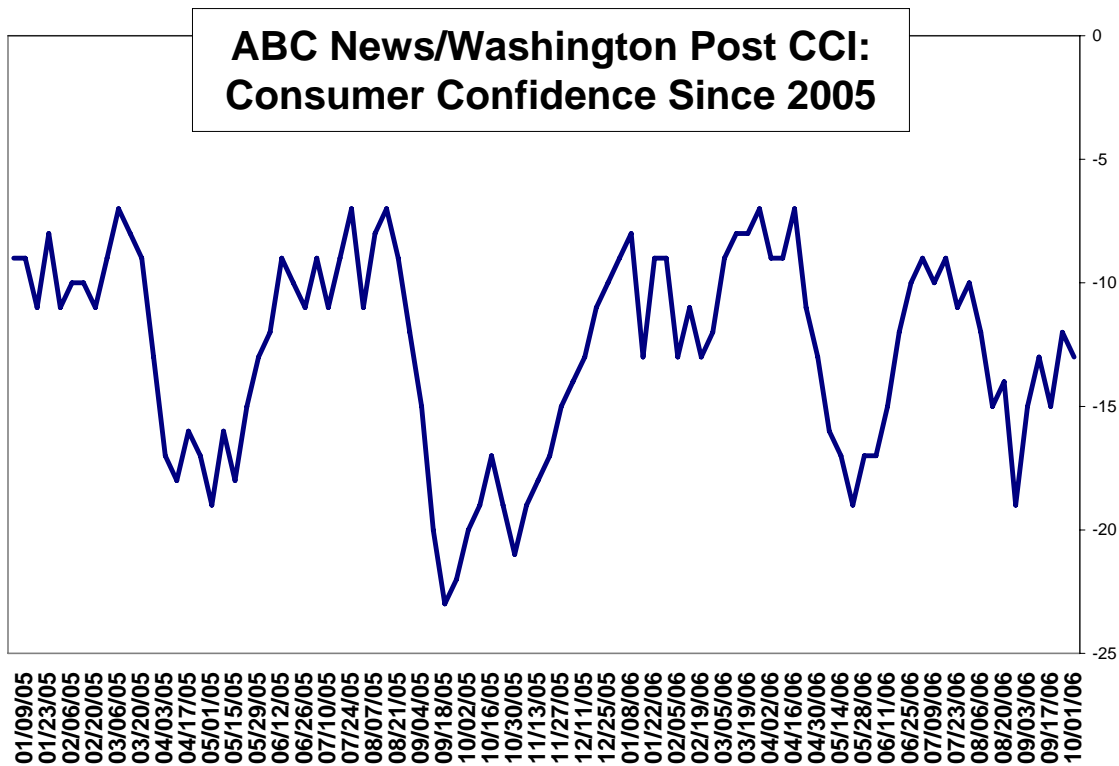


Confidence Holds Flat

Despite falling gas prices and a strong stock market, consumer confidence held essentially steady this week. One factor: strong partisanship five weeks before Election Day.

The latest ABC News/Washington Post Consumer Comfort Index stands at -13 on its scale of +100 to -100, virtually unchanged from last week and about its average so far this year, -12.

While gas prices continue to drop and the stock market is reaching record highs, other economic reports are less positive, including a cooling housing market and slower income growth. The mixed data open the door to partisanship. The index is +29 among Republicans, but -20 among independents and -37 among Democrats. That 66-point gap between the two major parties is more than double the average gap since 1990.

