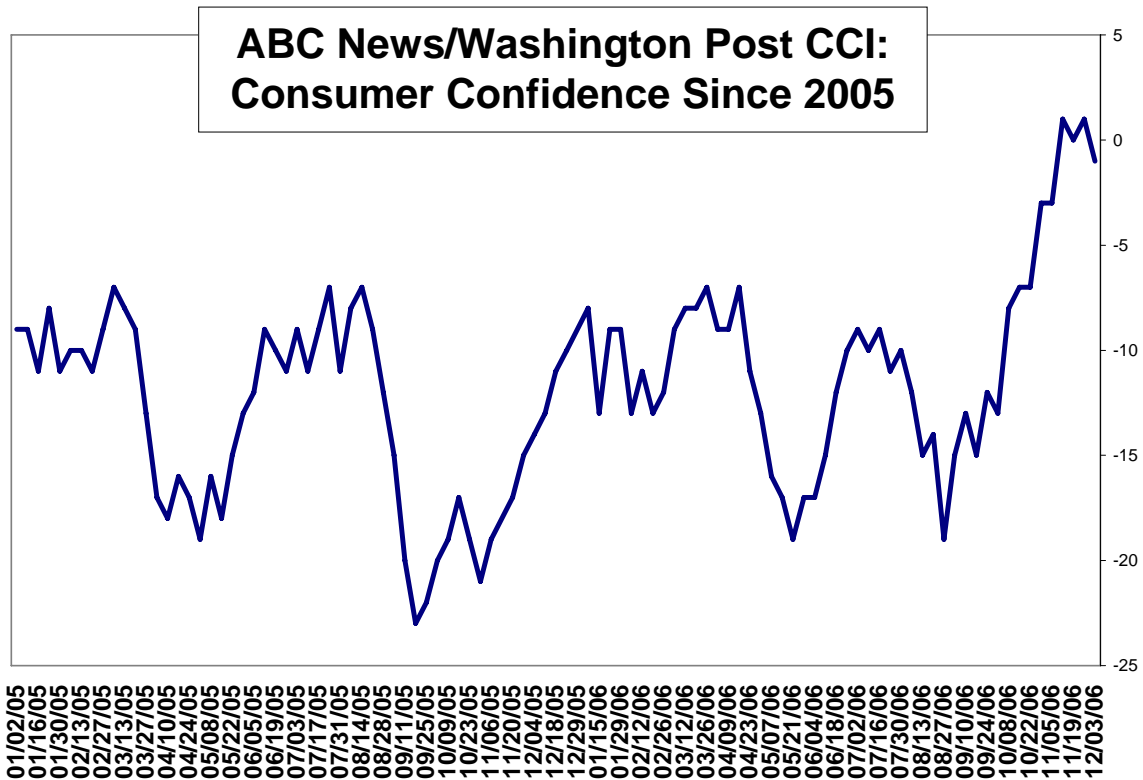


Confidence Levels After 3-Month Advance

Consumer confidence held essentially steady this week, leveling after a sharp three-month increase that lifted it to its best in four and a half years.

The ABC News/Washington Post Consumer Comfort Index stands at -1 on its scale of +100 to -100; it's been basically flat the last three weeks, between +1 and -1, after soaring from -19 on Aug. 27.

