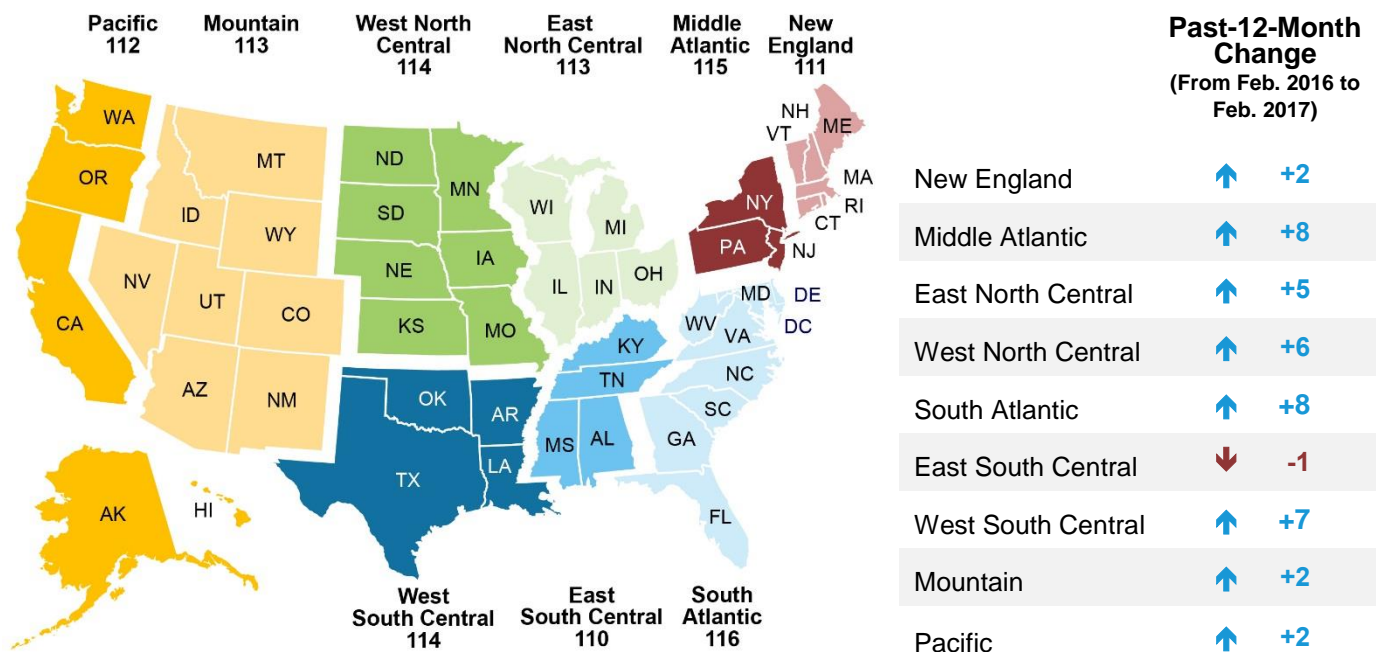# Decision Analyst Economic Index
United States Census Divisions
February 2017

