

BART VAN ARK

Short profile

Bart van Ark (1960) is [Executive Vice President, Chief Economist & Chief Strategy Officer](#) of [The Conference Board](#), a global business-membership research organization headquartered in New York City in the United States. He leads a team of almost two dozen economists in New York, Brussels and Beijing, who produce a range of widely watched economic indicators and growth forecasts, as well as in-depth global economic research. As Chief Strategy Officer, van Ark has also been responsible for the development of the organization's strategy and major new initiatives, including collaboration and partnerships.

Van Ark is also a [Professor in Economic Development, Technological Change and Growth](#) at the [University of Groningen](#) (The Netherlands). From 1988 to 1990 he worked as a research associate with the [National Institute of Economic and Social Research](#) (UK) on international comparisons of economic performance in Europe. In 1990, van Ark returned to the [University of Groningen](#), where he has been teaching in the areas of economic growth, development economics, economic history and international economics and business. In 1993 he obtained his Ph.D. degree in economics with the late professor [Angus Maddison](#). In 2000 he was appointed on an endowed professorship on the Economics of Productivity and Technology Policy). He became a full professor in 2004. In 2006 and 2007 Van Ark was also Associate Dean International Affairs of the Faculty of Economics and Business at Groningen University

Van Ark was former director and current member of the [Groningen Growth and Development Centre](#), a research group working on long term economic growth and productivity. In this role, he has participated in a range of international research projects, including the Productivity Program of the [McKinsey Global Institute](#) (1992 and 1993) and the CEPR Program on "Comparative Experience of Economic Growth in Postwar Europe" (1994-1996). From 2004-2008 he coordinated a large European consortium of research institutes on "Productivity in the European Union: A Comparative Industry Approach" ([EUKLEMS](#)). Van Ark also consulted for (inter)national government agencies, including the Dutch government, the European Commission and the OECD, as well as for private business.

Since 1997 van Ark has been associated with [The Conference Board](#), originally as consulting director international economic research. In early 2007 he relocated to New York to assume the position of Executive Director Economic Research, leading the economics research program in New York, Beijing and Brussels. On 1 April 2008 he was appointed to the position of Chief Economist, and leads the [Economy & Business Environment Practice](#). Between 2010 and 2013 he also oversaw the overall research program of The Conference Board which, in addition to economics, includes human capital, corporate leadership and high-performing organizations. In 2014 he assumed responsible for the overall strategy of The Conference Board, working alongside the CEO & President of The Conference Board on its strategy program, 20%-by-2020.

Van Ark has extensively published in leading national and international journals, including the *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, *The Brookings Papers on Economic Activity*, and *Economic Policy*. From 2004-2008 he has been managing editor of the *Review of Income and Wealth*. He has also been a member of the editorial boards of several other academic journals and serves on various national and international advisory committees in the field of productivity and national accounts. He is also frequently featured in major international business media, including Bloomberg, CNBC, the Financial Times and The Wall Street Journal.

Currently van Ark is a Director at the [National Bureau of Economic Research](#) in the United States by Appointment of The Conference Board, and is a member of the Board of Directors of [The Demand Institute](#), a partnership between The Conference Board and Nielsen.