

# News Release

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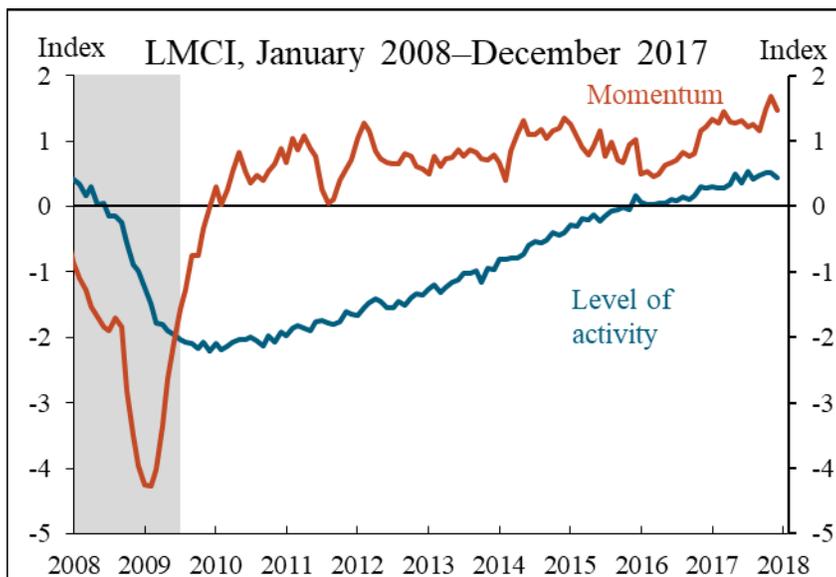
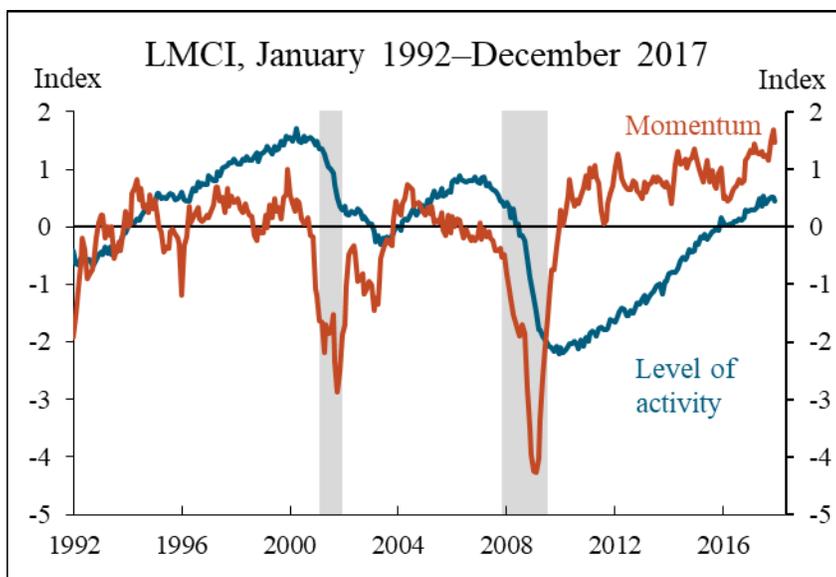
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## The KC Fed LMCI suggest the level of activity declined modestly and momentum remained high in December.

The Kansas City Fed Labor Market Conditions Indicators (LMCI) suggest the level of activity declined modestly and momentum remained high in December. The level of activity indicator declined modestly in December from 0.51 to 0.44, while the momentum indicator decelerated from 1.68 to 1.46.

The table on the following page shows the five labor market variables that made the largest contributions to the increase in the activity indicator over the last six months and the five variables that made the largest positive contributions to the momentum indicator in December 2017. The activity indicator increased 0.07 over the last six months. The largest contribution came from an increase in the percent of firms planning to increase employment (NFIB). Fifteen variables made a positive contribution, one variable made no contribution, and eight variables made a negative contribution. The momentum indicator was 1.46 in December, where the largest contributor to momentum was initial claims. Eighteen variables made a positive contribution, and six variables made a negative contribution.



## Largest Contributions to the LMCI

<b>Contributions to the increase in the <i>level of activity</i> indicator over the last six months</b>	<b>Positive contributions to the <i>momentum</i> indicator in December 2017</b>
Percent of firms planning to increase employment (NFIB)	Initial claims
Job flows from U to E	Expected job availability (U of Michigan)
Job availability index (Conference Board)	Manufacturing employment index (ISM)
Unemployed 27 or more weeks	Labor force participation rate
Working part time for economic reasons	Aggregate weekly hours

*Note: Contributions are ordered from largest to smallest.*

