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### **American Consumers Remain Guarded about Economic Recovery**

Consumers continue making tough personal decisions when it comes to money and budgeting according to the American Consumer Council. Some 48% of consumers surveyed by the American Consumer Council indicated they remain “cautious” about the economic recovery and are “only buying necessary items” for their home and personal use.

One positive area for spending is in vacations. Nearly two-thirds of responding consumers – some 64% -- said that planned to take a vacation in 2012 and will spend at least three days away from home. Of those consumers indicating they plan to take a vacation sometime in 2012, more than 66% indicated they would be driving instead of flying to their destination.

Thomas Hinton, president of the American Consumer Council, a non-profit consumer education and advocacy organization, said, “We are rapidly approaching the mid-point and most consumers are still guarded about the economic recovery. Good paying jobs are hard to find while mortgage woes and the cost of groceries and gas continue to take a larger bite out of peoples’ wallets.”

Hinton pointed to the Consumer Confidence Index as one more indicator that consumers remain frustrated and unwilling to make major purchases. The Conference Board *Consumer Confidence Index*<sup>®</sup>, which had declined slightly in March, was virtually unchanged in April. The Index now stands at 69.2 (1985=100), down slightly from 69.5 in March.

Hinton added, “Until consumers can see a brighter light at the end of the economic tunnel, we don’t expect a dramatic increase in spending or a major jump in their confidence levels.”

**Note:** The American Consumer Council (ACC) is a non-profit consumer education and advocacy organization representing over 127,000 members across the United States. ACC is headquartered in San Diego, California and has a network of 46 state/regional consumer councils.

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