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Bloomberg ® Consumer Comfort Index™ Weekly Analysis

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Pushing down recovery road, the Bloomberg Consumer Comfort Index reached its second highest since the start of the Great Recession this week, with Americans' views of the buying climate their best in eight years and ratings of personal finances their second best in nearly as long.

At 46.2 on its scale of 0 to 100, the CCI overall reached its second highest since July 2007, only behind its recent peak, 47.3 in late January. It's up 2.0 points in two weeks and 2.7 points across March, essentially erasing a 2.8-point loss in February.

The CCI averaged 44.7 in Q1, its best quarter since the second quarter of 2007, after rallying to 39.4 in Q4 last year. It's now 1.5 points above its 2015 average, 44.7, and 4.5 points above its full average, 41.7, in ongoing weekly surveys since late 1985.

The Bloomberg index, produced by [Langer Research Associates](http://www.langerresearch.com), is based on Americans' ratings of the national economy, their personal finances and the buying climate. Among them:

- The buying climate subindex gained 1.5 points to 41.3, its best since March 2007, 2.4 points above its 2015 average and 5.6 points ahead of its long-term average. This week's advance breaks this measure out of the 2.7-point range it held for the past 16 weeks.
- At 60.1, the personal finances index is its second best since October 2007, very near its recent high of 60.7 in late January. Up 3.0 points in two weeks and 6.3 points since late February, it's now 3.0 points ahead of its 2015 average and 4.9 points above its 29-year average.
- The national economy subindex, at 37.1, is essentially unchanged this week and has been largely steady, within 0.6 points, for the past five weeks. It's numerically a point below its 2015 average, 38.1, but better than its lifetime average, 34.1.

Among groups, the CCI is up 1.6 points this week and 8.0 points in the last five weeks among Republicans, to 46.2, its best since April 2008. It's 52.7 among Democrats and 42.1 among independents, with the Democratic-Republican gap its smallest since late January.

The CCI also is its highest since before the recession among seniors and renters, 46.3 and 41.3, respectively, and has hit a more than 10-year high among Midwesterners, 51.4.

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