

# US NCI™

## Now-Casting Index

Released: 17:00 BST, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2015

Next release: 17:00 BST, 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2015

www.now-casting.com

Bloomberg: NCIXUS

### US economic deceleration coming to an end

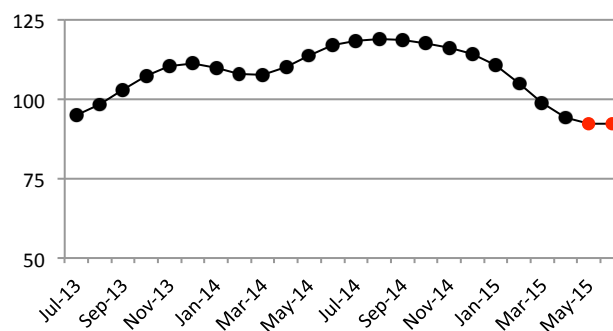
- The US NCI™ is at 92.19 in May, down from 94.11 for April. The forecast for June is 92.37, indicating that the recent slowdown may have reached bottom
- This month's NCI™ is higher than forecast last month because the balance of surprises in the newsflow has been positive

#### NCI™ release data

reference period	NCI™ Release Dates	
	15/04/2015	15/05/2015
Apr-15	91.12 (A)	94.11 (U)
May-15	87.69 (F)	92.19 (A)
Jun-15	--	92.37 (F)

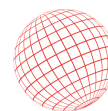
Notes: (A), ACTUAL, denotes the estimate of economic activity for the current month; (F), FORECAST, the forecast for next month; (U) UPDATED, denotes updates reflecting data released since the last NCI publication date. Source: Now-Casting Economics Ltd

#### Revised NCI™ history



#### The newsflow: macroeconomic data releases since last month's NCI™

Release Date	Release Name	Reference Period	Model Unit	Release Value*	Model Expectation	Impact of Data Releases	
						US NCI™ April	US NCI™ May
15/05/2015	Univ Mich: Consumer Sentiment	May-15	Index	88.60	95.36	0.02	0.04
15/05/2015	Cap Utilization: Industry	Apr-15	Level %	78.20	78.56	-0.41	-0.61
15/05/2015	Industrial Production	Apr-15	MoM %	-0.28	0.18	-0.53	-0.77
13/05/2015	Retail Sales	Apr-15	MoM %	-0.09	-0.22	0.03	0.06
08/05/2015	Change in Nonfarm Payrolls	Apr-15	Thousands	223.00	96.51	0.49	0.81
06/05/2015	Change in ADP Nonfarm Payrolls	Apr-15	Thousands	119.23	170.85	0.00	-0.02
05/05/2015	ISM Nonmanufacturing Comp	Apr-15	Index	57.80	55.36	0.51	1.19
05/05/2015	Exports	Mar-15	MoM %	1.18	-0.06	0.23	0.30
05/05/2015	Imports	Mar-15	MoM %	9.03	0.82	1.87	2.28
01/05/2015	ISM Mfg: PMI Comp	Apr-15	Index	51.50	51.17	0.09	0.26
30/04/2015	MNI Chicago Bus. Barometer	Apr-15	Index	52.30	48.26	0.77	1.67
30/04/2015	Real Disposable Personal Inc	Mar-15	MoM %	-0.16	0.09	-0.02	-0.03
30/04/2015	Real Personal Consumpt. Exp	Mar-15	MoM %	0.27	0.09	0.12	0.18
29/04/2015	Real GDP	Q1'15	QoQ %	0.06	0.36	-0.11	-0.10
28/04/2015	Conf. Board: Consumer Conf.	Apr-15	Index	95.20	102.18	-0.29	-0.46
27/04/2015	PMI: Svcs Bus. Activity Index	Apr-15	MoM %	-2.46	58.03	0.00	0.00
24/04/2015	Durable Goods: Mfrs' Inventories	Mar-15	MoM %	0.06	0.16	-0.12	-0.16
24/04/2015	Durable Goods: Mfrs' Orders	Mar-15	MoM %	4.01	-0.45	0.44	0.54
24/04/2015	Durable Goods: Mfrs' Unfilled Orders	Mar-15	MoM %	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.01
23/04/2015	Kansas City Fed Mfg Survey	Apr-15	Index	-7.00	4.80	-0.69	-1.38



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### The newsflow - continued

Release Date	Release Name	Reference Period	Model Unit	Release Value*	Model Expectation	Impact of Data Releases	
						US NCI™ April	US NCI™ May
23/04/2015	PMI: Manufacturing	Apr-15	Index	54.16	54.79	-0.11	-0.35
17/04/2015	Univ Mich: Consumer Sentiment	Apr-15	Index	95.90	93.90	-0.05	-0.09
16/04/2015	Philly FRB Bus Outlook	Apr-15	Index	7.50	6.18	0.31	0.64
16/04/2015	New Pvrte Housing Units Auth'd	Mar-15	MoM %	-5.72	-4.21	-0.02	-0.07
16/04/2015	Housing Starts	Mar-15	MoM %	1.98	4.82	-0.01	-0.05
						<b>2.52</b>	<b>3.89</b>

Note: Released values are expressed in Model Units

Source: Now-Casting Economics Ltd and Official Data Sources

For further information, please contact:

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### Notes

**What is the NCI™?** The Now-Casting Index - NCI™ - is an index that measures the state of the business cycle. It is calculated from a broad set of economic indicators.

**How to read the NCI™?** The NCI™ is normalized to have a mean value of 100 and a standard deviation of 25 calculated over the estimation sample, which starts in 1995. Values above 100 indicate that real activity is growing above the mean.

**NCI™ updates** The NCI™ is updated in relation to surprises in data releases (*news*) computed as the difference between the release value and model-based now-cast for each input indicator. The weights attached to each *news* are also model-based.

**Impact of data releases** The impact of each data release on the NCI™ is the product of the economic *news* associated with that release and a model-based weight which reflects the importance of each variable and is a function of its timeliness. 'News' is defined as the difference between the actual value of a release and the model's expectation of that value.

**Impact of revisions** The difference between the value of the NCI™ released today and the forecast of it made a month ago may be more or less than the total impact of all the releases listed in the table on page 1, because of the impact of any revisions to prior data releases made during this period.

**Source of data** The Now-Casting Index for the US is produced by Now-Casting Economics Limited and is based on a model built on monthly and quarterly economic indicators covering production, labour, construction, domestic and international trade, services and surveys. Raw data are supplied by Haver Analytics. Now-Casting Economics releases the US NCI™ monthly for the current month together with a forecast for the next month and updates to the previous release. Forecast updates are based on data released since the last NCI™ publication. The model is estimated in real-time at each data release; now-casts of GDP and other macroeconomic series are published live within 30 minutes of the data release.

**Now-Casting model** The NCI™ is an output of the Now-Casting model, which is designed to capture commonalities among macroeconomic data while filtering out idiosyncratic noise. The model produces estimates of the real economic conditions in different countries in real time, taking into account non-synchronous data sampled at mixed frequency. The NCI™ and its revisions are produced automatically, without judgment or other intervention. The deep parameters of Now-Casting model are estimated at the beginning of every year; the NCI™ is the result of a pure out-of-sample forecast. Normalization is updated at the beginning of every year in concomitance with updates of deep parameters.

**Now-Casting Economics Limited** is a company delivering high-frequency information on current conditions in the world's major economies. The service covers the US, the Euro Area, China, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, the UK, Canada and Brazil, and is available by subscription. Weekly now-casts for the Euro Area are available free on the Now-Casting web site ([www.now-casting.com](http://www.now-casting.com)).

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