



## Surveys of Consumers chief economist, Richard Curtin

economic outlook in a decade. Importantly, the entire February decline was among households with incomes of \$100,000 or more; their Sentiment Index fell by 16.1% from last month, and 27.5% from last year. The impact of higher inflation on personal finances was spontaneously cited by one-third of all consumers, with nearly half of all consumers expecting declines in their inflation adjusted incomes during the year ahead. In addition,

The recent declines have meant that the Sentiment Index now signals the onset of a sustained downturn in consumer spending (see the chart). The depth of the slump,