



THE CONFERENCE BOARD

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The Conference Board Leading Economic Index™ for the U.S. Declines

March 19, 2009... The Conference Board Leading Economic Index™ (LEI) for the U.S. declined 0.4 percent in February, following a 0.1 percent increase in January, and a 0.1 percent decline in December.

Says Ken Goldstein, Economist at The Conference Board: “The U.S. Leading Economic Index declined in February, but strengths and weaknesses were roughly balanced among its components. Financial market volatility remains strong, and the credit market freeze is relenting very slowly. The LEI suggests the recession will continue in the near term. A return to strong growth will not likely occur until 2010.”

The Conference Board Coincident Economic Index™ (CEI) for the U.S. declined 0.4 percent, following a 0.6 percent decline in January, and a 0.7 percent decline in December. **The Conference Board Lagging Economic Index™** declined 0.4 percent in February, following a 0.3 percent decline in January, and a 0.1 percent decline in December.

Negative Momentum Eases a Little

