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Canadian Confidence Index

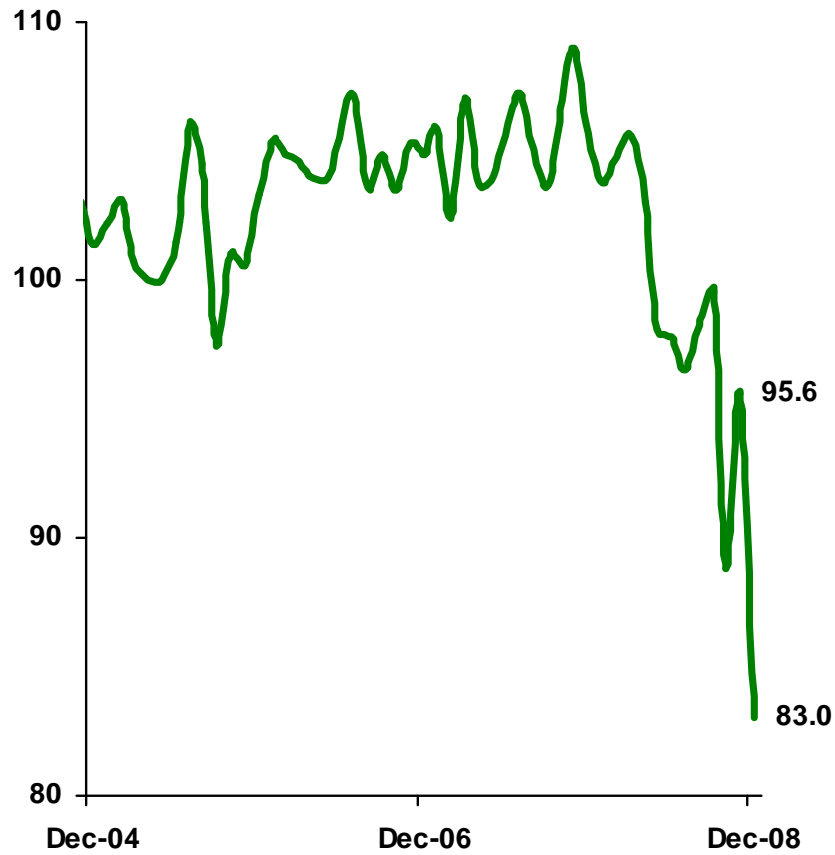
a TNS Canadian Facts News Release

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