



# THE CONFERENCE BOARD

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

### **Indicators Point to an Economy in Early Recovery**

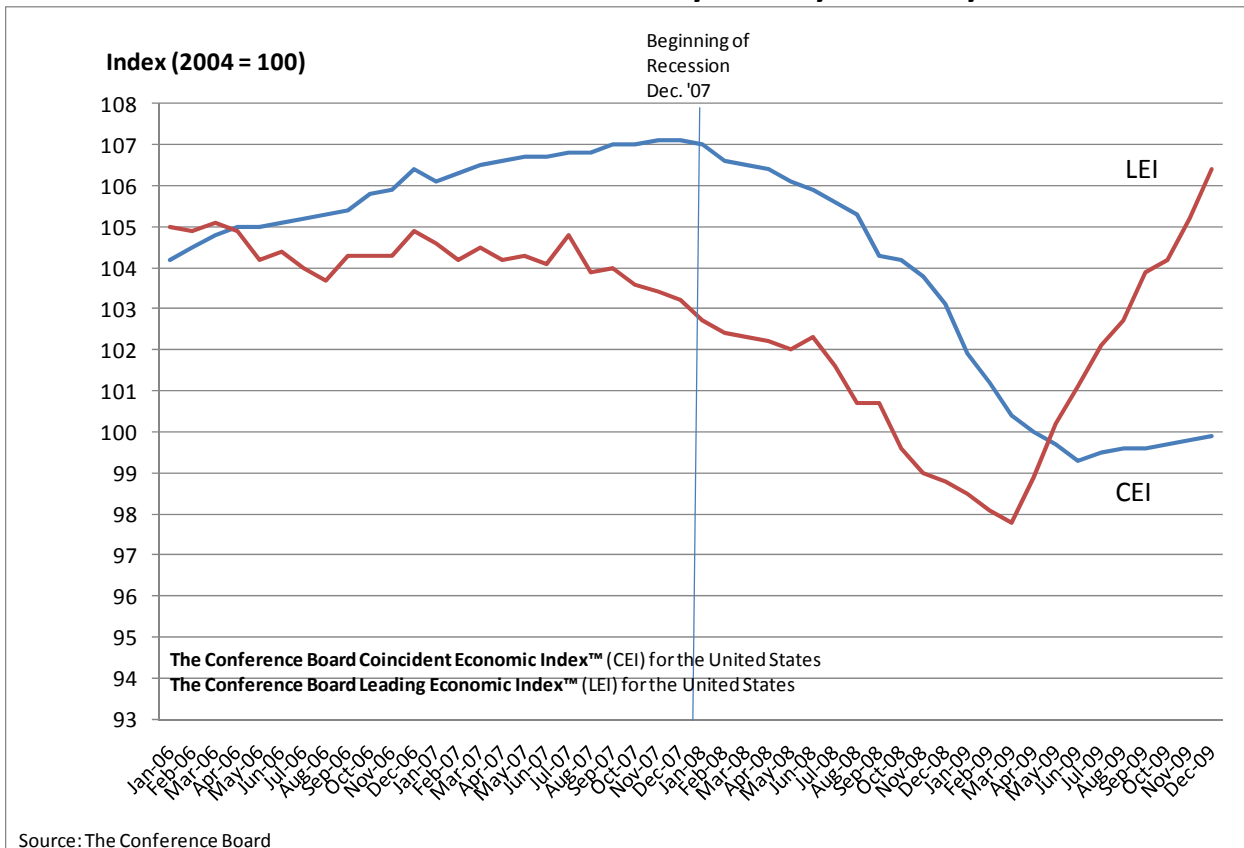
**NEW YORK, January 21, 2010...**The Conference Board Leading Economic Index™ (LEI) for the U.S. increased 1.1 percent in December, following a 1.0 percent gain in November, and a 0.3 percent rise in October.

Says Ataman Ozyildirim, Economist at The Conference Board: “The Conference Board LEI for the U.S. increased sharply in December, and has risen steadily for nine consecutive months. The six-month growth rate has picked up slightly to 5.2 percent (about a 10.8 percent annual rate) in the period through December, substantially higher than earlier in the year. In addition, the strengths among the leading indicators have remained very widespread in recent months.”

Adds Ken Goldstein, Economist at The Conference Board: “The indicators point to an economy in early recovery. The coincident economic index shows slow expansion of economic activity through December. The leading economic index suggests that the pace of improvement could pick up this spring.”

**The Conference Board Coincident Economic Index™ (CEI)** for the U.S. rose 0.1 percent in December, following a 0.1 percent increase in both November and October. **The Conference Board Lagging Economic Index™ (LAG)** declined 0.2 percent in December, following a 0.5 percent decline in November, and a 0.2 percent decline in October.

## Indicators Point to an Economy in Early Recovery



Summary Table of Composite Economic Indexes

	2009			6-month Jun to Dec
	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Leading index	104.2	105.2	106.4 p	
Percent Change	.3	1.0	1.1 p	5.2
Diffusion	70.0	70.0	90.0	80.0
Coincident Index	99.7	99.8 p	99.9 p	
Percent Change	.1	.1 p	.1 p	0.6
Diffusion	75.0	87.5	75.0	75.0
Lagging Index	109.3 p	108.7 p	108.5 p	
Percent Change	-2 p	-5 p	-2 p	-2.4
Diffusion	35.7	42.9	35.7	21.4

n.a. Not available    p Preliminary    r Revised

Indexes equal 100 in 2004

Source: The Conference Board