



News Release

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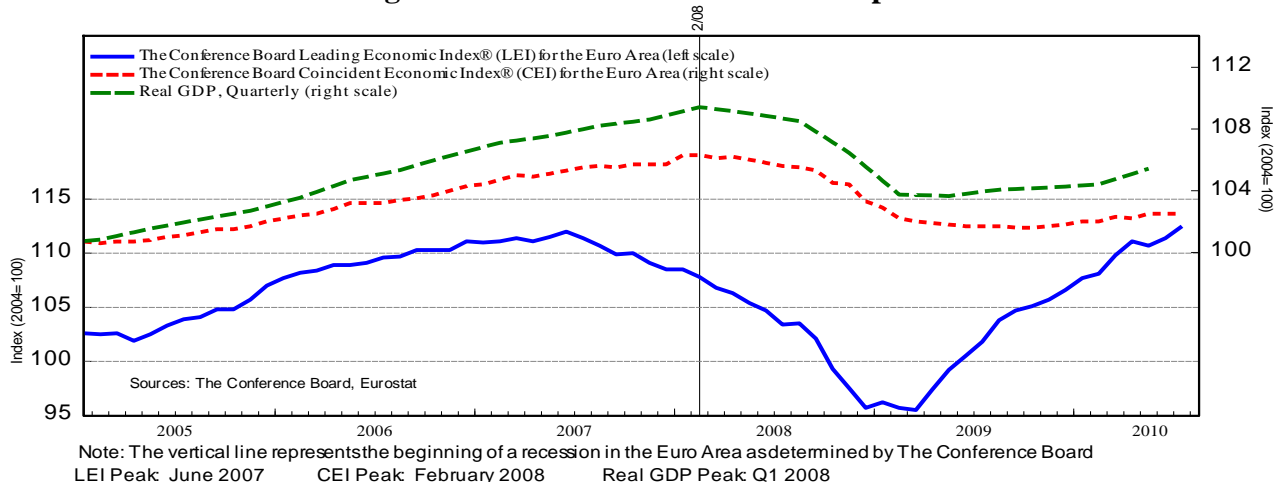
The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) for the Euro Area **Increased Again in July**

BRUSSELS, August 26, 2010... The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) for the Euro Area increased 1.0 percent in July to 112.5 (2004 = 100), following a 0.6 percent increase in June and a 0.4 percent decline in May.

Said Jean-Claude Manini, The Conference Board senior economist for Europe: “Despite this and last month’s rise in the LEI for the Euro Area, the pace of economic activity should ease in the short-term and pave the way for modest growth in 2011. Volatile confidence indicators, in addition to weakening markets abroad and diverging economic performance between Northern and Southern Europe, highlight the fragility of the economic recovery.”

After increasing in July, The Conference Board LEI for the Euro Area is 17.8 percent above its March 2009 trough. Meanwhile, **The Conference Board Coincident Economic Index® (CEI)** for the Euro Area, which measures current economic activity, remained unchanged in July. The index stands at 102.5 (2004 = 100) according to preliminary estimates*. It remained unchanged in June and increased by 0.3 percent in May.

The Leading Economic Index Remains on an Upward Trend



The Conference Board LEI for the Euro Area aggregates eight economic indicators that measure activity in the Euro Area as a whole (rather than indicators of individual member countries), each of which has proven accurate on its own. Aggregating individual indicators into a composite index filters out so-called “noise” to show underlying trends more clearly.

About The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) for the Euro Area

The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® for the Euro Area was launched in January 2009. Plotted back to 1987, this index has successfully signaled turning points in the business cycle of the bloc of countries that now constitute the Euro Area, defined by the common currency zone.

The Conference Board currently produces leading economic indexes for ten other individual countries, including Australia, China, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Spain, the U.K. and the U.S.

The eight components of **The Conference Board Leading Economic Index®** for the Euro Area include:

Economic Sentiment Index (source: European Commission DG-ECFIN)

Index of Residential Building Permits Granted (source: Eurostat)

Index of Capital Goods New Orders (source: Eurostat)

EURO STOXX® Index (source: STOXX Limited)

Money Supply (M2) (source: European Central Bank)

Interest Rate Spread (source: ECB)

Eurozone Manufacturing Purchasing Managers’ Index (source: Markit Economics)

Eurozone Service Sector Future Business Activity Expectations Index (source: Markit Economics)

To view The Conference Board calendar of 2010 indicator releases:

<http://www.conference-board.org/data/>

* Series in The Conference Board LEI for the Euro Area that are based on The Conference Board estimates are real money supply, residential building permits, and new orders of capital goods. All series in The Conference Board CEI for the Euro Area are based on The Conference Board estimates (employment, industrial production, retail trade, and manufacturing turnover).

About The Conference Board

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Summary Table of Composite Indexes

	May	2010 Jun	Jul	6-month Jan to Jul
Leading Economic Index (LEI)	110.7 p	111.4 p	112.5 p	
Percent Change	-0.4 p	0.6 p	1.0 p	4.5 p
Diffusion	25.0	62.5	62.5	62.5
Coincident Economic Index (CEI)	102.5 p	102.5 p	102.5 p	
Percent Change	0.3 p	0.0 p	0.0 p	0.5 p
Diffusion	87.5	50.0	37.5	87.5

n.a. Not available p Preliminary r Revised
Indexes equal 100 in 2004

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