

ANZ-Roy Morgan Australian Consumer Confidence Media Release

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Confidence falters on bush fires

- Confidence fell 1.7% last week, to its lowest level in more than four years. A drop in confidence at the start of the year is unusual and almost certainly reflects the impact of the catastrophic bush fires over the weekend.
- Consistent with this, the weakness in confidence was due to a big drop in the economic outlook, while sentiment toward personal financial circumstances actually rose. 'Current economic conditions' were down by a massive 12.9%, while 'future economic conditions' fell 8.1%. Current economic conditions are at their lowest level since the global financial crisis, while sentiment toward the future economic outlook is at its lowest level since 1994.
- In contrast, financial conditions gained. 'Current finances' rose 4% while 'future finances' were up 0.3%.
- The 'Time to buy a household item' gained 4.8%, recovering from a fall of 6.4% seen in the last reading of the previous year. The four-week moving average of 'inflation expectations' was stable at 4.0%, though weekly readings saw a sharp fall, which should result in a weaker reading in the coming week.

ANZ-Roy Morgan Consumer Confidence and inflation expectations

Last weekend (4-5 Jan)	Weekly change, %	Four-week average	Monthly average since 1990	Inflation expectations (4-week ma)
106.2	-1.7%	107.8	113.1	4.0%

Data collected last weekend (Saturday and Sunday), based on around 1,000 face-to-face interviews. Not seasonally adjusted. Further data history on page 6.

ANZ Head of Australian Economics, David Plank, commented:

Against the backdrop of the weekend's catastrophic bush fires it is not surprising that consumer confidence declined. But the reported decline of 1.7% since the last survey in mid-December understates the weakness when one considers that the New Year usually sees a strong gain in sentiment. Between 2010 and 2019, the average gain in confidence for the first week of January has been 3.4%. Against the usual seasonal gain of recent years, confidence has started 2020 in very poor shape and at its lowest level in more than four years.

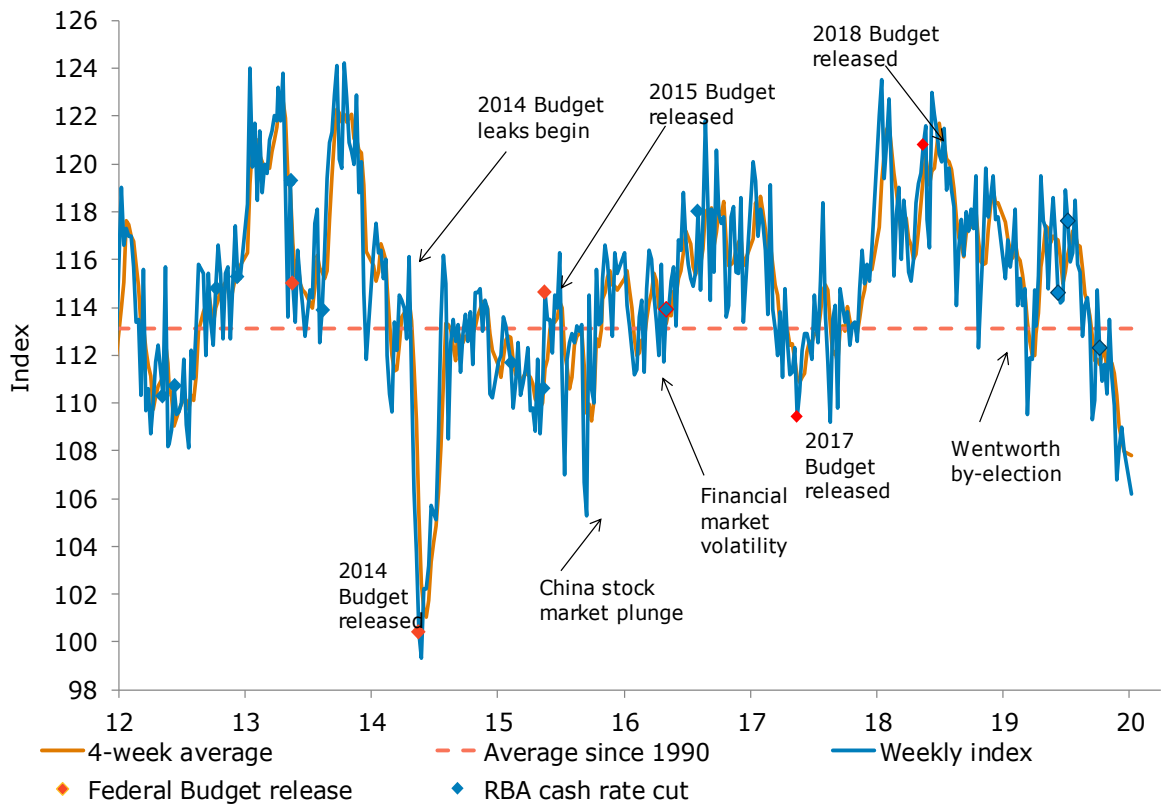
The fact that this is due to sharp falls in both the current and future economic outlooks indicates to us that the bush fires are almost certainly the key cause. In contrast, consumers' sentiment toward their own financial circumstances has actually risen since mid-December. This offers the prospect that the impact on overall consumer confidence from the weekend's terrible events may be relatively short-lived. The policy steps taken by the federal government in recent days could contribute to that outcome. We are mindful, of course, that there is likely still bad news to come about the impact of last weekend's fires. There is also a lot of hot and dry weather to come before the bushfire season is over.

