

News Release

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Release #5589

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For Immediate Release 10:00 AM ET, Monday, May 7, 2012

The Conference Board Employment Trends Index™ (ETI) Increases in April

Index Signals Moderate Improvement in Employment

NEW YORK, May 7, 2012... *The Conference Board Employment Trends Index™* (ETI) increased 0.8 percent in April to 108.04, up from the revised figure of 107.18 in March. The April figure is 7.1 percent higher than a year ago.

“The growth in the Employment Trends Index in recent months is signaling moderate improvements in employment,” said Gad Levanon, Director of Macroeconomic Research at The Conference Board. “We did not expect employment growth in December to February, averaging almost 250,000 a month, to continue. However, the disappointing job gain in April (115,000) is probably below the current trend and should pick up to about 150,000-175,000 jobs a month through the summer.”

April’s increase in the ETI was driven by positive contributions from five of the eight components. The improving indicators – beginning with the largest positive contributor – were Percentage of Firms with Positions Not Able to Fill Right Now, Percentage of Respondents Who Say They Find “Jobs Hard to Get,” Industrial Production, Number of Employees Hired by the Temporary-Help Industry 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 “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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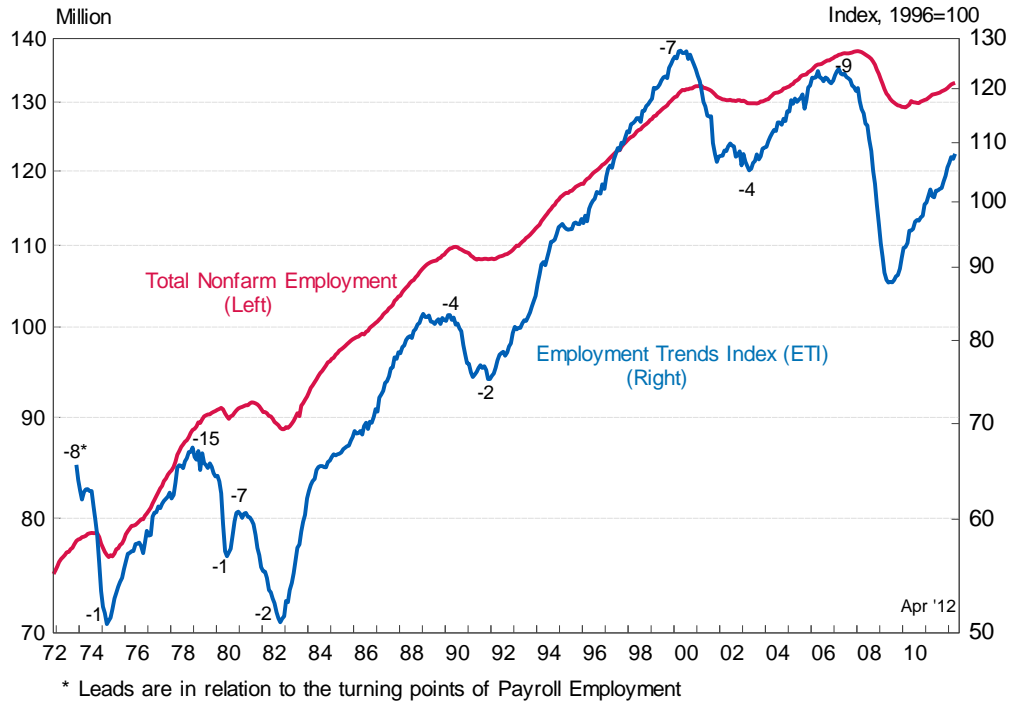
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Employment Trends Index (ETI)[™] 2012 Publication Schedule

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

* Tuesday release due to holiday

Employment Trends Index (ETI)TM 1973-2012



Employment Trends Index (ETI)TM 1999-2012

