

THE CONFERENCE BOARD

FOR RELEASE: 10:00 A.M. (LONDON TIME), WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2015

The Conference Board[®] The U.K. Business Cycle Indicators[™] THE CONFERENCE BOARD LEADING ECONOMIC INDEX[®] (LEI) FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM AND RELATED COMPOSITE ECONOMIC INDEXES FOR NOVEMBER 2014

This month's release incorporates annual benchmark revisions to the composite economic indexes, which bring them up-to-date with revisions in the source data. Also, with this benchmark revision, the base year of the composite indexes was changed to 2010 = 100 from 2004 = 100. These revisions do not change the cyclical properties of the indexes. The indexes are updated throughout the year, but only for the previous six months. Data revisions that fall outside of the moving six-month window are not incorporated until the benchmark revision is made and the entire histories of the indexes are recomputed. As a result, the revised indexes, in levels and month-on-month changes, will not be directly comparable to those issued prior to the benchmark revision. For more information, please visit our website at http://www.conference-board.org/data/bci.cfm or contact us at indicators@conference-board.org.

BRUSSELS, January 14, 2015... The Conference Board Leading Economic Index[®] (LEI) for the U.K. declined 0.3 percent, and The Conference Board Coincident Economic Index[®] (CEI) increased 0.2 percent in November.

- The Conference Board LEI for the U.K. continued to decrease in November, with volume of expected output, order book volume and consumer confidence making large negative contributions. Between May and November 2014, the leading economic index improved 0.3 percent (about a 0.5 percent annual rate), down from its 2.2 percent growth (about a 3.1 percent annual rate) in the previous six months. Meanwhile, the weaknesses among the leading indicators have become more widespread than the strengths in the past six months.
- The Conference Board CEI for the U.K., a measure of current economic activity, improved slightly in November. In the six-month period ending in November 2014, the coincident economic index increased 0.7 percent (about a 1.2 percent annual rate), down from its growth of 1.5 percent (about a 3.4 percent annual rate) over the prior six months. The strengths among the coincident indicators, however, have remained very widespread, with all four components increasing over the past six months. Meanwhile, real GDP increased 2.7 percent (annual rate) in the third quarter of 2014, down from 3.5 percent (annual rate) in the second quarter.
- The LEI has declined for the third consecutive month, and consequently its six-month change has slowed considerably from the first half of 2014. Meanwhile, the CEI has been improving slowly, but its six-month change has eased in recent months. Taken together, the composite indexes suggest that economic activity will continue to improve, but the pace will remain moderate and is unlikely to accelerate in the near term.

<u>LEADING INDICATORS.</u> Four of the seven components that make up The Conference Board LEI for the U.K. increased in November. The positive contributors – from the largest positive contributor to the smallest – were the yield spread, stock prices, productivity for the whole economy*, and total gross operating surplus of corporations*. The negative contributors – from the largest negative contributor to the smallest – were volume of expected output, order book volume, and consumer confidence.

The next release is scheduled for Friday, February 13, 2015 at 2:30 P.M. (London time) In the U.S. – Friday, February 13, 2015 at 9:30 A.M. (ET) With the 0.3 percent decrease in November, The Conference Board LEI for the U.K. now stands at 111.6 (2010=100). Based on revised data, this index declined 0.3 percent in both October and September. During the six-month span through November, the leading economic index increased 0.3 percent, with three of the seven components advancing (diffusion index, six-month span equals 42.9 percent).

<u>COINCIDENT INDICATORS.</u> Three of the four components that make up The Conference Board CEI for the U.K. increased in November. The positive contributors – from the largest positive contributor to the smallest – were retail sales, real household disposable income*, and employment*, while industrial production declined in November.

With the increase of 0.2 percent in November, The Conference Board CEI for the U.K. now stands at 107.8 (2010=100). Based on revised data, this index increased 0.1 percent in October and remained unchanged in September. During the six-month period through November, the coincident economic index increased 0.7 percent, with all four components advancing (diffusion index, six-month span equals 100.0 percent).

DATA AVAILABILITY:

The data series used to compute **The Conference Board Leading Economic Index**[®] (LEI) for the U.K. and **The Conference Board Coincident Economic Index**[®] (CEI) for the U.K. reported in this release are those available "as of" 10 A.M. ET on Friday, January 9, 2015. Some series are estimated as noted below.

* Series in The Conference Board LEI for the U.K. that are based on our estimates are productivity for the whole economy and total gross operating surplus of corporations. Series in The Conference Board CEI for the U.K. that are based on our estimates are employment and real household disposable income.