Arlington, Texas—The U.S. Census Divisions have increased in the past 12 months, except for the East South Central Division. The South Atlantic Division had the highest score of all the Census Divisions, followed by the Middle Atlantic. The South Atlantic Census Division registered an Index score of **116 for February 2017**, an increase of 8 points from February 2016. The Middle Atlantic Census Division registered **115 for February 2017**, which is also an increase of 8 points in the past 12 months. The East South Central Census Division had the lowest Index score, a **110 for February 2017**, and declined 1 point in the past 12 months.
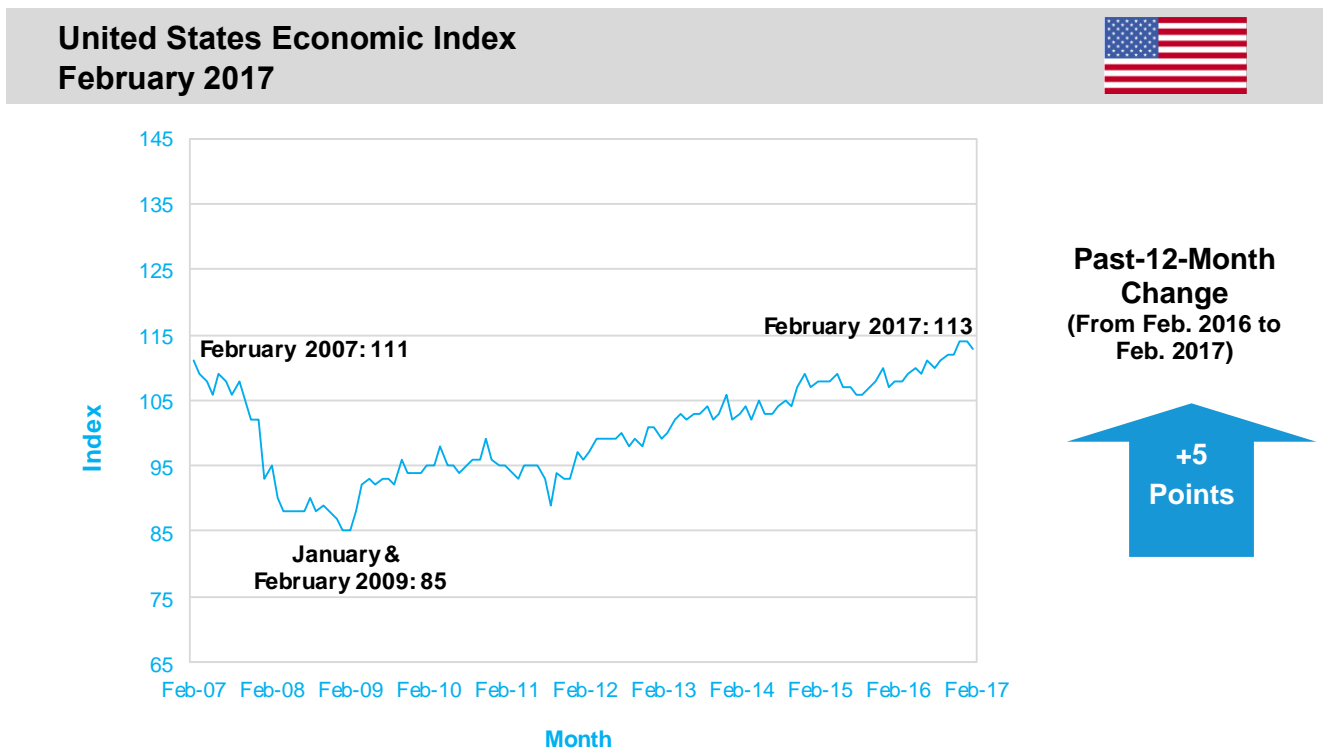
United States Census Divisions Economic Indices
February 2017*

Division	Index
Pacific	112
Mountain	113
West North Central	114
East North Central	113
Middle Atlantic	115
New England	111
West South Central	114
East South Central	110
South Atlantic	116

Past-12-Month Change
(From Feb. 2016 to Feb. 2017)

Division		Change
New England	↑	+2
Middle Atlantic	↑	+8
East North Central	↑	+5
West North Central	↑	+6
South Atlantic	↑	+8
East South Central	↓	-1
West South Central	↑	+7
Mountain	↑	+2
Pacific	↑	+2

*   *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.*

Decision Analyst
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United States Economic Index

The Decision Analyst U.S. Economic Index stood at **113 in February 2017**, a 5-point increase from February 2016. This year-over-year strengthening in the U.S. Economic Index signals continued U.S. economic growth during the first half of 2017—and probably the second half of 2017 as well. 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.

**United States Economic Index
February 2017**

Past-12-Month Change
(From Feb. 2016 to Feb. 2017)

+5 Points

February 2007: 111

February 2017: 113

January & February 2009: 85

Index

Feb-07 Feb-08 Feb-09 Feb-10 Feb-11 Feb-12 Feb-13 Feb-14 Feb-15 Feb-16 Feb-17

Month

"The overall trend of the U.S. Economic Index over the past year indicates that 2017 is off to a positive start, with a high likelihood that the economic expansion will continue through most of 2017," said Jerry W. Thomas, President/CEO of Decision Analyst. "However, the change of political power in Washington D.C., carries with it risks of economic distractions and turmoil. Disruptions in the flow of imports and exports could have major negative effects on the U.S. economy if the Trump administration pursues trading restrictions, and the possible disruption of the healthcare industry related to efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act likewise carries economic risks. The duration of this massive economic slowdown (a decade and counting) means that many companies will not be able to delay critical investments in equipment and facilities much longer, and an upturn in corporate investments could fuel more rapid economic growth. We continue to believe that higher rates of interest would be good for the U.S. economy long-term," said Thomas. "More normal interest rates would help reduce corporate financial engineering, help deflate the huge private equity/venture capital bubble, and reduce speculation and speculative investments in marginal opportunities."

