



THE CONFERENCE BOARD

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The Conference Board Leading Economic Index™ (LEI) for the U.S. Increases Again **Eighth Consecutive Increase; Indicators Point to Improving Economy**

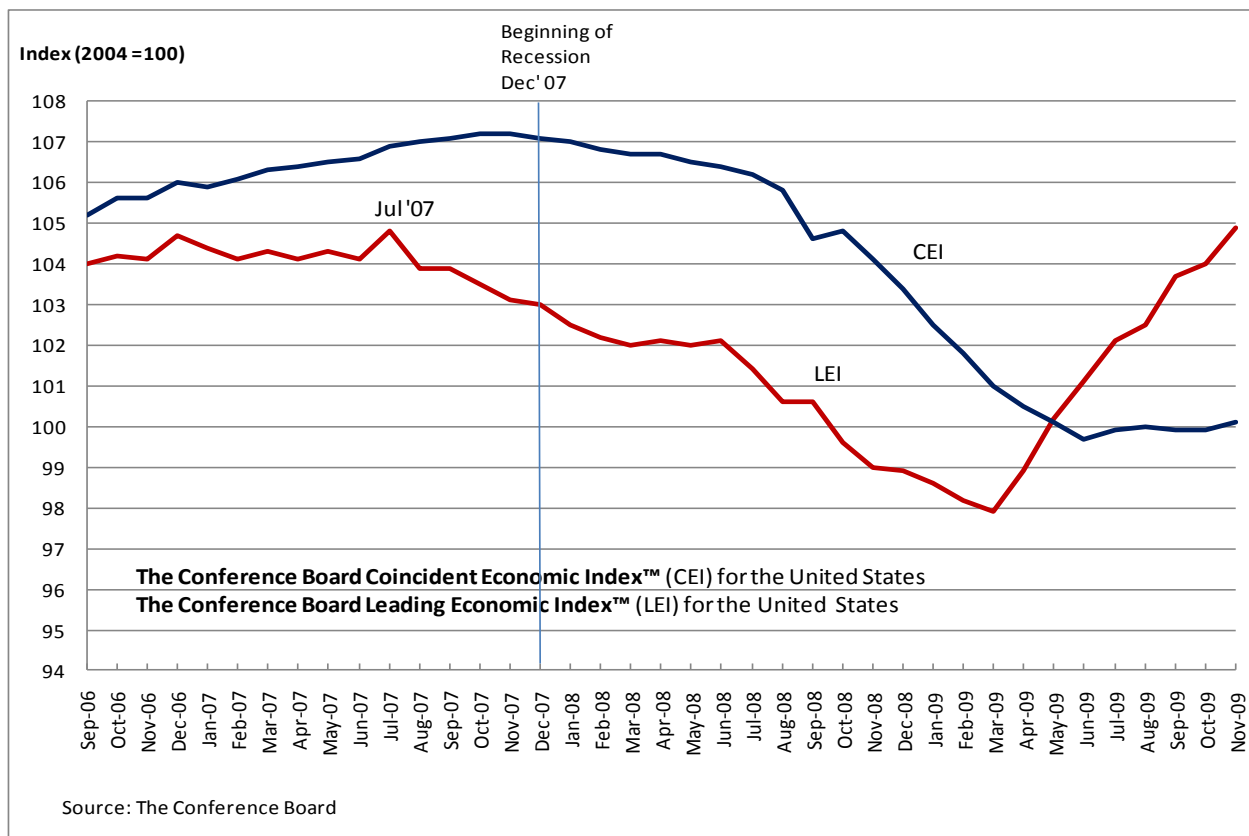
NEW YORK, December 17, 2009...The Conference Board Leading Economic Index™ (LEI) for the U.S. increased 0.9 percent in November, following a 0.3 percent gain in October, and a 1.2 percent rise in September.

Says Ataman Ozyildirim, Economist at The Conference Board: “The Conference Board LEI has been on an uptrend for more than half a year and it is now slightly higher than its latest peak in July 2007. Improving financial conditions, labor market indicators, and housing permits have helped the LEI continue its gains in November. However, its six-month growth rate has slowed somewhat in recent months.”

Says Ken Goldstein, Economist at The Conference Board: “The indicators point to a bright new year. The U.S. LEI increased for the eighth consecutive month. Looking ahead, we can expect a slowly improving economy through 2010. **The Conference Board Coincident Economic Index™ (CEI)** for the U.S. also increased in November. Employment largely held steady, making this the first month since December 2007 that it did not make a negative contribution to the index.”

The Conference Board Coincident Economic Index™ (CEI) for the U.S. rose 0.2 percent in November, following no change in October, and a 0.1 percent decline in September. **The Conference Board Lagging Economic Index™ (LAG)** declined 0.4 percent in November, following a 0.2 percent decline in October, and a 0.5 percent decline in September.

Eighth Consecutive Increase in the LEI



Summary Table of Composite Economic Indexes

	2009			6-month
	Sep	Oct	Nov	May to Nov
Leading index	103.7 r	104.0 r	104.9 p	
Percent Change	1.2 r	.3	.9 p	4.7
Diffusion	90.0	70.0	65.0	80.0
Coincident Index	99.9 r	99.9 p	100.1 p	
Percent Change	-.1	.0 p	.2 p	0.0
Diffusion	25.0	50.0	87.5	50.0
Lagging Index	109.3 r	109.1 p	108.7 p	
Percent Change	-.5	-.2 p	-.4 p	-2.7
Diffusion	21.4	35.7	50.0	21.4

n.a. Not available p Preliminary r Revised

Indexes equal 100 in 2004

Source: The Conference Board