

## ANZ-ROY MORGAN AUSTRALIAN CONSUMER CONFIDENCE MEDIA RELEASE

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### CONSUMER CONFIDENCE WEAKENS IN LATEST READING

- ANZ-Roy Morgan Australian Consumer Confidence failed to sustain the gain showed last week, dropping 1.2% to 112.4. This dragged the index below its long term average. The loss was broad based as four out of the five sub-components showed a decline.
- Consumers' views about the current financial situation fell 1.6% from the previous week, although the index remains comfortably above its long term average. The 'time to buy a major household item' index fell 3.0% over the week.
- Households' outlook on near and medium term economic conditions worsened for the second consecutive week, with the indices declining by 2.0% and 2.4% respectively. Both the indices remain below their long term averages.
- Views about future financial conditions were the only bright spot in this week's release, with the index climbing 2.5% to end up at 126.5, the highest since April 17.
- Inflation expectations remained unchanged at 4.5% on a four-week moving average basis.

### ANZ'S HEAD OF AUSTRALIAN ECONOMICS, DAVID PLANK, COMMENTED

Looking through the volatility, consumer confidence has been hovering around its long run average for some months with no clear trend. This week's result continues that pattern. That said, there is no doubt that current household conditions remain stretched due to high debt levels and slow wage growth. We suspect these will remain constraints on the outlook for households for some time.

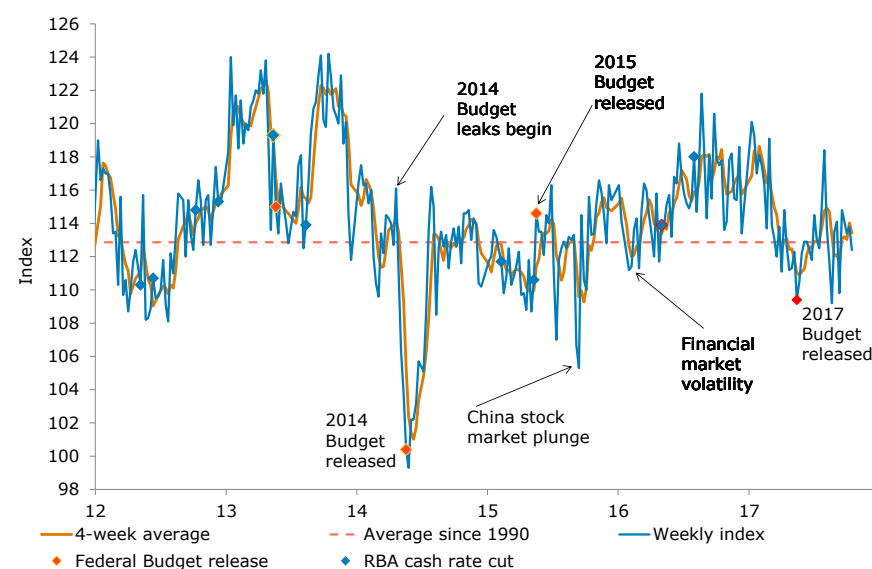
In contrast the outlook for business activity has been increasingly positive in recent months, and we expect an upturn in the non-mining investment cycle to be an important part of Australia's growth. This should support a continued recovery in the labour market, though we think there is some downside risk to the September employment data due out later this week as a consequence of recent overshooting. A weak employment result would not be concerning to us given the underlying signals about the labour market, but negative media headlines may dampen consumer sentiment somewhat.

**Figure 1. ANZ-Roy Morgan Australian Consumer Confidence and inflation expectations**

Last week (14-15 Oct)	Weekly change, %	Four-week average	Monthly average since 1990	Inflation expectations (four-week ma)
112.4	-1.2%	113.4	112.9	4.5%