History

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

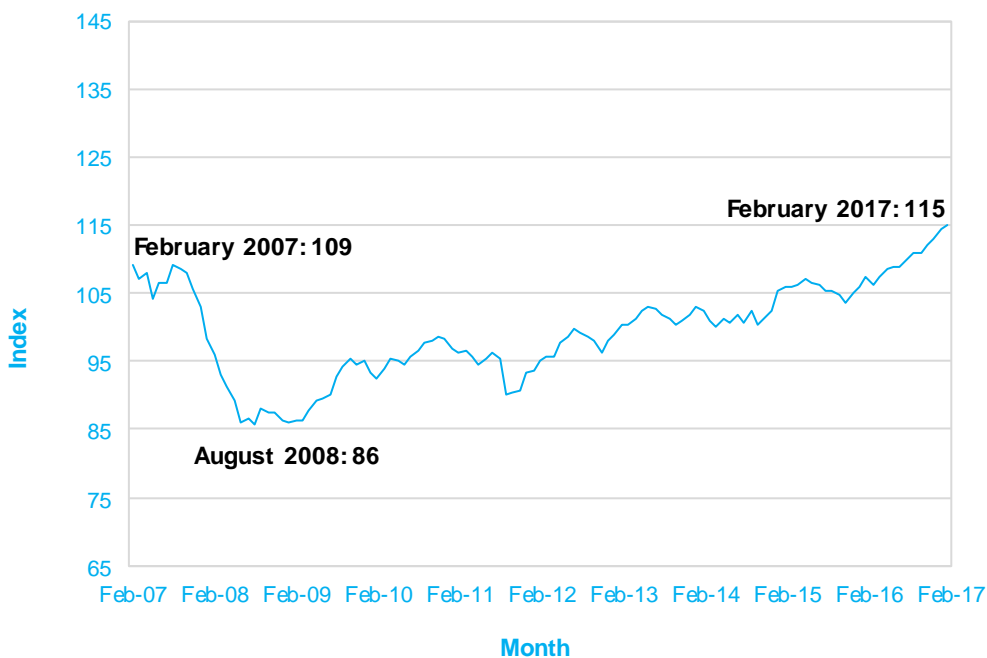**New England Census Division Economic Index***
February 2017
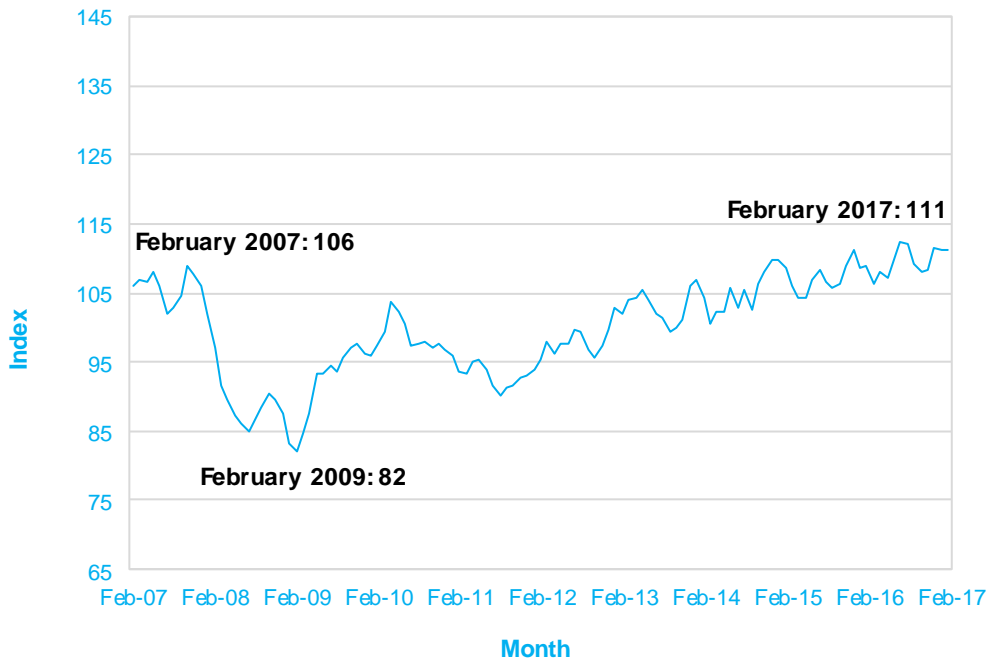
Past-12-Month Change
(From Feb. 2016 to Feb. 2017)