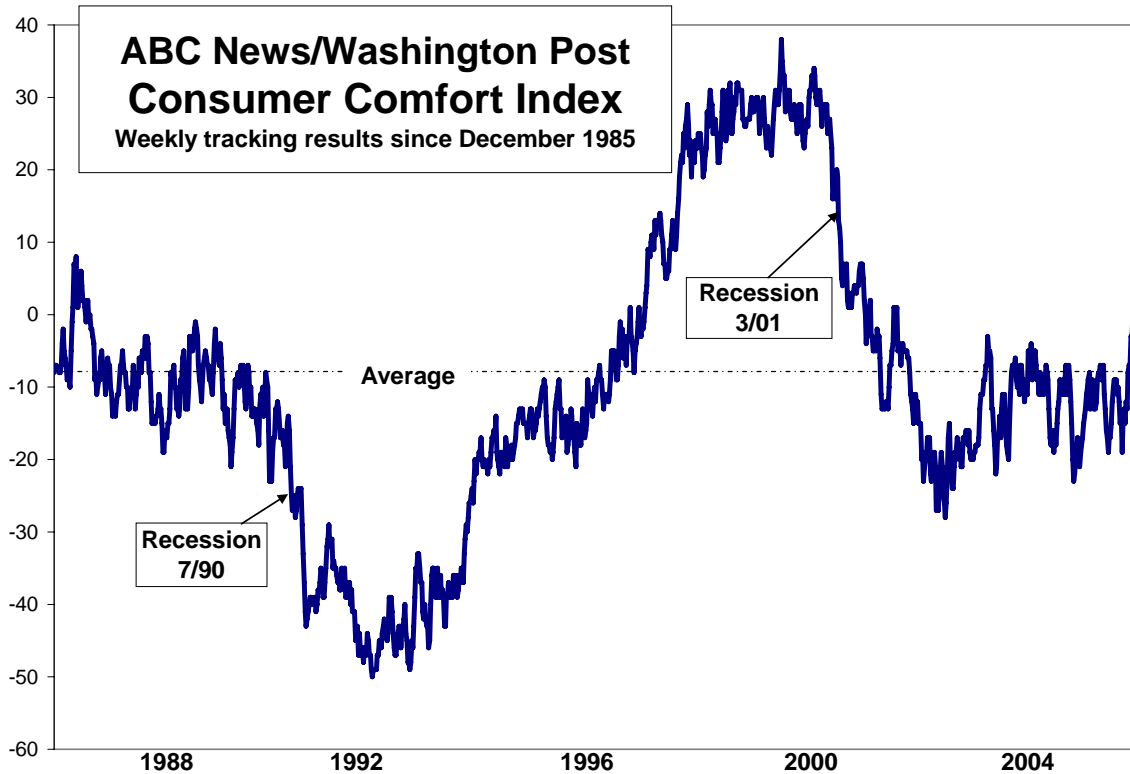
While the pause may cause some concern, the index has risen smartly: positive ratings of the buying climate are up 11 points in the last three months; the national economy, also up 11 points; and personal finances, up five points – just in time for the holiday shopping season.



| | ABC News/Washington Post CCI | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---------|-----------|-------------|
| Positive ratings of: | This week | Aug. 27 | 2006 avg. | 20-yr. avg. |
| National economy | 44% | 33 | 39 | 40 |
| Buying climate | 43 | 32 | 36 | 38 |
| Personal finances | 62 | 57 | 59 | 57 |

