



## News Release

Follow The Conference Board

[twitter](#) [facebook](#) [LinkedIn](#)

April 3, 2015

### Job Expansion Loses Some Steam

**Comment on U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Employment Situation Report  
Gad Levanon, Managing Director, Economic Outlook & Labor Markets, The Conference Board**

The economy gained only 126,000 new jobs in March, much lower than the average monthly change in recent months. The slew of disappointing news about consumption and investment in recent months might be catching up with employment. It is too early to conclude that job growth is slowing down, but it is a possibility. However, at least some of the weakness in the past month may have to do with the long duration of the winter this year. Also, the effects of lower oil prices are also clearly visible in the mining sector.

The trend in the unemployment rate is clearly downward, but the potential slowdown in job growth, coupled with more discouraged workers returning to the labor force down the road, may moderate the drop in the unemployment rate in the coming year. Wage growth has begun to moderately accelerate in recent months, and as the labor market continues to tighten, we expect to see further acceleration in the coming year.

#### **About The Conference Board**

The Conference Board is a global, independent business membership and research association working in the public interest. Our mission is unique: To provide the world's leading organizations with the practical knowledge they need to improve their performance *and* better serve society. The Conference Board is a non-advocacy, not-for-profit entity holding 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt status in the United States. [www.conference-board.org](http://www.conference-board.org)

For more information:

Carol Courter

The Conference Board

(212) 339-0232

[courter@conference-board.org](mailto:courter@conference-board.org)