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**ECONOMICS** 

## Consumer Sentiment Falls to Near-Record Lows. Why it's too Soon to Panic About Spending.

By Sabrina Escobar Follow

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"While sentiment does matter, over the past few years, we've seen consumers spend irrespective of how they're feeling about things," said Mark Mathews, chief economist of the National Retail Federation, a trade group. "I personally like to think about the consumer as being sentimentally weak but fundamentally sound."