+2 Points

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

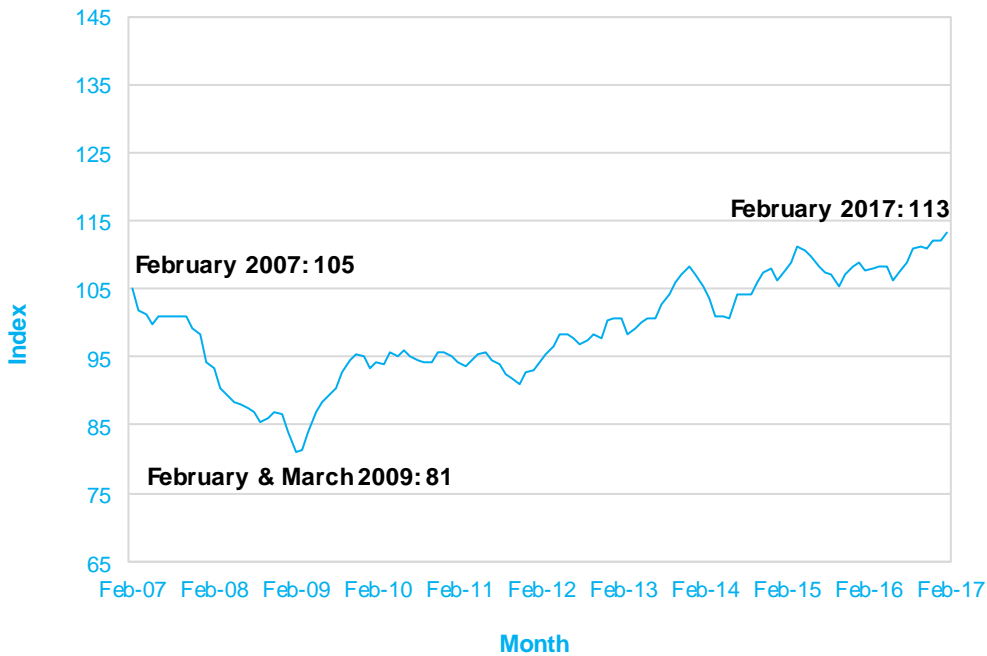**Middle Atlantic Census Division Economic Index***
February 2017

Past-12-Month Change
(From Feb. 2016 to Feb. 2017)

+8 Points

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

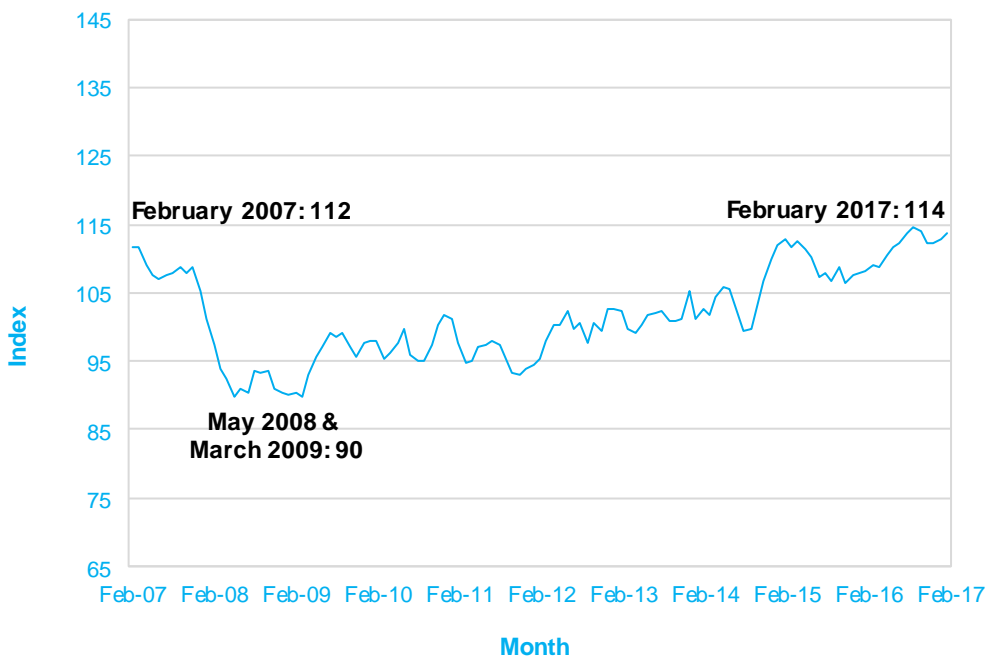## East North Central Census Division Economic Index*
February 2017

