



THE CONFERENCE BOARD

FOR RELEASE: 10:00 A.M. (MADRID TIME), TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2010

The Conference Board®
Spain Business Cycle IndicatorsSM
**THE CONFERENCE BOARD LEADING ECONOMIC INDEX® (LEI)
FOR SPAIN
AND RELATED COMPOSITE INDEXES FOR MARCH 2010**

BRUSSELS, May 18, 2010... The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) for Spain remained unchanged and The Conference Board Coincident Economic Index® (CEI) increased 0.1 percent in March.

- The Conference Board LEI for Spain remained unchanged in March, following two consecutive declines. Positive contributions from stock prices and the inverted long-term government bond yield were offset by a decline in the Spanish contribution to Euro M2. Between September 2009 and March 2010, the leading economic index declined by 1.1 percent (about a -2.2 percent annual rate), a reversal from the 3.8 percent increase (about a 7.7 percent annual rate) between March and September 2009. In addition, the weaknesses among the leading indicators have been widespread in recent months.
- The Conference Board CEI for Spain, a measure of current economic activity, increased in March for the first time in six months. Between September 2009 and March 2010, the coincident economic index decreased by 0.2 percent (about a -0.4 percent annual rate), slower than the 1.4 percent decline (about a -2.7 percent annual rate) during the previous six months. Additionally, the strengths among the coincident indicators have become slightly more widespread than the weaknesses in recent months. At the same time, real GDP contracted at a 0.6 percent annual rate during the fourth quarter of 2009, following a decline of 1.1 percent annual rate during the third quarter.
- Before this month, The Conference Board LEI for Spain had resumed declining, after rising from April to September of last year. In addition, its six-month growth rate has remained negative. Meanwhile, The Conference Board CEI has been relatively flat since the middle of 2009, following a long and steep period of decline. Taken together, the recent behavior of the composite indexes suggests that the economy is likely to remain weak in the near term.

LEADING INDICATORS. Three of the six components that make up The Conference Board LEI for Spain increased in March. The positive contributors—in order from the largest positive contributor to the smallest—are the Spanish equity price index, the inverted long-term government bond yield and order books survey. The negative contributors—in order from the largest negative contributor to the smallest—are the Spanish contribution to Euro M2 and job placings. The capital equipment component of industrial production remained unchanged in March.

The next release is scheduled for Wednesday, June 16, 2010 at 10:00 A.M. (Madrid Time)

In the U.S. – June 16, 2010 at 4:00 A.M. (ET)

After remaining unchanged in March, The Conference Board LEI for Spain now stands at 108.8 (2004=100). Based on revised data, this index declined 0.5 percent in February and declined 0.2 percent in January. During the six-month span through March, the index decreased 1.1 percent, and one of the six components advanced (diffusion index, six-month span equals 25.0 percent).

COINCIDENT INDICATORS. Four of the five components that make up The Conference Board CEI for Spain increased in March. The positive contributors — in order from the largest positive contributor to the smallest — are retail sales survey, final household consumption*, real imports* and industrial production excluding construction. Employment* declined in March.

With the increase of 0.1 percent in March, The Conference Board CEI for Spain now stands at 99.9 (2004=100). Based on revised data, this index remained unchanged in February and decreased 0.1 percent in January. During the six-month span through March, the index decreased 0.2 percent, and three of the five components advanced (diffusion index, six-month span equals 60.0 percent).

FOR TABLES AND CHARTS, SEE BELOW

DATA AVAILABILITY. The data series used to compute **The Conference Board Leading Economic Index**[®] (LEI) for Spain and **The Conference Board Coincident Economic Index**[®] (CEI) for Spain reported in the tables in this release are those available “as of” 10 A.M. (ET) May 13, 2010. Some series are estimated as noted below.

NOTES: Series in The Conference Board CEI for Spain that are based on our estimates include final household consumption, employment and real imports.

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THE CYCLICAL INDICATOR APPROACH. The composite economic indexes are the key elements in an analytic system designed to signal peaks and troughs in the business cycle. The leading and coincident economic indexes are essentially composite averages of several individual leading or coincident indicators. (See page 3 for details.) 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.

Historically, the cyclical turning points in The Conference Board LEI for Spain have occurred before those in aggregate economic activity, while the cyclical turning points in The Conference Board CEI for Spain have occurred at about the same time as those in aggregate economic activity.

Further explanations of the cyclical indicator approach and the composite economic index methodology appear in The Conference Board's *Business Cycle Indicators* report and website: <http://www.conference-board.org/economics/bci/>.

