



THE CONFERENCE BOARD

FOR RELEASE: 10:00 A.M. (CST), THURSDAY, MAY 27, 2010

The Conference Board®
Mexico Business Cycle IndicatorsSM
THE CONFERENCE BOARD LEADING ECONOMIC INDEX®
(LEI) FOR MEXICO
AND RELATED COMPOSITE ECONOMIC INDEXES FOR MARCH 2010

The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) for Mexico increased 1.3 percent and **The Conference Board Coincident Economic Index®** (CEI) increased 0.5 percent in March.

- The Conference Board LEI for Mexico increased sharply in March after remaining unchanged the previous month. Oil prices, the real exchange rate, and stock prices made very strong contributions to the index, more than offsetting the decline in the net insufficient inventories component. As a result, the six-month change increased to 4.5 percent (about a 9.2 percent annual rate), up from the 3.5 percent growth (about a 7.0 percent annual rate) in the six-month period ending February 2010. In addition, the strengths among the leading indicators have remained widespread in recent months.
- The Conference Board CEI for Mexico also increased in March, with employment continuing to make the largest positive contribution. The coincident index increased 2.9 percent (a 5.9 percent annual rate) between September 2009 and March 2010, well above the 0.2 percent growth (a 0.4 percent annual rate) between March and September 2009. In addition, the strengths among the coincident indicators have been very widespread, with all three components increasing over the past six months. However, real GDP declined by 1.4 percent (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in the first quarter of 2010 (primarily due to a drop in agricultural activity).
- After remaining unchanged in February, The Conference Board LEI for Mexico resumed its upward trend in March. Meanwhile, The Conference Board CEI for Mexico, a measure of current economic activity, has been improving since July 2009, while its six-month change has been fairly stable in recent months. All in all, the behavior of the composite indexes suggests that the improvement in economic activity will continue in the near term.

LEADING INDICATORS. Four of the six components that make up The Conference Board LEI for Mexico increased in March. The positive contributors to the index—from the largest positive contributor to the smallest one—are the US refiners' acquisition cost of domestic and imported crude oil, the (inverted) real exchange rate, stock prices, and the construction component of industrial production. Net insufficient inventories decreased in March while the (inverted) federal funds rate remained unchanged.

The next release is scheduled for Thursday, June 24, 2010 at 11:00 A.M. (ET)

In Mexico –Thursday, June 24, 2010 at 10:00 A.M. (CST)

With the 1.3 percent increase in March, The Conference Board LEI for Mexico now stands at 118.0 (2004=100). Based on revised data, this index remained unchanged in February and increased 0.2 percent in January. During the six-month span through March, the index increased 4.5 percent, with five of the six components increasing (diffusion index, six-month span equals 91.7 percent).

COINCIDENT INDICATORS. All three components that make up The Conference Board CEI for Mexico increased in March. The positive contributors—from the largest positive contributor to the smallest one—are number of people employed (measured by IMSS total beneficiaries), retail sales, and industrial production.

With the increase of 0.5 percent in March, The Conference Board CEI for Mexico now stands at 110.1 (2004=100). Based on revised data, this index increased 0.6 percent in February and increased 0.4 percent in January. During the six-month span through March, the index increased 2.9 percent, with all three components increasing (diffusion index, six-month span equals 100.0 percent).

DATA AVAILABILITY. The data series used to compute the two composite indexes reported in the tables in this release are those available “as of” 10 A.M. May 25, 2010. Some series are estimated as noted below.

NOTES: In March, there were no forecasted components.

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THE CYCLICAL INDICATOR APPROACH. The composite economic indexes are the key elements in an analytic system designed to signal peaks and troughs in the business cycle. The leading and coincident economic indexes are essentially composite averages of several individual leading or coincident indicators. (See page 3 for details.) They are constructed to summarize and reveal common turning point patterns in economic data in a clearer and more convincing manner than any individual component—primarily because they smooth out some of the volatility of individual components.

Historically, the cyclical turning points in The Conference Board LEI for Mexico have occurred before those in aggregate economic activity, while the cyclical turning points in The Conference Board CEI for Mexico have occurred at about the same time as those in aggregate economic activity.

Further explanations of the cyclical indicator approach and the composite index methodology appear in The Conference Board’s *Business Cycle Indicators* report and Web site: <http://www.conference-board.org/economics/bci/>.

