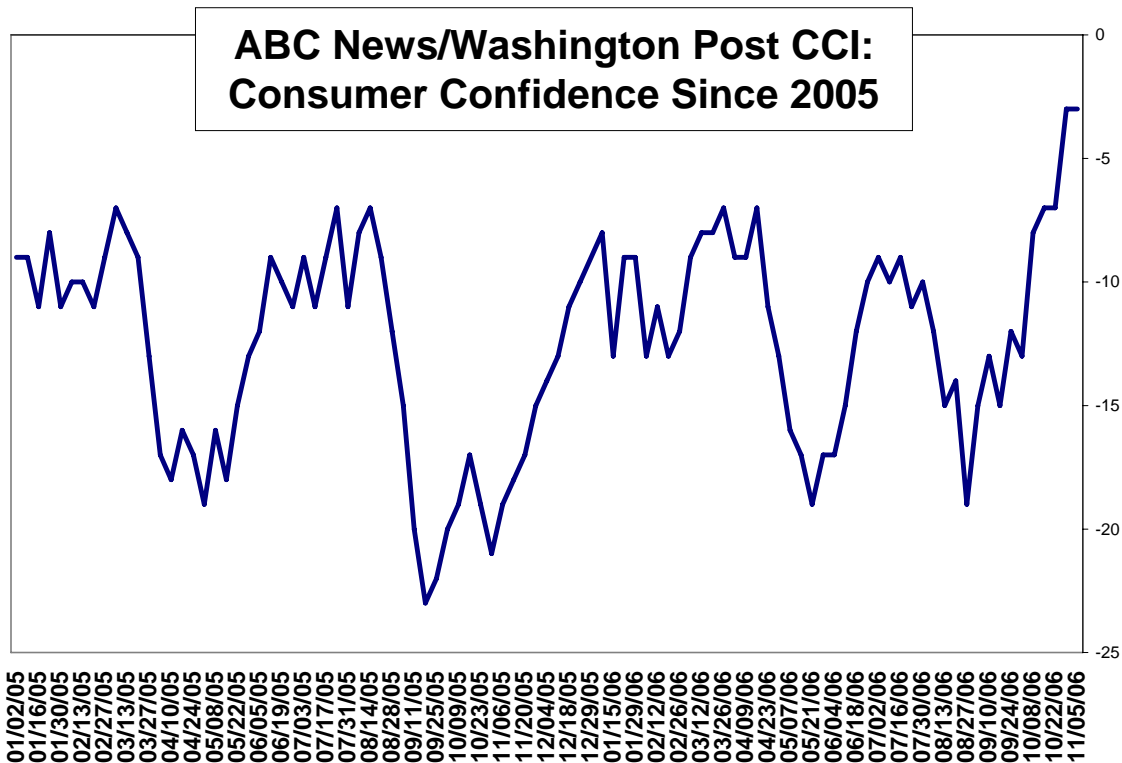


Confidence Steady After Last Week's Jump

Consumer confidence held steady this week at its best level in nearly three years. The question this Election Day is whether it's good enough to lessen the public's broad discontent, fueled by concern about the war in Iraq.

The ABC News/Washington Post Consumer Comfort Index stands at -3 on its scale of +100 to -100, matching its best since January 2004. That's six points better than the long-term average, and eight points better than average so far this year.

But the economy is not the main issue on the public's mind. In a separate ABC/Post poll this weekend, 31 percent of registered voters called the war in Iraq the top issue in their vote, more than the 21 percent who cited the economy. And economy voters broke by 54-42 percent for the Democratic candidate in their congressional district.



That's not necessarily surprising. A bad economy is political poison; but a good one, much less a great one, doesn't reliably benefit the president's party. Indeed, 59 percent of registered voters still say the country is seriously off on the wrong track, and just 40

