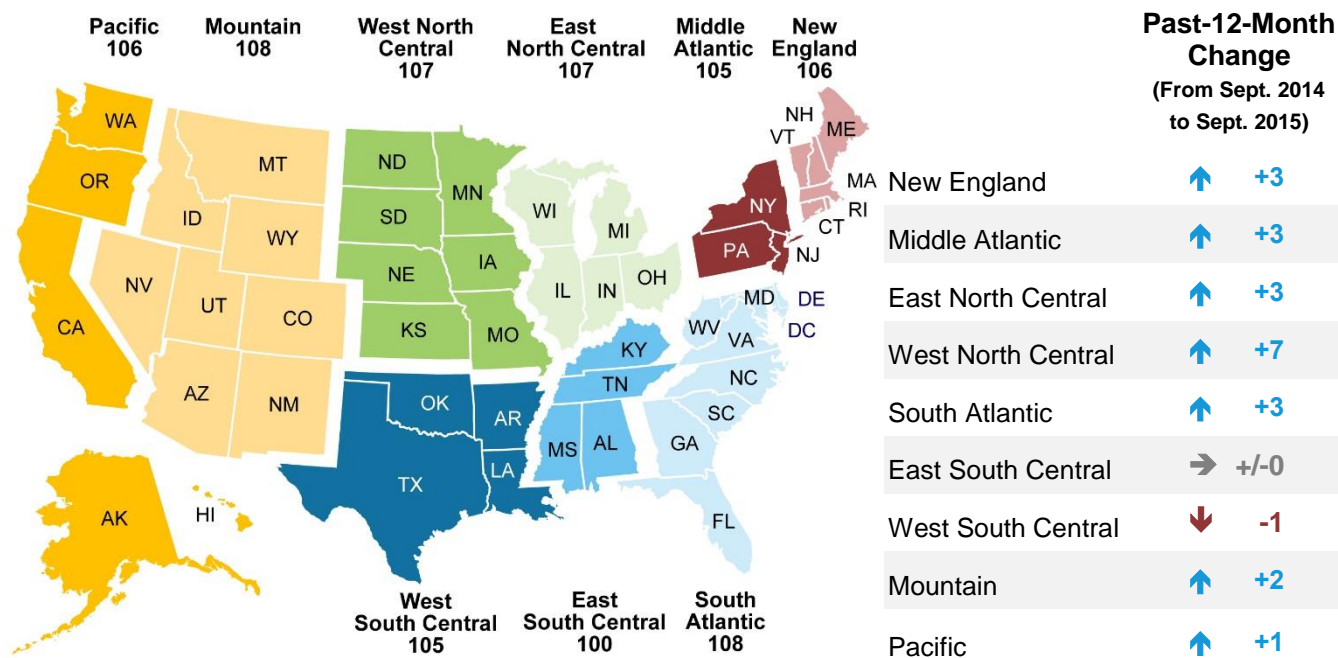


Decision Analyst Economic Index United States Census Divisions

September 2015

Arlington, Texas—In the past 12 months the West North Central Division has gained the most of all the U.S. Census Divisions, increasing 7 points from 100 in September 2014 to **107 in September 2015**. The West South Central Census Division is the only division to decline in the past 12 months, decreasing from 106 in September 2014 to **105 in September 2015**.

United States Census Divisions Economic Index September 2015*



* The Index numbers for the Census Divisions are 3-month moving averages to smooth out fluctuations due to smaller sample sizes. The reported Index number averages the current month with the previous 2 months.