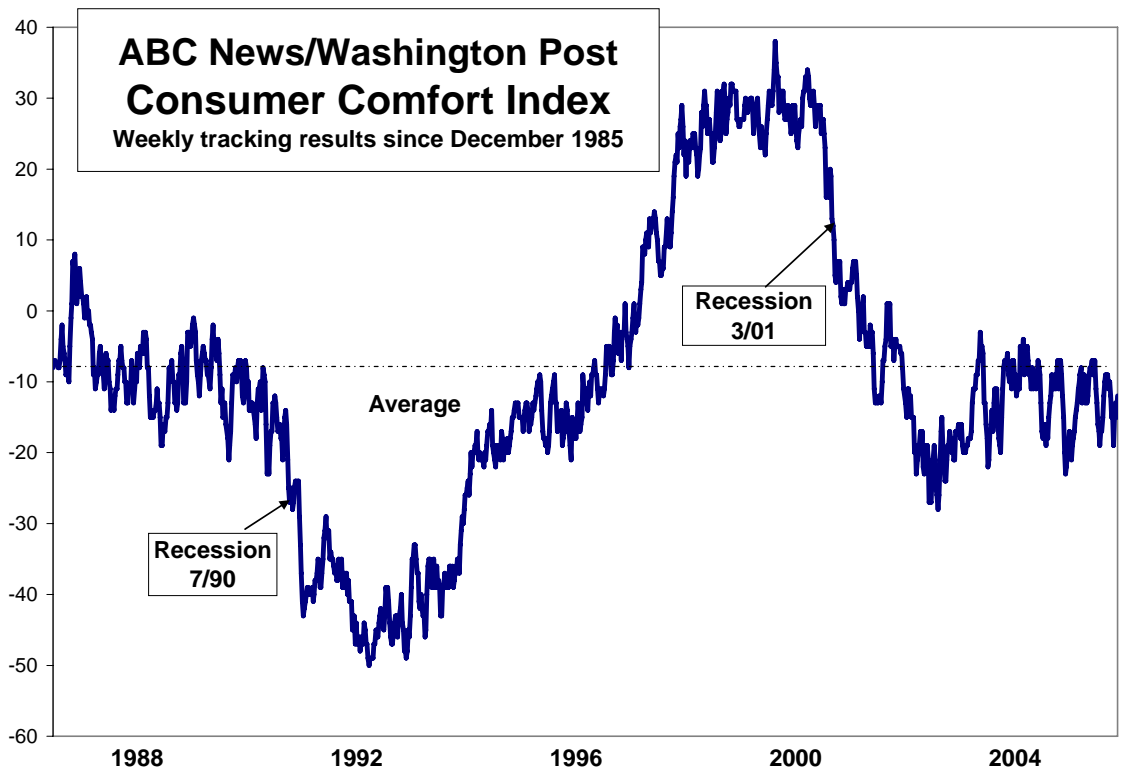


The index is based on Americans' ratings of the national economy, the buying climate and their personal finances. This week 40 percent say the economy's in good shape, matching the long-term average; and 35 percent call it a good time to buy things, compared with an average 38 percent.

More, 55 percent, say their own finances are in good shape, but that's down six points in the last two months. While ratings are up five points among Republicans, they're down six points among Democrats and 13 points among independents.

	ABC News/Washington Post CCI			
Positive ratings of:	This week	Last week	2006 avg.	20-yr. avg.
National economy	40	39	38	40
Buying climate	35	37	36	38
Personal finances	55	56	58	57
Consumer Comfort Index	-13	-12	-12	-9

TREND – The index has ranged this year from a high of -7 in March and April to a low of -19 in May and late August. Its all-time high was +38 in January 2000; its record low, -50 in February 1992. As noted, it's averaged -12 so far this year. Its average since December 1985 is -9.