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<u>THE CYCLICAL INDICATOR APPROACH.</u> The composite economic indexes are the key elements in an analytic system designed to signal peaks and troughs in the business cycle. The leading and coincident economic indexes are essentially composite averages of several individual leading or coincident indicators. (See page 3 for details.) 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.

Historically, the cyclical turning points in The Conference Board LEI for the U.K. have occurred before those in aggregate economic activity, while the cyclical turning points in The Conference Board CEI for the U.K. have occurred at about the same time as those in aggregate economic activity.

Further explanations of the cyclical indicator approach and the composite economic index methodology appear in The Conference Board's *Business Cycle Indicators* report and website: <u>http://www.conference-board.org/data/bci.cfm</u>.

Le	ading Economic Index	Factor
1	Order Book Volume	0.0576
2	Expected Output Volume	0.0456
3	Consumer Confidence	0.0977
4	All Share Price Index	0.0351
5	Yield Spread	0.0861
6	Productivity, Whole Economy	0.5608
7	Operating Surplus, Corporations	0.1171
Co	pincident Economic Index	
1	Industrial Production	0.0695
2	Retail Sales	0.0655
3	Employment	0.6930
4	Real Household Disposable Income	0.1720

U.K. Composite Economic Indexes: Components and Standardization Factors

Notes:

The component factors are inversely related to the standard deviation of the month-to-month changes in each component. They are used to equalize the volatility of the contribution from each component and are "normalized" to sum to 1.

These factors were revised effective with the release in January 2015, and all historical values for the two composite economic indexes were revised at this time to reflect the changes. (Under normal circumstances, updates to the leading and coincident economic indexes only incorporate revisions to data over the past six months.) The factors above for the leading economic index were calculated using 1977-2013 as the sample period for measuring volatility. Separate sets of factors for the 1975-1977 period, the 1974-1975 period, as well as the 1970-1974 period, are available upon request. The factors above for the coincident economic index were calculated using 1992-2013 as the sample period; separate sets of factors for the 1978-1992 period and the 1970-1978 period are available upon request. These multiple sample periods are the result of different starting dates for the component data. When one or more components are missing, the other factors are adjusted proportionately to ensure that their total continues to sum to 1. For additional information on the standardization factors and the index methodology visit our website: http://www.conference-board.org/data/bci.cfm.

The trend adjustment factor for the leading index is -0.0850, calculated over the 1970-2013 period.

To address the problem of lags in available data, those leading and coincident indicators that are not available at the time of publication are estimated using statistical imputation. An autoregressive model is used to estimate each component. The resulting indexes are constructed using real and estimated data, and will be revised as the data unavailable at the time of publication become available. Such monthly data revisions are now a regular part of the U.S. Business Cycle and Global Indicators program. The main advantage of this procedure is to utilize in the leading economic index the data such as bond yields, stock prices, and change in consumer confidence that are available sooner than other data on "real" aspects of the economy such as housing starts and new orders. Empirical research by The Conference Board suggests there are real gains in adopting this procedure to make all the indicator series as up-to-date as possible.

NOTICES

The Conference Board Leading Economic Index[®] (LEI) for the U.K. release schedule for 2015:

Friday, February 13, 2015	For	December	2014	data
Monday, March 16, 2015	For	January	2015	data
Wednesday, April 15, 2015	For	February	2015	data
Friday, May 15, 2015	For	March	2015	data
Tuesday, June 16, 2015	For	April	2015	data
Thursday, July 16, 2015	For	May	2015	data
Tuesday, August 11, 2015	For	June	2015	data
Tuesday, September 15, 2015	For	July	2015	data
Monday, October 12, 2015	For	August	2015	data
Friday, November 13, 2015	For	October	2015	data
Tuesday, December 15, 2015	For	September	2015	data

All releases are at 9:30 A.M. (ET).

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The Conference Board U.K. Business Cycle Indicators

				2014			
	May.	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.
Leading index	111.2	112.0	112.1 r	112.5 r	112.2 p	111.9 p	111.6 p
Percent change	0.5	0.7	0.1 r	0.4	-0.3 p	-0.3 p	-0.3 p
Diffusion index	64.3	85.7	57.1	57.1	57.1	57.1	57.1
Coincident index	107.1	107.2 r	107.4 r	107.5 r	107.5 p	107.6 p	107.8 p
Percent change	0.0	0.1 r	0.2	0.1 r	0.0 p	0.1 p	0.2 p
Diffusion index	50.0	75.0	75.0	62.5	62.5	75.0	75.0
	Nov to	Dec to	Jan to	Feb to	Mar to	Apr to	May to
	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Leading index							
Percent change	2.2	2.4 r	2.0 r	2.2 r	1.6 p	0.9 p	0.3 p
Diffusion index	64.3	71.4	78.6	85.7	100.0	57.1	42.9
Coincident index							
Percent change	1.5	1.4	1.4 r	1.3	0.9 p	0.5 p	0.7 p
Diffusion index	100.0	100.0	100.0	75.0	100.0	87.5	100.0

Table 1.--Summary of U.K. Composite Economic Indexes

p Preliminary. r Revised (noted only for index levels and one-month percent changes).

