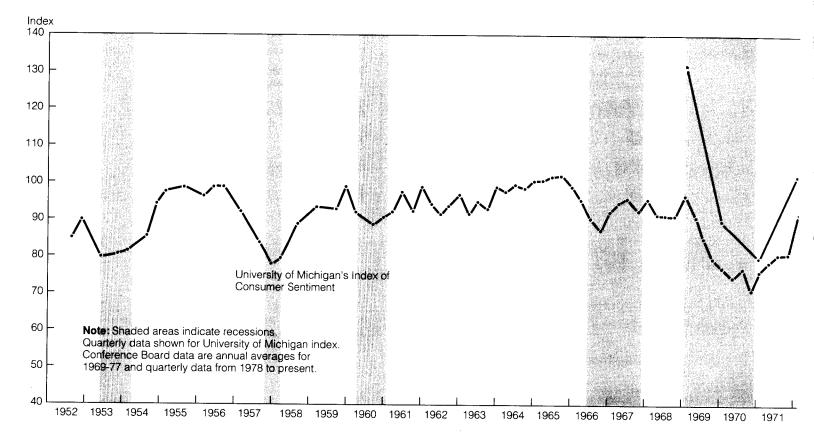
## **CONSUMER CONFIDENCE RATINGS**

Consumer confidence continues to bump along at low levels in both of the major indexes of sentiment. Optimism is highest in the South, lowest in the West.



## MICHIGAN INDEX OF CONSUMER SENTIMENT

The Index of Consumer Sentiment is a composite number that takes into account the answers to this series of questions:

- 1. Would you say that you and your family are better off or worse off financially than you were a year ago?
- 2. Now, looking ahead—do you think that a year from now you and your family will be better off financially, or worse off, or just about the same?
- 3. Now, turning to business conditions in the country as a whole-do you think that during the next twelve months, we'll have good times financially, or bad times, or what?
- 4. Looking ahead, which would you say is more likely—that in the country as a whole, we'll have continuous good times during the next five years or so, or that we will have periods of widespread unemployment, or depression, or what?
- 5. About the big things people buy for their homes—I mean furniture, home furnishings, refrigerator, stove, television, and things like that. In general, do you think now is a good time or a bad time to buy such household items?

## CONFERENCE BOARD CONSUMER CONFIDENCE INDEX

The Consumer Confidence Index is a composite number that takes into account the answers to this series of questions:

- 1. How would you rate the present general business conditions in your area? Good, normal, or bad?
- 2. Six months from now, do you think they will be better, same, or worse?
- 3. What would you say about available jobs in your area right now? Plenty, not so many, or hard to get?
- 4. Six months from now, will there be more, same or fewer?
- 5. How would you guess your total family income to be six months from now? Higher, the same, lower?

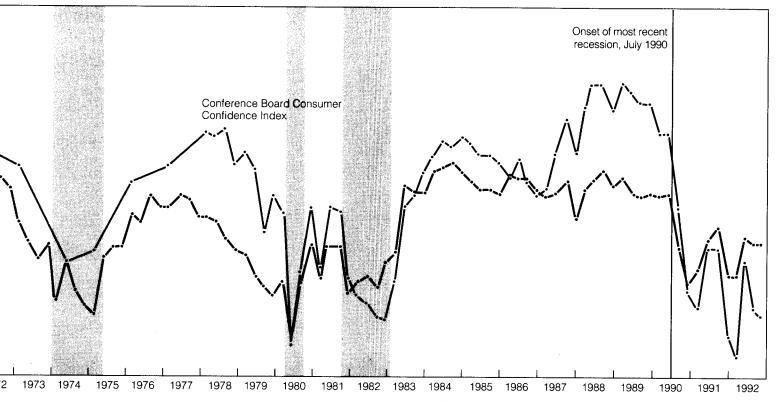
**Note:** For data prior to 1962 the base is Fall 1956 = 100. In 1962 and later years, the base is February 1986 = 100, a date selected because the index value on the old base happened to be 100 in February 1986; thus linking the two sets of data.

100 in February 1986, thus linking the two sets of data.

Source: Surveys by Survey Research Center, University of Michigan, latest that of September 1992.

Note: Survey is a mail survey. 1985 = 100.

Source: Survey by National Family Opinion, Inc. for the Conference Board, latest that of September 1992.



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Highs and Lows								
Conference Board Index								
Historic low = Historic high =		December 1974 February 1969						
Lowest point this recession = 46.3 February 1992								
University of Michigan Index								
Historic low = Historic high =		May 1980 August 1965						
Lowest point this recession = 67.5 January 1992								