

News Release

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Using the Composite Indexes: *The Leading Economic Index (LEI) provides an early indication of significant turning points in the business cycle and where the economy is heading in the near term. The Coincident Economic Index (CEI) provides an indication of the current state of the economy. Additional details are below.*

The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) for Australia Decreased in March

Next month's release of the composite economic indexes will incorporate annual benchmark revisions which bring them up to date with revisions in the source data. These revisions do not change the cyclical properties of the indexes. The indexes are updated throughout the year, but only for the previous six months. Data revisions that fall outside of the moving six-month window are not incorporated until the benchmark revision is made and the entire histories of the indexes are recomputed. As a result, the revised indexes, in levels and month-on-month changes, will not be directly comparable to those issued prior to the benchmark revision.

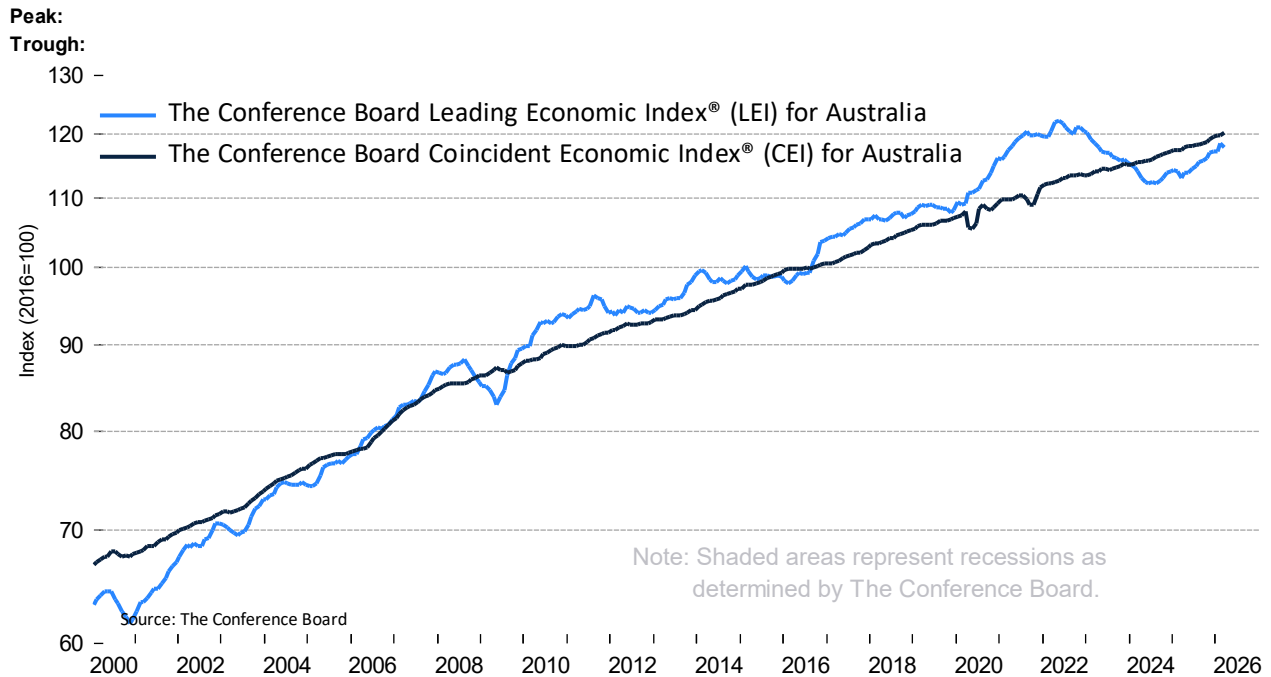
For more information, please visit conference-board.org/topics/business-cycle-indicators/ or contact us at indicators@tcb.org.

The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) for Australia decreased by 0.6% in March 2026 to 117.7 (2016=100), partially reversing a 1.0% rise in February. Over the period from September 2025 to March 2026, the LEI for Australia increased by 1.8%, slowing from a rate of 2.4% growth recorded between March and September 2025.

The Conference Board Coincident Economic Index® (CEI) for Australia grew by 0.3% in March 2026 to 120.1 (2016=100), following an increase of 0.2% in February. Over the period from September 2025 to March 2026, the CEI rose by 1.5%, accelerating from the 0.8% growth observed between March and September 2025.

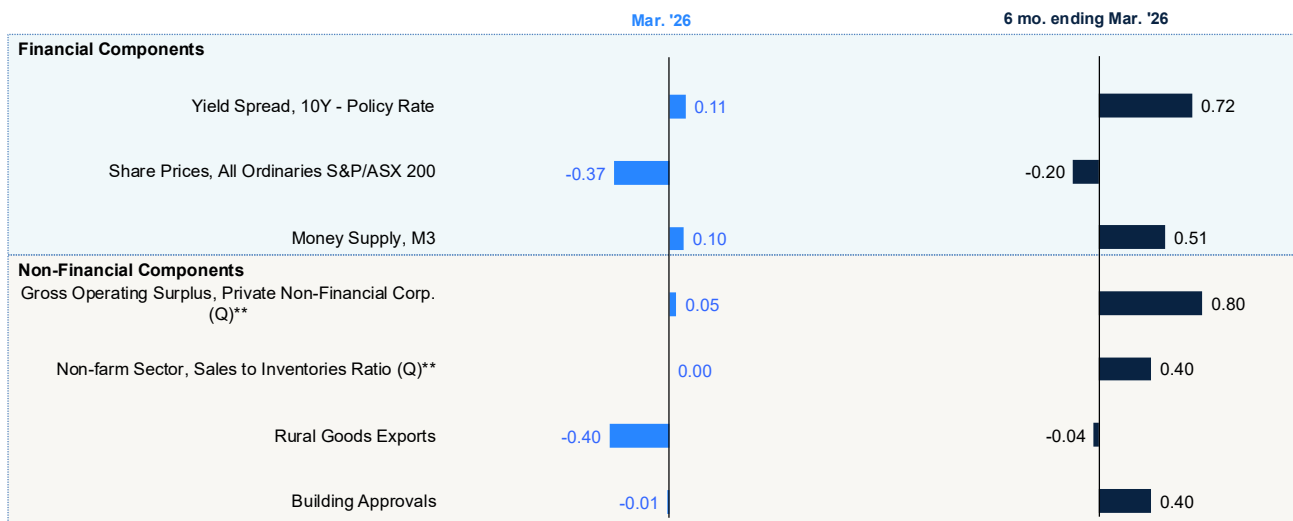
The next release is scheduled for Friday, June 19, 2026, at 10:30 A.M. ET.

