



**US NCI™**  
**Now-Casting Index**

Released: 17:00 GMT, 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2016

Next release: 17:00 GMT, 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2016

www.now-casting.com

Bloomberg: NCIXUS

**US economic growth rate stabilizing**

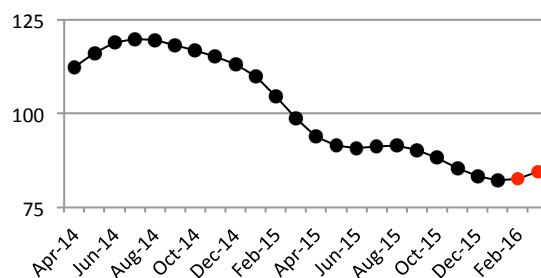
- The US NCI™ is at 82.64 in February, compared to 82.16 for January, and is forecast to rise slightly to 84.62 in March. These numbers suggest that economic growth is stabilizing at the current sluggish rate.
- Data released since last month's NCI™ have contained mostly positive surprises, causing an upward revision in the level of the NCI™ series.

**NCI™ release data**

reference period	NCI™ Release Dates	
	15/1/16	17/2/16
Jan-16	80.92 (A)	82.16 (U)
Feb-16	78.79 (F)	82.64 (A)
Mar-16	--	84.62 (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™ January	US NCI™ February
17/2/16	Industrial Production	Jan-16	MoM %	0.85	-0.14	1.27	1.82
17/2/16	Capacity Utilization: Industry	Jan-16	Rate %	77.10	-0.24	1.33	1.92
17/2/16	New Pvt Housing Units Auth	Jan-16	MoM %	-0.17	1.16	-0.02	-0.04
17/2/16	Housing Starts	Jan-16	MoM %	-3.85	0.03	-0.03	-0.09
12/2/16	Uni of Mich : Consr Sentiment	Feb-16	Index	90.70	92.20	0.00	0.00
5/2/16	Change in Nonfarm Payrolls	Jan-16	Thousands	151.00	193.70	-0.04	-0.08
3/2/16	ISM Nonmfg Composite Index	Jan-16	Index	53.50	55.23	-0.25	-0.64
3/2/16	Change: ADP Nonfarm Pvt Payroll Empt	Jan-16	Thousands	206	248	-0.01	-0.39
1/2/16	ISM Mfg: PMI Composite Index	Jan-16	Index	48.20	49.23	-0.26	-0.78
1/2/16	Real Retail Sales	Dec-15	MoM %	0.49	0.33	0.08	0.16
29/1/16	MNI Chicago Business Barometer	Jan-16	Index	55.60	46.21	1.80	3.89
29/1/16	Gross Domestic Product	Q4'15	QoQ %	0.17	0.20	-0.16	-0.14
28/1/16	Kansas City Fed Mfg Survey	Jan-16	Index	-9.00	4.93	-0.60	-1.21
28/1/16	Mfrs' Inventories: Durable Goods	Dec-15	MoM %	0.52	-0.08	0.78	1.00
28/1/16	Mfrs' New Orders: Durable Goods	Dec-15	MoM %	-5.06	-1.07	-0.42	-0.52
28/1/16	Mfrs' Unfilled Orders: Durable Goods	Dec-15	MoM %	-0.47	0.17	-0.26	-0.33
26/1/16	CB: Cons Confidence Index	Jan-16	Index	98.10	95.73	0.10	0.16
26/1/16	PMI: Svcs Business Activity Index	Jan-16	MoM %	53.70	54.83	-0.01	-0.02
22/1/16	PMI: Manufacturing	Jan-16	Index	52.71	51.14	0.26	0.87
21/1/16	Phil FRB Bus Outlook: Current Activity	Jan-16	Index	-3.50	6.70	0.23	0.47
20/1/16	Housing Starts	Dec-15	MoM %	-2.54	-8.02	0.02	0.10
						<b>3.11</b>	<b>4.42</b>

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 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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