February 2007: 105

February 2017: 113

February & March 2009: 81

Past-12-Month Change
(From Feb. 2016 to Feb. 2017)

+5 Points

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

West North Central Census Division Economic Index*
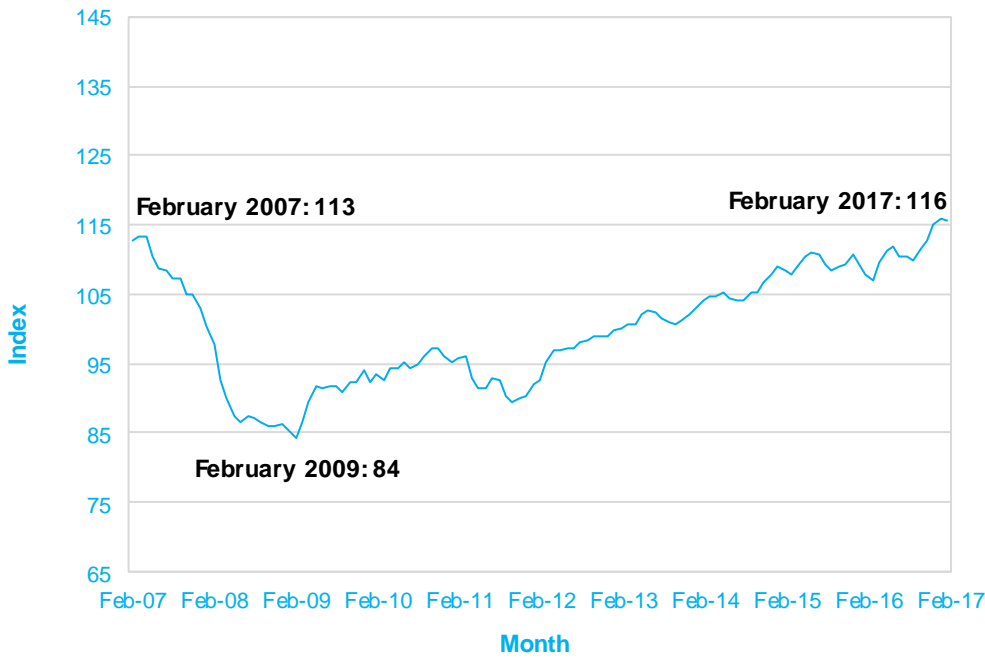## February 2017

February 2007: 112

February 2017: 114

May 2008 & March 2009: 90

Past-12-Month Change
(From Feb. 2016 to Feb. 2017)

