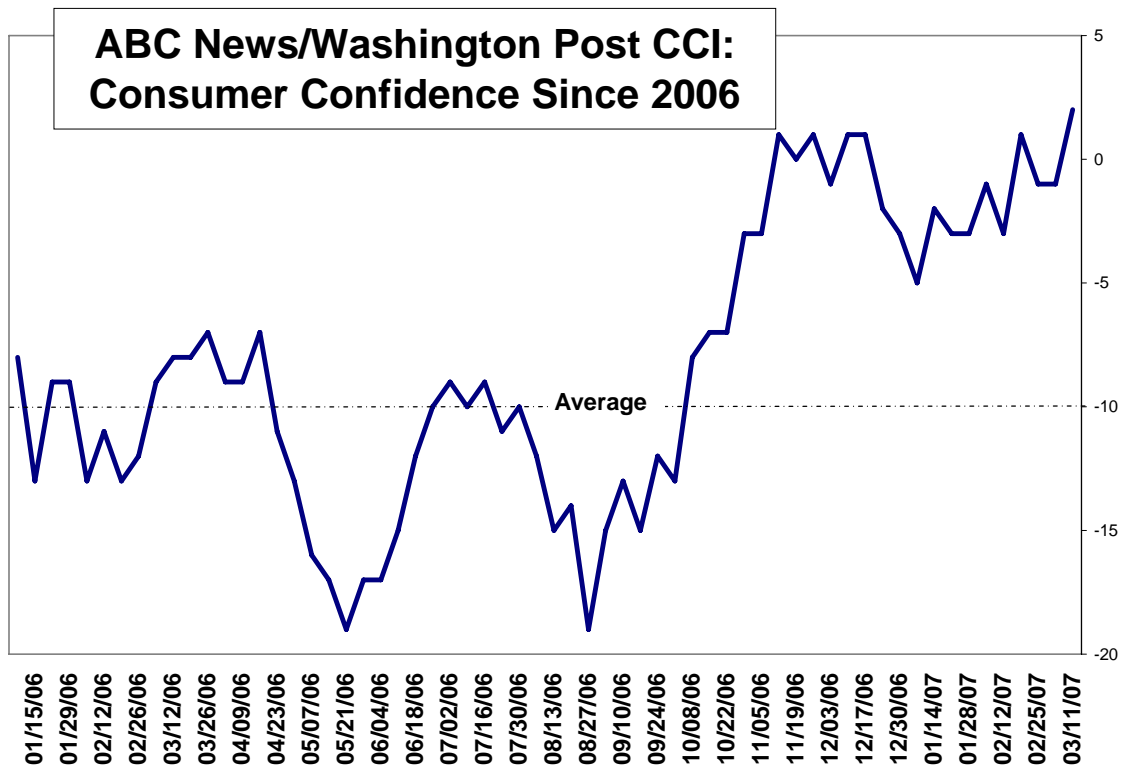


Confidence Hits a 2007 Peak, But Gas Prices May Hurt Yet

Consumer confidence hit a five-year high in the latest ABC News/Washington Post survey. But gas prices may yet catch up.

The ABC/Post Consumer Comfort Index stands at +2 on its scale of +100 to -100, compared with -1 last week and a 2007 average of -2. It hasn't been this high in more than five years, since Oct. 7, 2001.

Whether it holds up is another question. Confidence in the past has been highly sensitive to gasoline prices, and the average price of a gallon of regular unleaded has risen by 39 cents in the last six weeks. There can be a lag before rising gas prices negatively impact consumer confidence. But ultimately, they usually do.