CALCULATION NOTE: The diffusion indexes measure the proportion of the components that are rising. Components that rise more than 0.05 percent are given a value of 1.0, components that change less than 0.05 percent are given a value of 0.5, and components that fall more than 0.05 percent are given a value of 0.0.

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Table 2Data and Net Contributions for Components of the U.K. Leading Economic Index 2014												
Component	May.		Jun.		Jul.		Aug.		Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	
-	U.K. Leading Economic Index component data											
Order Book Volume, CBI Monthly Enquiry (3 month moving average)	1.7		3.3		4.3		8.0		3.0	0.3	-2.3	
Volume of Expected Output, CBI Monthly Enquiry (3 month moving average)	27.7		32.0		30.0		29.7		28.0	25.3	19.0	
Consumer Confidence (3 month moving average)	5.5		6.9		6.6		6.3		5.0	5.1	3.8	
Stock prices, FTSE all share prices index (Apr. 10, 1962=100)	3643.0		3631.4		3610.3		3582.2		3613.8	3422.7	3550.8	
Yield Spread, 10 years minus Bank Rate	2.2		2.4		2.3		2.0		2.0	1.7	1.7	
Productivity, Whole Economy Index (2010=100, Q)	100.0	r	100.1	r	100.3	r	100.4	r	100.5 **	100.6 **	100.8 **	
Total Gross Operating Surplus of Corporations (Deflated with IPD, Q)	90829.9	r	91212.5	r	91593.8	r	91973.5	r	92261.1 **	92479.2 **	92666.4 **	
LEADING INDEX (2010=100)	111.2		112.0		112.1	r	112.5	r	112.2 p	111.9 p	111.6 p	
Percent change from preceding month	0.5		0.7		0.1	r	0.4		-0.3 p	-0.3 p	-0.3 p	
-	U.K. Leading Economic Index net contributions											
Order Book Volume, CBI Monthly Enquiry (3 month moving average)			0.09		0.06		0.21		-0.29	-0.16	-0.15	
Volume of Expected Output, CBI Monthly Enquiry (3 month moving average)			0.20		-0.09		-0.01		-0.08	-0.12	-0.29	
Consumer Confidence (3 month moving average)			0.14		-0.03		-0.03		-0.13	0.01	-0.13	
Stock prices, FTSE all share prices index (Apr. 10, 1962=100)			-0.01		-0.02		-0.03		0.03	-0.19	0.13	
Yield Spread, 10 years minus Bank Rate			0.21		0.20		0.17		0.17	0.15	0.15	
Productivity, Whole Economy Index (2010=100, Q)			0.07	r	0.07	r	0.08	r	0.06 **	0.07 **	0.08 **	
Total Gross Operating Surplus of Corporations (Deflated with IPD, Q)			0.05	r	0.05	r	0.05	r	0.04 **	0.03 **	0.02 **	

p Preliminary. r Revised. n.a. Not available. c Corrected.

* Inverted series; a negative change in this component makes a positive contribution to the index.

** Statistical Imputation (See page 2 for more details)

Q Quarterly series; these series are converted to a monthly series through a linear interpolation.

Data Sources: National Statistics, Haver Analytics, Bank of England, Confederation of British Industry and

The European Commission

CALCULATION NOTE -- The percent change in the index does not always equal the sum of the net contributions

of the individual components (because of rounding effects and base value differences).

