

FINANCIAL WELLBEING INDEX COLLAPSES

January’s JGFR Financial Wellbeing Index collapsed in January, down 48 points to –85, its lowest level since two years ago. The slump in wellbeing follows a 10-point gain in December on the back of short-term spending sentiment rising with the impending rise in VAT. This one-off monthly impact has been more than reversed in January – normally a good month for spending confidence – and down 29 points on the month.

On a 12-month moving average basis the index is down 5-points to –42 and the lowest since March 2010. This is the fourth month out of five that the index has fallen, and is now well off its 2-year high of –33 last August. The 3-month measure fell 16 points to –56 in January, the lowest since August 2009 and is well below a year ago (-33). With consumers facing a very tough 2011 financial wellbeing is set to suffer a double -dip.

Chart: UK Financial Wellbeing January 2001 – January 2011



Source: GfK NOP / European Commission / JGFR

The JGFR Financial Well-Being Index is based on five measures from the GfK NOP consumer confidence survey for The European Commission:

- the net proportion of households currently saving
- the combined measure of personal finances – looking backwards and forwards over 12 months
- the combined spending attitude measures – on the climate for making major purchases and the intention of spending more on major purchases in the next 12 months compared to the previous 12 months



Each month the mood of the consumer is tracked in the UK Consumer Confidence Monitor. We also produce a High Earners Confidence monitor.

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