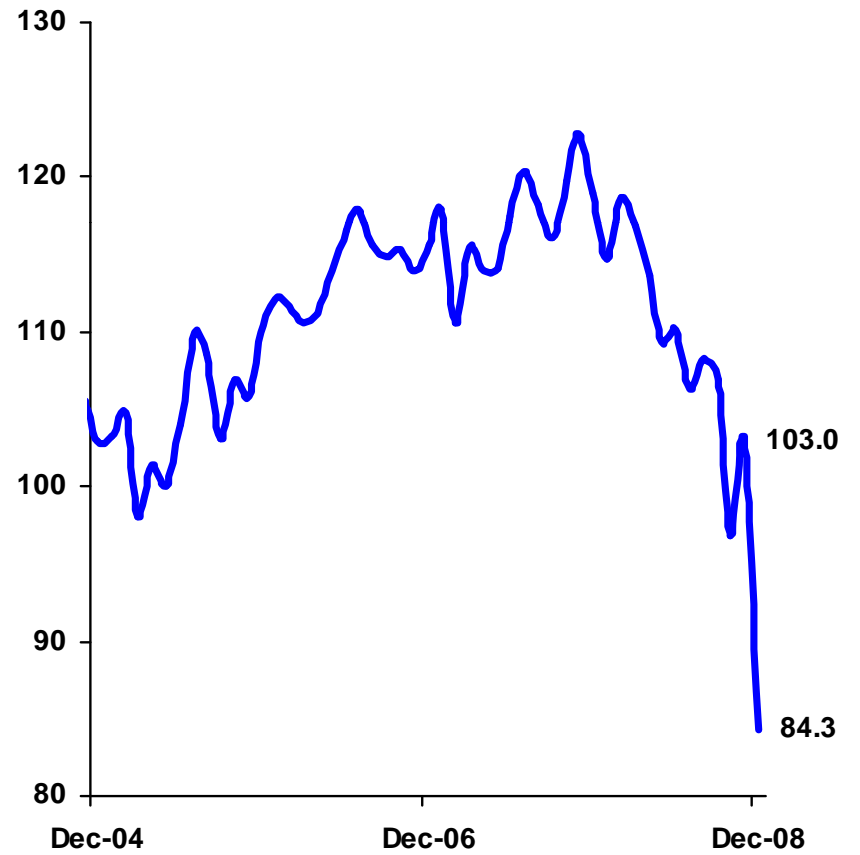
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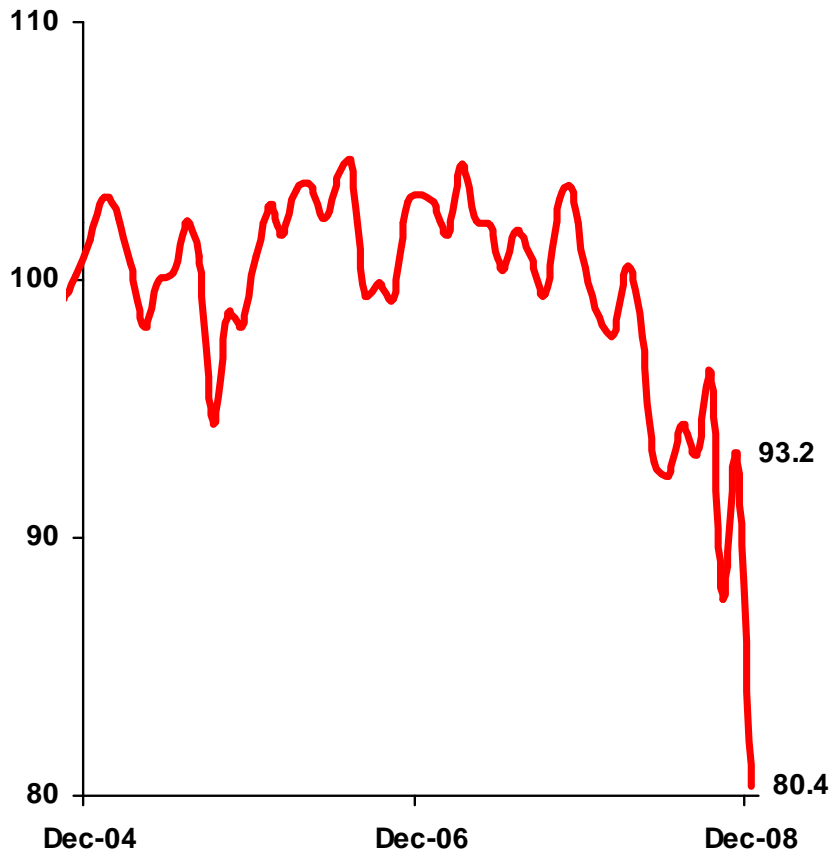
Consumer Confidence Index