Spain Composite Economic Indexes: Components and Standardization Factors

<u>Leading Economic Index</u>	<u>Factor</u>
1. Capital Equipment Component of Industrial Production	.0477
2. Contribution to Euro M2	.1933
3. Stock Price Index	.0282
4. Long term Government Bond Yield	.5398
5. Order Books Survey	.1202
6. Job Placings	.0708
<u>Coincident Economic Index</u>	
1. Final Household Consumption	.3744
2. Industrial Production, Excluding Construction	.1730
3. Retail Sales Survey	.0393
4. Real Imports	.0361
5. Employment	.3772

Notes:

The component factors are inversely related to the standard deviation of the month-to-month changes in each component. They are used to equalize the volatility of the contribution from each component and are “normalized” to sum to 1.

These factors were revised effective on the release for January 2010, and all historical values for the two composite indexes were revised at this time to reflect the changes. (Under normal circumstances, updates to the leading and coincident economic indexes only incorporate revisions to data over the past six months.) The factors above for The Conference Board LEI for Spain were calculated using the October 1997 to December 2008 period as the sample period for measuring volatility. A separate set of factors for the February 1984 to September 1997 period, is available upon request. The factors above for The Conference Board CEI for Spain were calculated using the February 1995 to December 2008 period as the sample period. Separate sets of factors for the February 1984 to January 1985 period, the February 1985 to October 1994 period, and the November 1994 to January 1995 period are available upon request. These multiple sample periods are the result of different starting dates for the component data. When one or more components are missing, the other factors are adjusted proportionately to ensure that the total continues to sum to 1. For additional information on the standardization factors and the index methodology visit our website: <http://www.conference-board.org/economics/bci/>.

The trend adjustment factor for The Conference Board LEI for Spain is 0.0211, calculated over the 1984-2008 period.

To address the problem of lags in available data, those leading and coincident indicators that are not available at the time of publication are estimated using statistical imputation. An autoregressive model is used to estimate each component. The resulting indexes are constructed using real and estimated data, and will be revised as the data unavailable at the time of publication become available. Such revisions are part of the monthly data revisions, now a regular part of the U.S. Business Cycle Indicators program. The main advantage of this procedure is to utilize in the leading economic index the data, such as stock prices, that are available sooner than other data on “real” aspects of the economy, such as new orders and changes in inventory. Empirical research by The Conference Board suggests there are real gains in adopting this procedure to make all the indicator series as up-to-date as possible.

NOTICES

The 2010 schedule for “**The Conference Board Leading Economic Index**® (LEI) for Spain” news release is:

April 2010 Data.....	Wednesday, June 16, 2010
May 2010 Data.....	Thursday, July 15, 2010
June 2010 Data.....	Thursday, August 12, 2010
July 2010 Data.....	Wednesday, September 15, 2010
August 2010 Data.....	Friday, October 15, 2010
September 2010 Data.....	Thursday, November 16, 2010
October 2010 Data.....	Tuesday, December 14, 2010

All releases are at 10:00 A.M. (Madrid Time)

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE BOARD

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Individual Data Series	\$ 35 per series downloaded
Monthly BCI Report <i>(Sample available at http://www.conference-board.org/publications/describeBCI.cfm)</i>	\$ 275 per year
BCI Handbook (published 2001)	\$ 20
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The Conference Board Spain Business Cycle Indicators

Table 1.--Summary of Spain Composites Economic Indexes

	2009			2010			
	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
Leading index	110.0	109.9 r	109.3	109.6	109.4 r	108.8 r	108.8 p
Percent change	0.2	-0.1 r	-0.5	0.3	-0.2 r	-0.5	0.0 p
Diffusion index	75.0	25.0	41.7	75.0	33.3	8.3	58.3
Coincident index	100.1	100.0	99.9	99.9 p	99.8 p	99.8 p	99.9 p
Percent change	0.1	-0.1	-0.1	0.0 p	-0.1 p	0.0 p	0.1 p
Diffusion index	80.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	50.0	70.0
	Mar to Sep	Apr to Oct	May to Nov	Jun to Dec	Jul to Jan	Aug to Feb	Sep to Mar
Leading index							
Percent change	3.8	3.4 r	2.6	2.5	1.3 r	-0.9 r	-1.1 p
Diffusion index	66.7	66.7	66.7	66.7	58.3	16.7	25.0
Coincident index							
Percent change	-1.4	-1.0	-0.4	-0.2 p	-0.2 p	-0.2 p	-0.2 p
Diffusion index	40.0	30.0	40.0	60.0	40.0	40.0	60.0

p Preliminary. r Revised (noted only for index levels and one-month percent changes).

CALCULATION NOTE: The diffusion indexes measure the proportion of the components that are rising. Components that rise

more than 0.05 percent are given a value of 1.0, components that change less than 0.05 percent are given a value of 0.5, and components that fall more than 0.05 percent are given a value of 0.0.

