



THE CONFERENCE BOARD

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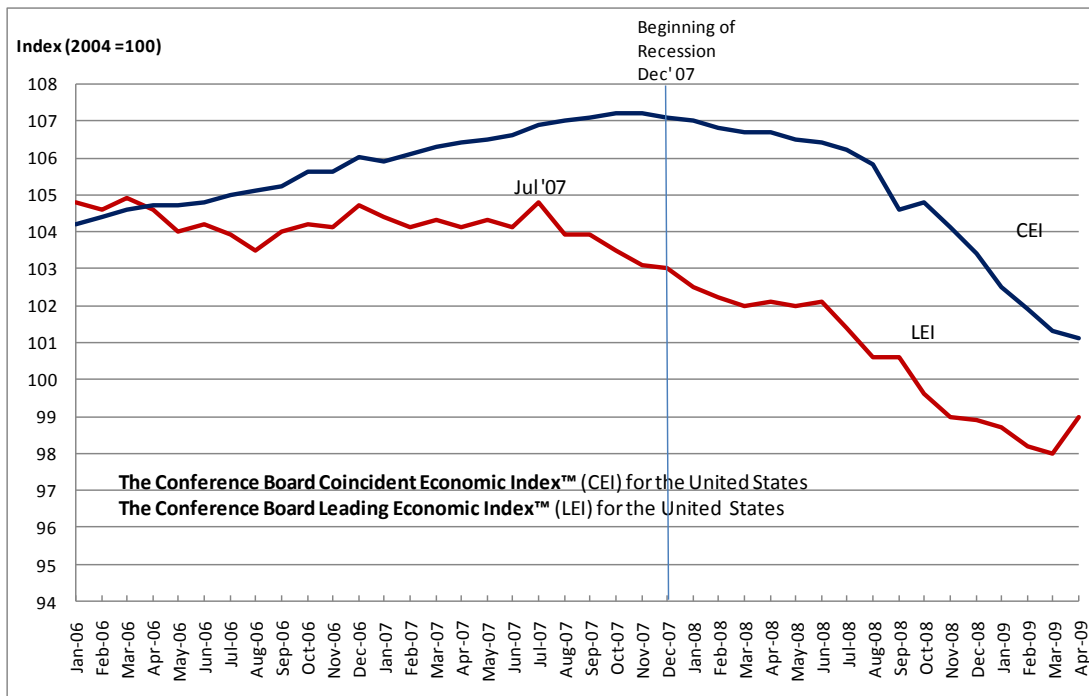
The Conference Board Leading Economic Index™ for the U.S. Increases Sharply

NEW YORK, May 21, 2009... The Conference Board Leading Economic Index™ (LEI) for the U.S. increased 1.0 percent in April, following a 0.2 percent decline in March and a 0.5 percent decline in February.

Says Ken Goldstein, Economist at The Conference Board: “The leading indicators suggest that while the recession will continue in the near term, the declines will be less intense. The question is how long before declines in activity give way to small increases. If the indicators continue on the current track, that point might be reached in the second half of the year.”

The Conference Board Coincident Economic Index™ (CEI) for the U.S. declined 0.2 percent in April, following a 0.6 percent decline in March, and a 0.6 percent decline in February. **The Conference Board Lagging Economic Index™** declined 0.5 percent in April, following a 0.5 percent decline in March, and a 0.6 percent decline in February.

LEI Shows Large Widespread Gain in April



Summary Table of Composite Economic Indexes

	Feb	Mar	2009 Apr	6-month Oct to Apr
Leading Economic Index	98.2 r	98.0 r	99.0 p	
Percent Change	-.5 r	-.2 r	1.0 p	-0.6
Diffusion	45.0	40.0	70.0	30.0
Coincident Economic Index	101.9	101.3 p	101.1 p	
Percent Change	-.6	-.6 p	-.2 p	-3.5
Diffusion	25.0	25.0	50.0	0.0
Lagging Economic Index	113.7	113.1 p	112.5 p	
Percent Change	-.6 r	-.5 p	-.5 p	-1.0
Diffusion	14.3	28.6	14.3	28.6

n.a. Not available p Preliminary r Revised

Indexes equal 100 in 2004

Source: The Conference Board