Mexico Composite Economic Indexes: Components and Standardization Factors

<u>Leading Economic Index</u>	<u>Factor</u>
1. Industrial Production, Construction Component	.1826
2. Stock Prices	.0548
3. U.S. Refiners' Acquisition Cost of Domestic and Imported Crude Oil	.0793
4. Net Insufficient Inventories	.4277
5. Federal Funds Rate	.0993
6. Real Exchange Rate	.1563

<u>Coincident Economic Index</u>	
1. Industrial Production	.3888
2. Retail Sales	.1993
3. Employment	.4119

Notes:

The component factors are inversely related to the standard deviation of the month-to-month changes in each component. They are used to equalize the volatility of the contribution from each component and are “normalized” to sum to 1.

These factors were revised effective on the release for January 2010, and all historical values for the two composite economic indexes were revised at this time to reflect the changes. Under normal circumstances, updates to the leading and coincident indexes only incorporate revisions to data over the past six months. The factors above for The Conference Board LEI for Mexico were calculated using January 1990 to December 2008 as the sample period for measuring volatility. Separate sets of factors for the January 1980 to April 1981 period, May 1981 to January 1983 period, and February 1983 to January 1990 period are available upon request. The factors above for The Conference Board CEI for Mexico were calculated using February 1994 to December 2008 as the sample period. Separate sets of factors for the April 1980 to March 1986 period, and April 1986 to January 1994 period are available upon request. These multiple sample periods are the result of different starting dates for the component data. When one or more components are missing, the other factors are adjusted proportionately to ensure that the total continues to sum to 1. For additional information on the standardization factors and the index methodology visit our Web site: <http://www.conference-board.org/economics/bci>.

The trend adjustment factor for The Conference Board LEI for Mexico is 0.0466 (calculated over the 1980 to 2008 period).

To address the problem of lags in available data, those leading and coincident indicators that are not available at the time of publication are estimated using statistical imputation. An autoregressive model is used to estimate each component. The resulting indexes are constructed using real and estimated data, and will be revised as the data unavailable at the time of publication become available. Such revisions are part of the monthly data revisions, now a regular part of the U.S. Business Cycle Indicators program. The main advantage of this procedure is to utilize in the leading economic index the data, such as stock prices, that are available sooner than other data on “real” aspects of the economy, such as new orders and changes in inventory. Empirical research by The Conference Board suggests there are real gains in adopting this procedure to make all the indicator series as up-to-date as possible.

NOTICES

The 2010 schedule for “**The Conference Board Leading Economic Index[®]** (LEI) for Mexico” news release is:

April 2010 Data.....Thursday, June 24, 2010
May 2010 Data.....Thursday, July 29, 2010
June 2010 Data.....Tuesday, August 24, 2010
July 2010 Data.....Thursday, September 30, 2010
August 2010 Data.....Thursday, October 28, 2010
September 2010 Data.....Wednesday, November 24, 2010
October 2010 Data.....Wednesday, December 22, 2010

All releases are at 11:00 A.M. (ET) and 10:00 A.M. (CST).

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.

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Mexico Business Cycle Indicators Internet Subscription	\$ 635 per year (1 user)
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Individual Data Series	\$ 35 per series downloaded
Monthly BCI Report	\$ 275 per year
<i>(Sample available at http://www.conference-board.org/publications/describeBCI.cfm)</i>	
BCI Handbook (published 2001)	\$ 20
Corporate Site License	contact Indicators Program at (212) 339-0330

Business Cycle Indicators for China, Euro Area, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Spain, the U.K., and the U.S. are available at \$635 per country per year (1 user). Discounts are available to Associates of The Conference Board and accredited academic institutions.

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The Conference Board Mexico Business Cycle Indicators

Table 1.--Summary of Mexico Composite Economic Indexes

	2009				2010		
	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
Leading index	112.9	113.3 r	115.6	116.3	116.5 r	116.5 r	118.0
Percent change	0.3	0.4	2.0 r	0.6	0.2 r	0.0	1.3
Diffusion index	41.7	41.7	91.7	58.3	58.3	41.7	75.0
Coincident index	107.0	107.2	108.1 r	108.4	108.8	109.5	110.1
Percent change	0.6	0.2	0.8 r	0.3 r	0.4	0.6	0.5
Diffusion index	66.7	66.7	100.0	66.7	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Mar. to	Apr. to	May. to	Jun. to	Jul. to	Aug. to	Sep. to
	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
Leading index							
Percent change	9.4	6.8 r	6.6	5.1	3.9	3.5	4.5
Diffusion index	83.3	83.3	83.3	83.3	75.0	75.0	91.7
Coincident index							
Percent change	0.2	0.6	2.4	2.7	2.8	2.9	2.9
Diffusion index	33.3	66.7	66.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

p Preliminary. r Revised (both noted only for index levels and one-month percent changes).