Consumer Comfort Index -1 -19 -10 -9

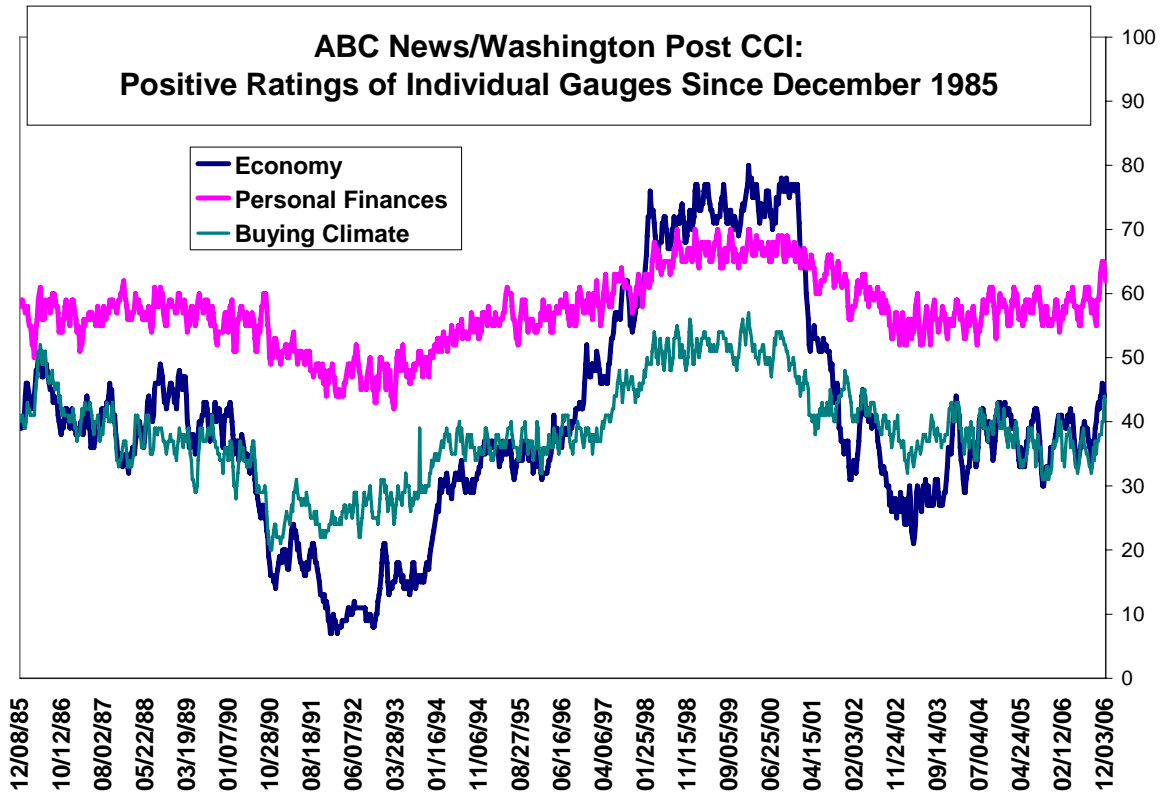
TREND – The index has been much better – a high of +38 in January 2000 – as well as much worse, a low of -50 in February 1992. But it’s above its long-term average, -9 in weekly polls since December 1985, and 18 points above its low for this year, reached in May and again in August amid soaring gasoline prices. It’s averaged -10 so far this year.



| | ABC/Post CCI | |
|---------------------|--------------|------------------|
| This week | -1 | |
| 2006 high | +1 | Nov. 26, Nov. 12 |
| 2006 low | -19 | Aug. 27, May 21 |
| 2006 average | -10 | |
| 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 +46 among higher-income Americans while -28 among those with the lowest incomes, +14 among college graduates while -37 among people who haven't finished high school, +7 among whites while -54 among blacks and +5 among men while -6 among women.

The index this week is strongest, +23, in the West, and weakest, -18, in the Midwest. It's -4 and -2 in the Northeast and South, respectively.



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, 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 | 44 | 5 | 39 | 56 | 36 | 20 |
| Avg. since 12/85 | 40 | 4 | 37 | 60 | 40 | 20 |

PERSONAL FINANCES – Sixty-two percent say their own finances are excellent or good; it was 64 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 | 62 | 7 | 55 | 38 | 27 | 11 |
| Avg. since 12/85 | 57 | 5 | 52 | 43 | 30 | 13 |

BUYING CLIMATE – Forty-three percent say it's an excellent or good time to buy things; it was 44 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 | 43 | 2 | 41 | 57 | 38 | 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 Dec. 3, 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 Peyton M. Craighill.

