

GLOBAL CONSUMER CONFIDENCE INDEX

Global consumer confidence dipped in the second quarter from the previous three months, according to a published survey which also showed that Indonesians have overtaken Indians as the most upbeat consumers.

Consumer confidence fell across major emerging economies China, India and Brazil in the second quarter, according to the survey by global information.

A worsening Euro Zone Crisis, sluggish U.S. jobs growth and slowing growth in China and India combined to dent consumer confidence globally in the 2nd Quarter 2012 with concern over the economic outlook and job security the biggest concerns.

53% of Global respondents were optimistic about their personal finances, but that was down 2 Percentage Points from the first quarter. Asia-Pacific respondents reported the biggest decline in favorable financial perceptions, declining four points to **59%**.

The Global Consumer Confidence Index dipped 3 points in the 2nd Quarter to close at 91. A reading below 100 *signals consumer is pessimistic about the overall outlook*.

There was however no increase in the number of consumers who said they were in recession, which stayed at **57%**.

"Things are not necessarily getting worse for the average consumer, they just aren't getting better. That number, however, could change depending particularly on how the situation in Europe evolves," said Venkatesh Bala, Chief Economist at The Cambridge Group.

The survey was conducted between May 4th and 21st (2012) and covered more than 28,000 consumers polled on the Internet across *56 Global Markets*.

U.S. Consumer Confidence fell by 5 points to 87 in the 2nd Quarter 2012, *one of the biggest decreases globally*.

INDONESIA RACES AHEAD

Indonesia's shift to top spot in the survey was a further sign that the country, with its big domestic economy and an expanding middle class, is weathering the global slowdown better than some other emerging markets.

"In Indonesia, consumer optimism has been evident all year fuelled by investment rating upgrades from Moody's and Fitch," said Catherine Eddy, Managing Director, Publishing House, Indonesia.

"The market is very buoyant among consumers and investors right now and with a population of 240 million, Indonesia is possibly the next big bastion after China and India."

In **Egypt**, which elected a new president last month in its first free elections, consumer sentiment leapt 6 points, pushing Egyptians into the top 10 most optimistic consumers globally.

Hungarians, beset by a weakening economy and uncertainty about whether the government will secure an IMF aid deal, remained the most pessimistic consumers for a fourth straight quarter, their score dipping from the first quarter.

Confidence in **Italy**, which has been forced to announce new austerity measures to tackle its high debt, also dipped and was the third-lowest globally.

Euro zone peers **France** and **Greece**, which both held elections in the 2nd Quarter, saw big rises in consumer confidence but both still ranked in the bottom 10 globally, as did **Spain** and **Portugal**. **Japan** and **South Korea** have also seen persistently weak confidence in recent quarters and stayed in the bottom 10 rankings.

Global Consumer Confidence Index in the 2nd Quarter, 2012 (Change from Q1, 2012 survey in brackets):

Sl. No.	Top 10 Index Readings	Bottom 10 Index Readings
1	Indonesia 120 (+2)	Romania 62 (+2)
2	India 119 (-4)	France 61 (+11)
3	Philippines 116 (-2)	Japan 57 (-1)
4	Saudi Arabia 115 (-4)	Spain 52 (-1)
5	Malaysia 111 (+4)	S. Korea 50 (+1)
6	UAE 108 (+3)	Croatia 45 (0)
7	Brazil 106 (-4)	Greece 43 (+6)
8	China 105 (-5)	Italy 41 (-4)
9	Hong Kong/Thailand 104 (+1,+3)	Portugal 40 (+1)
10	Egypt 103 (+6)	Hungary 30 (-2)

Global Consumer Confidence Average : 91 (-3)

United States : 87 (-5)

Germany : 88 (-2)

United Kingdom : 75 (-2)