2026-7-29
Gen RE

WSJ Print Edition

U.S. Consumers Are Feeling Less Confident

Consumer confidence declined in July as consumers' assessment of current business and labor-market conditions softened for a third straight month, a survey from The Conference Board said.

The research group said Tuesday its consumer confidence index fell to 90.8 in July from an upwardly revised 92.2 in June.

Consumers' assessment of current business and labormarket conditions fell by 3.6 points to 114.9. Meanwhile, the expectations index, based on short-term outlook for income, business and labor market conditions, remained unchanged at 74.7.

The Conference Board said perceptions of employment conditions declined, with the labor market differential—the share of consumers saying jobs are "plentiful" minus the share saying jobs are "hard to get"—ticking down to 3.1%. Economists watch this labormarket differential to gauge how tight labor conditions are for households.

A separate reading of sentiment from the University of Michigan this month reported consumer sentiment improved as gasoline prices cooled. However, some economists have noted re-escalation of fighting in the Middle East could stall that momentum in the weeks ahead if gasoline prices climb again.

—*Jessica Coacci*

WSJ Print Edition