The Australia LEI pulled back from an 11-month uptrend in March...



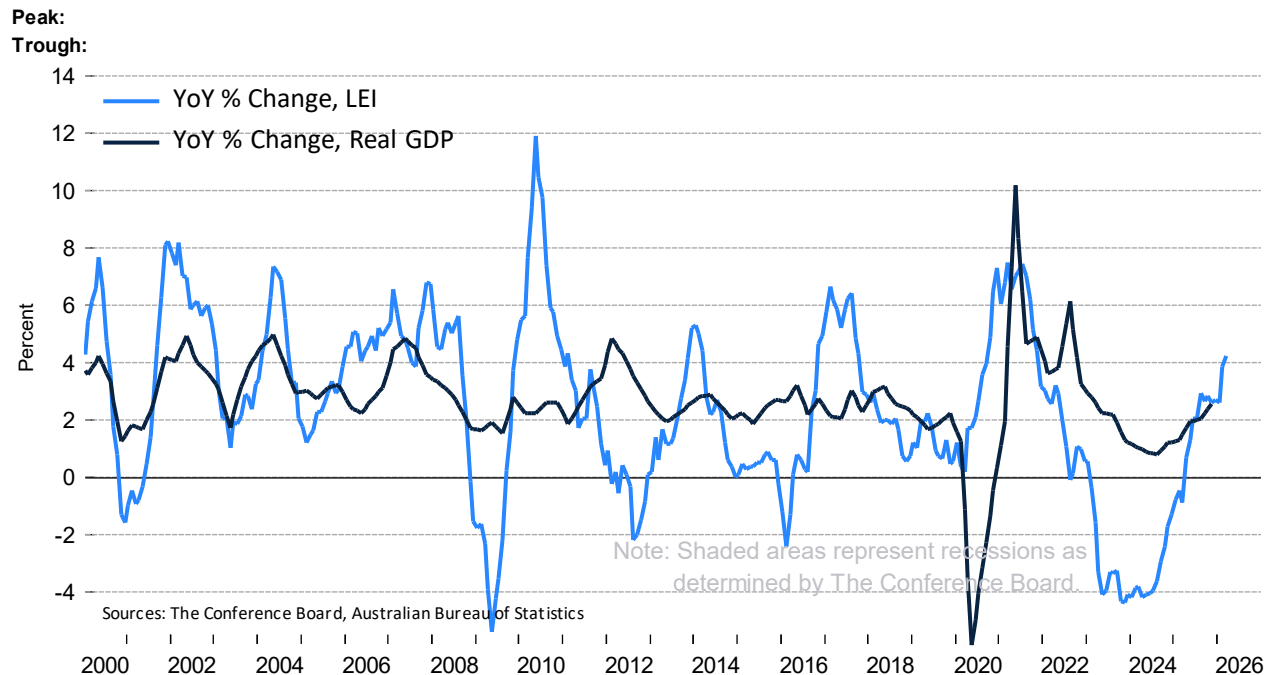
...primarily tied to weakness in stock prices during the month, as well as volatility in the rural goods exports component

The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® and Component Contributions (Percent)



Source: The Conference Board * Inverted series; a negative change in this component makes a positive contribution.
** Statistical Imputation -- Q: Quarterly series; these series are converted to a monthly series through a linear interpolation
LEI change might not equal sum of its contributions due to application of trend adjustment factor

The positive annual growth rate of the Australia LEI, as of March, still suggested economic growth going forward



About The Conference Board *Leading Economic Index*[®] (LEI) and *Coincident Economic Index*[®] (CEI) for Australia

The composite economic indexes are key elements in an analytic system designed to signal peaks and troughs in the business cycle. Comprised of multiple independent indicators, the indexes are constructed to summarize and reveal common turning points in the economy in a clearer and more convincing manner than any individual component.

The CEI reflects current economic conditions and is highly correlated with real GDP. The LEI is a predictive tool that anticipates—or “leads”—turning points in the business cycle by around seven months.

The seven components of *Leading Economic Index*[®] for Australia are:

- Yield Spread, 10Y – Policy Rate
- Share Prices, All Ordinaries S&P/ASX 200
- Money Supply, M3
- Building Approvals
- Rural Goods Exports
- Non-Farm Sector, Sale to Inventories Ratio
- Gross Operating Surplus, Private Non-Financial Corp.

The four components of the *Coincident Economic Index*[®] for Australia are:

- Employment
- Household Income
- Industrial Production
- Retail Trade

To access data, please visit: <https://data-central.conference-board.org/>

About The Conference Board

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