



November 26, 2014

Consumer Sentiment Brightens Holiday Spending

Index of Consumer Sentiment				
Nov '14	Oct '14	Nov '13	M-M Chng	Y-Y Chng
88.8	86.9	75.1	+2.2%	+18.2%

Index of Consumer Expectations				
Nov '14	Oct '14	Nov '13	M-M Chng	Y-Y Chng
79.9	79.6	66.8	+0.4%	+19.6%

Current Conditions Index				
Nov '14	Oct '14	Nov '13	M-M Chng	Y-Y Chng
102.7	98.3	88.0	+4.5%	+16.7%

Surveys of Consumers chief economist, Richard Curtin



“In the past few years, renewed consumer optimism has been repeatedly thwarted by partisan bickering. The debt ceiling debacle, the fiscal cliff, and the government shutdown have repeatedly soured economic optimism. The renewed confidence consumers have expressed must be nurtured, not again held hostage to partisan differences. Based on recent data, consumer spending is poised to make 2015 the best year for the economy since 2005. To accomplish this outcome, the President and Congress must dial back the rhetoric and expand their common ground in promoting the continuation of robust gains in jobs and wages in the year ahead.”

ANN ARBOR. Consumer confidence posted its fourth consecutive monthly gain in November, rising to its highest level since July 2007. The November gain was due to improved personal finances as well as a more favorable outlook for employment. Importantly, consumers expressed much more favorable buying plans for durables and vehicles in the most recent survey. Favorable views toward purchases of large household durables were at their highest level since 2007, and favorable vehicle buying attitudes were the most favorable since 2005. Importantly, the gains in buying plans were due to large gains among younger and lower income households. These gains arrived just in time to boost holiday spending, and indicate that total consumer expenditures can be expected to increase by 2.9% in 2015.

Unemployment Expected to Decline

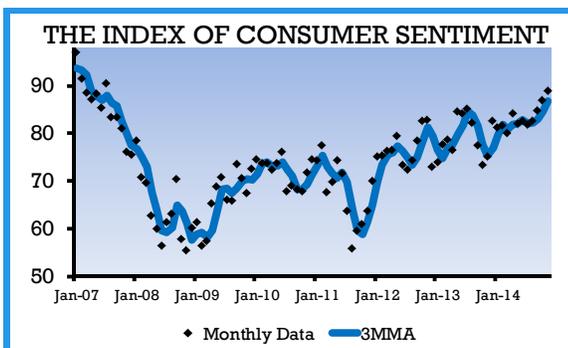
When consumers were asked about recent economic developments, job gains dominated all other news items, and when specifically asked, they anticipated the jobless rate to post additional declines during the year ahead. The job gains were attributed to a stronger pace of economic growth. Moreover, consumers voiced the most favorable long-term outlook for the economy since the last cyclical peak recorded in the January 2007 survey.

Higher Income Gains Expected

For the third consecutive month, consumers expected the largest income increases in six years. An annual gain of 1.1% was expected by all households, the largest anticipated increase since November 2008. Household under the age of 45 expected the largest gains (4.2%), and even households in the bottom third of the income distribution anticipated twice as large a gain as in last month's survey (0.8%, up from 0.4% in October).

Consumer Sentiment Index

The Sentiment Index was 88.8 in the November 2014 survey, up from 86.9 in October and 75.1 last November. The entire November gain was concentrated in the Current Conditions Index, which rose to 102.7 from 98.3 one month ago and 88.0 one year ago. The Expectations Index was largely unchanged at 79.9 in November, barely above the 79.6 in October, but substantially above last November's 66.8.



About the survey

The Survey of Consumers is a rotating panel survey based on a nationally representative sample that gives each household in the coterminous U.S. an equal probability of being selected. Interviews are conducted throughout the month by telephone. The minimum monthly change required for significance at the 95% level in the Sentiment Index is 4.8 points; for Current and Expectations Index the minimum is 6.0 points.

About Thomson Reuters

Thomson Reuters is the world's leading source of intelligent information for businesses and professionals. We combine industry expertise with innovative technology to deliver critical information to leading decision makers in the financial and risk, legal, tax and accounting, intellectual property and science and media markets, powered by the world's most trusted news organization. With headquarters in New York and major operations in London and Eagan, Minnesota, Thomson Reuters employs approximately 60,000 people and operates in over 100 countries. Thomson Reuters shares are listed on the Toronto and New York Stock Exchanges. For more information, go to www.thomsonreuters.com.

About ISR

Established in 1948, the Institute for Social Research (ISR) at the University of Michigan is among the world's oldest social science research organizations, and a world leader in the development and application of social science methodology. The ISR conducts some of the most widely-cited surveys and studies in the nation, including the Thomson Reuters/University of Michigan Surveys of Consumers, the American National Election Studies, the Monitoring the Future Study, the Panel Study of Income Dynamics, the Health and Retirement Study, and the National Survey of Black Americans and the World Values Surveys. ISR is also home to the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), the world's largest computerized social science data archive.