



THE CONFERENCE BOARD

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

Indicators Point to a Strengthening Recovery

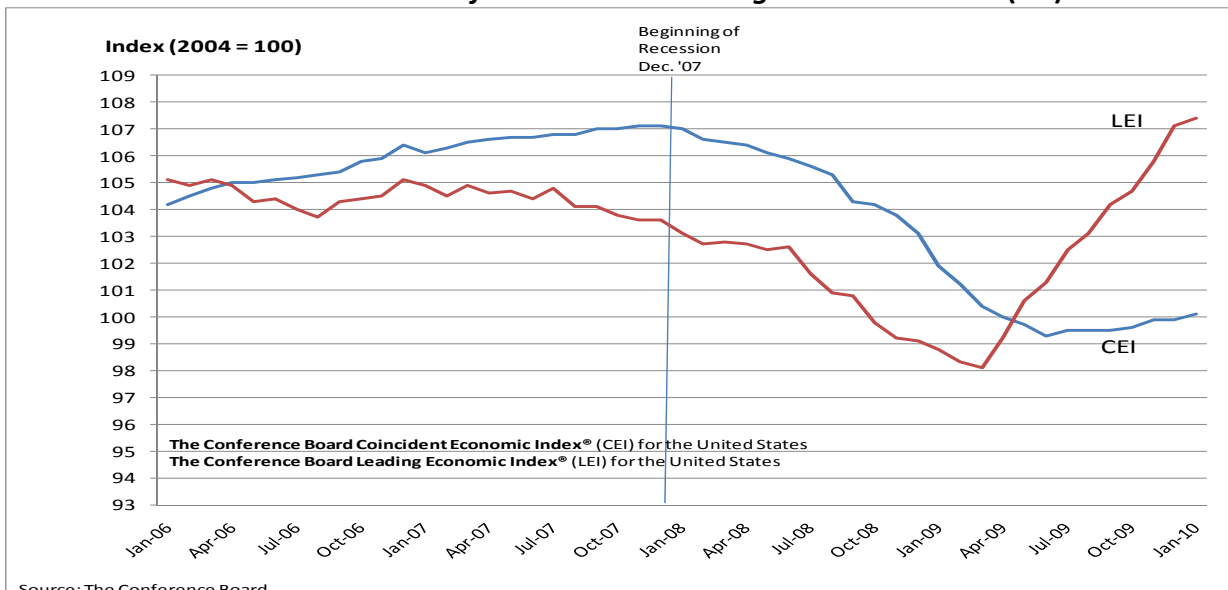
NEW YORK, February 18, 2010...The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) for the U.S. increased 0.3 percent in January, following a 1.2 percent gain in December, and a 1.1 percent rise in November.

Says Ataman Ozyildirim, Economist at The Conference Board: “The U.S. LEI has risen steadily for nearly a year, led by an improvement in financial markets and a manufacturing upturn. Consumer expectations and housing permits have also contributed to these gains over this period, but to a lesser extent – especially in recent months. Current economic conditions, as measured by **The Conference Board Coincident Economic Index® (CEI)**, have also improved modestly since July 2009, helped by strengthening industrial production, despite continued weakness in employment.”

Adds Ken Goldstein, Economist at The Conference Board: “The cumulative change in the U.S. LEI over the past six months has been a strong 9.8 percent, annualized. This signals continued economic recovery at least through the spring.”

The Conference Board Coincident Economic Index® (CEI) for the U.S. rose 0.2 percent in January, following no change in December, and a 0.3 percent increase in November. **The Conference Board Lagging Economic Index® (LAG)** declined 0.1 percent in January, following a 0.3 percent decline in December, and a 0.7 percent decline in November.

Tenth Consecutive Increase in The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) for the U.S.



Summary Table of Composite Economic Indexes

	2009		2010	6-month
	Nov	Dec	Jan	Jul to Jan
Leading index	105.8	107.1	107.4 p	
Percent Change	1.1	1.2	.3 p	4.8
Diffusion	70.0	100.0	55.0	80.0
Coincident Index	99.9 r	99.9 p	100.1 p	
Percent Change	.3 r	.0 p	.2 p	0.6
Diffusion	87.5	62.5	87.5	75.0
Lagging Index	108.4 r	108.1 p	108.0 p	
Percent Change	-.7 r	-.3 p	-.1 p	-2.4
Diffusion	21.4	28.6	35.7	21.4

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

This month's release incorporates benchmark revisions that resulted from revisions in the underlying data for manufacturers' new orders for consumer goods and materials and manufacturers' new orders for non-defense capital goods. As a result, the standardization factors of these two components and the history of the leading economic index were recomputed. The impact of these revisions on the leading economic index is minimal, but the revised index will no longer be directly comparable to those issued prior to the benchmark revision. For further information please contact indicators@conference-board.org