



THE CONFERENCE BOARD

For further information:

Ken Goldstein 212-339-0331

Ken.goldstein@conference-board.org

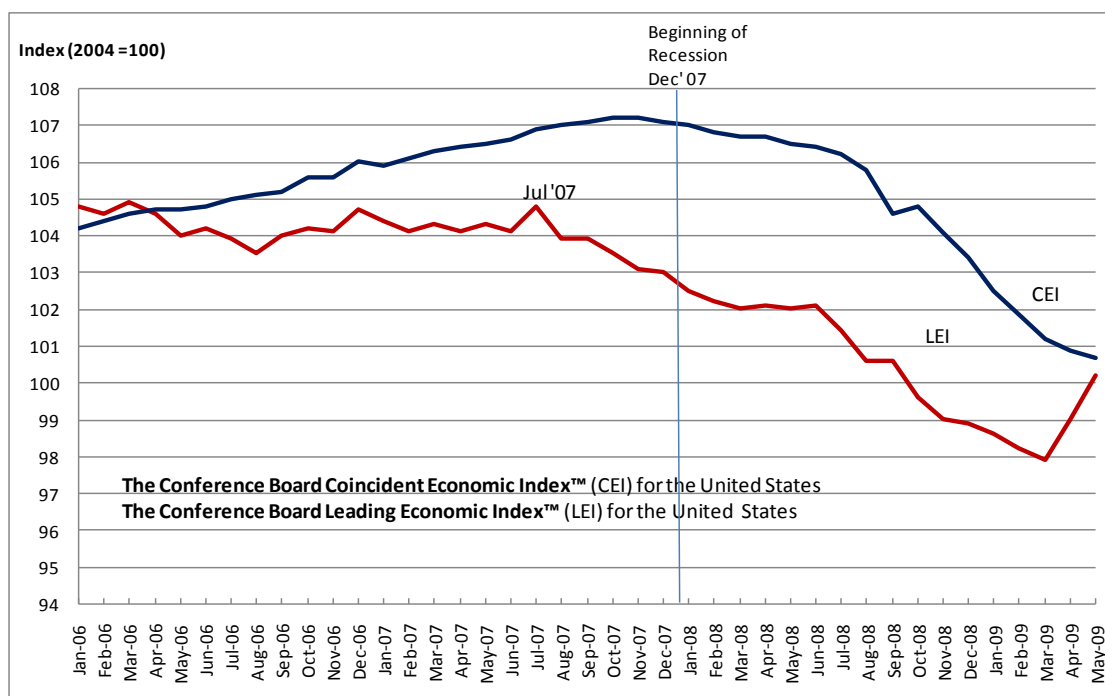
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The Conference Board Leading Economic Index™ (LEI) for the U.S. Improves Again

NEW YORK, June 18, 2009... The Conference Board Leading Economic Index™ (LEI) for the U.S. increased 1.2 percent in May, following a 1.1 percent increase in April, and a 0.3 percent decline in March.

Says Ken Goldstein, Economist at The Conference Board: "The leading economic index increased for the second consecutive month. The coincident economic index is still declining, but the declines are less intense. The recession is losing steam. Confidence is rebuilding and financial market volatility is abating. Even the housing market appears to be stabilizing. If these trends continue, expect a slow recovery beginning before the end of the year. However, employment will take longer to turn around."

The Conference Board Coincident Economic Index™ (CEI) for the U.S. declined 0.2 percent in May, following a 0.3 percent decline in April, and a 0.7 percent drop in March. **The Conference Board Lagging Economic Index™ (LAG)** declined 0.2 percent in May, following a 0.8 percent decline in April and a 0.6 percent decrease in March.



Summary Table of Composite Economic Indexes

	Mar	Apr	2009 May	6-month Nov to May
Leading index	97.9 r	99.0	100.2 p	
Percent Change	-.3 r	1.1 r	1.2 p	1.2
Diffusion	30.0	70.0	70.0	50.0
Coincident Index	101.2 r	100.9 p	100.7 p	
Percent Change	-.7 r	-.3 p	-.2 p	-3.3
Diffusion	0.0	50.0	50.0	0.0
Lagging Index	113.1	112.2 p	112.0 p	
Percent Change	-.6 r	-.8 p	-.2 p	-2.0
Diffusion	21.4	7.1	21.4	14.3

n.a. Not available p Preliminary r Revised

Indexes equal 100 in 2004

Source: The Conference Board