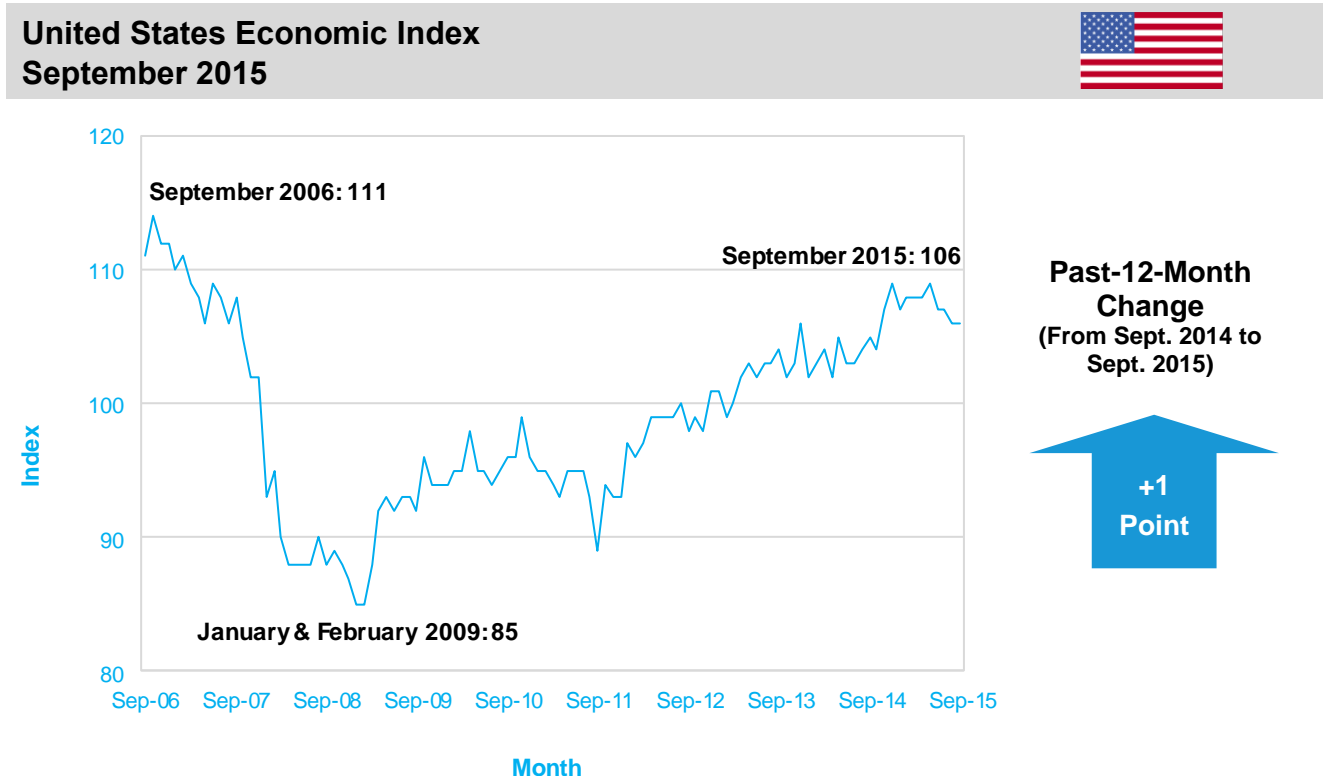


Strategic Research ■ Analytics ■ Modeling ■ Optimization

Cristi Allen, Publicity, callen@decisionanalyst.com
604 Avenue H East, Arlington, Texas 76011-3100
Phone: 1-817-640-6166 ■ www.decisionanalyst.com

United States Economic Index

The Decision Analyst U.S. Economic Index registered **106 in September 2015**, the same score as August 2015. Over the past year the U.S. Economic Index has been relatively flat, but with declines over the past four months. The U.S. Economic Index is still at a level (above 100) that signals future economic growth, but the past-four-months downtrend is worrisome. The Economic Index tends to lead U.S. economic activity by 6 to 12 months. Below is the past-10-year history of the U.S. Economic Index.