For more information, visit our Web site at www.conference-board.org/economics/bci

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The Conference Board Spain Business Cycle Indicators

Table 2.--Data and Net Contributions for Components of the Spain Leading Economic Index

Component	2009				2010		
	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
Spain Leading Economic Index component data							
Capital Equipment Component of Industrial Production(3 month moving average, s.a.).....	86.0 r	85.8 r	78.5 r	77.6 r	76.9 r	75.4 r	75.4
Spanish Contribution to Euro M2 (s.a.).....	964609.87 r	961475.76 r	951663.82 r	952954.77 r	963970.45 r	960647.62 r	950381.45
Spanish Equity Price Index.....	1229.4	1194.2	1215.1	1241.7	1140.6	1074.2	1123.1
Longterm Government Bond Yield (Inverted).....	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	4.0	4.0	3.8
Order Books Survey (3 month moving average, s.a.)....	-2.20	-1.443 r	-0.609	0.794	1.871	0.669 r	1.00
Job Placings (3 month moving average, s.a.).....	1209.2 r	1187.0 r	1184.6 r	1188.7 r	1154.4 r	1141.7 r	1129.5
LEADING INDEX (2004=100).....	110.0	109.9	109.3	109.6	109.4	108.8	108.8 p
Percent change from preceding month.....	0.2	-0.1 r	-0.5	0.3	-0.2	-0.5	0.0 p
Spain Leading Economic Index net contributions							
Capital Equipment Component of Industrial Production(3 month moving average, s.a.).....	....	-0.01 r	-0.43 r	-0.05	-0.04 r	-0.09 r	0.00
Spanish Contribution to Euro M2 (s.a.).....	....	-0.06	-0.20	0.03	0.22 r	-0.07 r	-0.21
Spanish Equity Price Index.....	....	-0.08	0.05	0.06	-0.24	-0.17	0.13
Longterm Government Bond Yield (Inverted).....	....	0.02	-0.01	-0.01	-0.10	0.01	0.08
Order Books Survey (3 month moving average, s.a.)....	....	0.09	0.10 r	0.17 r	0.13 r	-0.14 r	0.03
Job Placings (3 month moving average, s.a.).....	....	-0.13	-0.01	0.02	-0.21 r	-0.08	-0.08

p Preliminary. r Revised. s.a. Seasonally Adjusted

* Inverted series; a negative change in this component makes a positive contribution to the index.

** Statistical Imputation (See page 2 for more details)

Q Quarterly series; these series are converted to a monthly series through a linear interpolation.

Data Sources: Ministerio de Economía y Hacienda, IMF, OECD, Thomson Financial

CALCULATION NOTE--The percent change in the index does not always equal the sum of the net contributions of the individual components (because of rounding effects and base value differences).

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The Conference Board Spain Business Cycle Indicators

Table 3.--Data and Net Contributions for Spain Coincident Economic Index

Component	2009				2010		
	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
Spain Coincident Economic Index component data							
Final Household Consumption (Q).....	111.4	111.5	111.7	111.9 **	112.1 **	112.2 **	112.4 **
Industrial Production, Excluding Construction 2005=100(3 month moving average).....	84.1 r	84.0 r	83.8 r	83.7	83.7 r	83.7 r	83.7
Real Imports, millions of Euro, 2000 prices..... (3 month moving average)	18045.50	18130.80	18328.20	18200.30	18214.10	18149.80 r	18177.70 **
Retail Sales Survey (s.a.) #.....	101.5 r	100.6 r	98.8 r	101.9	100.0 r	100.9 r	104.7
Employment (Q) (Thousands, s.a.)	18942.6	18893.7	18844.9	18797.9 **	18752.6 **	18708.9 **	18666.8 **
COINCIDENT INDEX (2004=100).....	100.1	100.0	99.9	99.9	99.8 p	99.8 p	99.9 p
Percent change from preceding month.....	0.1	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	-0.1 p	0.0 p	0.1 p
Spain Coincident Economic Index net contributions							
Final Household Consumption (Q).....	....	0.03	0.06	0.06 **	0.06 **	0.06 **	0.06 **
Industrial Production, Excluding Construction 2005=100(3 month moving average).....	....	-0.02 r	-0.03 r	-0.02 r	-0.01 r	0.00 r	0.01
Real Imports, millions of Euro, 2000 prices.....	....	0.02	0.04	-0.03	0.00	-0.01 r	0.01 **
Retail Sales Survey (s.a.) #.....	....	-0.03	-0.07 r	0.12	-0.07	0.03 r	0.15
Employment (Q) (Thousands, s.a.) .....	....	-0.10	-0.10	-0.09 **	-0.09 **	-0.09 **	-0.08 **

p Preliminary. r Revised. s.a. Seasonally Adjusted

* Inverted series; a negative change in this component makes a positive contribution to the index.