The weakness in overall consumer sentiment suggests that consumer caution toward spending in recent months will continue, despite the relative health of their personal financial circumstances. We expect retail sales to have rebounded modestly in November, in part due to the Black Friday sales. But the boost may be short-lived.



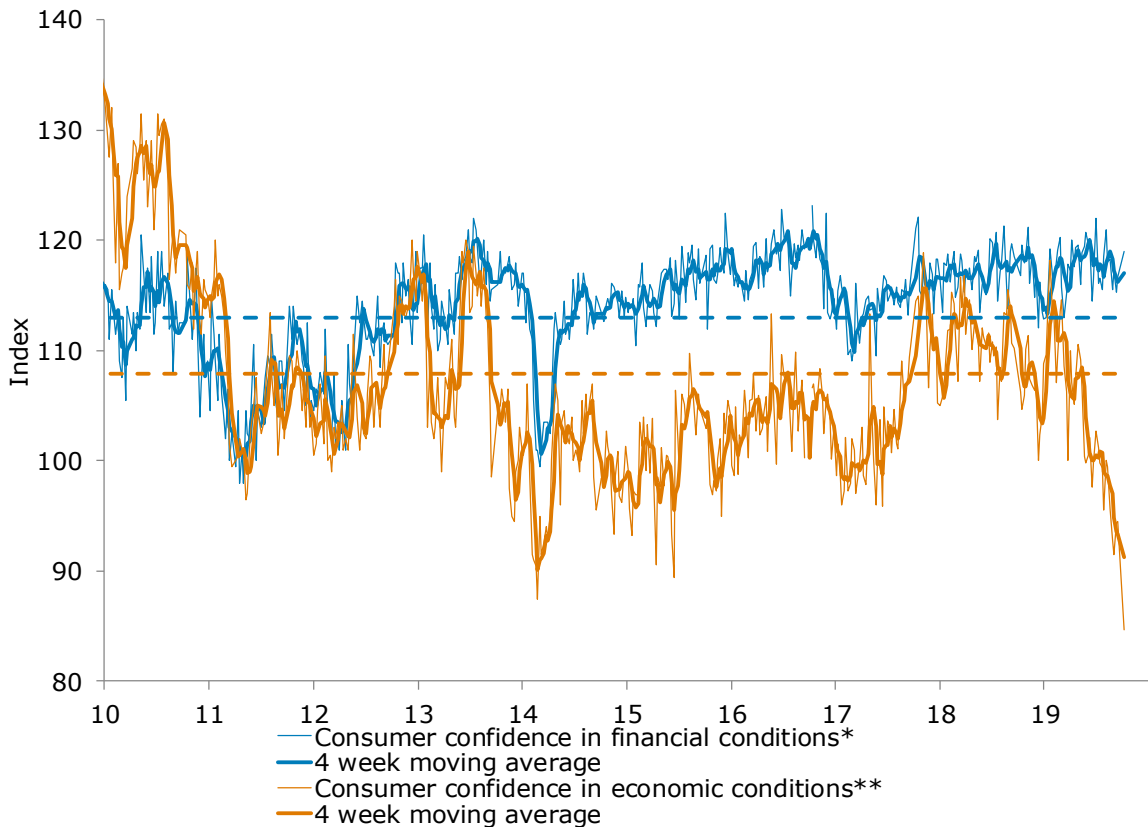
Charts

Figure 1. Confidence lost 1.7% to start 2020



Source: ANZ-Roy Morgan

Figure 2. Divergence between financial and economic conditions intensifies



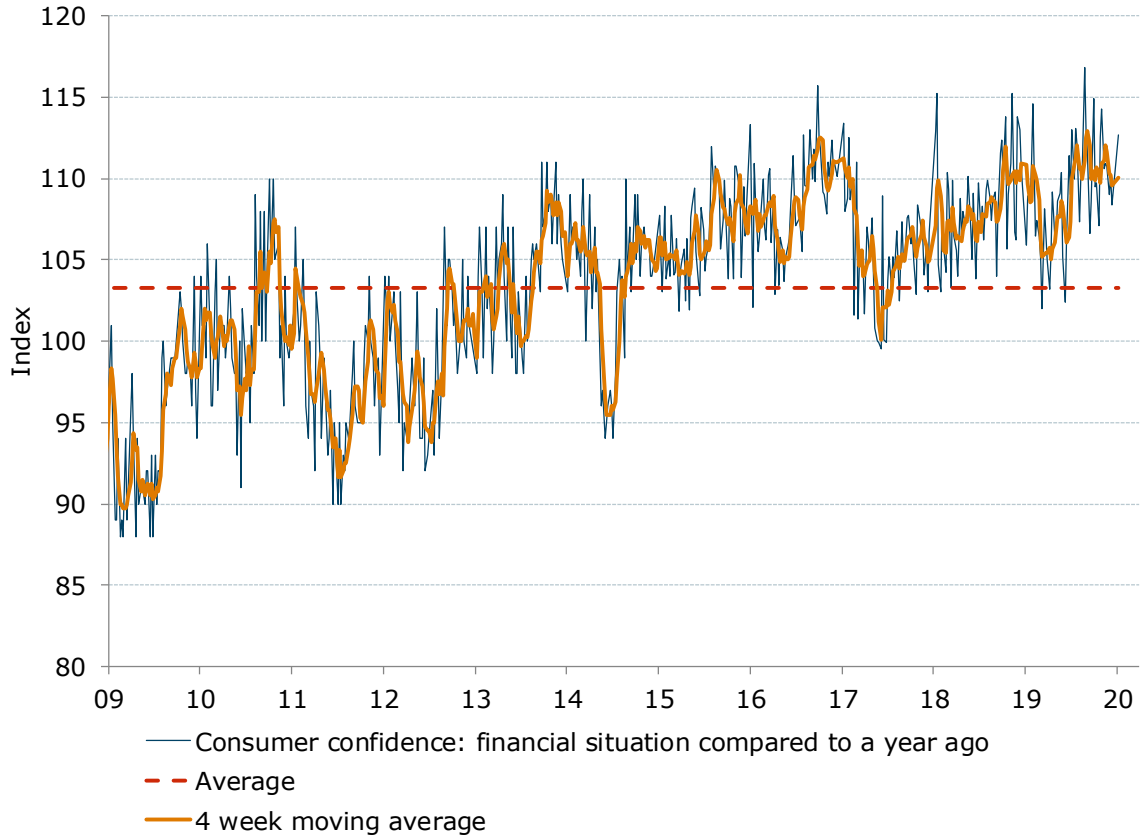
Source: ANZ-Roy Morgan

Note: *Financial conditions index is an average of 'financial situation compared to a year ago' and 'financial situation next year' sub-indices. **Economic conditions index is an average of 'economic conditions in 12 months' and 'economic conditions in five years' sub-indices.