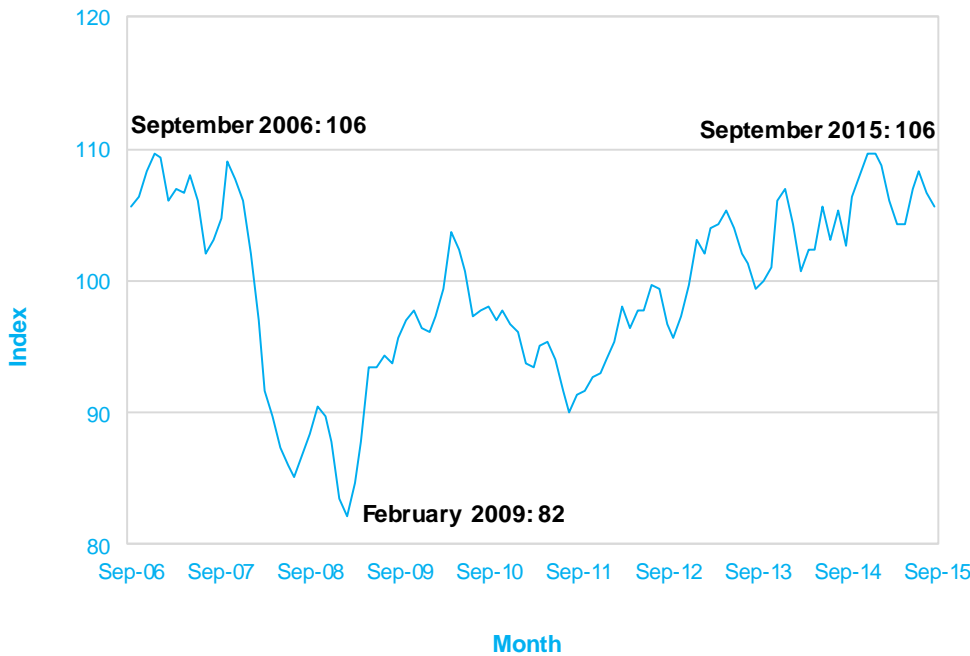


“The U.S. economy continues to stumble along in low gear, and the U.S. Economic Index forecasts more of the same plodding in coming months. The likelihood of a new recession appears to be growing, especially if the Economic Index trends downward for another couple of months. One of the fundamental problems in the U.S. economy is the stagnation of median household incomes since the year 2000. A majority of U.S. households are earning less in real dollars than they were 15 years ago, and this is creating a *demand deficit*. The mass retailers such as Walmart and Target are finding it extremely difficult to grow nominal sales (actual sales in current dollars). A declining share of U.S. adults are participants in the workforce, another factor reducing average household incomes,” said Jerry W. Thomas, President/CEO of Decision Analyst. “The U.S. appears to be locked in a pattern of slow to no growth. The risks of a ‘new’ recession are increasing. Weakness in the European Union’s economy and the Chinese economy add more uncertainty to future economic prospects. China, in particular, is a major risk factor, since its great real estate and construction bubble is coming to a close. An extended period of economic stagnation looms ahead for the world economy and the U.S.,” said Thomas.

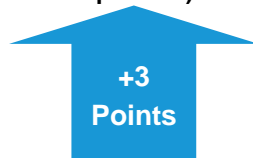
Index History

The division-by-division results are presented in the following graphs. Remember, the Census Division graphs portray 3-month moving averages.

