

News Release

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The Conference Board Employment Trends Index™ (ETI) Increases

NEW YORK, March 7, 2011... *The Conference Board Employment Trends Index™* (ETI) increased in February for the fifth consecutive month. The index now stands at 101.7, up from January's revised figure of 100.1. The index is up over 8 percent from a year ago.

Says Gad Levanon, Associate Director, Macroeconomic Research at The Conference Board: "In the past half year, the economy has been adding, on average, about 110,000 jobs per month. The strong growth in the Employment Trends Index suggests that the pickup in jobs may accelerate in the next couple of quarters. However, with a shrinking government, a stagnant construction sector, and a manufacturing recovery that has only a small impact on overall employment, overall job growth will still be modest."

This month's increase in the ETI was driven by positive contributions from seven out of the eight components. The improving indicators included Consumer Confidence "Jobs Hard to Get," Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance, Percentage of Firms With Positions Not Able to Fill Right Now, Number of Temporary Employees, Part-Time Workers for Economic Reasons, Industrial Production and Real Manufacturing and Trade Sales.

The Employment Trends Index aggregates eight labor-market indicators, each of which has proven accurate in its own area. Aggregating individual indicators into a composite index filters out so-called "noise" to show underlying trends more clearly.

The eight labor-market indicators aggregated into the Employment Trends Index include:

- Percentage of Respondents Who Say They Find "Jobs Hard to Get" (The Conference Board *Consumer Confidence Survey*®)
- Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance (U.S. Department of Labor)

- Percentage of Firms With Positions Not Able to Fill Right Now (© National Federation of Independent Business Research Foundation)
- Number of Employees Hired by the Temporary-Help Industry (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)
- Part-Time Workers for Economic Reasons (BLS)
- Job Openings (BLS)
- Industrial Production (Federal Reserve Board)
- Real Manufacturing and Trade Sales (U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis)

The Conference Board publishes the Employment Trends Index monthly, at 10 a.m. ET on the Monday that follows each Friday release of the Bureau of Labor Statistics employment situation report. The technical notes to this series are available on The Conference Board website: <http://www.conference-board.org/data/eti.cfm>.

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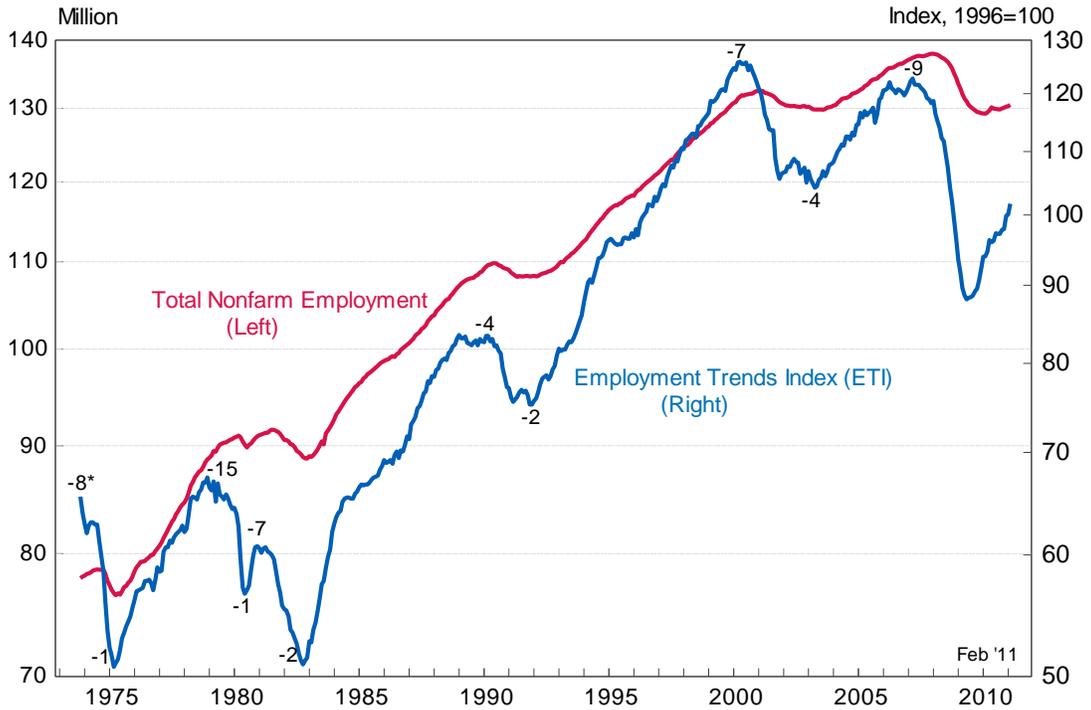
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Employment Trends Index (ETI)TM 2011 Publication Schedule

Index Release Date (10 AM ET)	Data for the Month
Monday, April 4	March
Monday, May 9	April
Monday, June 6	May
Monday, July 11	June
Monday, August 8	July
* Tuesday, September 6	August
* Tuesday, October 11	September
Monday, November 7	October
Monday, December 5	November

* Tuesday releases due to holidays

Employment Trends Index (ETI)TM 1973-2011



* Leads are in relation to the turning points of Payroll Employment

Employment Trends Index (ETI)TM 1999-2011

