

# Consumers are voting with their spending

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From [the Guardian this morning](#):

[John Lewis](#) warned of a tougher year ahead as it reported the second consecutive drop in weekly sales, heightening concerns over the prospects for [consumer spending](#).

Sales at its department stores dipped 0.9% to £49.5m in the week to 29 January, following a 2.2% fall the week before. Excluding VAT, sales were down 3.1%.

Is it surprising [when they also report](#):

*Almost two-thirds of public sector workers fear for their jobs, according to a study out today that highlights the destabilising effects on staff of the biggest government spending squeeze for 50 years.*

*One in four public sector workers believe it is likely they will lose their jobs and 63% say stress has increased as a result of the economic downturn.*

You can't declare economic warfare on the people of this country and expect them not to react.

But that's what Osborne did.