New England Census Division Economic Index* September 2015

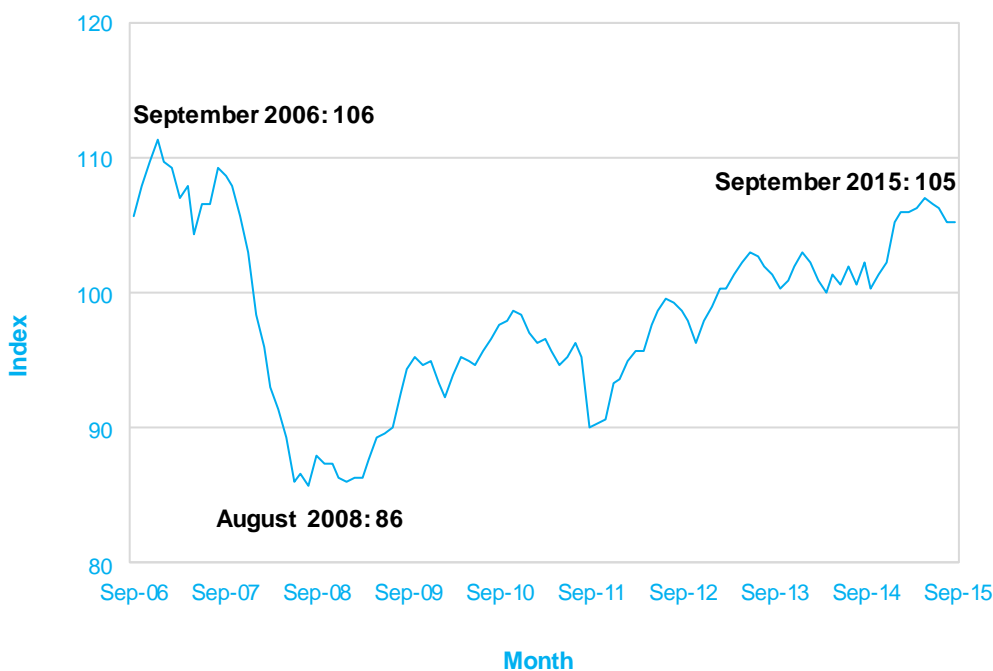


**Past-12-Month
Change**
(From Sept. 2014 to
Sept. 2015)



*New England Census
Division includes
Connecticut, Maine,
Massachusetts,
New Hampshire,
Rhode Island, and
Vermont*

Middle Atlantic Census Division Economic Index* September 2015

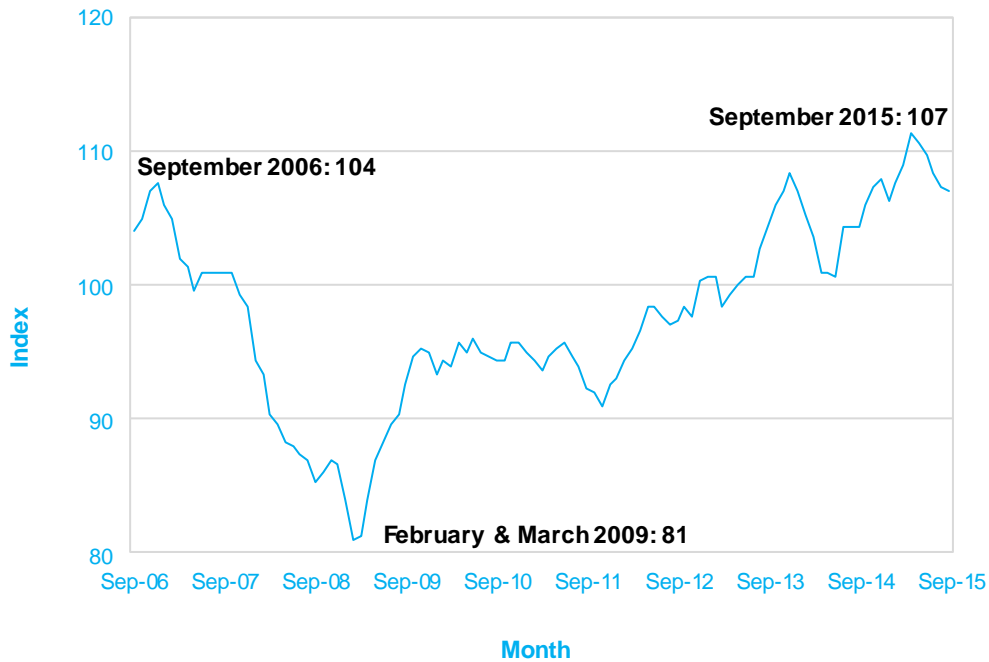


**Past-12-Month
Change**
(From Sept. 2014 to
Sept. 2015)



*Middle Atlantic Census
Division includes
New Jersey,
New York,
and Pennsylvania*