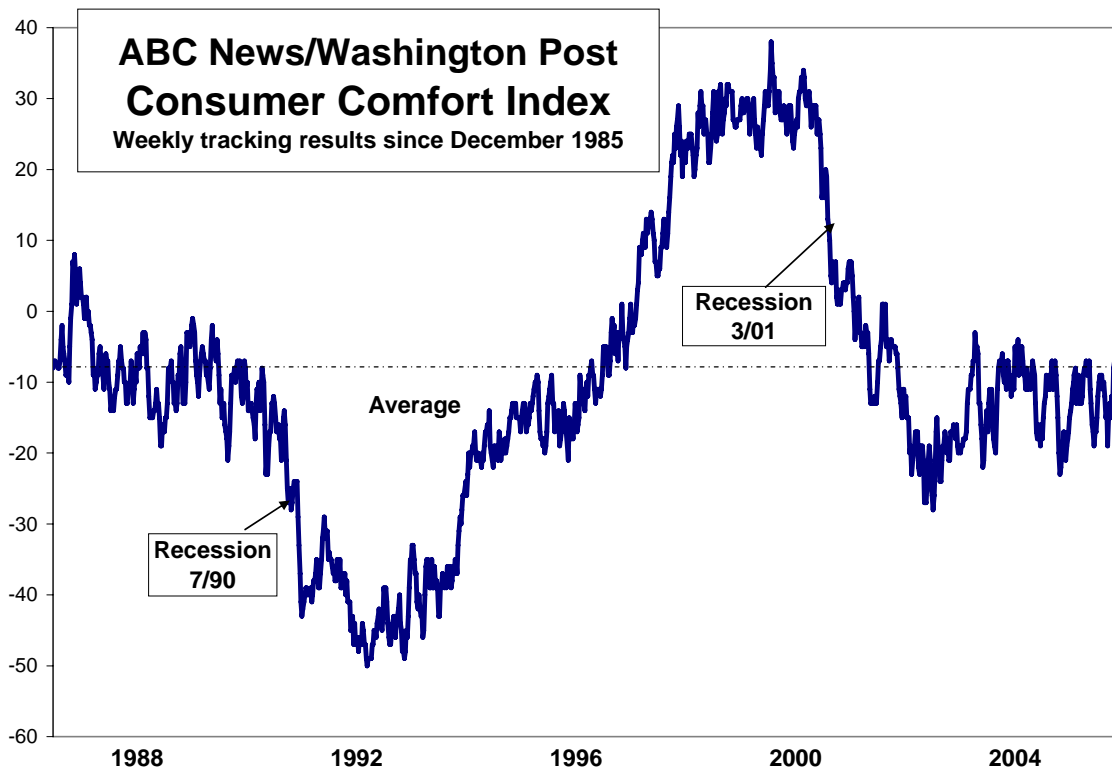
percent approve of the president’s job performance – the fewest heading into a midterm election since 1950.

Moreover, there’s a huge level of partisanship in current economic assessments. The ABC/Post index is +38 among Republicans, but -22 among Democrats. Independents are in the center at -7. That’s an improvement – the index is now the best it’s been among independents since Dec. 2004. It was -19 among independents just two weeks ago.

INDEX – The CCI is based on Americans’ ratings of the national economy, the buying climate and their personal finances. This week 64 percent say their own finances are in good shape, the most since October 2001. Forty-four percent rate the economy positively, four points above average, and 38 percent call it a good time to buy things, matching the average since this weekly poll began in December 1985.

Positive ratings of:	ABC News/Washington Post CCI			
	This week	Last week	2006 avg.	20-yr. avg.
National economy	44	44	39	40
Buying climate	38	38	36	38
Personal finances	64	63	58	57
Consumer Comfort Index	-3	-3	-11	-9

TREND – The CCI is 16 points better than its 2006 low, -19, reached in May and again in August, and, as noted, eight points above its average so far this year. Its all-time high was +38 in January 2000; its record low, -50 in February 1992.



	ABC/Post	CCI
This week	-3	
Last week	-3	
Two months ago	-13	
2006 high	-3	Nov. 5, Oct. 29
2006 low	-19	Aug. 27, 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 +43 among higher-income Americans while -53 among those with the lowest incomes, +14 among college graduates while -35 among those who haven't finished high school, +5 among whites but -37 among blacks and +8 among men while -12 among women.

The index is +5 in the South, compared with -4 in the West, -7 in the Northeast and -8 in the Midwest.

