



# THE CONFERENCE BOARD

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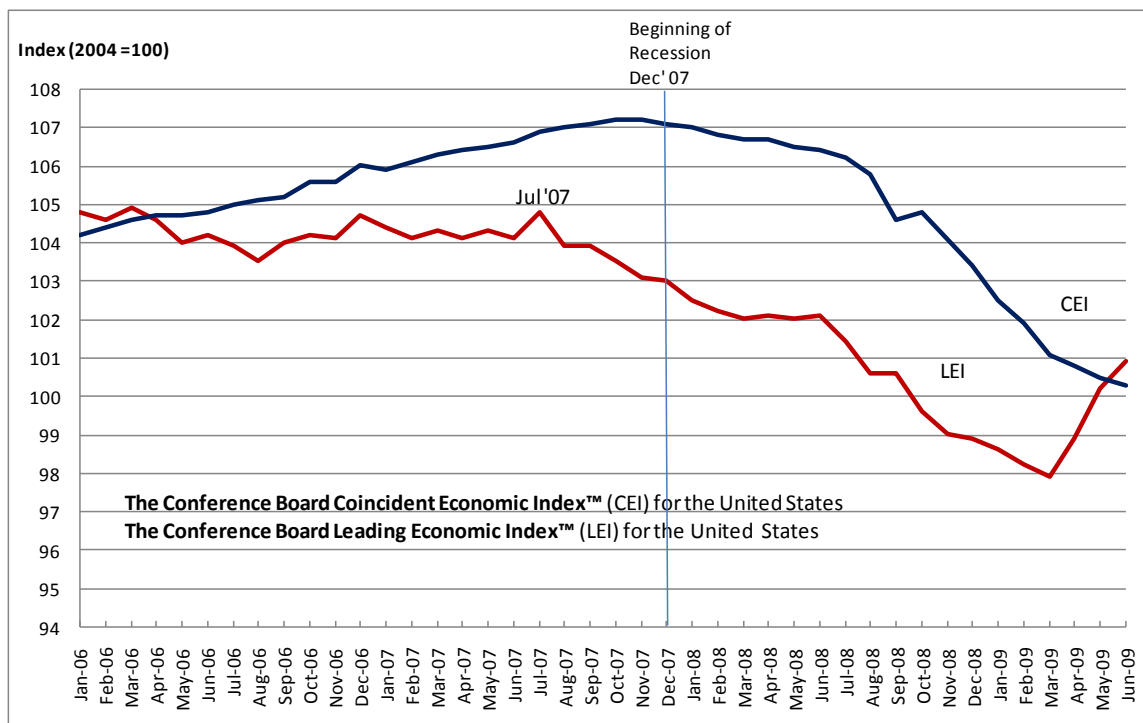
**For Release 10:00 AM ET, Monday, July 20, 2009**

## **The Conference Board Leading Economic Index™ (LEI) for the U.S. Improves Again** **Third Consecutive Increase**

**NEW YORK, July 20, 2009...**The Conference Board Leading Economic Index™ (LEI) for the U.S. increased 0.7 percent in June, following a 1.3 percent gain in May, and a 1.0 percent rise in April. Over the past six months, the U.S. LEI has improved 4.1 percent (annual rate).

Says Ken Goldstein, Economist at The Conference Board: “The recession has been losing steam since the spring, although very large job losses continue. Nevertheless, confidence is slowly rebuilding. Financial markets are less volatile. Even the housing market is stabilizing. If these trends continue, expect a slow recovery this autumn.”

**The Conference Board Coincident Economic Index™ (CEI) for the U.S.** declined 0.2 percent in June, following a 0.3 percent decline in May, and a 0.3 percent decline in April. **The Conference Board Lagging Economic Index™ (LAG) for the U.S.** declined 0.7 percent in June, following a 0.4 percent decline in May, and a 0.9 percent decline in April.



Summary Table of Composite Economic Indexes

	Apr	May	2009 Jun	6-month Dec to Jun
Leading index	98.9 r	100.2	100.9 p	
Percent Change	1.0 r	1.3 r	.7 p	2.0
Diffusion	70.0	70.0	70.0	50.0
Coincident Index	100.8 r	100.5 p	100.3 p	
Percent Change	-.3	-.3 p	-.2 p	-3.0
Diffusion	25.0	37.5	50.0	0.0
Lagging Index	112.1 r	111.6 p	110.8 p	
Percent Change	-.9 r	-.4 p	-.7 p	-3.0
Diffusion	7.1	14.3	14.3	0.0

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