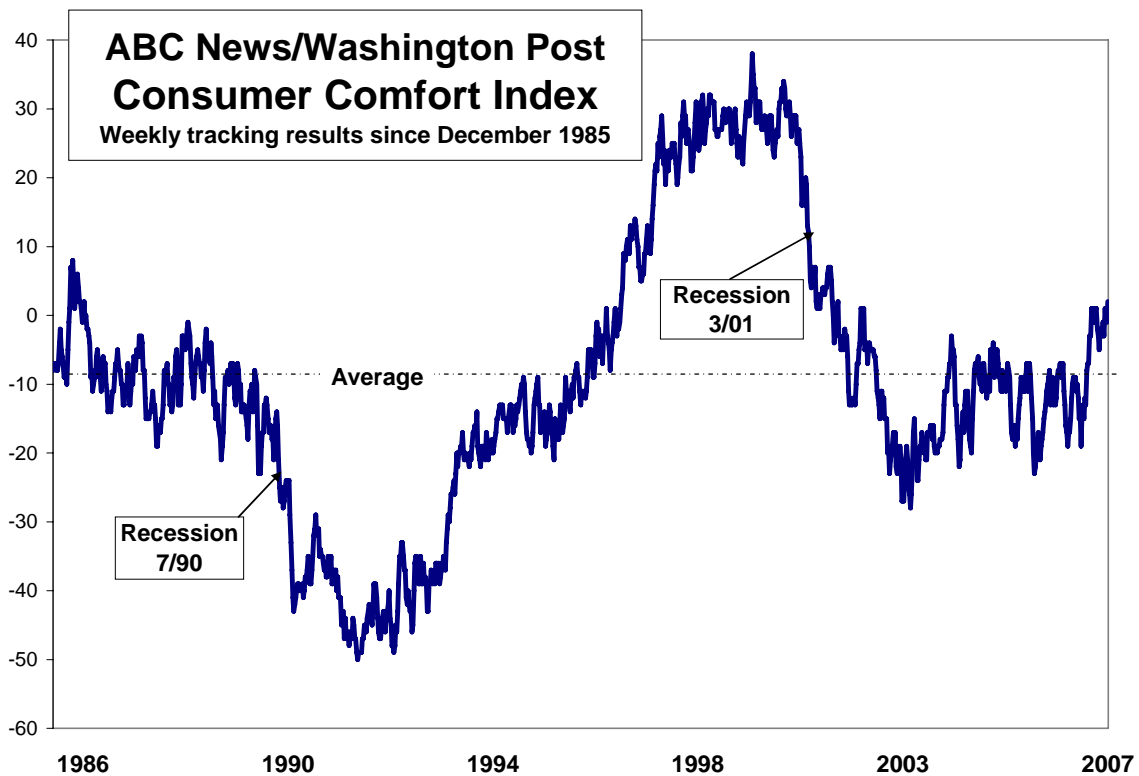


INDEX – The ABC/Post index is based on Americans' ratings of the national economy, the buying climate and their personal finances. This week 47 percent rate the economy positively, almost matching the five-year high of 48 percent, last seen three weeks ago, and seven points above its long-term average, 40 percent in weekly polls since late 1985.

Sixty-four percent rate their personal finances positively, compared with a long-term average of 57 percent. (It hit 65 percent in mid-November, the most since August 2001.) And 42 percent call it a good time to buy things; the average is 38 percent.

	ABC News/Washington Post CCI			
Positive ratings of:	This week	2006 avg.	2007 avg.	22-yr. avg.
National economy	47%	40	46	40
Buying climate	42	37	40	38
Personal finances	64	59	62	57
Consumer Comfort Index	+2	-10	-2	-9

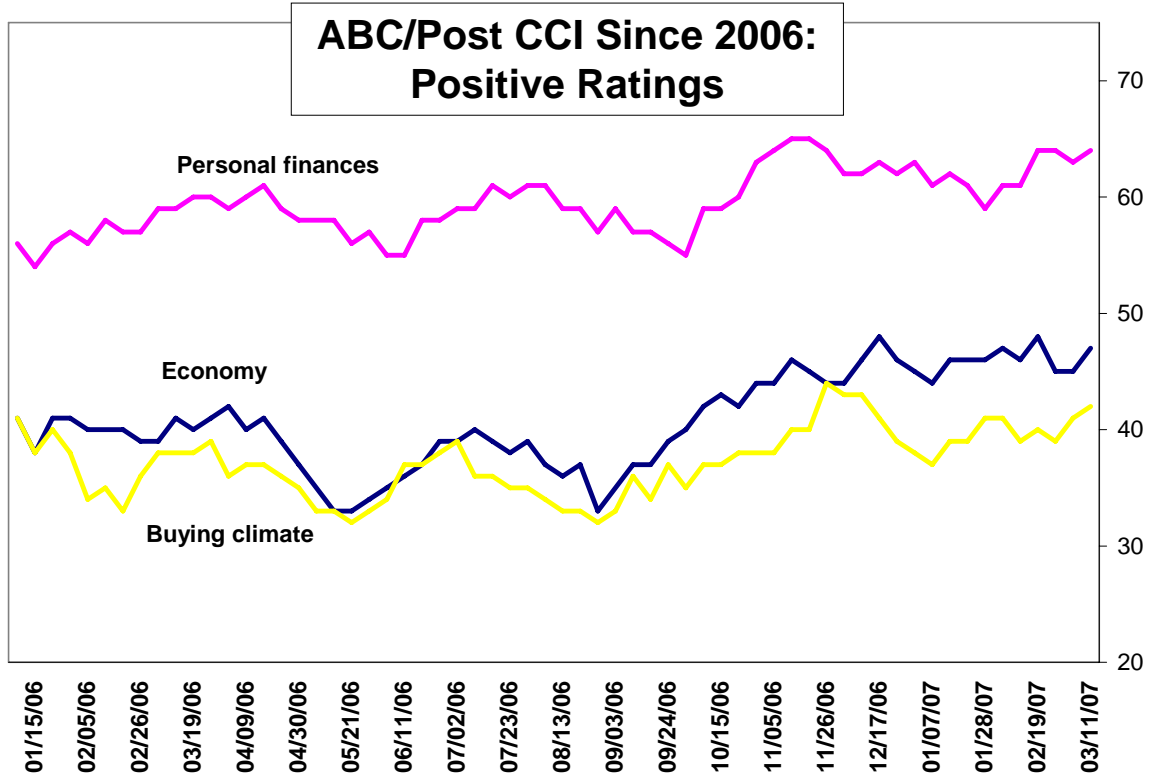
TREND – The CCI’s above its long-term average, -9, and well up from its 2006 low, -19 last August. Before this week it hadn’t strayed beyond a range from -3 to +1 since Jan. 14, and, again, had not reached +2 since Oct. 7, 2001.