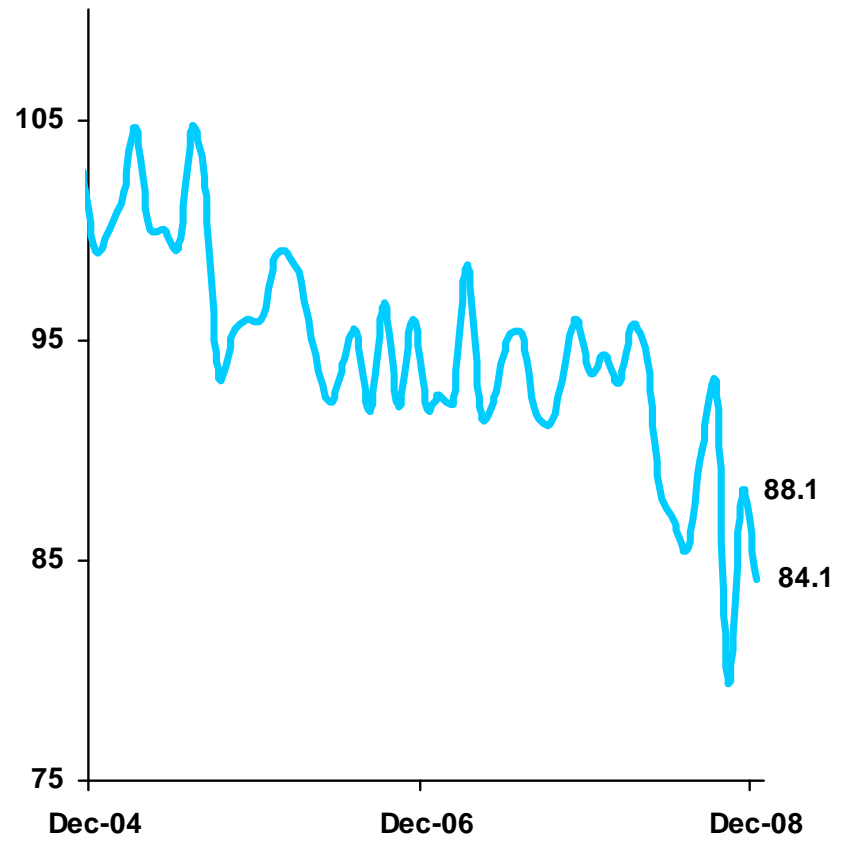
Present Situation Index



Expectations Index



Buy Index



Holiday Shopping Results



Holiday Season Looks Poor for Retailers

With a dwindling number of shopping days before the holidays, Canadians clearly expect to rein in their spending this year.