** Statistical Imputation (See page 2 for more details)

Since April 2002, the Retail Sales Survey rebased from 1995=100 to 2001=100

Data Sources: Ministerio de Economía y Hacienda, IMF, OECD, Thomson Financial

CALCULATION NOTE--The percent change in the index does not always equal the sum of the net contributions of the individual components (because of rounding effects and base value differences).

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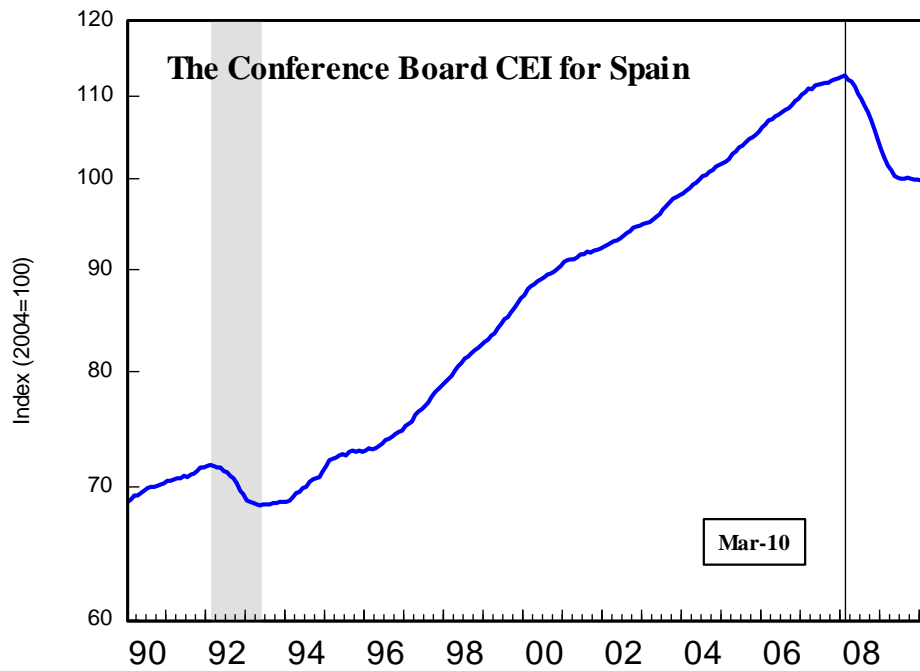
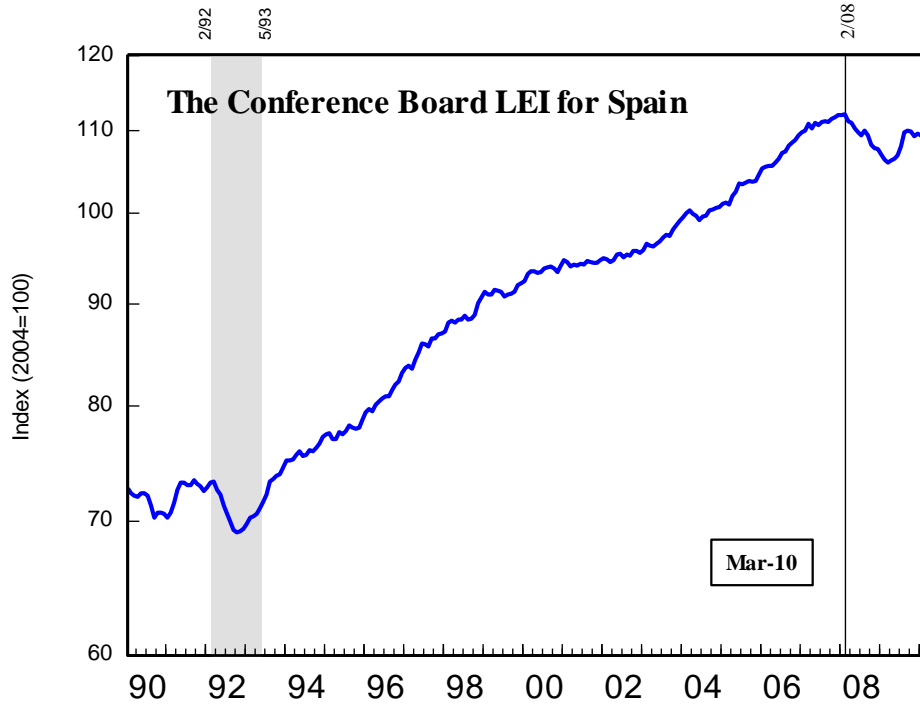
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Spain Composite Economic Indexes



Note: The shaded areas represent business cycle recessions.
The peaks and troughs are designated by The Conference Board
based on the coincident index and real GDP.

Source: The Conference Board