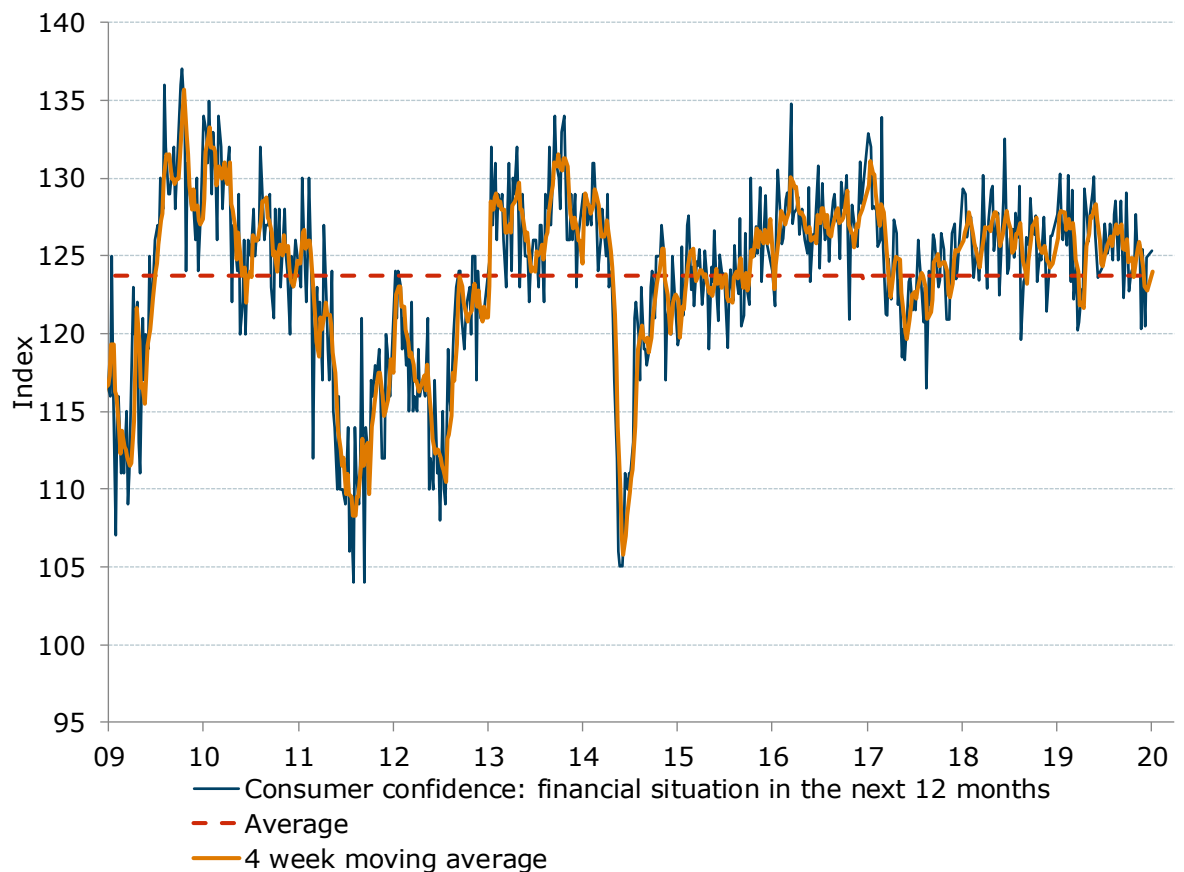
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Figure 3. 'Current finances' gain 4%