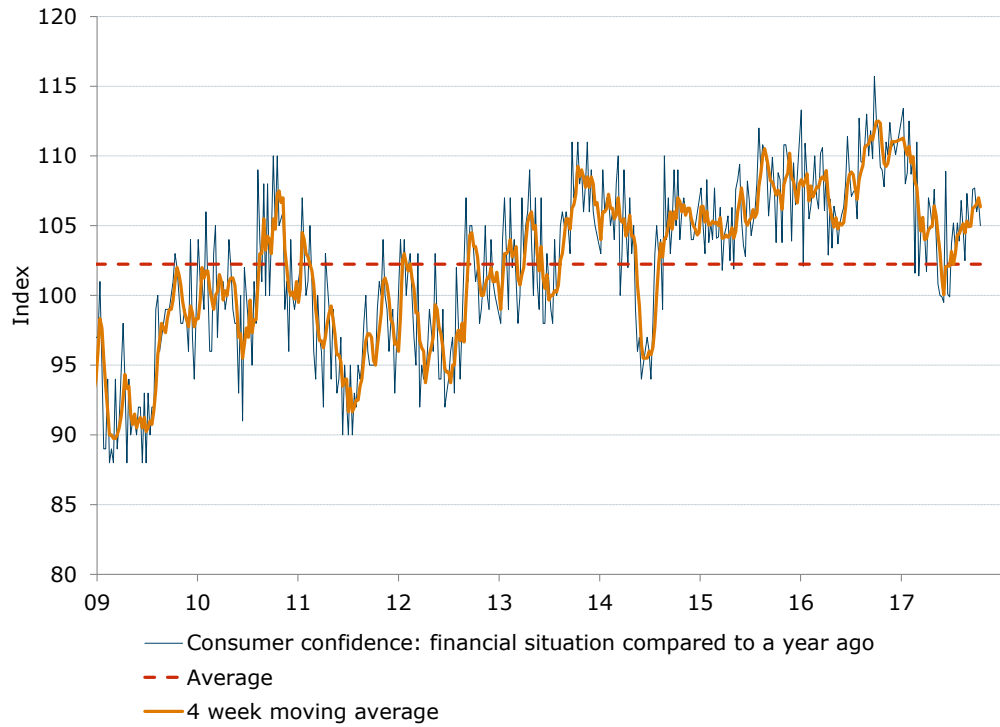
Data collected last weekend (Saturday and Sunday), based on around 1,000 face-to-face interviews. Not seasonally adjusted. Further data history on page 5.