+6 Points

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

South Atlantic Census Division Economic Index*
February 2017

February 2007: 113

February 2017: 116
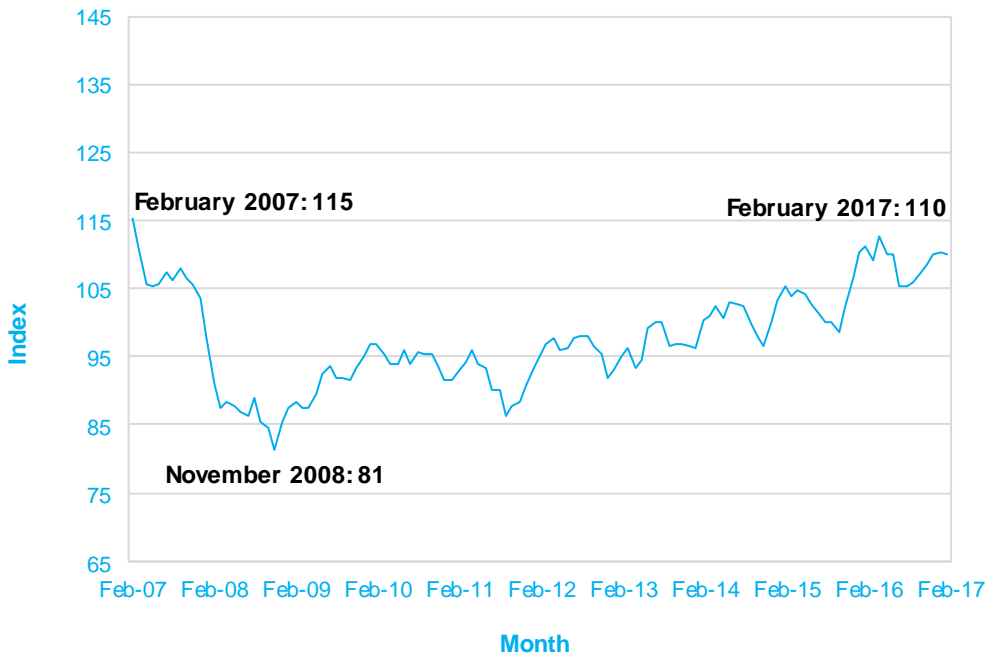
February 2009: 84

Past-12-Month Change
(From Feb. 2016 to Feb. 2017)

+8 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*
February 2017

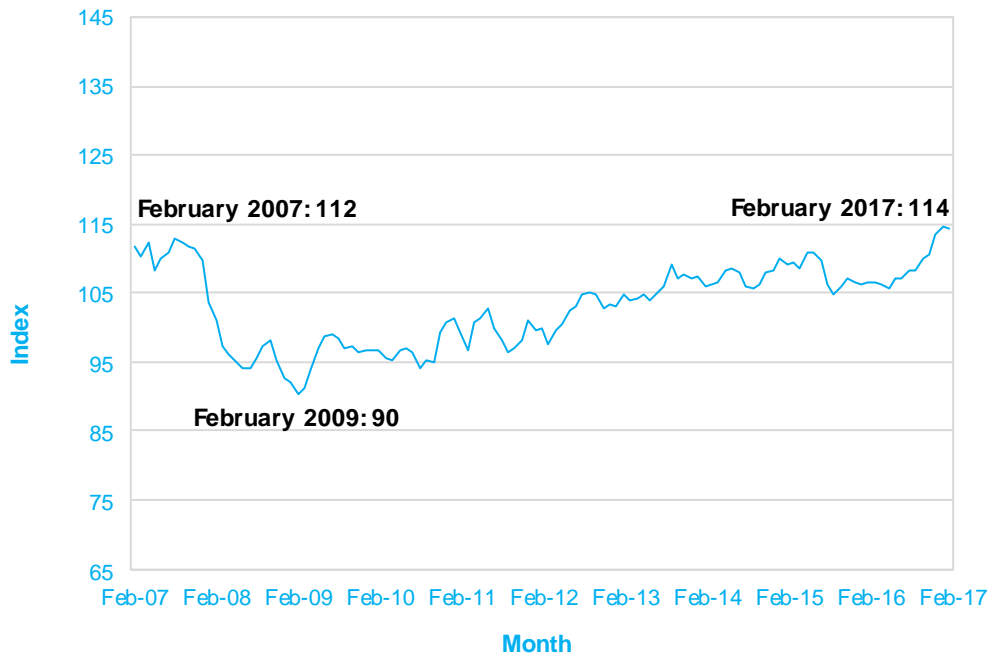February 2007: 115

February 2017: 110

November 2008: 81

Past-12-Month Change
(From Feb. 2016 to Feb. 2017)