Source: ANZ-Roy Morgan

Figure 4. Future financial conditions up marginally

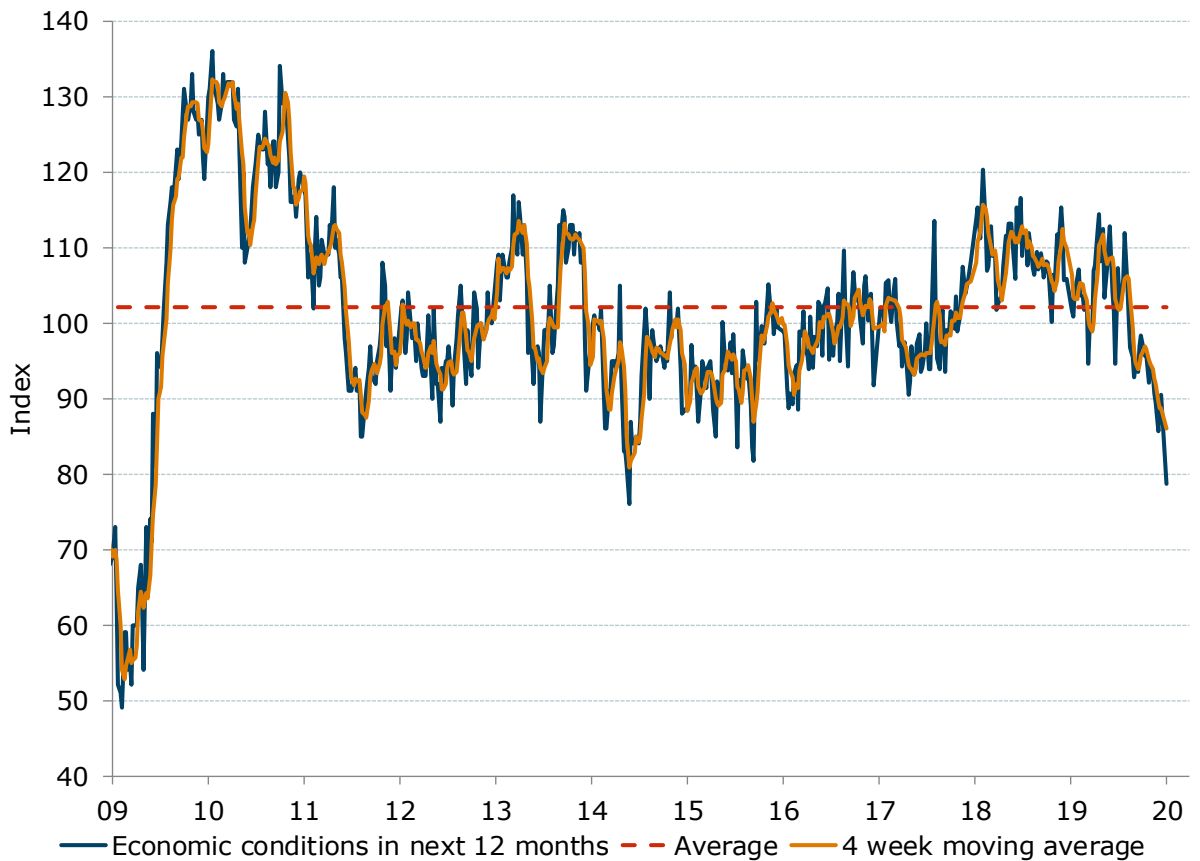


Source: ANZ-Roy Morgan



