

News Release

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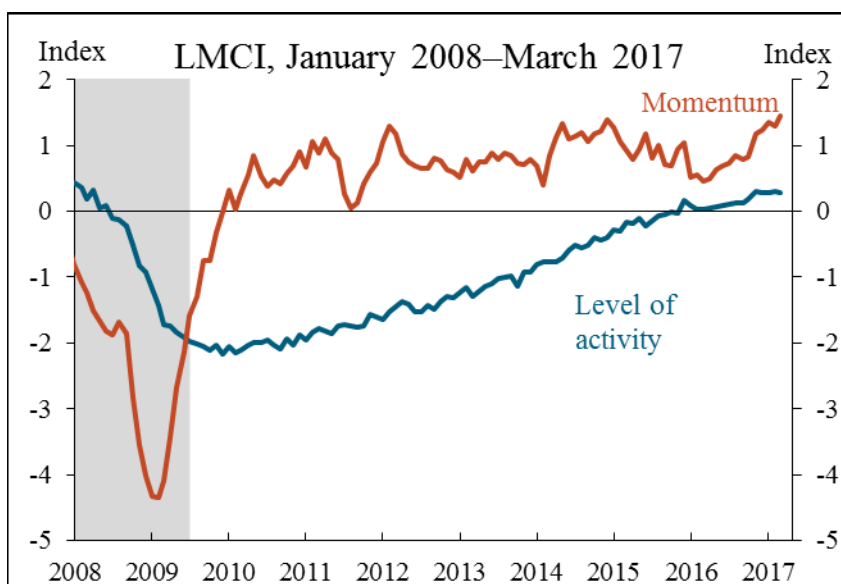
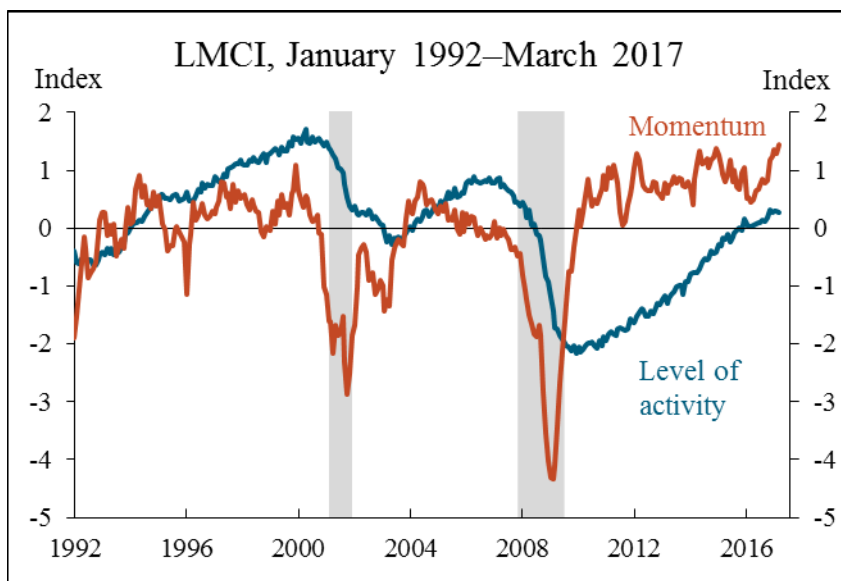
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The KC Fed LMCI suggest the level of activity was little changed and momentum remained high in March.

The Kansas City Fed Labor Market Conditions Indicators (LMCI) suggest the level of activity was little changed and momentum remained high in March. The level of activity indicator remained relatively flat in March at 0.28, while the momentum indicator accelerated moderately from 1.3 to 1.45, its highest historical value.

The table on the following page shows the five labor market variables that made the largest contributions to the change in the activity indicator over the last six months and the five variables that made the largest positive contributions to the momentum indicator in March 2017. The activity indicator increased 0.16 over the last six months. The largest contribution came from an increase in the percent of firms planning to increase employment (NFIB). Seventeen variables made a positive contribution, and seven variables made a negative contribution. The momentum indicator was 1.45 in March, where the largest contributor to momentum was expected job availability (University of Michigan). Seventeen variables made a positive contribution, and seven variables made a negative contribution.



Largest Contributions to the LMCI

Contributions to the increase in the <i>level of activity</i> indicator over the last six months	Positive contributions to the <i>momentum</i> indicator in March 2017
Percent of firms planning to increase employment (NFIB)	Expected job availability (U of Michigan)
Percent of firms with positions not able to fill right now (NFIB)	Expected job availability (Conference Board)
Expected job availability (Conference Board)	Manufacturing employment index (ISM)
Broad unemployment rate (U6)	Initial claims
Job availability index (Conference Board)	Labor force participation rate

Note: Contributions are ordered from largest to smallest.

