



THE CONFERENCE BOARD

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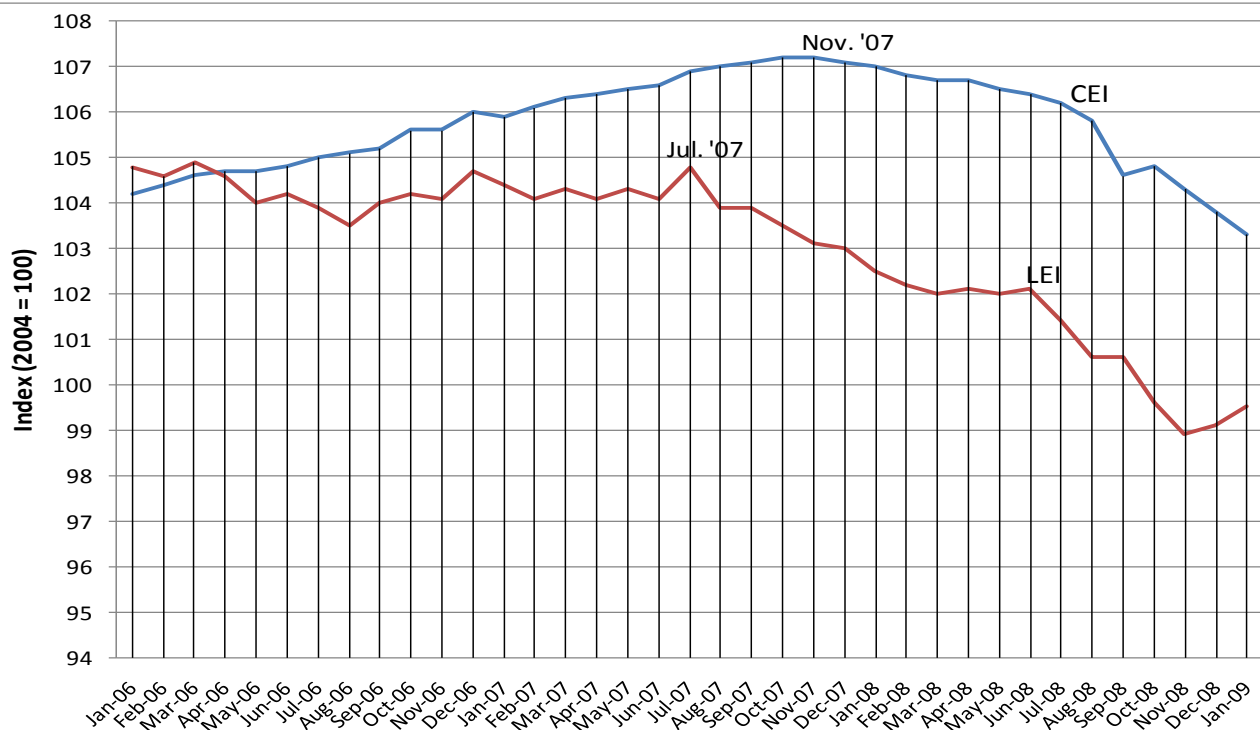
The Conference Board Leading Economic Index™ (LEI) for the U.S. Edges Up

Indicators Suggest Recession Will Continue Through 2009, But Intensity Will Ease

Feb. 19, 2009... The Conference Board Leading Economic Index™ (LEI) for the U.S. increased 0.4 percent in January, following a 0.2 percent increase in December and a 0.7 percent decline in November.

Says Ken Goldstein, Economist at The Conference Board: “The economy has been in recession for over a year, but the level of intensity may begin to ease over the next few months. The second half of 2009 may see a period of anemic growth. In fact, a return to robust growth may not occur until well into 2010, even if the long climb starts a few months from now.”

The Conference Board Coincident Economic Index™ (CEI) for the U.S. declined 0.5 percent in January, following a 0.5 percent decline in December, and a 0.5 percent decline in November. The Conference Board Lagging Economic Index™ (LAG) for the U.S. declined 0.1 percent in January, following a 0.2 percent decline in December, and a 0.6 percent increase in November.



Source: The Conference Board