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The Conference Board U.K. Business Cycle Indicators

Table 3.--Data and Net Contributions of the U.K. Coincident Economic Index

						2014					
Component	May.		Jun.	Jul.		Aug.		Sep.		Oct.	Nov.
	U.K Coincident Economic Index component data										
Industrial Production (2010=100)	98.0		98.1	98.3		98.1		98.8		98.5 r	98.4
Retail Sales, Volume (2010=100)	105.8	r	106.0 r	106.0		106.4	r	106.1	r	107.2 r	108.8
Employment (average, thousands)	30680.0		30682.0	30763.0		30793.0		30796.0	r	30811.7 **	30829.4 **
Real Household Disposable Income											
(2010 Chain Price, Q)	277592.0	r	277541.0 r	277490.0	r	277440.0	r	277742.2	**	278304.1 **	278966.7 **
COINCIDENT INDEX (2010=100)	107.1		107.2 r	107.4	r	107.5	r	107.5	р	107.6 p	107.8 p
Percent change from preceding month	0.0		0.1 r	0.2		0.1	r	0.0	р	0.1 p	0.2 p
_	U.K. Coincident Economic Index net contributions										
Industrial Production (2010=100)			0.01	0.01		-0.01		0.05		-0.02 r	-0.01
Retail Sales, Volume (2010=100)			0.01	0.00	r	0.02	r	-0.02		0.07 r	0.10
Employment (average, thousands)			0.00	0.18		0.07		0.01	r	0.04 **	0.04 **
Real Household Disposable Income											
(2010 Chain Price, Q)			0.00 r	0.00	r	0.00	r	0.02	**	0.03 **	0.04 **

p Preliminary. r Revised. n.a. Not available. c Corrected.

* Inverted series; a negative change in this component makes a positive contribution to the index.

** Statistical Imputation (See page 2 for more details)

Q Quarterly series; these series are converted to monthly through a linear interpolation.

Data Sources: National Statistics, Haver Analytics

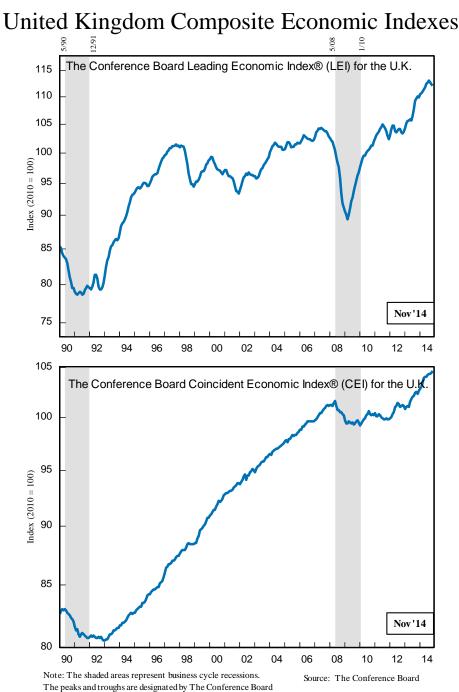
CALCULATION NOTE--The percent change in the index does not always equal the sum of the net contributions

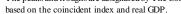
of the individual components (because of rounding effects and base value differences).

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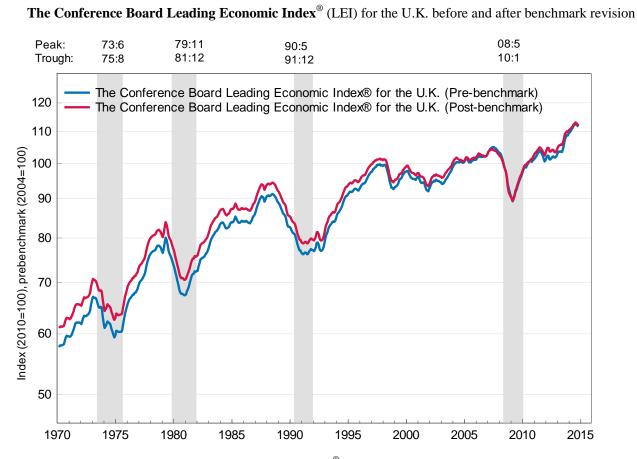




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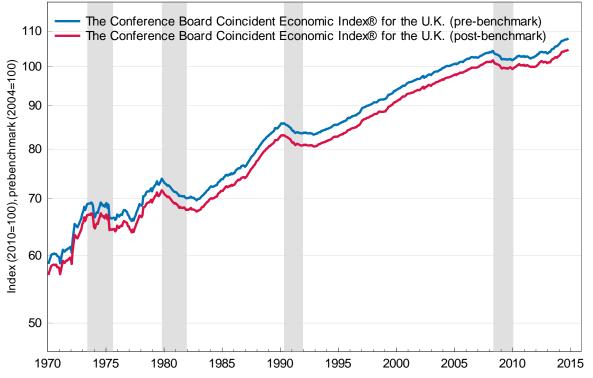
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The Conference Board Coincident Economic Index[®] (CEI) for the U.K. before and after benchmark revision





Note: The shaded areas represent business cycle recessions. The peaks and troughs are designated by The Conference Board based on the coincident index and real GDP.