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

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

| 12/03/06 | 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 | -1 | 1 | -3 | -15 | -14 | 1 | -19 | -10 |
| State of Economy | -12 | -12 | -12 | -30 | -28 | -8 | -34 | -22 |
| Personal Finances | 24 | 28 | 28 | 18 | 12 | 30 | 8 | 17 |
| Buying Climate | -14 | -12 | -24 | -34 | -26 | -12 | -36 | -27 |
| ----- | | | | | | | | |
| OVERALL INDEX BY DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS | | | | | | | | |
| Sex: | | | | | | | | |
| Men | 5 | 8 | 8 | -2 | -2 | 12 | -12 | 0 |
| Women | -6 | -5 | -12 | -26 | -23 | -5 | -32 | -20 |
| Age: | | | | | | | | |
| 18 - 34 | 5 | 6 | 2 | -13 | -18 | 6 | -24 | -6 |
| 35 - 44 | -1 | 5 | -9 | -5 | -11 | 8 | -23 | -10 |
| 45 - 54 | -7 | 2 | -4 | -22 | -8 | 2 | -30 | -16 |
| 55 - 64 | -4 | -13 | -3 | -24 | -10 | 4 | -25 | -10 |
| 65+ | 0 | 1 | 0 | -13 | -18 | 1 | -31 | -13 |
| Income: | | | | | | | | |
| Under \$15K | -28 | -33 | -53 | -66 | -64 | -28 | -72 | -54 |
| \$15K To \$24.9K | -38 | -39 | -16 | -61 | -30 | -15 | -62 | -42 |
| \$25K To \$39.9K | -17 | -4 | -4 | -10 | -43 | 0 | -43 | -20 |
| \$40K To \$49.9K | -20 | -12 | 4 | -34 | -3 | 26 | -41 | -9 |
| Over \$50K | 29 | 29 | 22 | 10 | 24 | 29 | 6 | 18 |
| \$50K To \$74.9K | 16 | 11 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 17 | -20 | 1 |
| \$75K To \$99.9K | 25 | 23 | 24 | 10 | 18 | 31 | 7 | 19 |
| Over \$100K | 46 | 56 | 43 | 25 | 50 | 56 | 25 | 37 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Region: | | | | | | | | |
| Northeast | -4 | 1 | -7 | -26 | -19 | 7 | -30 | -16 |
| Midwest | -18 | -14 | -8 | -33 | -15 | -4 | -33 | -16 |
| South | -2 | 2 | 5 | -11 | -14 | 6 | -19 | -10 |
| West | 23 | 16 | -4 | 7 | -5 | 23 | -13 | 1 |
| Race: | | | | | | | | |
| White | 7 | 10 | 5 | -10 | -10 | 10 | -12 | -5 |
| Black | -54 | -48 | -37 | -46 | -40 | -27 | -57 | -42 |
| Politics: | | | | | | | | |
| Republican | 38 | 34 | 38 | 28 | 34 | 42 | 12 | 30 |
| Democrat | -18 | -21 | -22 | -34 | -36 | -18 | -46 | -32 |
| Independent | -17 | -5 | -7 | -23 | -24 | -5 | -28 | -18 |
| Education: | | | | | | | | |
| < High School | -37 | -21 | -35 | -43 | -63 | -21 | -63 | -41 |
| High Sch. Grad. | -6 | -11 | -11 | -15 | -21 | -6 | -30 | -18 |
| College + | 14 | 16 | 14 | -6 | 6 | 18 | -9 | 4 |
| Home: | | | | | | | | |
| Own | 9 | 9 | 3 | -9 | -1 | 9 | -12 | -3 |
| Rent | -24 | -20 | -17 | -29 | -43 | -16 | -44 | -30 |
| Marital Status: | | | | | | | | |
| Single | -11 | 1 | -3 | -15 | -17 | 1 | -32 | -15 |
| Married | 10 | 10 | 6 | -6 | -3 | 13 | -9 | 0 |
| Sep/Wid/Div | -21 | -22 | -27 | -39 | -36 | -21 | -45 | -32 |
| Employ. Status: | | | | | | | | |
| Full-Time | 8 | 9 | 7 | -10 | -5 | 11 | -12 | -1 |
| Part-Time | 10 | 13 | -7 | -7 | -25 | 13 | -29 | -12 |
| Not Employed | -15 | -14 | -13 | -23 | -21 | -13 | -43 | -24 |

END