

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE SURVEY

Consumer Confidence Survey (CCS) is a stratified random telephone survey of households across Pakistan. Launched in January 2012 and having a two-monthly frequency, the survey is conducted by the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Karachi and the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). This report summarizes the results of more than 1897 surveyed households. Of these, about 552 households were interviewed first in September 2014 while the remaining are fresh interviewees. This exercise was conducted during the afternoon hours of 1st- 10th March 2015.*

I. Overview

The main results of March 2015 wave are summarized below:

- a) The Consumer Confidence Index (CCI) shows no significant change compared to its previous level (Jan 2015):
- b) Similarly both of the sub-indices, namely CEC and EEC remain almost same as in Jan 2015;
- c) Though there is a marginal decrease in the share of respondents expecting lower inflation but generally inflation expectations too remain approximately at their Jan 2015 level.

* Due to public holidays, the survey was not conducted on 3rd & 4th November.

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II. Tables

Table 1: Consumer Indices

Month	March-2015	January-2015	November-2014
CCI	154.10	153.93	139.42
CEC	164.98	163.39	147.89
EEC	144.59	145.67	132.02

Table 2: Inflation Expectations by Group

	March-2015		January-2015		November-2014	
	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative
Overall	5.55%	35.61%	7.49%	35.80%	3.61%	45.49%
Food items	6.00%	36.13%	7.13%	34.44%	3.94%	43.15%
Energy items	7.58%	34.49%	12.20%	29.72%	4.76%	44.50%
Non-food non-energy items	5.87%	33.75%	5.63%	33.07%	3.37%	41.60%

Notes:

* We report the percentage of people expecting an increase in prices. This percentage is collated from respondents choosing from 'increase,' 'no change' and 'decrease' in reply to the following specific questions:

a: How do you expect that prices in general will develop over the next 6 months from now?

b: How would you expect prices of food items will change over the next six months?

c: How would you expect prices of Energy group i.e. electricity, gas, oil, etc. will change over the next six months?

d: How would you expect prices of Items of daily use other than food items & Energy group will change over the next six months?

Table 3: Other Highlights

Percentage of households	March-2015		January-2015		November-2014	
	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative
Unemployment	6.41%	34.99%	7.99%	34.18%	7.04%	36.35%
Interest rate	4.32%	19.98%	3.91%	18.35%	3.70%	19.57%
Income a year later	22.28%	7.78%	21.02%	7.40%	22.31%	8.45%
Next six months for buying durable items	8.45%	22.75%	8.00%	25.66%	8.24%	26.45%
Next six months for buying a car	9.41%	24.26%	9.04%	28.02%	7.42%	29.76%
Current times for buying a house	10.86%	30.57%	9.83%	34.27%	9.26%	30.56%
Better financial conditions in next six months	18.25%	17.52%	18.92%	17.29%	15.26%	25.37%

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ⁱ About the report

This report on consumer perceptions covers three broad themes: (i) overall consumer confidence indices; (ii) inflationary expectations and; (iii) other key highlights about households' perception of important indicators.

a) The consumer confidence (CC) index is a blend of current households' perceptions relative to six months in the past and in the future. The perceptions are about personal financial conditions, the overall economy, unemployment and consumption of durable goods. The CC index is further assessed by splitting it into two distinct parts: current and future perceptions, which then form indices of their own. The former is known as current economic conditions (CEC) index and the later as expected economic conditions (EEC) index.

b) Inflationary expectations are based on the results of quantitative and qualitative queries regarding the perception of respondents about the price changes of different groups of commodities. The quantitative assessment is based on households' expected value for a basket of commodities (which is currently worth Rs100) six-months down the road.

c) Other key highlights are derived from a cross-sectional analysis of participants' responses to queries that were included in the consumer confidence survey, but are not a part of the consumer confidence index or included in the calculations of inflationary expectations.

Rotating Panel:

From July 2012 a rotating panel equivalent to 33 % of the overall sample size has been introduced, in which the surveys are conducted from the households surveyed six months earlier, while the remaining 67 % are fresh. The stratification scheme of the survey is implemented in rotating panel too.