



THE CONFERENCE BOARD

FOR RELEASE: 10:00 A.M. (BERLIN TIME), WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2009

The Conference Board®
Germany Business Cycle IndicatorsSM
**THE CONFERENCE BOARD LEADING ECONOMIC INDEX™ (LEI)
FOR GERMANY**
AND RELATED COMPOSITE ECONOMIC INDEXES FOR SEPTEMBER 2009

BRUSSELS, November 18, 2009... The Conference Board Leading Economic Index™ (LEI) for Germany increased 1.2 percent and The Conference Board Coincident Economic Index™ (CEI) increased 0.2 percent in September.

- The Conference Board LEI for Germany increased for a sixth consecutive month in September, with consumer confidence, the yield spread and new orders in investment goods industries making the largest positive contributions. Between March and September 2009, the leading economic index increased by 6.7 percent (about a 13.7 percent annual rate), a sharp reversal from the 13.5 percent decline (about a -25.2 percent annual rate) between September 2008 and March 2009. In addition, the strengths among the leading indicators have remained widespread in recent months.
- The Conference Board CEI for Germany, a measure of current economic activity, increased in September for the third time in the past five months as industrial production again made a large positive contribution. Between March and September 2009, the coincident economic index increased by 0.3 percent (about a 0.6 percent annual rate), after declining by 3.6 percent (about a -7.1 percent annual rate) during the previous six months. Additionally, the strengths and weaknesses among the coincident indicators have become balanced in recent months. At the same time, real GDP increased at a 2.9 percent annual rate during the third quarter of 2009, after rising at a 1.8 percent annual rate during the second quarter.
- After a long downtrend between July 2007 and March 2009, The Conference Board LEI for Germany has grown rapidly during the past two quarters. As a result, its six-month growth rate has reached its highest level since 1983. The Conference Board CEI for Germany has increased modestly since April, and its six-month growth rate became positive for the first time since July 2008. Taken together, the recent behavior of the composite economic indexes suggests that economic conditions will continue to improve in the near term.

LEADING INDICATORS. Six of the seven components in The Conference Board LEI for Germany increased in September. The positive contributors — in order from the largest positive contributor to the smallest— are consumer confidence, the yield spread, new orders in investment goods industries, stock prices, inventory change series* and new residential construction orders*. Gross enterprises and properties income* made the only negative contribution.

With the 1.2 percent increase in September, The Conference Board LEI for Germany now stands at 91.4 (2004=100). Based on revised data, this index increased 1.6 percent in August and increased 0.9 percent in July. During the six-month span through September, the index increased 6.7 percent, with five of the seven components increasing (diffusion index, six-month span equals 71.4 percent).

COINCIDENT INDICATORS. Two of the four components that make up The Conference Board CEI for Germany increased in September. The positive contributors were industrial production and manufacturing sales. Employed persons and retail trade declined in September.

With the 0.2 percent increase in September, The Conference Board CEI for Germany now stands at 102.0 (2004=100). Based on revised data, this index decreased 0.1 percent in August and remained unchanged in July. During the six-month period through September, the index increased 0.3 percent, with two of the four components increasing (diffusion index, six-month span equals 50.0 percent).

** See notes under data availability.*

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE BOARD

The Conference Board is a global, independent business membership and research association working in the public interest. Our mission is unique: To provide the world's leading organizations with the practical knowledge they need to improve their performance *and* better serve society. The Conference Board is a non-advocacy, not-for-profit entity holding 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt status in the United States.

Summary Table of Composite Indexes

	Jul	2009 Aug	Sep	6-month Mar to Sep
Leading Economic Index (LEI)	88.9 p	90.3 p	91.4 p	
Percent Change	0.9 p	1.6 p	1.2 p	6.7 p
Diffusion	71.4	85.7	78.6	71.4
Coincident Economic Index (CEI)	101.9 r	101.8 r	102.0 p	
Percent Change	0.0	-0.1 r	0.2 p	0.3 p
Diffusion	62.5	25.0	50.0	50.0

n.a. Not available p Preliminary r Revised

Indexes equal 100 in 2004

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The next release is scheduled for Tuesday, December 22, 2009 at 10:00 A.M. Berlin Time (4:00 A.M. ET)