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Bloomberg® Consumer Comfort Index™ Weekly Analysis

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Americans' ratings of their own finances and the national economy dipped to a two-month low this week, stalling the Bloomberg Consumer Comfort Index after an early summer advance.

While essentially unchanged from last week, the CCI, at 36.2 on a 0-100 scale, has slipped slightly from 37.6 two weeks ago to its lowest numerically since early June. Still, it's near the high end of its 2014 range, 33.3 to 37.9, and well up from its downturn average from 2008-13, 29.0.

The weekly CCI, produced by [Langer Research Associates](#), is based on views of the national economy, personal finances and the buying climate, measured on a weekly basis since late 1985. Among them:

The national economy subindex, at 25.8, is off the six-and-a-half-year high it reached July 6, 27.7, and 8.3 points off its long-term average. Nonetheless it's better than its 2014 average to date, 23.9, and far above its 2008-2013 average, 13.0. As long the weakest gauge, progress on this measure has been crucial in the index's recent gains – and remains so for the future.

The personal finances subindex, at 50.1, is its lowest since late May and second lowest in nearly four months, down from 54.2 – a six-year high – on April 27. That's 5.1 points off its long-term average, but still 2.5 points better than its average from 2008-2013.

The buying climate subindex is 32.6 this week, compared with 34.7 on July 13, which in turn was very near the six-and-a-half-year high it reached in late April. It's the closest of the three to its long-term average, off by 3.1 points.

The overall CCI, for its part, is 5.5 points off its long-term average, 41.7. That said, it's been out of the 20s steadily since September 2012, and better than 35.0 for the last 10 weeks straight – matching its longest run at that level since late 2007 and early 2008.

Among groups, the CCI is lowest since early February among those who are not employed for pay, 28.3, well off its average for this group in available data since mid-1990, 35.7. And the index among part-time workers is down to 31.3 this week from 41.1 in early July. It's 44.4

among people working full time, the second-largest gap between full- and part-time workers, as well as between those working full time and those not working for pay, in about a year.

The CCI has lost 8.7 and 7.7 points among Northeasterners and Midwesterners in the last four weeks, to 31.5 and 32.8, respectively. And the gap between Democrats and Republicans, 43.0 vs. 33.8, is its widest since April, up sharply since early July.

The CCI among independents, for its part, is 32.8 this week – quite near its level among Republicans, which could work to the Democratic Party’s disadvantage in the midterm elections now three months off.

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