The consumer sentiment is expected to improve in August after two straight months, driven by Hurricane Harvey and a continuing drop in interest rates, according to government data released Tuesday.

An index of business sentiment rose to 94.6, up from 94.5 in August, according to a survey by the University of Michigan, which tracks U.S. consumer expectations.

The survey found that consumers' outlook on the future is improving as they become more optimistic about the prospects for the economy.

In this July 13, 2017 photo, a construction worker works on a condensate tank in a project in Galoba, Gabon. On Sept. 13, the Commerce Department reports on US home construction in August. (AP Photo/Jerome Delay)