East North Central Census Division Economic Index* September 2015

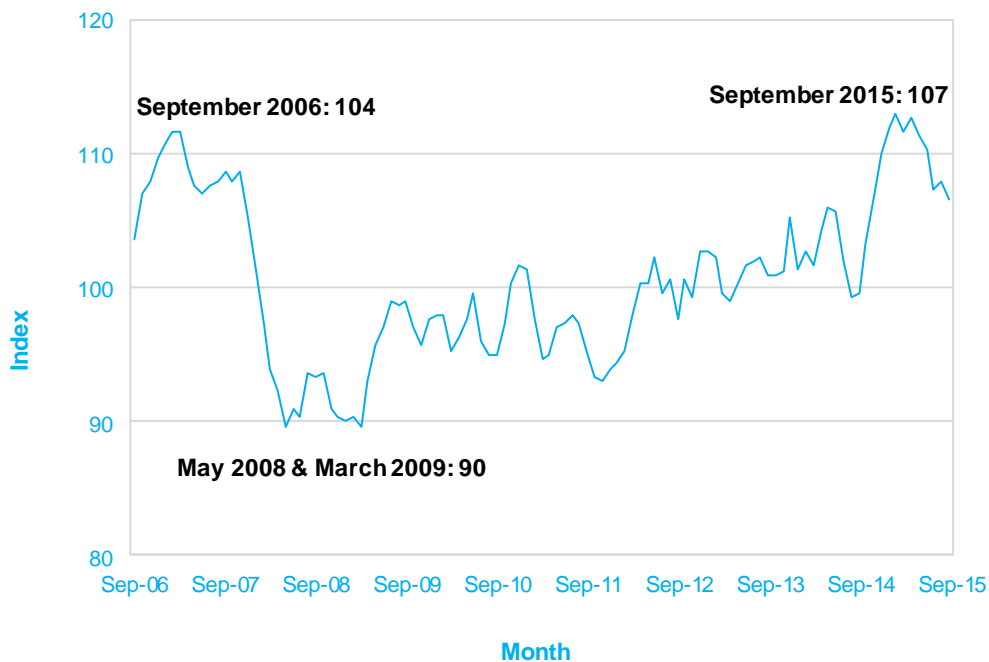


**Past-12-Month
Change**
(From Sept. 2014 to
Sept. 2015)

**+3
Points**

*East North Central
Census Division
includes Indiana,
Illinois, Michigan,
Ohio, and Wisconsin*

