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FURNITURE BUYING INDEX DOWN THREE POINTS TO 80

-- Various concerns impact consumers' spending habits --

Charleston, SC March 1, 2007 – The Furniture Buying Index decreased three points this month to a reading of 80. This downward plunge puts the Index lower than the reading of 81 at the beginning of the year.

Britt Beemer, Chairman of America's Research Group, said, "Both stock market concerns and higher gas prices are influencing this month's Furniture Buying Index."

Beemer added, "Additionally, the lack of seeing new products in stores and in store advertising is further driving the Furniture Buying Index down."

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The Furniture Buying Index is compiled each month by America=s Research Group from interviews with 5,000-8,000 consumers across the country. In a typical month, 80 percent of the consumers interviewed can name a specific furniture item they intend to buy. The Index=s mark signifies what percent of the benchmark 80% actually have a particular item in mind.

Britt Beemer is chairman of America=s Research Group, a full-service consumer behavior research company based in Charleston, SC. ARG provides research and strategic planning services to leading manufacturers and retailers of consumer goods across North America.

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