



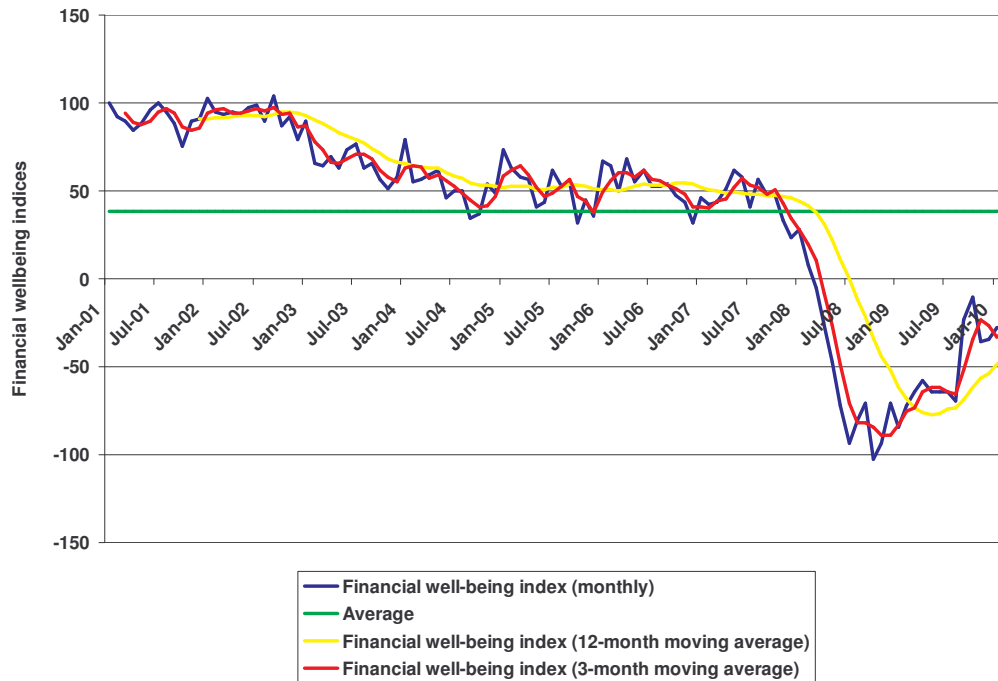
NEWS RELEASE

March 1st 2010

FINANCIAL WELLBEING INDEX UP BY 1 POINT

February's JGFR Financial Wellbeing Index improved by 1 point to -27 on the month and is up 45 points on a year ago. It is down 17 points on last October's 18-month high (-10) that suggested that recovery was well under way, but appears in hindsight a little premature.

Chart: UK Financial Wellbeing January 2001 – February 2010



Source: GfK NOP / European Commission / JGFR

Following an upward surge in financial wellbeing last September and October that may have reflected an end of recession feeling, subsequent gloomy economic news and renewed job worries set back financial wellbeing in November and December.

February's measure is -27, up 1 point on January and up from -72 a year ago. This month's measure is boosted by a slight improvement in personal finances. Spending confidence fell during the month and net savings households are unchanged. People remain cautious.

The 3-month moving average gained 3 points to -30, and is up 46 points compared to a year ago. The 12-month moving annual measure is up for the ninth successive month, up 4 points to -45 and stands above the measure in February 2009 (-68).

While financial wellbeing only registered a small improvement in the month, the JGFR Misery Index – a combined measure of unemployment and inflation expectations – moved to a 3-year high and is now better than its 2001-2010 long term average, boosted particularly by lower unemployment expectations in the next 12 months.



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.

For details of the consumers mood that tracks economic indicators together with spending and saving indicators and which varies across regions and segments - contact info@jgfr.co.uk or ring 0208 944 7510