

## News Release

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Further information:  
Carol Courter (212) 339-0232 / [courter@conference-board.org](mailto:courter@conference-board.org)

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**For Immediate Release 10:00 AM ET, Monday, April 4, 2016**

### **The Conference Board Employment Trends Index™ (ETI) Declined in March**

#### ***Index Showing Weakness; Lower Employment Growth Expected***

**NEW YORK, April 4, 2016...**The Conference Board Employment Trends Index™ (ETI) declined in March, after decreasing slightly in February. The index now stands at 127.48, down from 128.54 in February. The change represents a 1.1 percent gain in the ETI compared to a year ago.

“The Employment Trends Index has been showing signs of weakening in recent months, suggesting that employment growth is likely to slow through the summer,” said Gad Levanon, Chief Economist, North America, at The Conference Board. “With GDP barely growing at a two percent rate, it’s difficult to see how employment can continue to expand by 200,000 or more jobs per month.”

March’s decrease in the ETI was driven by negative contributions from four of the eight components. In order from the largest negative contributor to the smallest, these were: the Percentage of Respondents Who Say They Find “Jobs Hard to Get,” Percentage of Firms With Positions Not Able to Fill Right Now, Ratio of Involuntarily Part-time to All Part-time Workers, and Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance.

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 “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)
- Ratio of Involuntarily Part-time to All Part-time Workers (BLS)
- Job Openings (BLS)\*\*
- Industrial Production (Federal Reserve Board)\*

- Real Manufacturing and Trade Sales (U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis)\*\*

Note: This month’s Employment Trends Index incorporates annual revisions of Job Openings and Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance.

