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Bloomberg ® Consumer Comfort Index™ Weekly Analysis

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**Contact: Langer Research Associates, 212 456-2621
info@langerresearch.com**

Americans' ratings of their personal finances and the buying climate have lost ground from their recent advances, bumps in the road as consumer sentiment reaches for recovery.

The Bloomberg Consumer Comfort Index backed off to 36.3 on its scale of 0 to 100 this week, the low end of its seven-week range, 36.3 to 37.6, since climbing from a 2014 low of 33.3 in late May. It's still numerically ahead of its average this year, though, and within sight of its best of the year, 37.9 in late April, its highest since January 2008 save one reading last August.

The weekly CCI, produced by [Langer Research Associates](#), is based on Americans' ratings of the national economy, their personal finances and the buying climate. After reaching notable highs in the past month, the personal finances subindex lost 2.2 points this week, while the buying climate subindex has dropped 2.8 points in the past two weeks.

The personal finances subindex, 50.7, is down from 52.9 last week, an 11-week high. The buying climate subindex, 31.9, is off from 34.7 two weeks ago, its second highest in more than six and a half years. And at 26.4, the national economy subindex remains the weakest of the three, though it's been the steadiest since reaching its best since January 2008, 27.7, three weeks ago.

These gauges are now 4.5, 3.8 and 7.7 points off their averages, respectively, in weekly polls since late 1985. The overall CCI, for its part, is 5.4 points off its long-term average, 41.7.

The CCI's path reflects economic crosscurrents. Employment, usually a strong correlate of consumer sentiment, is better, and stocks, another strong correlate, have been on a tear. But slow wage growth is a persistent concern, and new data this week showed an unexpected decline in pending home sales last month.

In partisan terms, the index among Republicans is 33.2, its lowest since mid-April and down 5.3 points in the past three weeks, resulting in the largest partisan gap in 15 weeks. It's 40.8 and 35.5 among Democrats and independents, respectively, both essentially unchanged.

The CCI among part-time workers is down 6.6 points in the past three weeks to 34.5, vs. 43.1 among full-time workers and 28.8 among those who don't work for pay. It's 56.6 among people

with household incomes of \$100,000 or more, down 3.9 points in three weeks despite the strong stock market. Among those earning less than \$15,000, it's 16.5, its worst since mid-February.

Finally, the index among homeowners is 40.9, similar to last week's best since late 2007, 41.2. Among renters it's 28.0, matching the largest gap between these groups since mid-December.

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