



THE CONFERENCE BOARD

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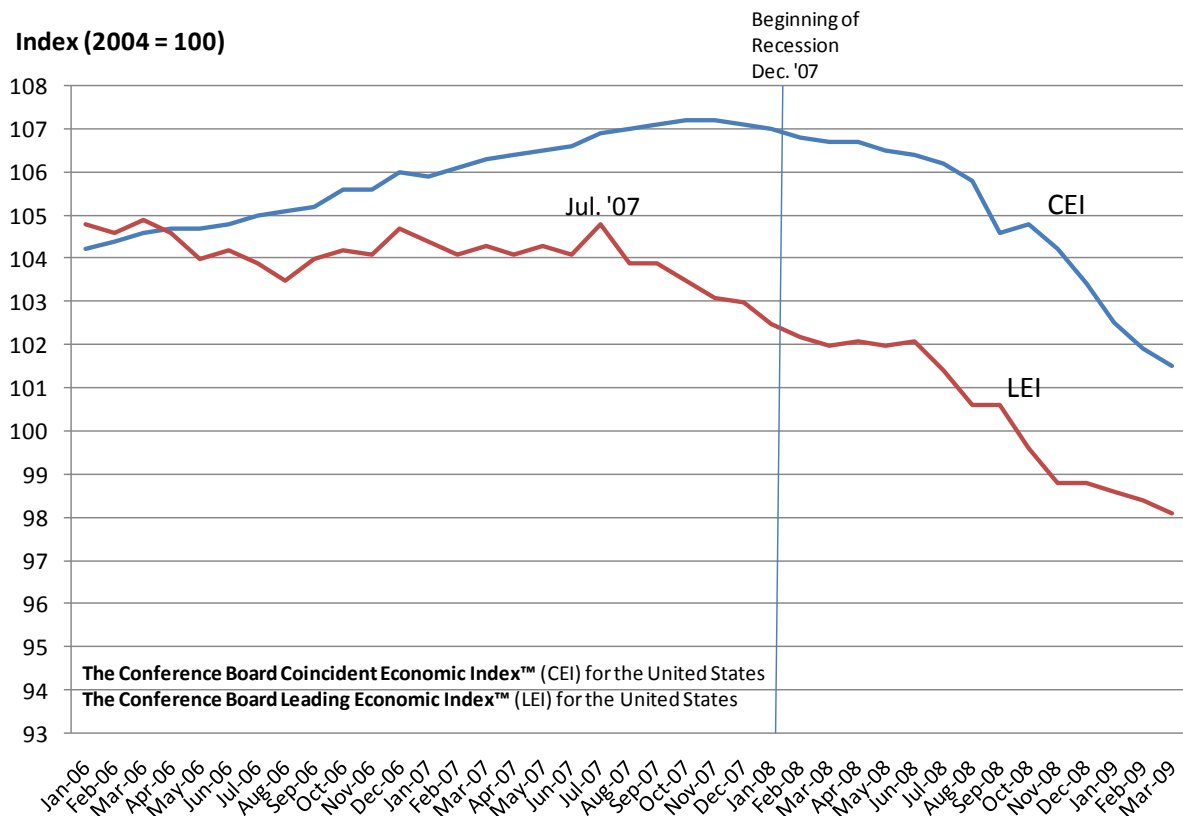
The Conference Board Leading Economic Index™ (LEI) for the U.S. Declines Again

NEW YORK, April 20, 2009... The Conference Board Leading Economic Index™ (LEI) for the U.S. declined 0.3 percent in March, following a 0.2 percent decrease in February, and a 0.2 percent decline in January.

Says Ken Goldstein, Economist at The Conference Board: “The recession may continue through the summer, but the intensity will ease. There have been some intermittent signs of improvement in the economy in April, but the leading economic index and most of its components are still pointing down.”

The Conference Board Coincident Economic Index™ (CEI) for the U.S. declined 0.4 percent in March, following a 0.6 percent decline in February, and a 0.9 percent decline in January. **The Conference Board Lagging Economic Index™** declined 0.4 percent in March, following a 0.3 percent decline in February, and a 0.2 percent decline in January.

The Conference Board Leading Economic Index™ (LEI) for the U.S. is still pointing down



Source: The Conference Board

Summary Table of Composite Economic Indexes

	Jan	Feb	2009 Mar	6-month Sep to Mar
Leading index	98.6 r	98.4 r	98.1 p	
Percent Change	-.2 r	-.2 r	-.3 p	-2.5
Diffusion	30.0	55.0	35.0	20.0
Coincident Index	102.5 r	101.9 p	101.5 p	
Percent Change	-.9 r	-.6 p	-.4 p	-3.0
Diffusion	0.0	25.0	50.0	0.0
Lagging Index	114.0 r	113.7 p	113.3 p	
Percent Change	-.2	-.3 p	-.4 p	-0.2
Diffusion	28.6	21.4	28.6	42.9

n.a. Not available p Preliminary r Revised

Indexes equal 100 in 2004

Source: The Conference Board