



THE CONFERENCE BOARD

News Release

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Release #5292

For Immediate Release 10:00 AM ET, Monday, Dec. 8, 2008

The Conference Board Employment Trends Index (ETI)TM

Signals More Strong Employment Declines to Come

Dec. 8, 2008... The Conference Board Employment Trends Index (ETI)TM declined further in November. The index fell to 102.9, down 1.6 percent from the October revised figure of 104.5, and down over 13 percent from a year ago.

“Thus far, the U.S. economy has lost 1.9 million jobs and the declines in the ETI suggest job losses could very well surpass 3 million by mid 2009,” said Gad Levanon, Senior Economist at The Conference Board. “The continued deterioration in the labor market will exert significant downward pressure on wages.”

The 16 month-long decline in the Employment Trends Index (ETI)TM is seen in all eight of its components, most notably over the past six months in temporary-help hires and part-time workers for economic reasons, notes Levanon.

The Employment Trends Index (ETI)TM 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 (ETI)TM 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)
- 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 (ETI)[™] monthly, at 10:00 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: www.conference-board.org/economics/employment.cfm.

About The Conference Board

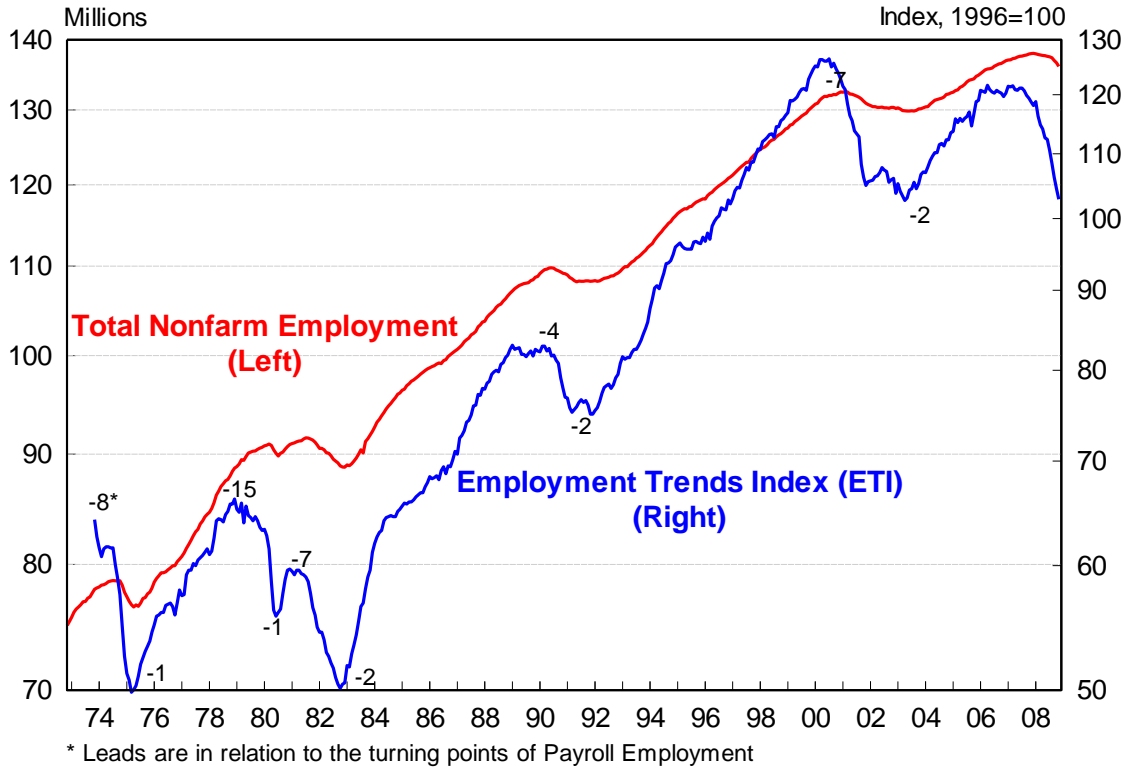
For over 90 years, The Conference Board has created and disseminated knowledge about management and the marketplace to help businesses strengthen their performance and better serve society. The Conference Board operates as a global independent membership organization working in the public interest. It publishes information and analysis, makes economics-based forecasts and assesses trends, and facilitates learning by creating dynamic communities of interest that bring together senior executives from around the world. The Conference Board is a not-for-profit organization and holds 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status in the United States. For additional information about The Conference Board and how it can meet your needs, visit our website at www.conference-board.org.

Employment Trends Index (ETI)[™] 2009 Publication Schedule

Data for the Month	Index Release Date (10 AM ET)
December 2008	Monday, Jan. 12
January	Monday, Feb. 9
February	Monday, Mar. 9
March	Monday, Apr. 6
April	Monday, May 11
May	Monday, Jun. 8
June	Monday, Jul. 6
July	Monday, Aug. 10
August	*Tuesday, Sep. 8
September	Monday, Oct. 5
October	Monday, Nov. 9
November	Monday, Dec. 7

*Tuesday release due to Labor Day

Employment Trends Index (ETI)TM 1973-2008



Employment Trends Index (ETI)TM 1999-2008

