



News Release

Follow The Conference Board
[twitter](#) [facebook](#) [Linked in](#)

For further information:

Carol Courter 212-339-0232 / courter@conference-board.org

Jonathan Liu 212-339-0257 / jonathan.liu@conference-board.org

For Release 10:00 AM ET, Thursday, April 18, 2013

The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) for the U.S. Declines Slightly

NEW YORK, April 18, 2013...The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) for the U.S. declined 0.1 percent in March to 94.7 (2004 = 100), following a 0.5 percent increase in February, and a 0.5 percent increase in January.

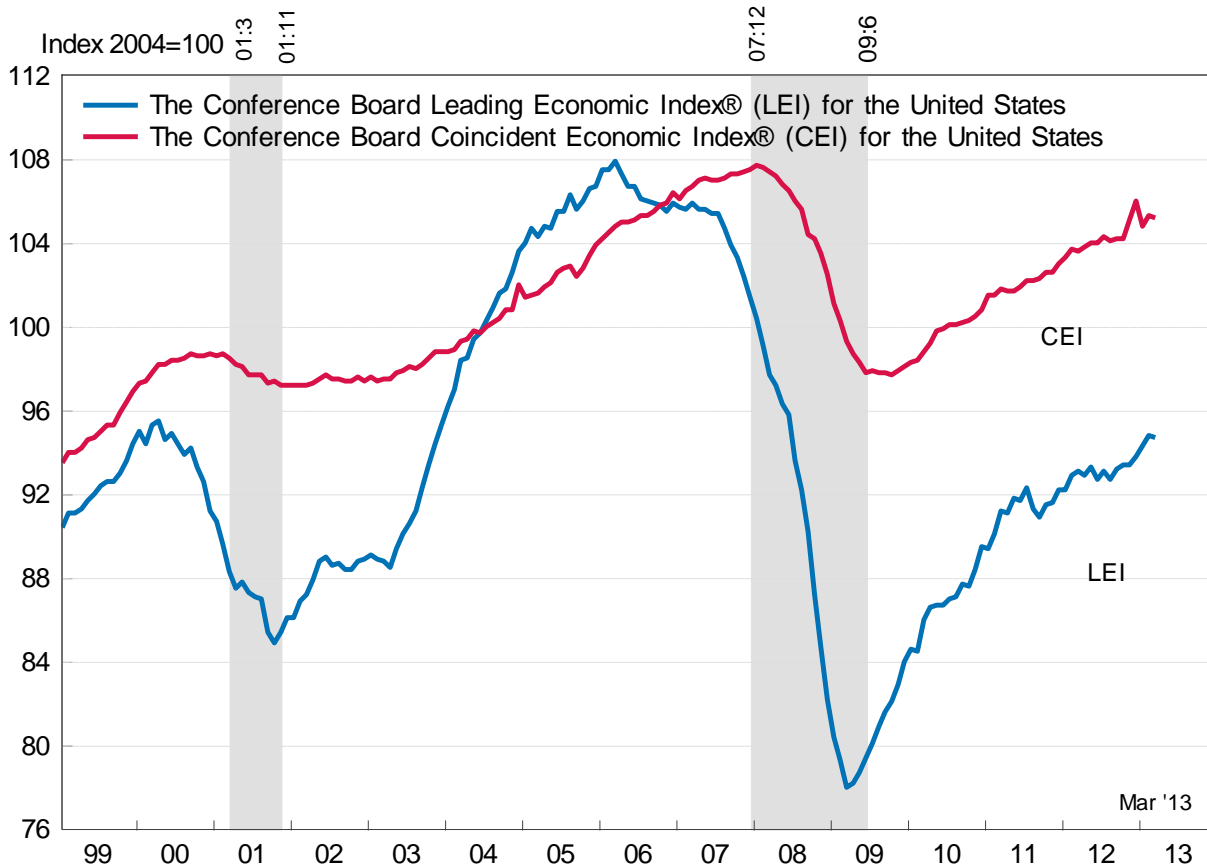
Says Ataman Ozyildirim, economist at The Conference Board: “After three consecutive gains, the U.S. LEI dipped slightly in March, with equally balanced strengths and weaknesses among its components. The leading indicator still points to a continuing but slow growth environment. Weakness in consumer expectations and housing permits was offset by the positive interest rate spread and other financial components. Meanwhile, the coincident economic index, a measure of current conditions, is down since December due to a large decline in personal income.”

Says Ken Goldstein, economist at The Conference Board: “Data for March reflect an economy that has lost some steam. In addition to headwinds from government spending cuts, the private sector economy may struggle to maintain its momentum. The biggest challenge remains weak demand, due to nervous consumer sentiment and slow income growth.”

The Conference Board Coincident Economic Index® (CEI) for the U.S. declined 0.1 percent in March to 105.2 (2004 = 100), following a 0.5 percent increase in February, and a 1.1 percent decline in January.