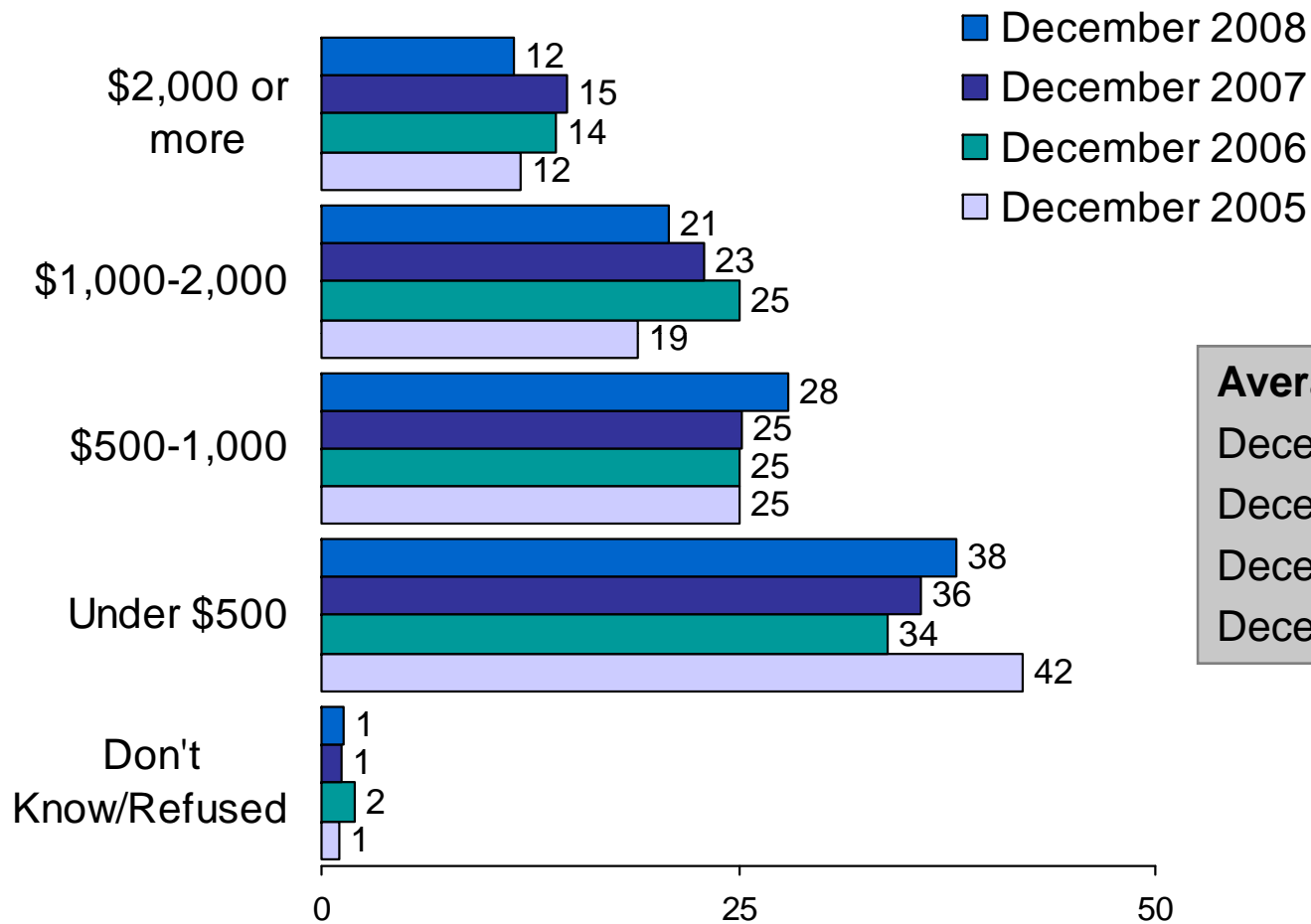
The survey found that Canadians plan to spend \$956 on holiday gifts, decorations or other holiday items this season. This is only slightly lower than December of last year (the estimate was \$961).

