



## THE CONFERENCE BOARD

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**For Release 10:00 AM ET, Thursday, November 19, 2009**

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

#### **Indicators Point to Slow Growth Through First Half of 2010**

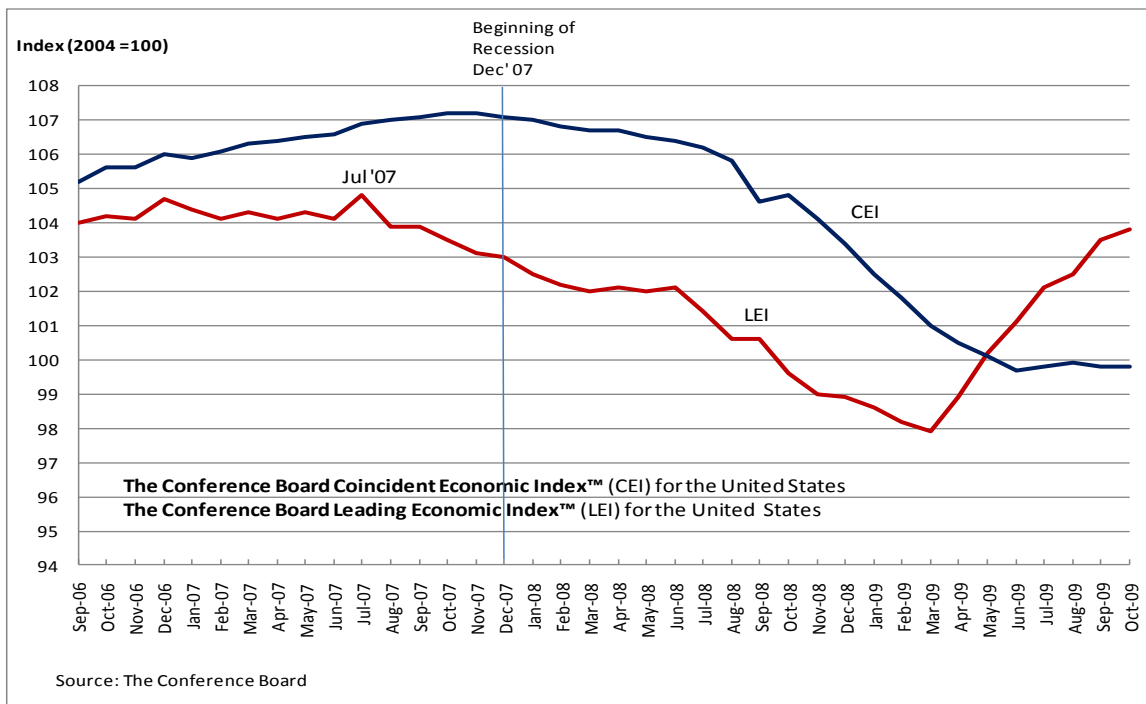
**NEW YORK, November 19, 2009...**The Conference Board Leading Economic Index™ (LEI) for the U.S. increased 0.3 percent in October, following a 1.0 percent gain in September, and a 0.4 percent rise in August.

Says Ataman Ozyildirim, Economist at The Conference Board: “After half a year of consecutive increases, the month-to-month growth of the LEI is stabilizing and the gains continue to be broad-based. Meanwhile, the coincident economic index has been essentially flat since June, after declining since November 2007. The composite indexes suggest the recovery is unfolding and economic activity should continue improving in the near term.”

Says Ken Goldstein, Economist at The Conference Board: “The data indicate that economic recovery is finally setting in. We can expect slow growth through the first half of 2010. The pace of growth, however, will depend critically on how much demand picks up, and how soon.”

**The Conference Board Coincident Economic Index™ (CEI)** for the U.S. was unchanged in October, following a 0.1 percent decline in September, and a 0.1 percent increase in August. **The Conference Board Lagging Economic Index™ (LAG)** declined 0.2 percent in October, following a 0.5 percent decline in September, and a 0.4 percent decline in August.

### **The Conference Board Leading Economic Index™ (LEI) for the U.S. Continues to Increase**



Summary Table of Composite Economic Indexes

	Aug	2009 Sep	Oct	6-month Apr to Oct
Leading index	102.5	103.5	103.8 p	
Percent Change	.4	1.0	.3 p	5.0
Diffusion	55.0	75.0	60.0	80.0
Coincident Index	99.9	99.8 p	99.8 p	
Percent Change	.1	-.1 p	.0 p	-0.7
Diffusion	25.0	50.0	75.0	25.0
Lagging Index	109.7 r	109.1 p	108.9 p	
Percent Change	-.4 r	-.5 p	-.2 p	-3.2
Diffusion	35.7	28.6	35.7	21.4

n.a. Not available    p Preliminary    r Revised  
Indexes equal 100 in 2004  
Source: The Conference Board