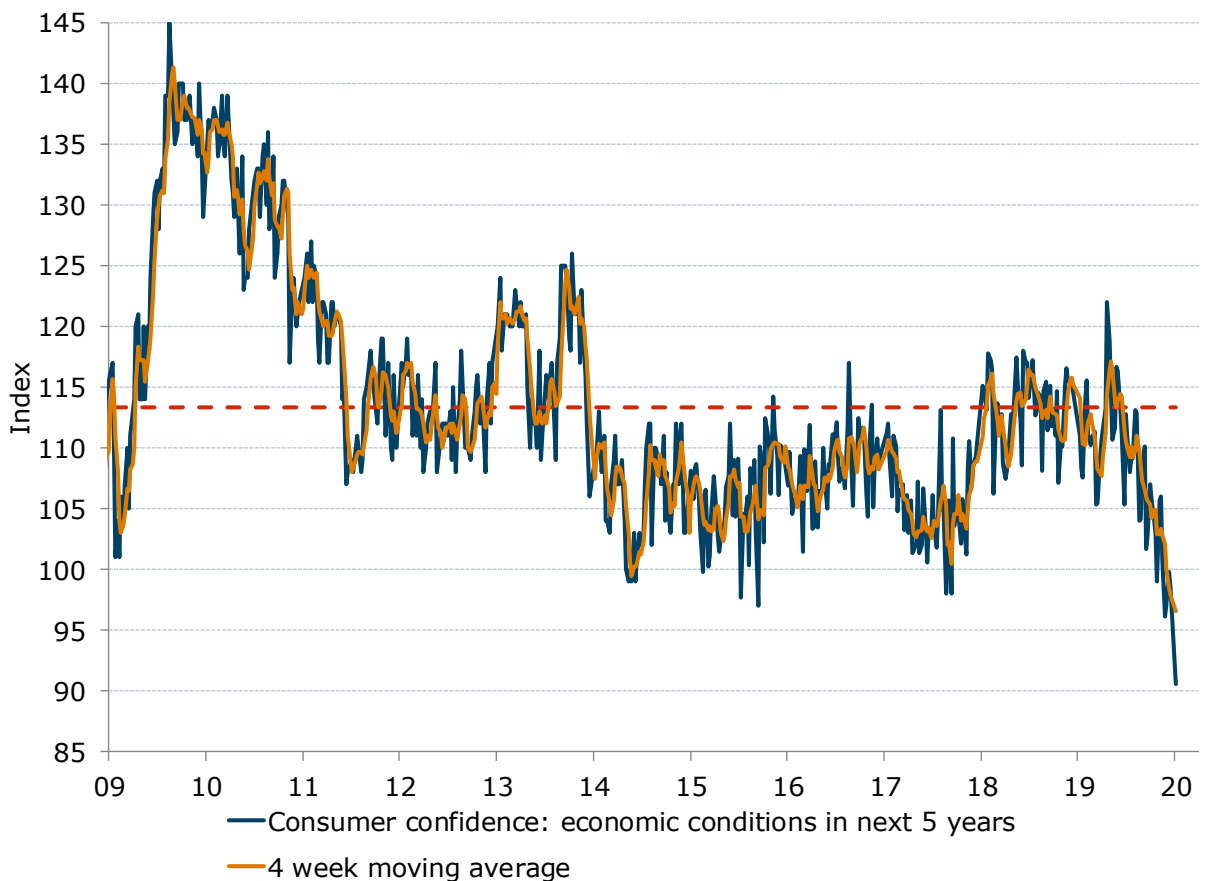
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Figure 5. 'Current economic conditions' fell by a massive 12.9%



