



News Release

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Further information:

The Conference Board Europe, Brussels: + 32 2 675 5405 (main line)

Rosa Correia + 32 2 679 5059 / rosa.correia@conference-board.org

Derek Servais + 32 2 679 5054 / derek.servais@conference-board.org

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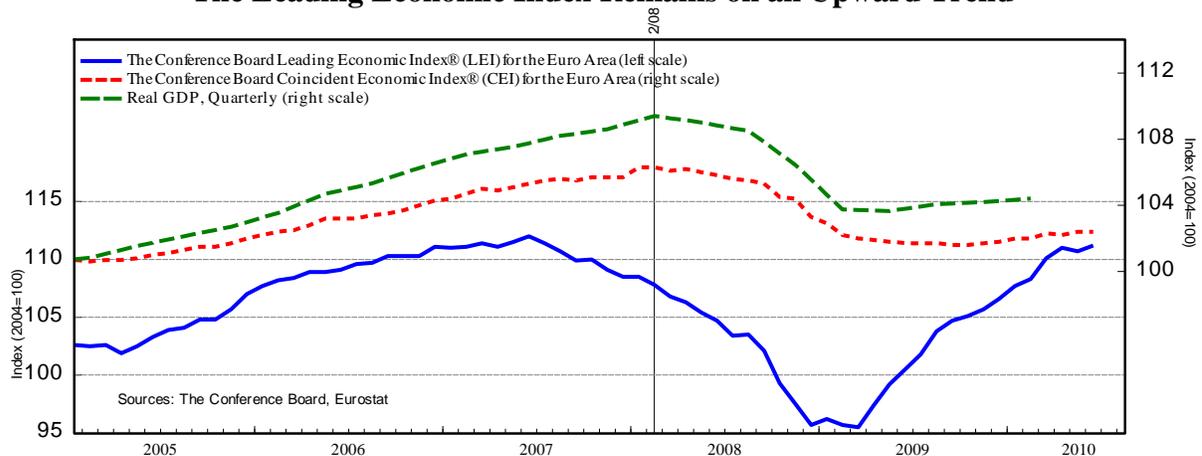
The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) for the Euro Area **Increased in June Following a Decline in May**

BRUSSELS, July 26, 2010... **The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI)** for the Euro Area increased 0.5 percent in June to 111.2 (2004 = 100), following a 0.3 percent decline in May and a 0.8 percent increase in April.

Said Jean-Claude Manini, The Conference Board senior economist for Europe: “After declining in May, the LEI for the Euro Area has picked up in June. While the recovery is unlikely to falter in the short-term, the pace of economic growth may ease somewhat. Confidence indicators have been the primary cause of the recent volatility in the LEI, which may affect the impact of austerity measures on growth in the Euro Area in the medium term.”

After increasing in June, The Conference Board LEI for the Euro Area is 16.4 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 June. The index stands at 102.4 (2004 = 100) according to preliminary estimates*. It increased by 0.2 percent in May and decreased by 0.1 percent in April.

The Leading Economic Index Remains on an Upward Trend



Note: The vertical line represents the beginning of a recession in the Euro Area as determined by The Conference Board
 LEI Peak: June 2007 CEI Peak: February 2008 Real GDP Peak: Q1 2008

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

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.

Summary Table of Composite Indexes

| | Apr | 2010 May | Jun | 6-month Dec to Jun |
|--|---------|-------------|---------|-----------------------|
| Leading Economic Index (LEI) | 111.0 p | 110.7 p | 111.2 p | |
| Percent Change | 0.8 p | -0.3 p | 0.5 p | 4.3 p |
| Diffusion | 62.5 | 37.5 | 43.8 | 75.0 |
| Coincident Economic Index (CEI) | 102.2 p | 102.4 p | 102.4 p | |
| Percent Change | -0.1 p | 0.2 p | 0.0 p | 0.6 p |
| Diffusion | 37.5 | 87.5 | 37.5 | 62.5 |

n.a. Not available p Preliminary r Revised

Indexes equal 100 in 2004

Source: The Conference Board

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