CALCULATION NOTE: The diffusion indexes measure the proportion of the components that are rising. Components that rise more than 0.05 percent are given a value of 1.0, components that change less than 0.05 percent are given a value of 0.5, and components that fall more than 0.05 percent are given a value of 0.0.

For more information, visit our Web site at www.conference-board.org/economics/bci

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The Conference Board Mexico Business Cycle Indicators

Table 2.--Data and Net Contributions for Components of the Mexico Leading Economic Index

Component	2009				2010		
	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
Mexico Leading Economic Index component data							
Industrial Production, Construction Component, SA Index, 2003=100	112.7 r	111.8 r	112.4 r	111.6 r	109.4 r	112.0 r	113.2
Stock Prices, IPC35 (BOLSA) October 1978=0.78	29232.24	28646.03	30957.11	32120.47	30391.61	31634.54	33266.43
US Refiners' Acquisition Cost of Domestic and Imported Crude Oil US\$ per Composite Barrel	67.74	72.05	74.48	72.95	75.48	74.58 r	79.85
Net Insufficient Inventories Difference, (3 month moving average), Survey	-10.20 r	-10.40 r	-8.11 r	-7.46 r	-6.71 r	-7.93 r	-8.58
Federal Funds, Money Market Rate* Percentage, Monthly Average	4.91	4.91	4.93	4.93	4.91	4.92	4.92
Real Exchange Rate, (Central Bank Settlement Rate)* Peso/US\$, Monthly Average	21.14	20.91	20.64	20.15	19.90	20.02	19.36
LEADING INDEX (2004=100).....	112.9	113.3 r	115.6	116.3	116.5 r	116.5 r	118.0
Percent change from preceding month.....		0.4	2.0 r	0.6	0.2 r	0.0	1.3
Mexico Leading Economic Index net contributions							
Industrial Production, Construction Component, SA Index, 2003=100 .....	....	-0.15 r	0.10 r	-0.12 r	-0.37 r	0.44 r	0.18
Stock Prices, IPC35 (BOLSA) October 1978=0.78 .....	....	-0.11	0.42	0.20	-0.30	0.22	0.28
US Refiners' Acquisition Cost of Domestic and Imported Crude Oil US\$ per Composite Barrel .....	....	0.49	0.26	-0.16	0.27	-0.10 r	0.54
Net Insufficient Inventories Difference, (3 month moving average), Survey .....	....	-0.09 r	0.98 r	0.28 r	0.32 r	-0.52 r	-0.28
Federal Funds, Money Market Rate* Percentage, Monthly Average .....	....	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Real Exchange Rate, (Central Bank Settlement Rate)* Peso/US\$, Monthly Average .....	....	0.17	0.20	0.38	0.20	-0.09	0.52

p Preliminary. r Revised. n.a. Not available.

CPI used to calculate the EX is forecasted

* Inverted series; a negative change in this component makes a positive contribution to the index.

** Statistical Imputation (See page 2 for more details)

Data Sources: INEGI; Bank of Mexico; U.S. Department of Energy; Thomson Financial

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The Conference Board Mexico Business Cycle Indicators

Table 3.--Data and Net Contributions for Mexico Coincident Economic Index

Component	2009				2010		
	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
Mexico Coincident Economic Index Component Data							
Industrial Production, SA Index, (2003=100), 3 month moving average	106.4	106.6 r	107.8 r	109.3 r	109.8 r	110.4 r	110.4
Retail Sales, SA Index, (2000=100), 3 month moving average	113.8	113.1 r	113.8 r	115.1 r	115.2 r	115.8	116.2
Employment, IMSS Beneficiaries Thousands, monthly average	13992	14074	14192	14006	14076	14205	14341
COINCIDENT INDEX (2004=100)	107.0	107.2	108.1 r	108.4	108.8	109.5	110.1
Percent change from preceding month.....		0.2	0.8 r	0.3 r	0.4	0.6	0.5
Mexico Coincident Economic Index net contributions							
Industrial Production, SA Index, (2003=100), 3 month moving average	....	0.06 r	0.46 r	0.52 r	0.17 r	0.22 r	0.02
Retail Sales, SA Index, (2000=100), 3 month moving average	....	-0.11 r	0.12	0.23	0.02 r	0.10 r	0.06
Employment, IMSS Beneficiaries Thousands, monthly average .....	....	0.24	0.34	-0.54	0.21	0.38	0.39

p Preliminary. r Revised. n.a. Not available.