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

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

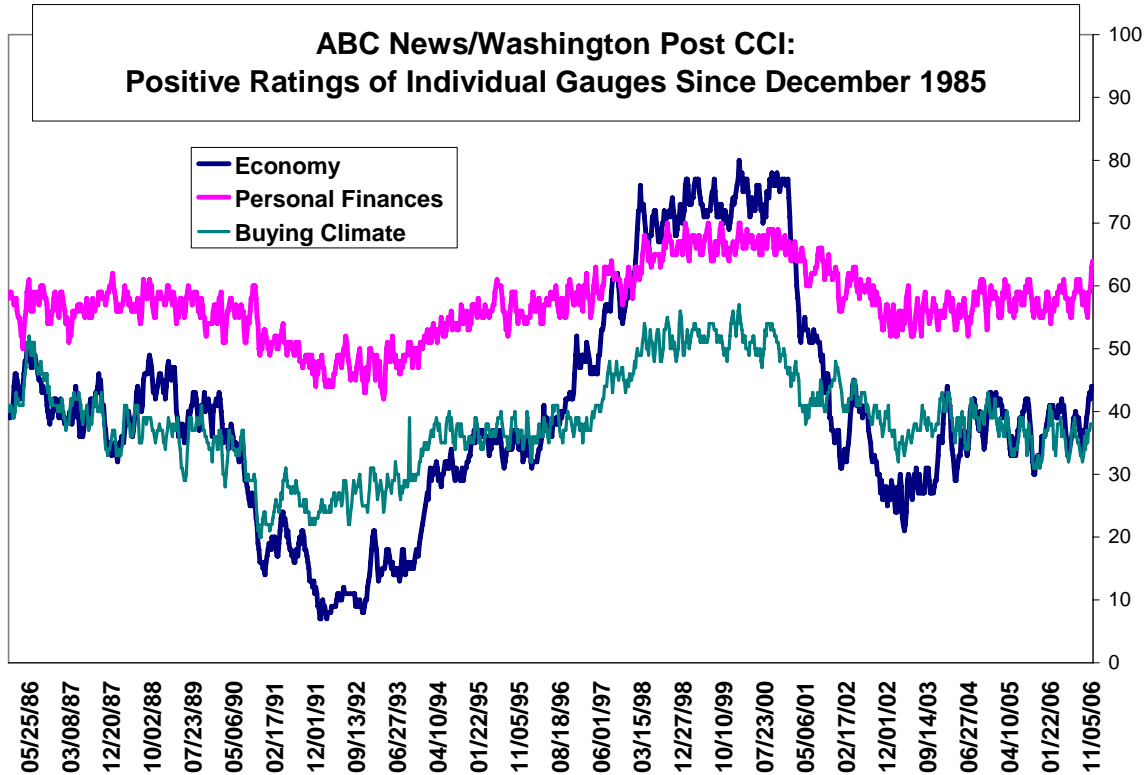
	Pos. NET	Excel.	Good	Neg. NET	Not good	Poor
This week	44	5	39	56	37	19
Avg. since 12/85	40	3	37	60	40	20

PERSONAL FINANCES – Sixty-four percent say their own finances are excellent or good; it was 63 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	64	7	57	36	24	12
Avg. since 12/85	57	5	52	43	30	13

BUYING CLIMATE – Thirty-eight percent say it's an excellent or good time to buy things, unchanged from 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	38	3	35	62	40	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 Nov. 5, 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.

11/05/06	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	-3	-3	-8	-12	-19	-3	-19	-12
State of Economy	-12	-12	-16	-26	-34	-12	-34	-23

Personal Finances	28	26	18	22	12	28	8	16
Buying Climate	-24	-24	-26	-32	-36	-18	-36	-28

OVERALL INDEX BY DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS

Sex:								
Men	8	12	4	7	-1	12	-12	0
Women	-12	-18	-20	-29	-36	-11	-36	-22
Age:								
18 - 34	2	2	-5	-7	-13	2	-24	-8
35 - 44	-9	-10	-11	-15	-24	5	-24	-11
45 - 54	-4	-9	-9	-18	-16	-4	-30	-17
55 - 64	-3	4	-1	-14	-31	4	-36	-11
65+	0	-4	-15	-9	-18	0	-31	-15
Income:								
Under \$15K	-53	-51	-57	-71	-43	-33	-72	-55
\$15K To \$24.9K	-16	-18	-29	-42	-44	-16	-62	-42
\$25K To \$39.9K	-4	0	-10	-6	-41	0	-44	-22
\$40K To \$49.9K	4	7	15	-22	-27	26	-41	-10
Over \$50K	22	21	19	12	5	26	5	16
\$50K To \$74.9K	0	2	6	-13	-7	17	-20	0
\$75K To \$99.9K	24	22	11	16	2	31	-1	17
Over \$100K	43	43	41	34	24	50	24	36
Region:								
Northeast	-7	-15	-22	-13	-30	-3	-30	-18
Midwest	-8	-9	-16	-13	-22	-4	-33	-17
South	5	6	-3	-18	-19	6	-19	-12
West	-4	-3	3	1	-8	7	-16	-1
Race:								
White	5	2	-4	-8	-15	5	-15	-7
Black	-37	-32	-36	-44	-44	-27	-57	-42
Politics:								
Republican	38	40	31	18	15	40	12	29
Democrat	-22	-20	-22	-29	-39	-20	-46	-34
Independent	-7	-16	-23	-19	-26	-7	-29	-19
Education:								
< High School	-35	-27	-25	-48	-38	-23	-63	-42
High Sch. Grad.	-11	-11	-20	-17	-27	-11	-31	-20
College +	14	10	5	2	-8	14	-9	3
Home:								
Own	3	2	-2	-7	-17	3	-17	-5
Rent	-17	-16	-23	-25	-25	-16	-44	-31
Marital Status:								
Single	-3	-5	-22	-19	-15	-3	-32	-16
Married	6	4	7	4	-13	8	-13	-1
Sep/Wid/Div	-27	-22	-26	-45	-41	-22	-49	-34
Employ. Status:								
Full-Time	7	8	5	-5	-6	8	-12	-2
Part-Time	-7	-13	-19	-16	-21	-1	-29	-14
Not Employed	-13	-18	-22	-20	-36	-13	-43	-24

END