Source: ANZ-Roy Morgan

Figure 6. 'Future economic conditions' also saw a sharp fall, dropping 8.1%

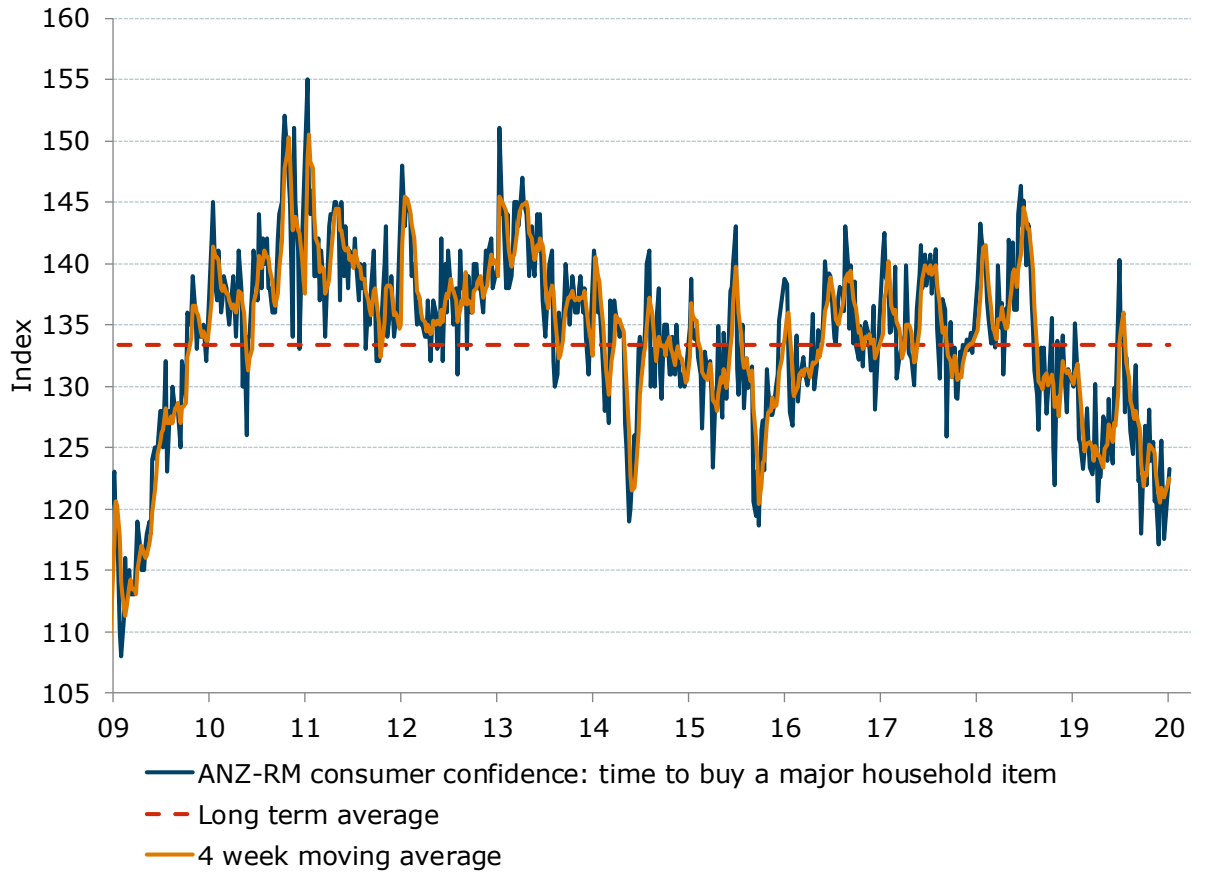


Source: ANZ-Roy Morgan



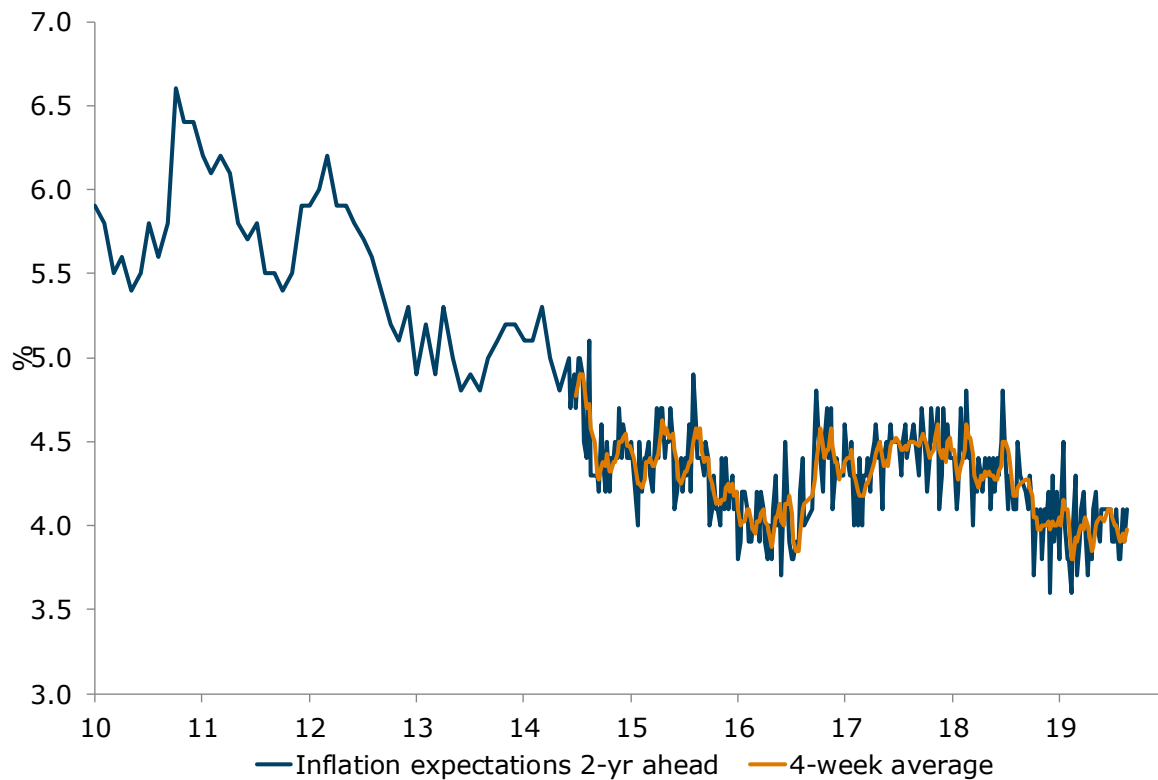
Charts

Figure 7. 'Time to buy a household item' gained 4.8%



Source: ANZ-Roy Morgan

Figure 8. Four-week moving average 'inflation expectations' stable at 4.0%



* Data from Oct-2014 is weekly.
Data prior to that is monthly.

