

Japan NCI™ Now-Casting Index

Released: 12:00 BST, 16th May, 2015

Next release: 12:00 BST, 13th June, 2015

www.now-casting.com

Bloomberg: NCIXJP

Japan slowdown confirmed but bottoming out

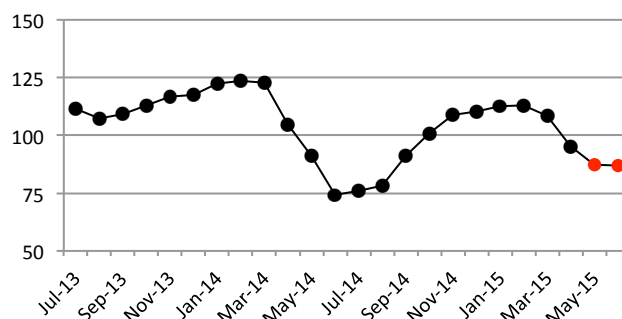
- The Japan NCI™ is at 87.25 for May, down from 95.06 for April. The index is forecast to fall a little further to 86.80 in June, suggesting that the slowdown of the past 4 months may have come to an end.
- Negative surprises – particularly in indicators of consumer demand (Retail Sales, Vehicle Sales, and Imports) – have caused the overall level of the NCI™ series to be revised downwards again.

NCI™ release data

reference period	NCI™ Release Dates	
	15/04/2015	16/05/2015
Apr-15	100.69 (A)	95.06 (U)
May-15	96.12 (F)	87.25 (A)
Jun-15	--	86.80 (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

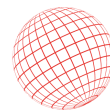


The newsflow: macroeconomic data releases since last month's NCI™

Release Date	Release Name	Reference Period	Model Unit	Release Value*	Model Expectation	Impact of Data Releases	
						Japan NCI™ April	Japan NCI™ May
15/05/2015	Consumer Confidence	Apr-15	Index	41.50	41.54	-0.01	-0.02
13/05/2015	Economy Watchers' Survey	Apr-15	Index	53.60	50.53	0.93	2.33
01/05/2015	PMI: Manufacturing	Apr-15	Index	49.87	50.17	-0.20	-0.50
01/05/2015	Average Monthly Earnings	Mar-15	MoM %	0.86	-0.02	-0.65	-1.02
01/05/2015	Unemployed	Mar-15	Ten Thousands	221.00	231.44	0.27	0.47
30/04/2015	Construction Orders: Housing Units	Mar-15	MoM %	-37.71	-6.75	0.14	0.22
30/04/2015	Housing Starts	Mar-15	MoM %	1.67	-1.16	0.07	0.13
30/04/2015	Industrial Production	Mar-15	MoM %	-0.30	1.14	-6.37	-9.22
28/04/2015	Small & Medium Enterprises Survey	Apr-15	Index	47.40	49.18	-1.05	-2.85
28/04/2015	Passenger Car Production	Mar-15	MoM %	5.34	-3.08	4.59	6.92
28/04/2015	Retail Sales	Mar-15	MoM %	-2.86	-0.44	-2.54	-3.76
28/04/2015	Vehicle Sales	Mar-15	MoM %	-4.93	-0.15	-2.17	-3.35
22/04/2015	Imports	Mar-15	MoM %	-5.03	0.74	-3.18	-4.77
22/04/2015	Exports	Mar-15	MoM %	3.75	0.86	2.69	4.08
20/04/2015	Tertiary Industry Activity Index	Feb-15	MoM %	0.30	-0.59	0.88	0.86
17/04/2015	Consumer Confidence	Mar-15	Index	41.70	40.71	0.37	0.57
						-6.23	-9.91

Note: Released values are expressed in Model Units

Source: Now-Casting Economics Ltd and Official Data Sources



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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 in this context 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 Japan 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 Japan 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).

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