The Conference Board Lagging Economic Index® (LAG) increased 0.3 percent in March to 118.6 (2004 = 100), following no change in February, and a 1.7 percent increase in January.

The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) for the U.S. Declined Slightly in March



Latest LEI Trough March 2009, Latest CEI Trough October 2009

Shaded areas represent recessions as determined by the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Source: The Conference Board

Summary Table of Composite Economic Indexes

	2013			6-month Sep to Mar
	Jan	Feb	Mar	
Leading index	94.3	94.8	94.7 p	
Percent Change	.5	.5	-.1 p	1.6
Diffusion	60.0	80.0	50.0	80.0
Coincident Index	104.8 r	105.3 r	105.2 p	
Percent Change	-1.1 r	.5 r	-.1 p	1.0
Diffusion	25.0	100.0	75.0	75.0
Lagging Index	118.2 r	118.2 r	118.6 p	
Percent Change	1.7 r	.0 r	.3 p	2.4
Diffusion	92.9	50.0	50.0	71.4

n.a. Not available p Preliminary r Revised

Indexes equal 100 in 2004

Source: The Conference Board

About The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) for the U.S.

The composite economic indexes are the key elements in an analytic system designed to signal peaks and troughs in the business cycle. The leading, coincident, and lagging economic indexes are essentially composite averages of several individual leading, coincident, or lagging indicators. 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.

The ten components of **The Conference Board Leading Economic Index®** for the U.S. include:

- Average weekly hours, manufacturing
- Average weekly initial claims for unemployment insurance
- Manufacturers' new orders, consumer goods and materials
- ISM Index of New Orders
- Manufacturers' new orders, nondefense capital goods excluding aircraft orders
- Building permits, new private housing units
- Stock prices, 500 common stocks
- Leading Credit Index™*
- Interest rate spread, 10-year Treasury bonds less federal funds
- Average consumer expectations for business conditions

For full press release and technical notes:

<http://www.conference-board.org/data/bcicountry.cfm?cid=1>

For more information about The Conference Board global business cycle indicators:

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

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. www.conference-board.org

© The Conference Board 2013. All data contained in this table are protected by United States and international copyright laws. The data displayed are provided for informational purposes only and may only be accessed, reviewed, and/or used in accordance with, and the permission of, The Conference Board consistent with a subscriber or license agreement and the Terms of Use displayed on our website at www.conference-board.org. The data and analysis contained herein may not be used, redistributed, published, or posted by any means without express written permission from The Conference Board.

COPYRIGHT TERMS OF USE. All material in this press release and on Our Sites are protected by United States and international copyright laws. You must abide by all copyright notices and restrictions contained in Our Sites. You may not reproduce, distribute (in any form including over any local area or other network or service), display, perform, create derivative works of, sell, license, extract for use in a database, or otherwise use any materials (including computer programs and other code) in this press release or on Our Sites (collectively, "Site Material"), except that you may download Site Material in the form of one machine readable copy that you will use only for personal, noncommercial purposes, and only if you do not alter Site Material or remove any trademark, copyright or other notice displayed on the Site Material. If you are a subscriber to any of the services offered on Our Sites, you may be permitted to use Site Material, according to the terms of your subscription agreement.

TRADEMARKS. "THE CONFERENCE BOARD", the TORCH LOGO, "THE CONFERENCE BOARD LEADING ECONOMIC INDEX", "THE CONFERENCE BOARD COINCIDENT ECONOMIC INDEX", "THE CONFERENCE BOARD LAGGING ECONOMIC INDEX", and any other logos, indicia and trademarks featured on this press release or Our Sites are trademarks owned by The Conference Board, Inc. in the United States and other countries ("Our Trademarks"). You may not use Our Trademarks in connection with any product or service that does not belong to us nor in any manner that is likely to cause confusion among users about whether The Conference Board is the source, sponsor, or endorser of the product or service, nor in any manner that disparages or discredits us.

Violators of these rights will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. Nothing herein shall restrict the use of the information by news journalists using the information in a legitimate news publication or periodical.

Note:

Last year's January 2012 benchmark revision to The Conference Board US Leading Economic Indicators incorporated incorrect standardization factors for the Coincident Economic Index components (CEI). The level and monthly changes of the CEI were affected by the use of the incorrect standardization factors in January 2012 and throughout 2012, but the impact of this on the overall cyclical properties of the CEI was not material. Because the long term growth trend of the CEI is used to calculate the trend adjustment factors in the calculation of The Conference Board US Leading Economic Index (LEI) and Lagging Economic Index (LAG), the two were also minimally impacted. However, the general interpretation of the indexes would not have been significantly affected although regression models using the indexes may be affected. Starting with the January 2013 regular annual benchmark revisions, new standardization factors were calculated and the entire history of the CEI was revised. Thus, the currently published indexes are not impacted. For more information please go to the document on our website: <http://www.conference-board.org/data/bci/index.cfm?id=2161>