* Inverted series; a negative change in this component makes a positive contribution to the index.

** Statistical Imputation (See page 2 for more details)

CALCULATION NOTE--The percent change in the index does not always equal the sum of the net contributions of the individual components (because of rounding effects and base value differences).

Data Sources: INEGI; IMSS; Thomson Financial

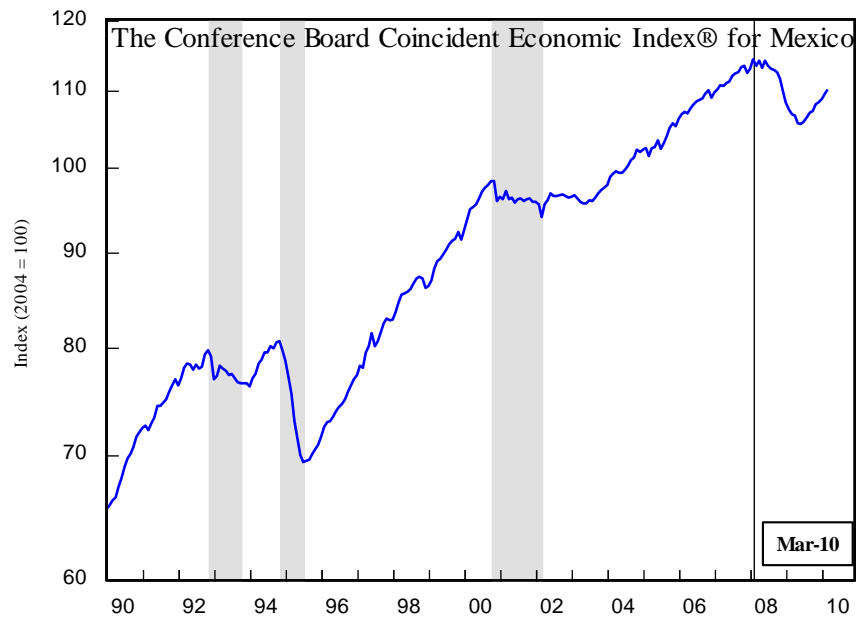
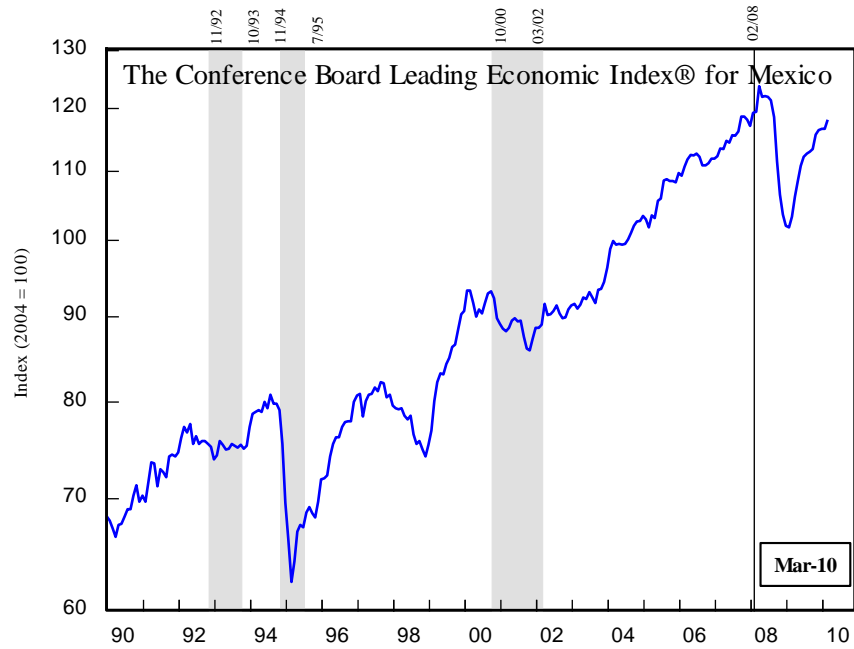
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Mexico



Note: The shaded areas represent business cycle recessions.
The peaks and troughs are designated by The Conference Board based on the coincident index and real GDP.