Source: ANZ-Roy Morgan



Data table

Table 1. ANZ-Roy Morgan Australian Consumer Confidence

	Headline index		Subindices				Inflation Expectations	
	Last week	4-week moving average	1. Financial situation compared to a year ago	2. Financial situation next year	3. Economic conditions next year	4. Economic conditions next 5 years	5. Time to buy a major household item	6. Inflation expectations 2-year ahead (%)
Avg since 2001	116	-	103	124	105	114	134	-
2011 avg	114	-	97	117	101	116	140	6.0
2012 avg	113	-	99	118	97	113	138	5.8
2013 avg	119	-	104	128	106	118	139	5.0
2014 avg	111	-	104	121	94	106	132	4.9
2015 avg	112	-	107	124	94	106	131	4.4
2016 avg	115	-	109	127	99	108	134	4.1
2017 avg	114	-	105	124	100	105	135	4.4
2018 avg	119	-	108	126	109	113	135	4.4
20-Jan-19	115.7	116.4	108.6	127.2	104.3	107.6	130.8	4.3
27-Jan-19	116.5	116.1	111.0	126.0	106.1	114.0	125.7	4.1
3-Feb-19	118.1	116.8	114.6	127.7	107.1	115.6	125.3	3.7
10-Feb-19	114.1	116.1	106.5	125.7	103.7	111.2	123.3	4.1
17-Feb-19	115.2	116.0	107.4	130.2	103.5	110.3	124.6	4.0
24-Feb-19	114.1	115.4	106.4	123.3	101.8	110.9	128.2	4.1
3-Mar-19	114.8	114.6	105.0	129.2	102.7	111.4	125.5	3.8
10-Mar-19	109.5	113.4	102.0	122.2	94.6	105.4	123.4	4.1
17-Mar-19	111.9	112.6	108.1	124.3	99.1	105.5	122.8	4.0
24-Mar-19	111.8	112.0	106.6	120.2	99.0	109.3	124.0	4.2
31-Mar-19	114.7	112.0	105.0	120.7	107.0	110.7	130.2	3.6
7-Apr-19	113.2	112.9	103.2	122.8	107.7	111.6	120.6	4.3
14-Apr-19	115.3	113.8	105.4	122.9	112.2	113.3	122.6	3.9
21-Apr-19	119.5	115.7	109.2	129.3	114.4	122.0	122.6	4.2
28-Apr-19	117.6	116.4	106.3	127.4	108.1	118.8	127.5	3.8
5-May-19	117.3	117.4	106.5	125.9	112.5	114.5	127.1	4.1
12-May-19	114.8	117.3	108.6	127.6	103.4	110.7	123.9	4.5
19-May-19	117.2	116.7	109.1	129.1	107.3	111.7	129.0	4.0
26-May-19	118.6	117.0	110.4	130.1	110.5	116.7	125.3	3.8
2-Jun-19	116.9	116.9	105.2	126.4	112.8	116.4	123.7	3.8
9-Jun-19	114.6	116.8	102.4	123.6	104.0	113.1	129.8	3.6
16-Jun-19	114.2	116.1	106.4	123.9	101.6	111.0	128.2	4.0
23-Jun-19	114.3	115.0	111.4	124.2	94.6	105.4	136.0	4.3
30-Jun-19	118.9	115.5	109.0	125.5	107.2	112.8	140.3	3.7
7-Jul-19	117.6	116.3	113.0	127.1	103.3	110.9	133.8	3.9
14-Jul-19	115.9	116.7	110.0	125.2	102.3	108.0	133.8	4.1
21-Jul-19	116.3	117.2	113.1	125.6	105.8	109.1	127.9	4.2
28-Jul-19	118.5	117.1	112.1	127.1	111.9	109.1	132.4	4.0
4-Aug-19	115.8	116.6	107.3	124.7	105.1	113.2	128.9	3.7
11-Aug-19	115.5	116.5	110.1	127.7	100.6	112.9	126.3	3.9
18-Aug-19	112.8	115.7	110.3	128.5	96.8	104.0	124.5	3.8
25-Aug-19	114.1	114.6	116.8	124.7	95.4	104.2	129.5	4.1
1-Sep-19	114.4	114.2	113.0	126.3	92.8	108.2	131.7	4.2
8-Sep-19	113.3	113.7	111.7	128.5	94.1	110.1	122.3	4.0
15-Sep-19	109.3	112.8	106.6	122.3	93.5	101.7	122.6	3.9
22-Sep-19	110.1	111.8	108.6	124.3	96.9	102.7	118.0	4.1
29-Sep-19	114.7	111.9	114.9	129.1	98.3	107.0	124.3	4.1
6-Oct-19	112.3	111.6	109.5	122.7	96.6	105.8	126.8	4.1
13-Oct-19	110.9	112.0	109.7	123.5	95.6	104.0	121.9	4.1
20-Oct-19	111.6	112.4	107.1	124.0	95.9	102.9	128.1	4.1
27-Oct-19	110.4	111.3	112.5	124.5	92.1	99.0	123.9	3.9
3-Nov-19	113.5	111.6	114.3	127.7	94.5	105.7	125.5	3.9
10-Nov-19	111.1	111.7	110.6	125.6	93.0	106.0	120.6	4.1
17-Nov-19	109.9	111.2	110.9	125.8	90.6	100.8	121.1	3.8
24-Nov-19	106.8	110.3	110.8	120.3	89.4	96.2	117.1	3.8
1-Dec-19	108.1	109.0	109.0	125.4	85.7	97.2	123.3	4.1
8-Dec-19	109.0	108.5	110.1	120.5	89.0	99.8	125.6	3.9
15-Dec-19	108.0	108.0	108.4	124.9	90.4	98.6	117.6	4.1
5-Jan-20	106.2	107.8	112.7	125.3	78.7	90.6	123.3	3.7

Source: ANZ-Roy Morgan



Important notice

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