GROUPS – The index is higher in better-off groups – far better among higher-income Americans, those married, college graduates and whites. It’s +11 among men and -7 among women. And partisan differences remain: +36 among Republicans, -1 among independents, -20 among Democrats.

	ABC/Post CCI	
This week	+2	2007 high
2007 low	-5	Jan. 7
2007 average	-2	

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	



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

NATIONAL ECONOMY – Forty-seven percent of Americans rate the economy as excellent or good; it was 45 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	47	5	42	53	36	17
Avg. since 12/85	40	4	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	11	53	36	25	11
Avg. since 12/85	57	5	52	43	30	13

BUYING CLIMATE – Forty-two percent say it’s an excellent or good time to buy things; it was 41 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	42	4	38	58	41	17
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 March 11, 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 Patrick Moynihan.

ABC News polls can be found online at <http://abcnews.go.com/US/PollVault/>.

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

03/11/07	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	2	-1	-3	1	-8	2	-19	-8
State of Economy	-6	-10	-8	-8	-18	-4	-34	-18
Personal Finances	28	26	22	24	18	30	10	20
Buying Climate	-16	-18	-22	-14	-24	-12	-36	-25

OVERALL INDEX BY DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS								
Sex:								
Men	11	8	5	10	0	17	-12	3
Women	-7	-9	-9	-9	-15	-3	-32	-17
Age:								
18 - 34	-1	-2	-2	5	-2	6	-24	-4
35 - 44	-3	-11	-7	1	-8	11	-23	-7
45 - 54	-3	-8	-6	-7	-13	2	-30	-14
55 - 64	22	15	4	-3	-9	22	-25	-7
65+	1	5	2	3	-11	8	-31	-10
Income:								
Under \$15K	-34	-29	-35	-26	-47	-26	-72	-51
\$15K To \$24.9K	-43	-33	-29	-43	-31	-15	-62	-40
\$25K To \$39.9K	-18	-26	-24	-14	-14	0	-37	-17
\$40K To \$49.9K	-5	-4	8	-18	-2	15	-41	-9
Over \$50K	30	28	25	32	22	35	6	20

\$50K To \$74.9K	29	20	11	21	3	29	-20	4
\$75K To \$99.9K	20	20	26	32	31	44	7	22
Over \$100K	37	43	44	41	43	56	25	37
Region:								
Northeast	11	-1	-10	-4	-5	11	-30	-13
Midwest	-8	-6	-6	-13	-10	0	-33	-14
South	0	1	9	1	-14	16	-19	-6
West	6	2	-9	16	2	23	-13	1
Race:								
White	5	2	2	6	-1	10	-12	-3
Black	-20	-28	-21	-50	-29	-20	-57	-39
Politics:								
Republican	36	36	27	36	35	45	12	31
Democrat	-20	-19	-19	-17	-30	-13	-46	-29
Independent	-1	-8	-2	-16	-13	1	-25	-16
Education:								
< High School	-26	-26	-42	-25	-46	-18	-60	-37
High Sch. Grad.	-3	-6	-1	-8	-16	0	-30	-16
College +	13	10	8	14	10	18	-9	6
Home:								
Own	9	4	6	9	0	10	-12	0
Rent	-17	-15	-26	-20	-28	-15	-44	-28
Marital Status:								
Single	-9	-9	-13	-7	-13	1	-32	-14
Married	17	13	10	10	2	17	-9	4
Sep/Wid/Div	-23	-22	-20	-19	-24	-19	-45	-30
Employ. Status:								
Full-Time	13	8	10	7	5	15	-12	2
Part-Time	-7	3	2	5	-11	13	-29	-9
Not Employed	-12	-14	-20	-11	-26	-11	-43	-23

END