The expected decline in spending is reflected in the fact that there are more than four times as many consumers who expect to spend less this holiday season (36%) as plan to spend more (8%).



Planned Holiday Spending

consumer confidence index

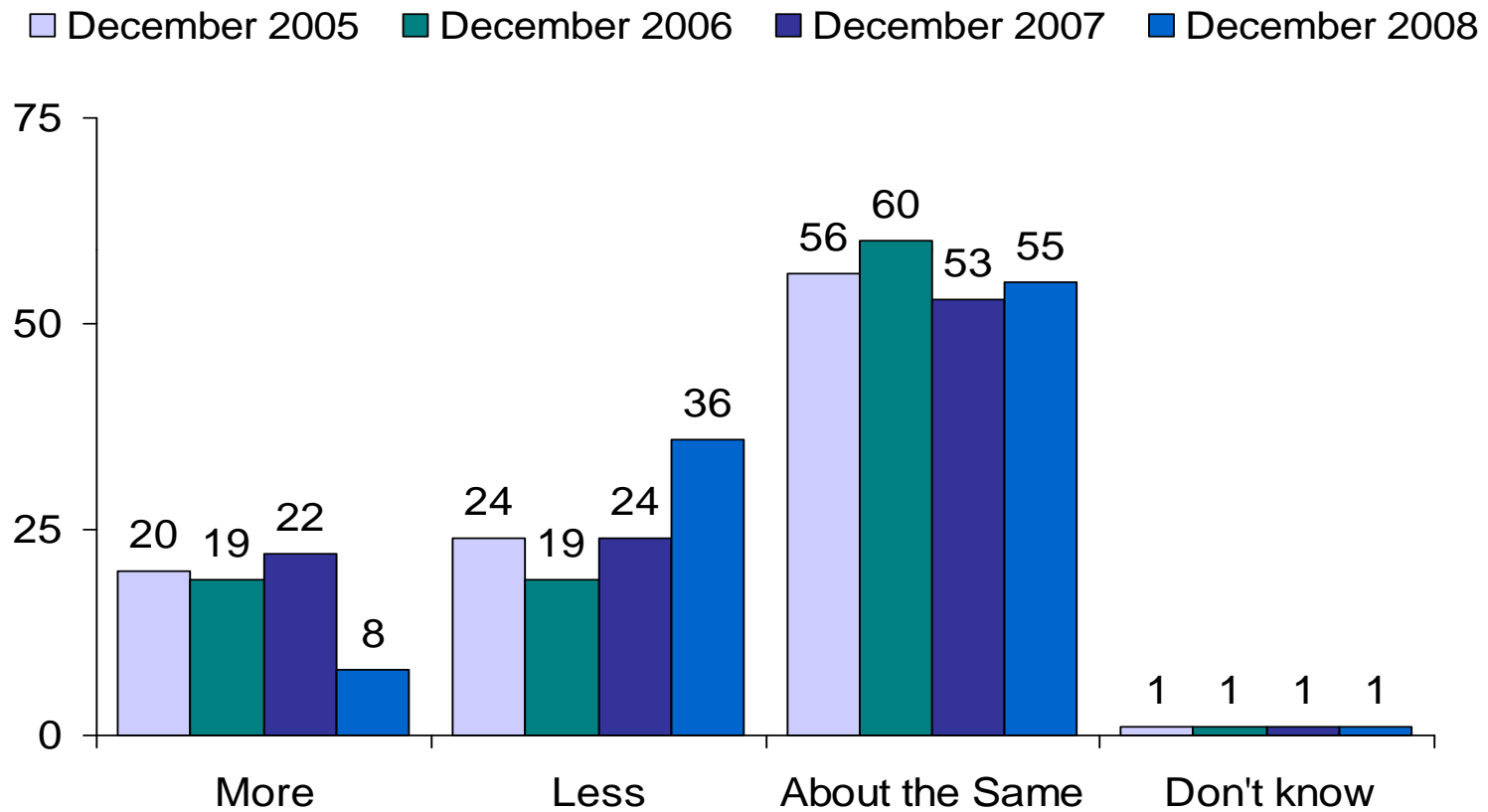


Average:
 December 08: \$956
 December 07: \$961
 December 06: \$1056
 December 05: \$867

Q. Approximately how much will you spend on holiday gifts, decorations or other holiday items this season?

Holiday Spending Compared to Last Year

consumer confidence index



Q. Would you say that you are spending more, less or about the same on holiday items as you spent last year?

About the CCI study

Seven questions make up the core survey of Consumer Confidence. While the overall CCI index uses all 7 questions to produce an index score, there are three sub-indices that rely on some of the questions.

CCI Index: Includes all 6 variables

Present Situation Index:

- How would you describe your country's current economic situation?
- How would you describe your country's current employment situation?

Expectations Index:

- What do you think will be your country's economic situation in the next 6 months?
- What do you think will be your country's employment situation in the next 6 months?
- What do you think your income will be in 6 months time?

Buy Index:

- Taking into consideration the cost of things today and the financial situation in general, to what extent would you say that now is a good or bad time to buy products such as: a house or apartment, a car, household appliances such as a washing machine, a refrigerator, a TV set etc.?



About Dr. Richard Jenkins:

An accomplished researcher, Dr. Jenkins is responsible for TNS Canadian Facts' public sector research. This includes traditional public opinion and market research as well as all research conducted by the Social and Policy Research Group at TNS. He is also the primary spokesperson for TNS Canadian Facts for news interviews and analysis of recent trends in public opinion and market behaviour.

Dr. Jenkins has more than nine years of experience, derived from both academic and private sector experience, as a researcher of public opinion and public policy. He has published articles in a number of respected peer-reviewed journals, including the Canadian Journal of Political Science, and chapters in a number of edited books, including the State of the Federation (2001) and the Review of Economic Performance and Social Progress (2002) and continues to contribute to our collective understanding of politics through his recent publications on turnout and attitudes about democracy.

Dr. Jenkins holds an Honours and Masters degree in Political Studies from Queen's University and a Doctoral Degree in Political Science from the University of British Columbia. His academic training focused on public opinion (including both methodological and substantive issues), public policy and Canadian politics. Before joining TNS Canadian Facts, Dr. Jenkins spent two years at EKOS Research Associates and two years as an Assistant Professor in Political Studies at Queen's University, where he taught Canadian politics, democracy and election, and statistics. He is a member of MRIA and a number of professional associations devoted to the study of public opinion and politics.

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