



THE CONFERENCE BOARD

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The Conference Board Leading Economic Index™ (LEI) for the U.K.

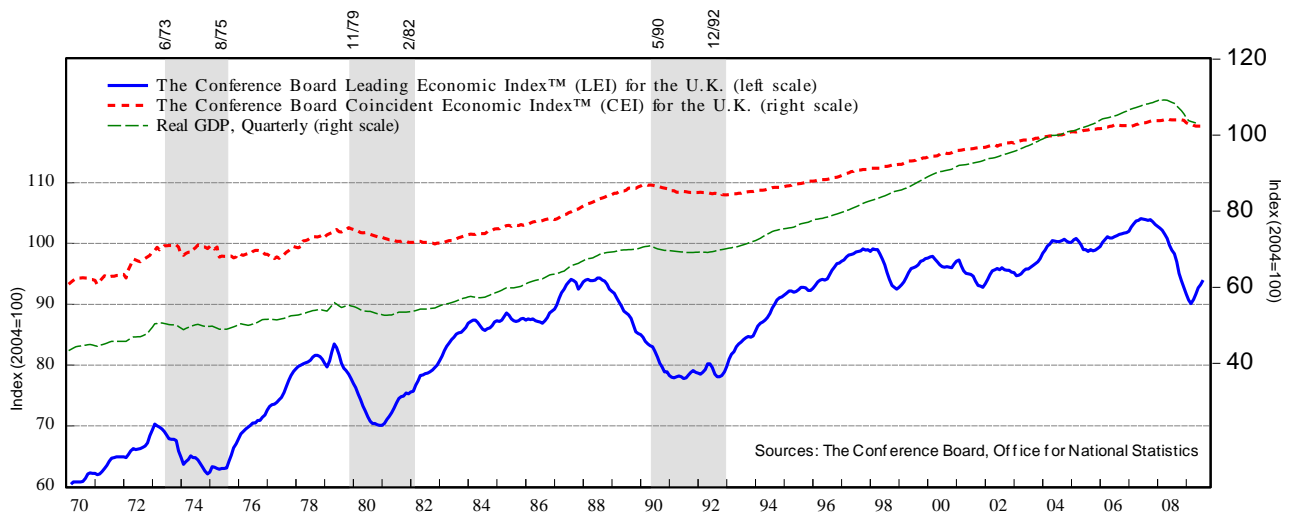
Increases Again in August

BRUSSELS, October 8, 2009... The Conference Board Leading Economic Index™ (LEI) for the U.K. increased by 0.9 percent in August to 94.0 (2004 = 100), following gains of 0.5 percent in July and 1.1 percent in June. Stock prices, the yield spread, volume of expected output and consumer confidence made the largest positive contributions to the index.

Said Jean-Claude Manini, The Conference Board Senior Economist for Europe: “Despite its fifth consecutive monthly increase, the improvement in the LEI for the United Kingdom remains milder than that in the [Euro Area LEI](#). The recovery in economic activity in the U.K. is likely to arrive later and may be even weaker than the recovery expected in the Euro Area in the near future.”

The Conference Board LEI for the U.K. increased for a fifth consecutive month in August after a long period of decline. At the same time, **The Conference Board Coincident Economic Index™ (CEI)** for the U.K., a measure of current economic activity, decreased 0.1 percent in August, after remaining unchanged in both July and June. The index now stands at 102.3 (2004 = 100).

The Conference Board LEI for the U.K. shows improvement during the past five months



Note: Shaded areas represent recessions in the U.K. as determined by The Conference Board
LEI Peak: June 2007 CEI Peak: May 2008 Real GDP Peak: Q1 2008

The Conference Board LEI for the U.K. aggregates seven economic indicators that measure activity in the U.K., each of which has proven accurate on its own. Aggregating individual indicators into a composite index filters out so-called “noise” to show underlying trends more clearly.

The seven components of **The Conference Board Leading Economic Index™** for the U.K. include:

- Order Book Volume (source: Confederation of British Industry)
- Volume of Expected Output (source: Confederation of British Industry)
- Consumer Confidence Indicator (source: European Commission)
- FTSE All-Share Index (source: FTSE Group)
- Yield Spread (source: Bank of England)
- Productivity, Whole Economy (Office for National Statistics)
- Total Gross Operating Surplus of Corporations (Office for National Statistics)

Plotted back to 1970, this index has successfully signaled turning points in the U.K. business cycles. The Conference Board currently produces leading economic indexes for the Euro Area and eight other countries, including the U.S., Germany, France, Spain, Japan, Australia, Korea and Mexico.

To view The Conference Board calendar of 2009 indicator releases:

<http://www.conference-board.org/economics/indicators.cfm>

For more information: <http://www.conference-board.org/economics/bci/>

For full press release: http://www.conference-board.org/economics/bci/pressRelease_output.cfm?cid=2

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Summary Table of Composite Economic Indexes

	2009			6-month
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Feb to Aug
Leading Economic Index (LEI)	92.7 p	93.2 p	94.0 p	
Percent Change	1.1 p	0.5 p	0.9 p	3.6
Diffusion	71.4	71.4	71.4	71.4
Coincident Economic Index (CEI)	102.4 p	102.4 p	102.3 p	
Percent Change	0.0 p	0.0 p	-0.1 p	-0.6
Diffusion	75.0	87.5	50.0	50.0

n.a. Not available p Preliminary r Revised

Indexes equal 100 in 2004

Source: The Conference Board

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