-1 Points

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

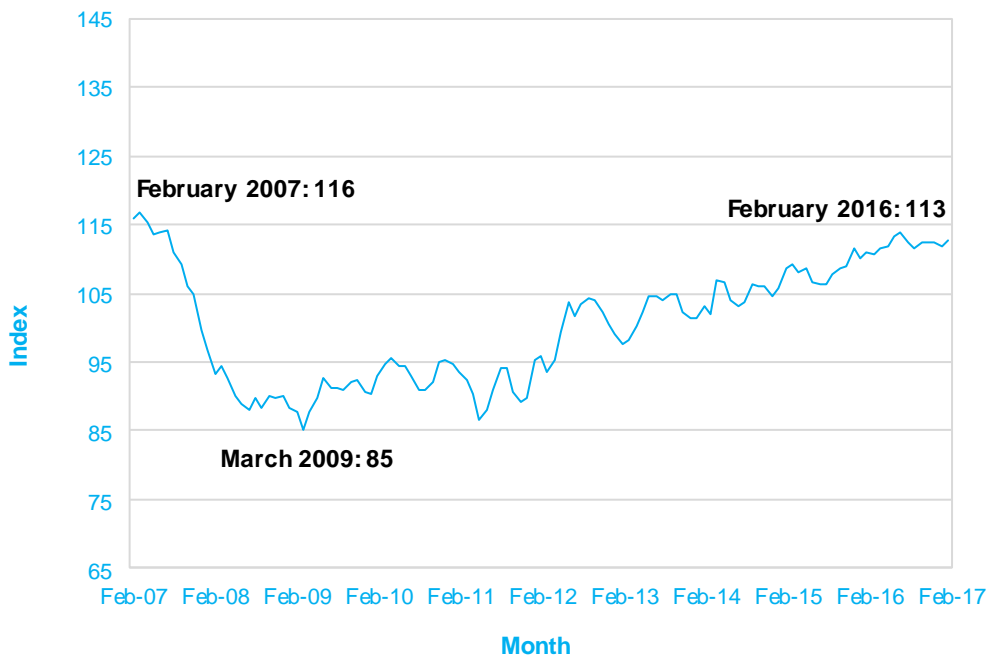## West South Central Census Division Economic Index*
February 2017

February 2007: 112

February 2017: 114

February 2009: 90

Past-12-Month Change
(From Feb. 2016 to Feb. 2017)

+7 Points

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

Index

Month

Mountain Census Division Economic Index*
February 2017

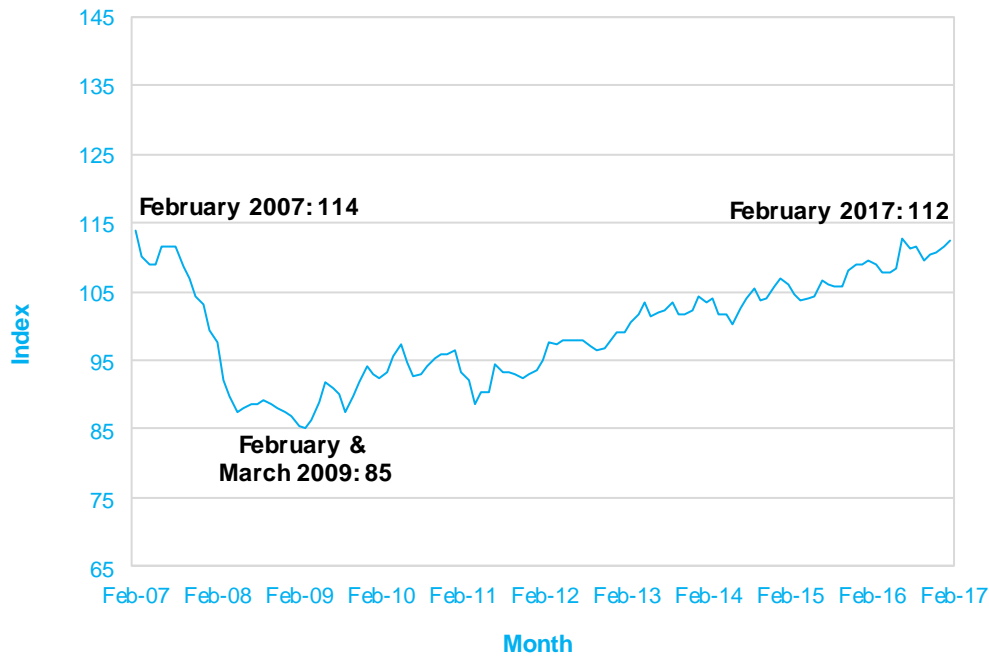
February 2007: 116

February 2016: 113

March 2009: 85

Past-12-Month Change
(From Feb. 2016 to Feb. 2017)

+2 Points

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

Index

Month

Pacific Census Division Economic Index*
February 2017

Past-12-Month Change
(From Feb. 2016 to Feb. 2017)

+2 Points

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 consumer packaged goods, high technology, retail, medical, automotive, and other industries.