West North Central Census Division Economic Index* September 2015

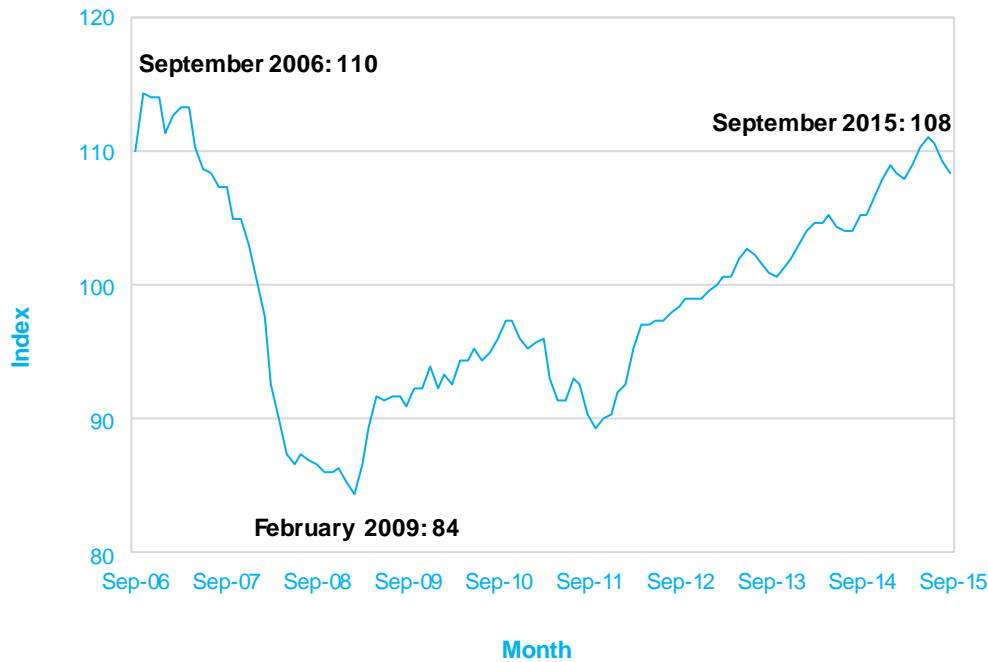


**Past-12-Month
Change**
(From Sept. 2014 to
Sept. 2015)

**+7
Points**

*West North Central
Census Division
includes Iowa,
Nebraska, Kansas,
Minnesota, Missouri,
North Dakota, and
South Dakota*

South Atlantic Census Division Economic Index* September 2015

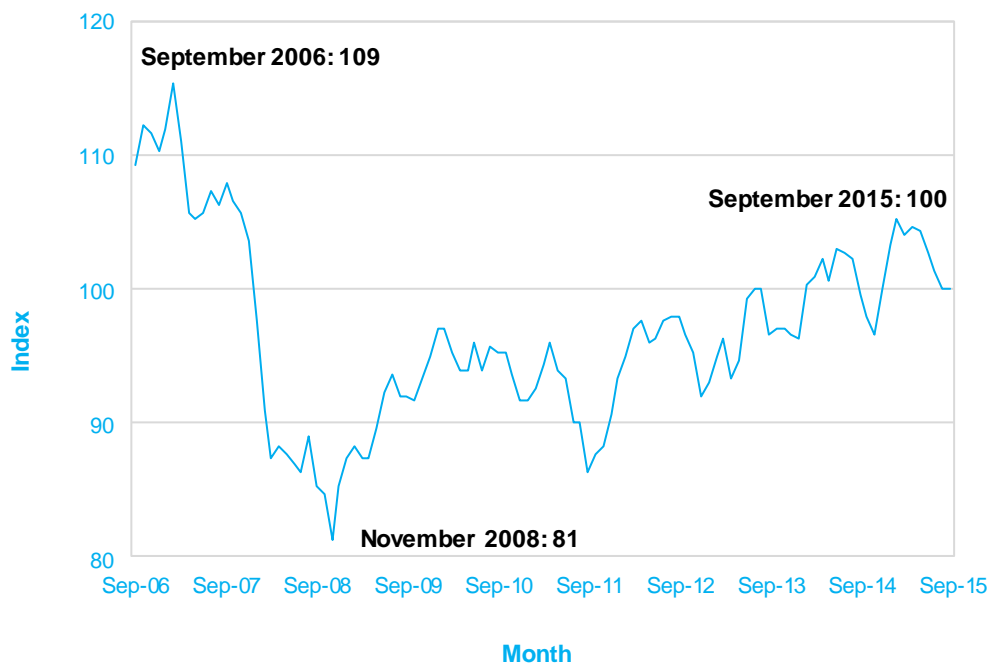


**Past-12-Month
Change**
(From Sept. 2014 to
Sept. 2015)

**+3
Points**

*South Atlantic Census
Division includes
Delaware, District of
Columbia, Florida,
Georgia, Maryland,
North Carolina, South
Carolina, Virginia, and
West Virginia*

