6
Rent	-29	-34	-28	-30	-24	-20	-49	-33
Marital Status:								
Single	-12	-9	-7	-13	-17	-4	-28	-17
Married	2	-1	-3	-1	2	8	-14	-3
Sep/Wid/Div	-44	-38	-26	-41	-35	-22	-49	-35
Employ. Status:								
Full-Time	-5	-4	-1	0	-2	6	-13	-3
Part-Time	-10	-9	-4	-17	-12	-1	-29	-15
Not Employed	-18	-20	-23	-29	-20	-15	-43	-24

END