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

Index Points to a Mild Pickup this Spring

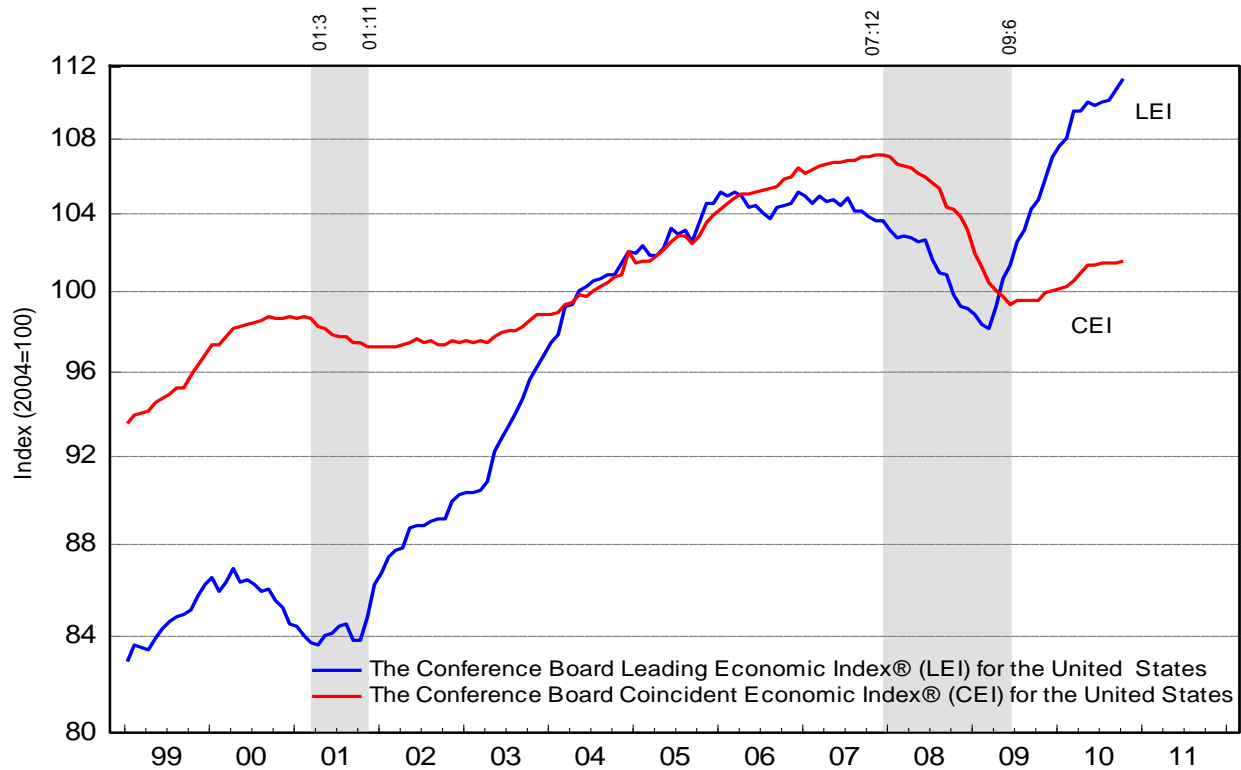
NEW YORK, November 18, 2010...The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) for the U.S. increased 0.5 percent in October to 111.3 (2004=100), following a 0.5 percent increase in September, and a 0.1 percent increase in August.

Says Ataman Ozyildirim, economist at The Conference Board: “The LEI remains on an upward trend, suggesting the modest economic expansion will continue in the near term. The LEI’s growth has been slowing this year, but gains in the financial components helped its pickup in October.”

Says Ken Goldstein, economist at The Conference Board: “The economy is slow, but latest data on the U.S. LEI suggest that change may be around the corner. Expect modest holiday sales, driven by steep discounting. But following a post-holiday lull, the indicators are suggesting a mild pickup this spring.”

The Conference Board Coincident Economic Index® (CEI) for the U.S. increased 0.1 percent in October to 101.5 (2004=100), following no change in September, and no change in August. **The Conference Board Lagging Economic Index® (LAG)** increased 0.1 percent in October to 108.7 (2004=100), following a 0.5 percent increase in September, and a 0.1 percent increase in August.

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Latest LEI Trough March 2009, Latest CEI Trough June 2009

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

Source: The Conference Board

Summary Table of Composite Economic Indexes

	2010			6-month
	Aug	Sep	Oct	Apr to Oct
Leading index	110.1	110.7 r	111.3 p	
Percent Change	.1	.5 r	.5 p	1.6
Diffusion	65.0	60.0	75.0	55.0
Coincident Index	101.4	101.4 p	101.5 p	
Percent Change	.0	.0 p	.1 p	0.6
Diffusion	50.0	50.0	87.5	100.0
Lagging Index	108.1 r	108.6 p	108.7 p	
Percent Change	.1	.5 p	.1 p	1.1
Diffusion	50.0	64.3	42.9	64.3

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
- Index of supplier deliveries – vendor performance
- Manufacturers' new orders, nondefense capital goods
- Building permits, new private housing units
- Stock prices, 500 common stocks
- Money supply, M2
- Interest rate spread, 10-year Treasury bonds less federal funds
- Index of consumer expectations

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>

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