East South Central Census Division Economic Index* September 2015

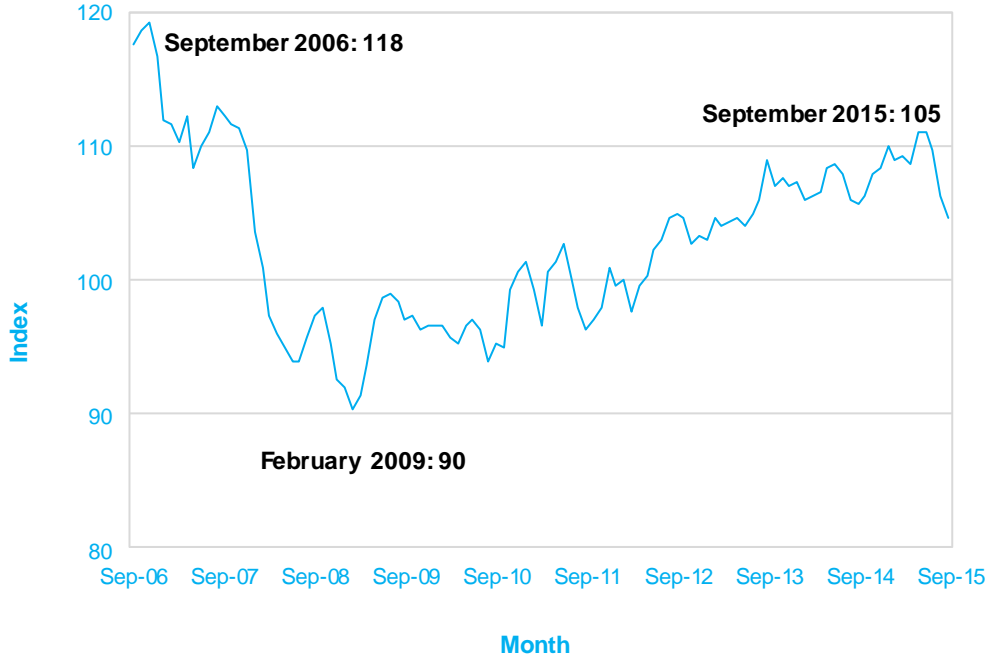


**Past-12-Month
Change**
(From Sept. 2014 to
Sept. 2015)

**+/-0
Points**

*East South Central
Census Division
includes Alabama,
Kentucky, Mississippi,
and Tennessee*

West South Central Census Division Economic Index* September 2015

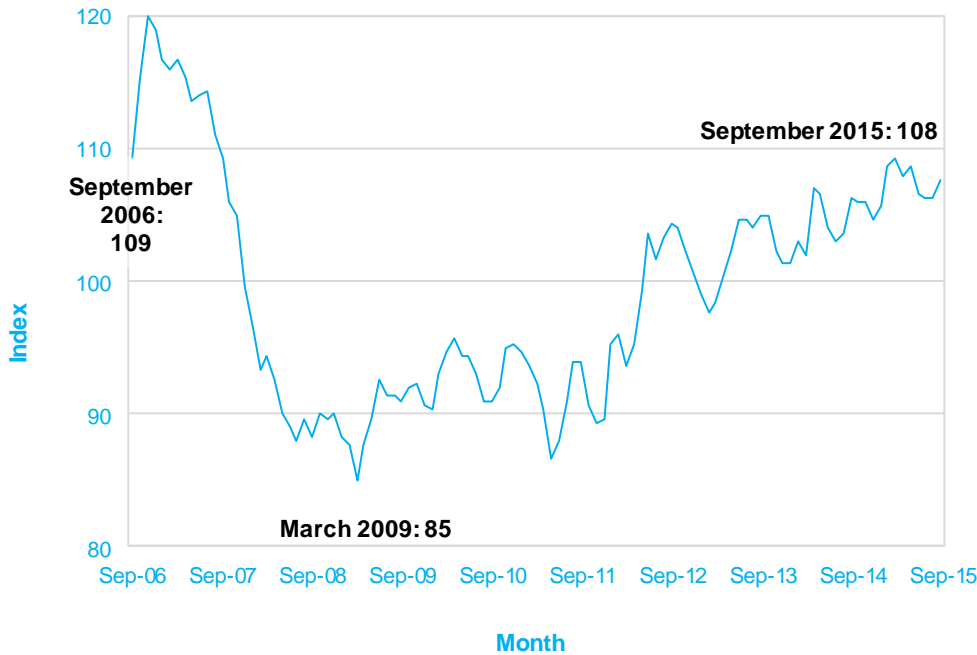


Past-12-Month Change
(From Sept. 2014 to Sept. 2015)