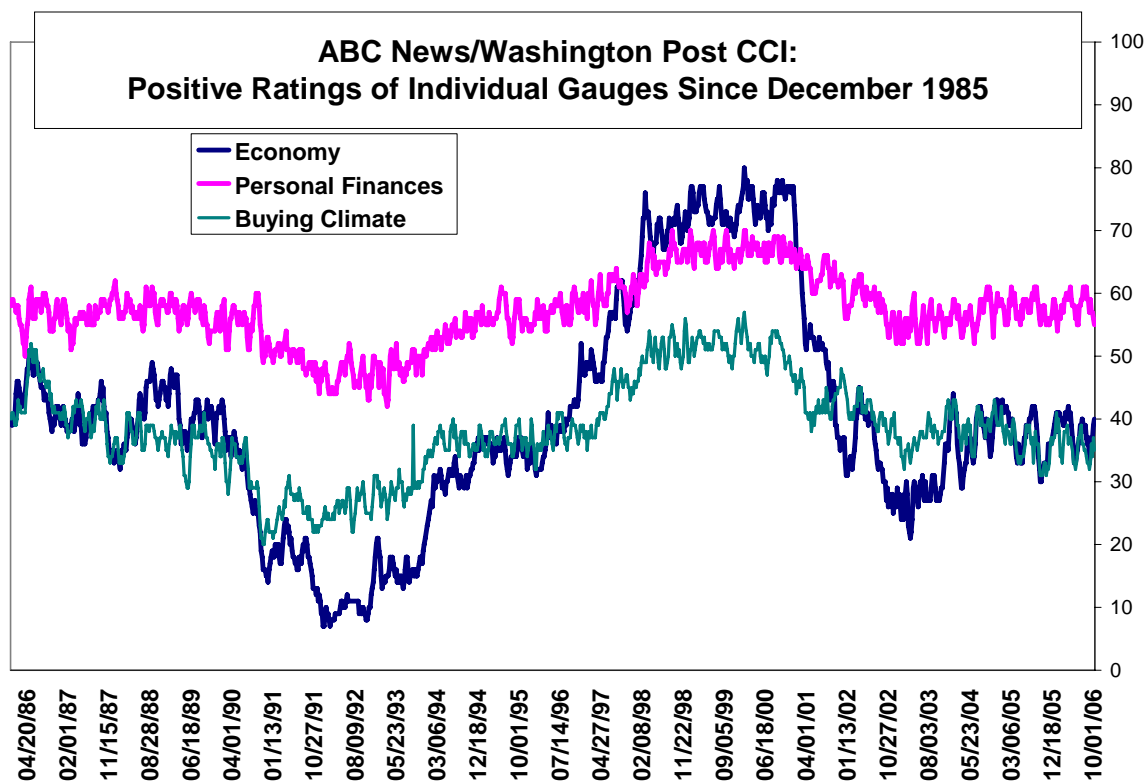


	ABC/Post CCI	
This week	-13	
Last week	-12	
2006 high	-7	April 16, March 26
2006 low	-19	Aug. 27, May 21
2006 average	-12	
2005 average	-13	
2000 average	+29	Best full year

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 +39 among higher-income Americans while -62 among those with the lowest incomes, +5 among college graduates while -43 among those who haven't finished high school, -8 among whites but -45 among blacks and -2 among men while -23 among women.

At -3, the index is best in the West. It's -10 in the South, -19 in the Midwest and -24 in the Northeast.



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

NATIONAL ECONOMY – Forty percent of Americans rate the economy as excellent or good; it was 39 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	40	5	35	60	37	23
Avg. since 12/85	40	3	37	60	40	20

PERSONAL FINANCES – Fifty-five percent say their own finances are excellent or good; it was 56 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	55	7	48	45	31	14
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; it was 37 percent 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 Oct. 1, 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 Dalia Sussman.

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

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

10/01/06	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	-13	-12	-15	-9	-20	-7	-21	-13
State of Economy	-20	-22	-30	-22	-36	-16	-36	-25
Personal Finances	10	12	18	18	14	22	8	15
Buying Climate	-30	-26	-34	-22	-38	-18	-38	-29

OVERALL INDEX BY DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS								
Sex:								
Men	-2	-2	-2	-3	-9	7	-12	-2
Women	-23	-20	-26	-14	-29	-11	-36	-23
Age:								
18 - 34	-4	-2	-13	1	-14	1	-24	-9

35 - 44	-23	-16	-5	-15	-13	5	-27	-12
45 - 54	-16	-20	-22	-8	-29	-6	-30	-17
55 - 64	-7	-13	-24	-19	-26	0	-36	-14
65+	-21	-16	-13	-13	-20	-1	-31	-16
Income:								
Under \$15K	-62	-62	-66	-39	-67	-33	-72	-55
\$15K To \$24.9K	-34	-45	-61	-45	-62	-28	-65	-46
\$25K To \$39.9K	-31	-19	-10	-17	-33	-3	-44	-25
\$40K To \$49.9K	9	-3	-34	-21	-12	26	-41	-12
Over \$50K	17	16	10	13	15	26	4	16
\$50K To \$74.9K	-6	2	2	-3	12	17	-20	0
\$75K To \$99.9K	19	17	10	18	18	31	-1	17
Over \$100K	39	33	25	26	18	50	18	34
Region:								
Northeast	-24	-26	-26	-8	-26	-3	-41	-20
Midwest	-19	-26	-33	-11	-17	-4	-33	-17
South	-10	-1	-11	-13	-20	-1	-20	-13
West	-3	-2	7	-1	-14	7	-16	-2
Race:								
White	-8	-8	-10	-5	-13	-1	-18	-8
Black	-45	-39	-46	-27	-53	-27	-57	-43
Politics:								
Republican	29	24	28	24	16	38	9	26
Democrat	-37	-31	-34	-27	-46	-27	-46	-35
Independent	-20	-19	-23	-15	-15	-10	-31	-20
Education:								
< High School	-43	-46	-43	-34	-40	-23	-63	-43
High Sch. Grad.	-28	-21	-15	-14	-34	-13	-34	-21
College +	5	5	-6	2	-4	12	-9	2
Home:								
Own	-7	-6	-9	-3	-12	2	-17	-6
Rent	-33	-29	-29	-28	-39	-25	-44	-33
Marital Status:								
Single	-26	-12	-15	-7	-12	-4	-32	-17
Married	2	0	-6	-3	-12	8	-14	-2
Sep/Wid/Div	-36	-42	-39	-26	-45	-22	-49	-35
Employ. Status:								
Full-Time	-2	-2	-10	-1	-3	6	-12	-3
Part-Time	-13	-6	-7	-4	-14	-1	-28	-14
Not Employed	-26	-26	-23	-23	-43	-15	-43	-24

END