



# THE CONFERENCE BOARD

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## **The Conference Board Leading Economic Index™ (LEI) for the U.S. Improves Again**

### **Fifth Consecutive Increase**

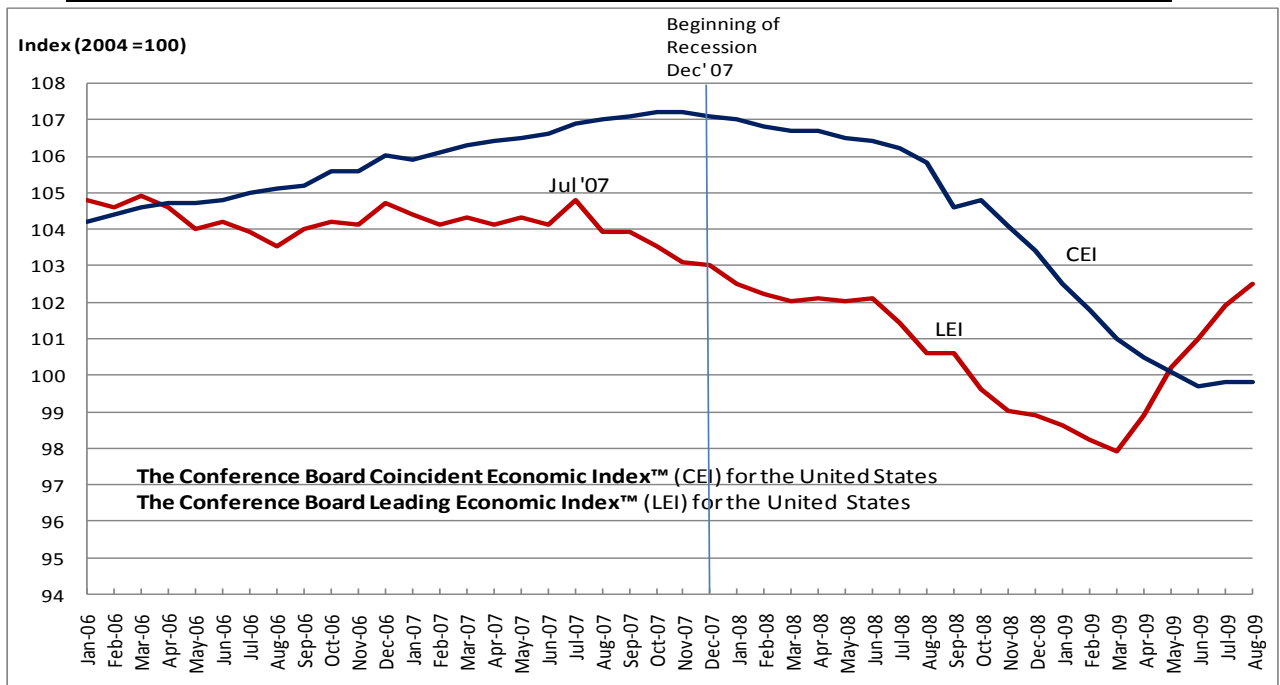
**NEW YORK, September 21, 2009...**The Conference Board Leading Economic Index™ (LEI) for the U.S. increased 0.6 percent in August, following a 0.9 percent gain in July, and a 0.8 percent rise in June.

“Since reaching a peak in July 2007, the LEI fell for twenty months – the longest downtrend since the mid 1970s – but it has been rising since April and its gains have become very widespread,” says Ataman Ozyildirim, Economist at The Conference Board. “The six-month growth rate of the LEI continues to accelerate. At the same time, the downtrend in the coincident economic index, measuring current economic activity, seems to be stabilizing, with the index flat so far this quarter.”

Says Ken Goldstein, Economist at The Conference Board: “The LEI has risen for five consecutive months and the coincident economic index has stopped falling. Taken together, this suggests that the recession is bottoming out. These numbers are consistent with the view that after a very severe downturn, a recovery is very near. But, the intensity and pattern of that recovery is more uncertain.”

**The Conference Board Coincident Economic Index™ (CEI) for the U.S.** was unchanged in August, following a 0.1 percent increase in July, and a 0.4 percent decline in June. **The Conference Board Lagging Economic Index™ (LAG)** declined 0.1 percent in August, following a 0.5 percent decline in July, and a 0.9 percent decline in June.

### **The Conference Board Leading Economic Index™ (LEI) for the U.S. Improves again in August**



Summary Table of Composite Economic Indexes

	2009			6-month
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Feb to Aug
Leading index	101.0	101.9 r	102.5 p	
Percent Change	.8	.9 r	.6 p	4.4
Diffusion	70.0	70.0	60.0	80.0
Coincident Index	99.7	99.8 p	99.8 p	
Percent Change	-.4	.1 p	.0 p	-2.0
Diffusion	0.0	62.5	75.0	0.0
Lagging Index	110.8 r	110.3 p	110.2 p	
Percent Change	-.9 r	-.5 p	-.1 p	-3.2
Diffusion	21.4	28.6	50.0	7.1

n.a. Not available p Preliminary r Revised

Indexes equal 100 in 2004

Source: The Conference Board