-1 Point

West South Central Census Division includes Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas

Mountain Census Division Economic Index* September 2015

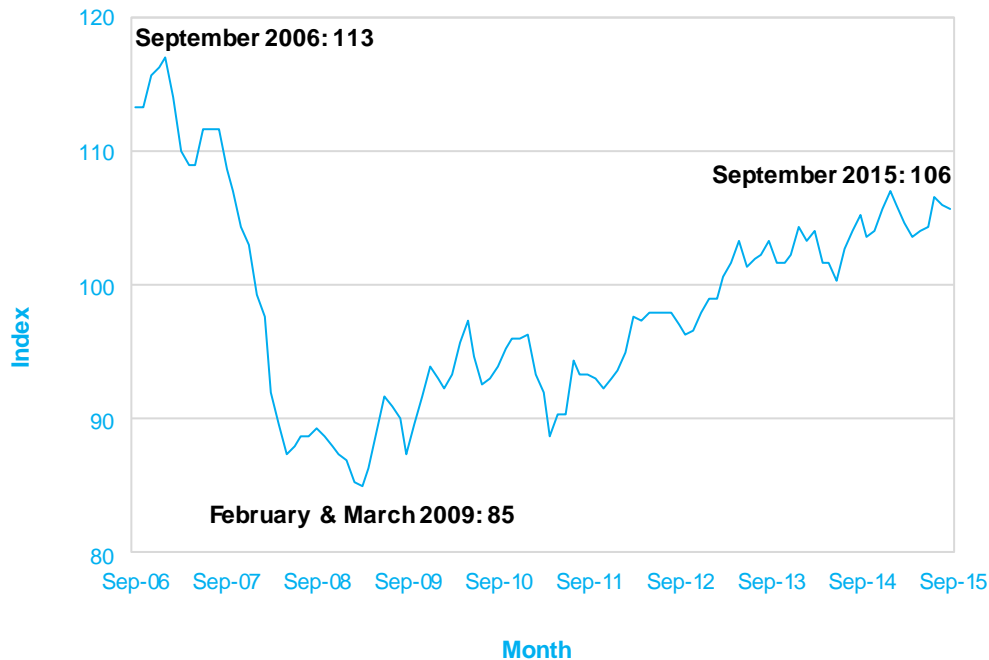


Past-12-Month Change
(From Sept. 2014 to Sept. 2015)

+2 Points

Mountain Census Division includes Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico, Montana, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming

Pacific Census Division Economic Index* September 2015



**Past-12-Month
Change**
(From Sept. 2014 to
Sept. 2015)

**+1
Point**

*Pacific Census Division
includes Alaska,
California, Hawaii,
Oregon, and
Washington*

*Three-Month Moving Average

The Index numbers for U.S. Census Divisions are 3-month moving averages to smooth out month-to-month fluctuations. The reported Index number averages the current month with the 2 previous months.

Methodology

The Decision Analyst Economic Index is based on a monthly online survey of several thousand households balanced by gender, age, and geography. The scientific survey is conducted in the last 10 days of each month. The Economic Index is calculated from 9 different economic measurements using a sophisticated econometric model. The result is a snapshot of coming economic activity in each country surveyed, as seen through the eyes of representative consumers living in the respective countries.

Decision Analyst conducts its concurrent economic surveys each month in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, France, Germany, India, Italy, Mexico, Peru, the Russian Federation, Spain, United Kingdom, and the United States. Whenever the Decision Analyst Economic Index is greater than 110, it tends to signal an expanding economy. An Index value of 90 to 110 suggests a no-growth or slow-growth economy, and near or below 90 generally indicates economic contraction. These guidelines vary by country, however.

About Decision Analyst

Decision Analyst (www.decisionanalyst.com) is a global research and analytical consulting firm specializing in strategy research, new product development, advertising testing, and advanced modeling for marketing decision optimization. For more than 35 years the firm has delivered competitive advantage to clients throughout the world in the consumer packaged goods, high technology, retail, medical, automotive, and other industries.