Interest rate cut hasn't stopped slide in consumer confidence - Nationwide Consumer Confidence Index

Contributed by NCCI
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9th April 2008Consumer confidence in the UKÂ fell even further in March, hitting aÂ new all-time low of 77,Â according to the findings of the Nationwide Consumer Confidence Index conducted by TNS (embargoed until tomorrow,Â WednesdayÂ 9 April 2008).Â Mainly to blame for the drop were consumers' continued negative feelings about the current economic and employmentÂ situation, which haveÂ deteriorated significantly sinceÂ October last year. Â The top line findings forÂ MarchÂ show:

- MoreÂ consumersÂ areÂ fearing for their household income.Â Over the last quarter, there has been a steady increase in the proportion of consumers who think their income will be lower in six month's time.
- Consumers areÂ worried about their current employment situation, withÂ almost one quarter of consumers (24%) believing that there are few jobs available.Â However, this is an improvement over March 2007, when 27% of consumers felt disheartened about their employment situation.
- Consumers' expectations about house prices turned around in March. While in February consumers expected prices to fall by 1.1% over the next six months,Â in March they believe that prices will increase by 0.4% over the period. The Consumer Confidence Index uses 100 as its baseline figure - the level of consumer confidence in May 2004.Â All indice figures reflect an increase or decrease in confidence in relation to the benchmark of 100.Â Â