



# South Africa NCI™

## Now-Casting Index

Released: 15:00 GMT, 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2017Next release: 15:00 GMT, 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2017

www.now-casting.com

Bloomberg: NCIXZA

### South African growth steady after acceleration

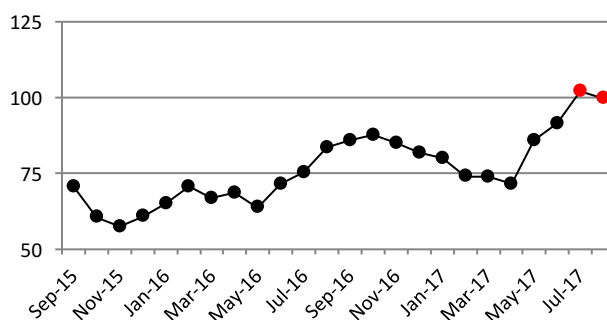
- The NCI™ for July is at 102.07, up from 91.54 in June, but is forecast to fall back slightly to 99.84 for August, suggesting that the acceleration of the past 3 months may have run out of steam
- There has also been a small upward revision in the level of the NCI series, reflecting a balance of positive surprises in the newsflow. There were positive surprises in relation to the international trade figures and electricity production for May, which were partially offset by negative survey data for June

#### NCI™ release data

reference period	NCI™ Release Dates	
	08/06/2017	11/07/2017
Jun-17	89.60 (A)	91.54 (U)
Jul-17	99.01 (F)	102.07 (A)
Aug-17	--	99.84 (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	
						SA NCI™ June	SA NCI™ July
11/07/2017	Industrial Production Excl Construction	May-17	YoY %	-0.79	0.84	-0.69	-0.92
06/07/2017	Electricity Production	May-17	YoY %	4.58	3.07	1.33	2.88
06/07/2017	SACCI Business Confidence Index	Jun-17	Index	94.90	0.20	0.19	0.29
03/07/2017	Domestic Vehicle Sales	Jun-17	YoY %	0.97	-7.74	0.85	2.04
03/07/2017	PMI: Manufacturing	Jun-17	Index	46.70	50.79	-2.37	-5.05
30/06/2017	Exports	May-17	MoM %	7.94	2.38	1.27	1.60
30/06/2017	Imports	May-17	MoM %	11.07	1.22	3.72	4.66
14/06/2017	Retail Sales	Apr-17	MoM %	0.29	0.27	0.02	0.02
14/06/2017	BER Business Confidence Index	Q2'17	Index	29.00	45.88	-4.48	-6.56
09/06/2017	Manufacturing Sales Volume	Apr-17	MoM %	2.00	-0.39	1.48	1.35
						1.32	0.31

Note: Released values are expressed in Model Units



For further information, please contact:

**Now-Casting Economics Limited**

Jasper McMahon

+44 (0)7802 485904

[jasper.mcmahon@now-casting.com](mailto:jasper.mcmahon@now-casting.com)

#### 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 South Africa 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 South Africa 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, Brazil, Mexico and South Africa 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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