\*Statistical imputation for the recent month

\*\*Statistical imputation for two most recent months

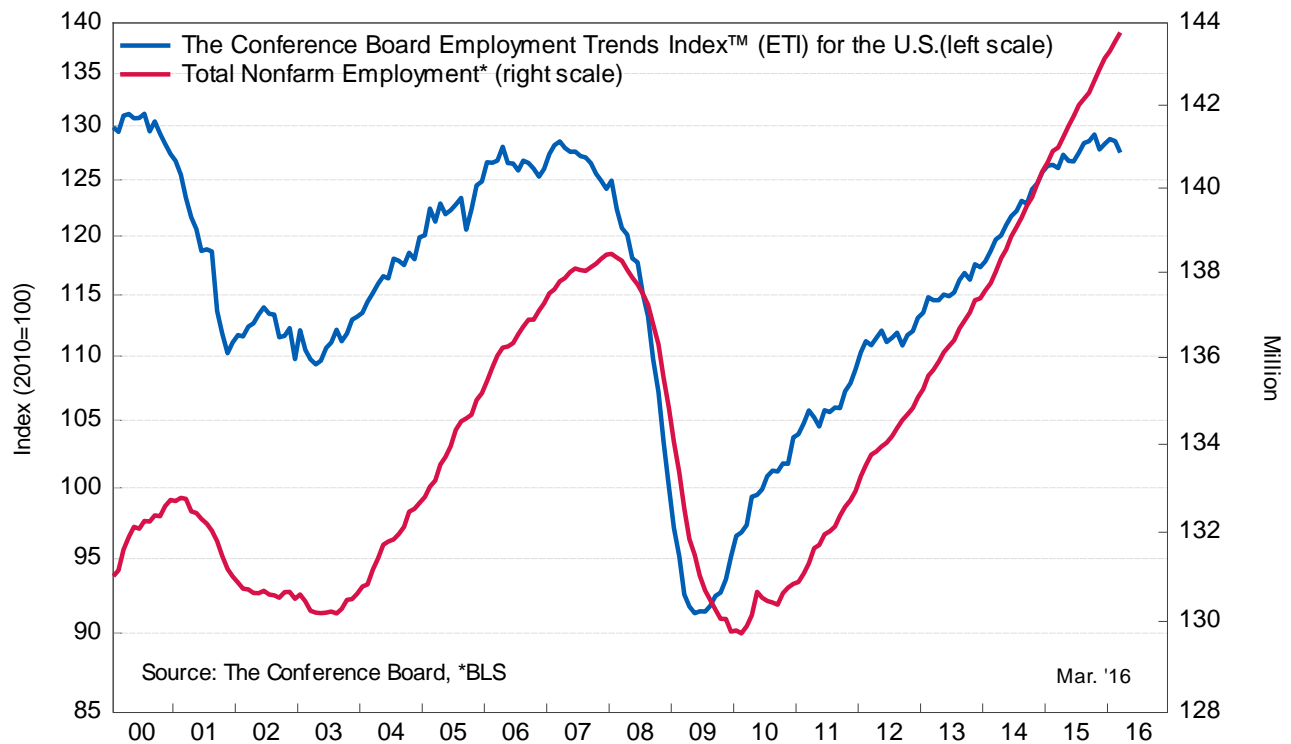
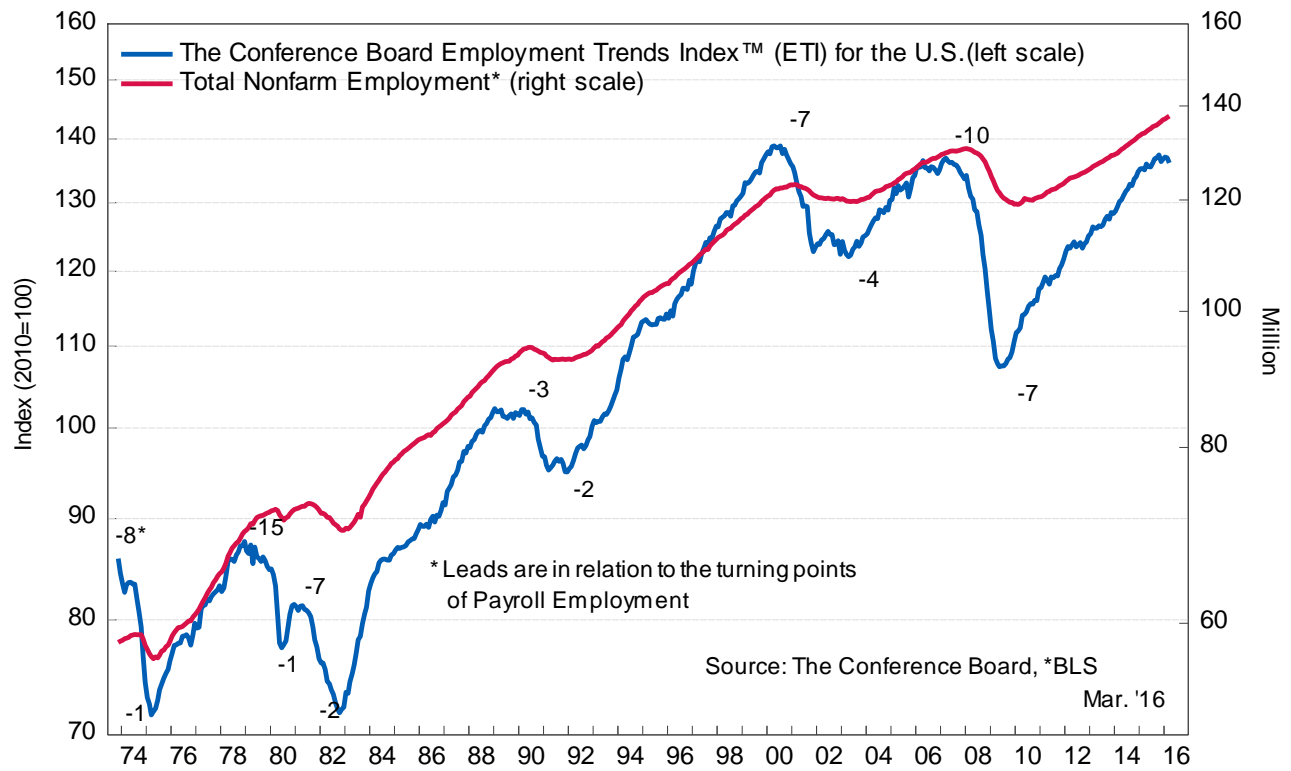
The Conference Board publishes the Employment Trends Index monthly, at 10 a.m. ET on the Monday that follows each Friday release of the Bureau of Labor Statistics Employment Situation report. The technical notes to this series are available on The Conference Board website: <http://www.conference-board.org/data/eti.cfm>.

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**Employment Trends Index (ETI)™ 2016 Publication Schedule**

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



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