



THE CONFERENCE BOARD

For further information:

Ken Goldstein 212-339-0331

Ken.goldstein@conference-board.org

For Release 10:00 AM ET, Thursday, August 20, 2009

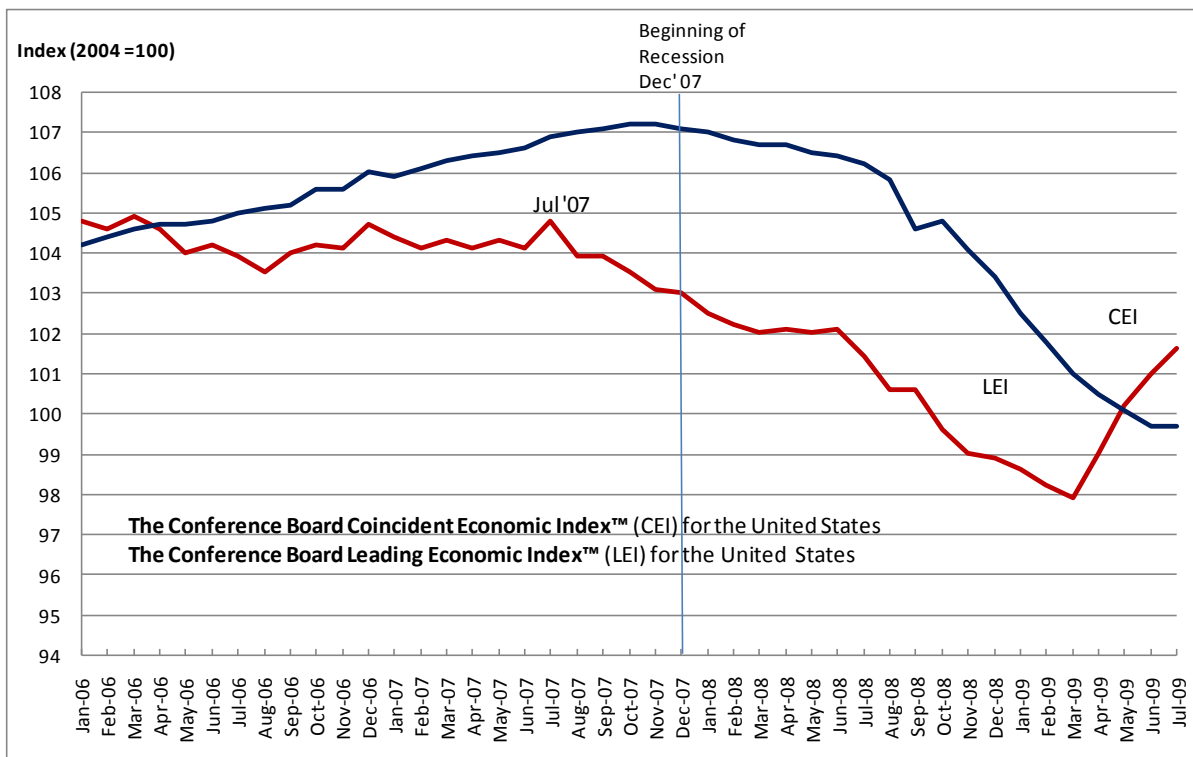
The Conference Board Leading Economic Index™ (LEI) for the U.S. Increases Again

Fourth Consecutive Increase

NEW YORK, August 20, 2009...The Conference Board Leading Economic Index™ (LEI) for the U.S. increased 0.6 percent in July, following a 0.8 percent gain in June, and a 1.2 percent rise in May.

Says Ken Goldstein, Economist at The Conference Board: “The indicators suggest that the recession is bottoming out, and that economic activity will likely begin recovering soon. The Coincident Economic Index was flat in July – the first time it did not register a decline since October 2008. The Leading Economic Index, which has increased for four consecutive months, suggests that the CEI will turn positive soon.”

The Conference Board Coincident Economic Index™ (CEI) for the U.S. was unchanged in July, following 0.4 percent declines in both June and May. The Conference Board Lagging Economic Index™ (LAG) declined 0.3 percent in July, following a 0.7 percent decline in June, and a 0.6 percent decline in May.



Summary Table of Composite Economic Indexes

	May	Jun	2009 Jul	6-month Jan to Jul
Leading index	100.2	101.0 r	101.6 p	
Percent Change	1.2 r	.8 r	.6 p	3.0
Diffusion	70.0	70.0	70.0	85.0
Coincident Index	100.1 r	99.7 p	99.7 p	
Percent Change	-.4 r	-.4 p	.0 p	-2.7
Diffusion	0.0	25.0	75.0	0.0
Lagging Index	111.9 r	111.1 p	110.8 p	
Percent Change	-.6 r	-.7 p	-.3 p	-3.2
Diffusion	7.1	21.4	14.3	7.1

n.a. Not available p Preliminary r Revised
Indexes equal 100 in 2004

Source: The Conference Board