**Figure 2. Consumer confidence pulled back from last week's improvement**



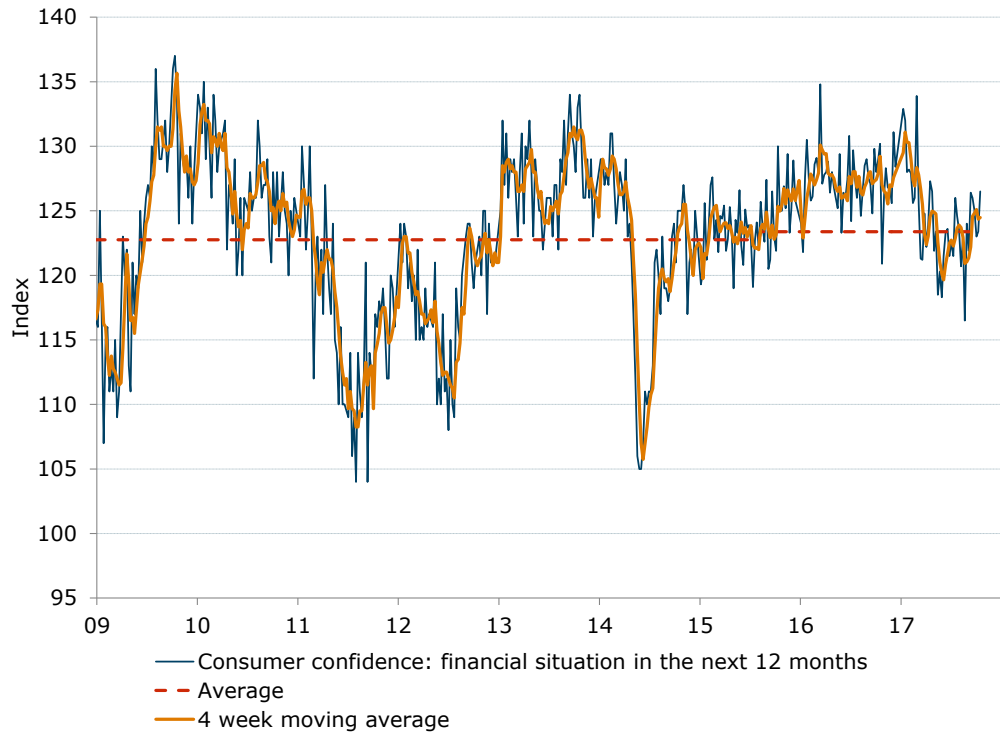
Source: ANZ-Roy Morgan

**Figure 3. Sentiment towards current financial conditions lower but still trending upwards**



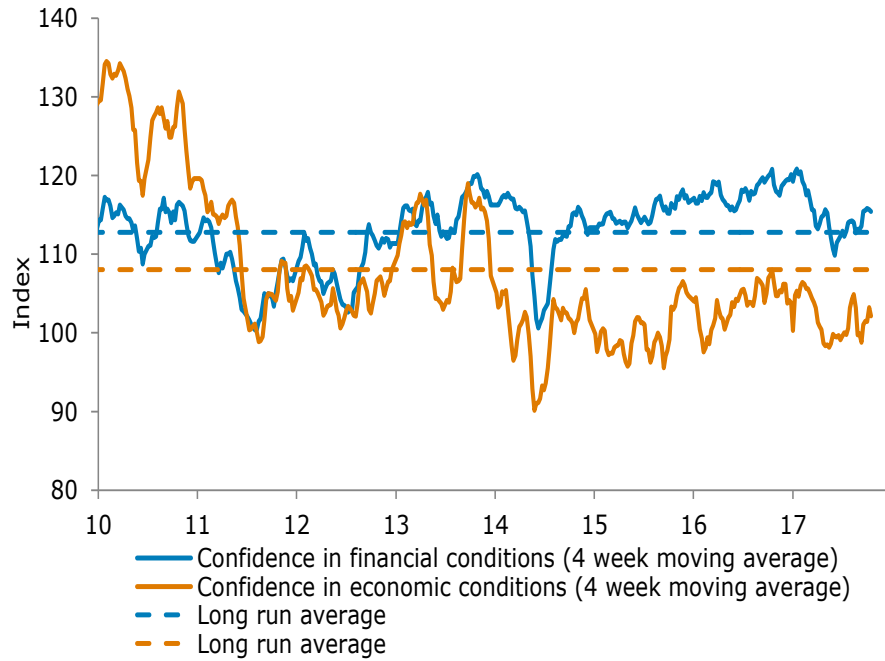
Source: ANZ-Roy Morgan

**Figure 4. Sentiment towards future financial conditions saw an uptick**



Source: ANZ-Roy Morgan

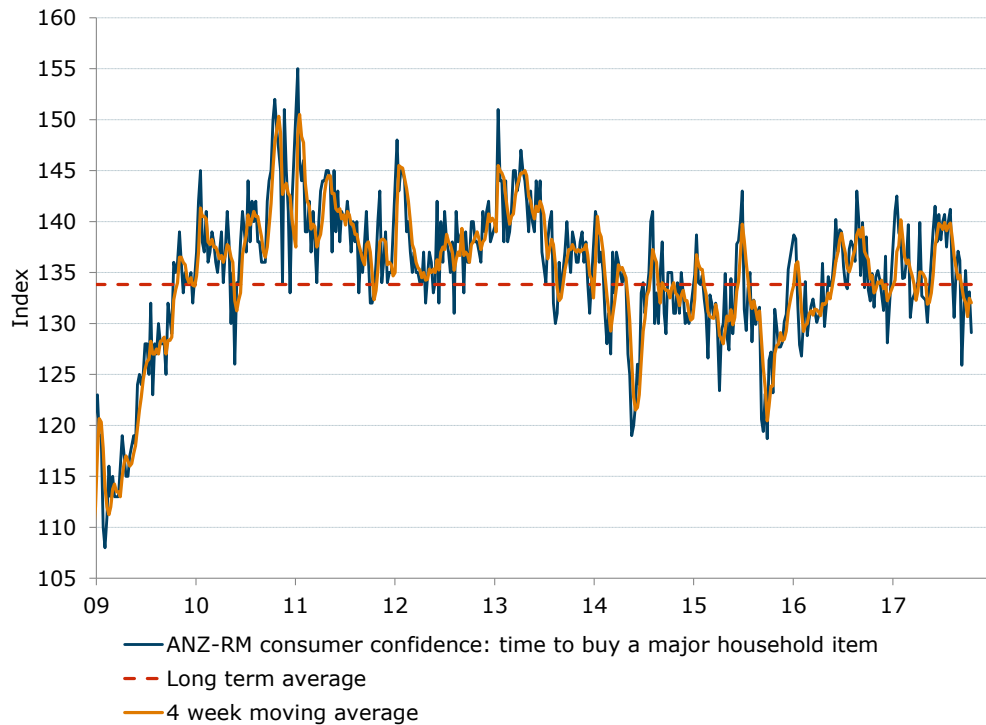
**Figure 5. Trends for confidence in both financial conditions and the economic outlook have been rising from recent lows**



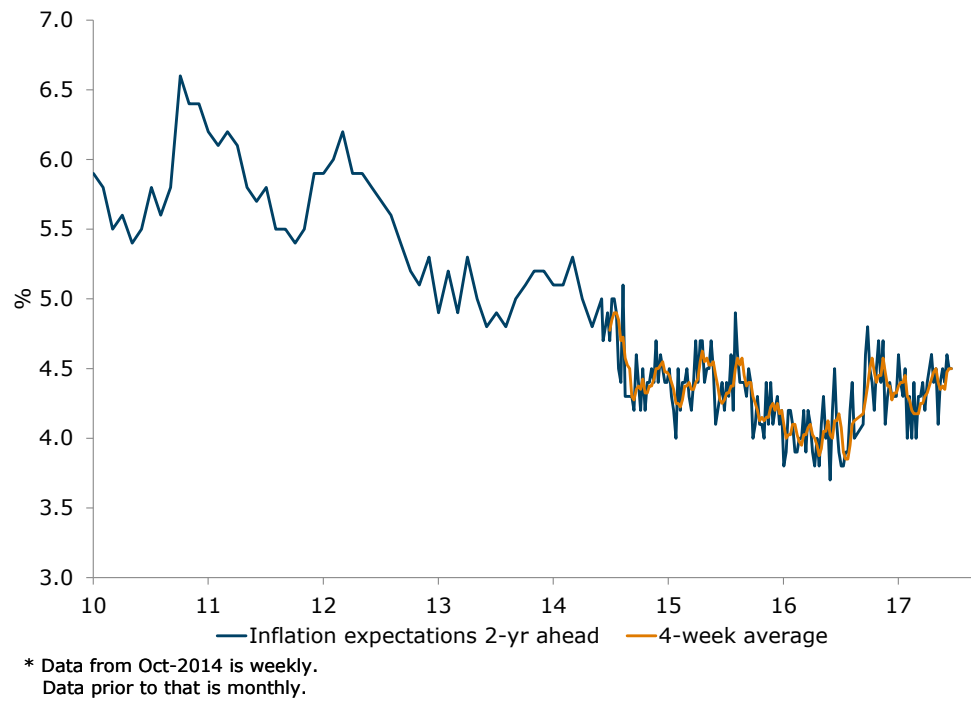
Source: ANZ-Roy Morgan

Note: Financial conditions index is an average of 'financial situation compared to a year ago' and 'financial situation next year' sub-indices. Economic conditions index is an average of the 'economic conditions in 12 months' and the 'economic conditions in five years' sub-indices.

**Figure 6. The index on 'good time to buy a major item' trending downwards**



Source: ANZ-Roy Morgan

**Figure 7. Four-week moving average inflation expectations unchanged at 4.5%**

Source: ANZ- Roy Morgan



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