

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 France Ticks Up in May

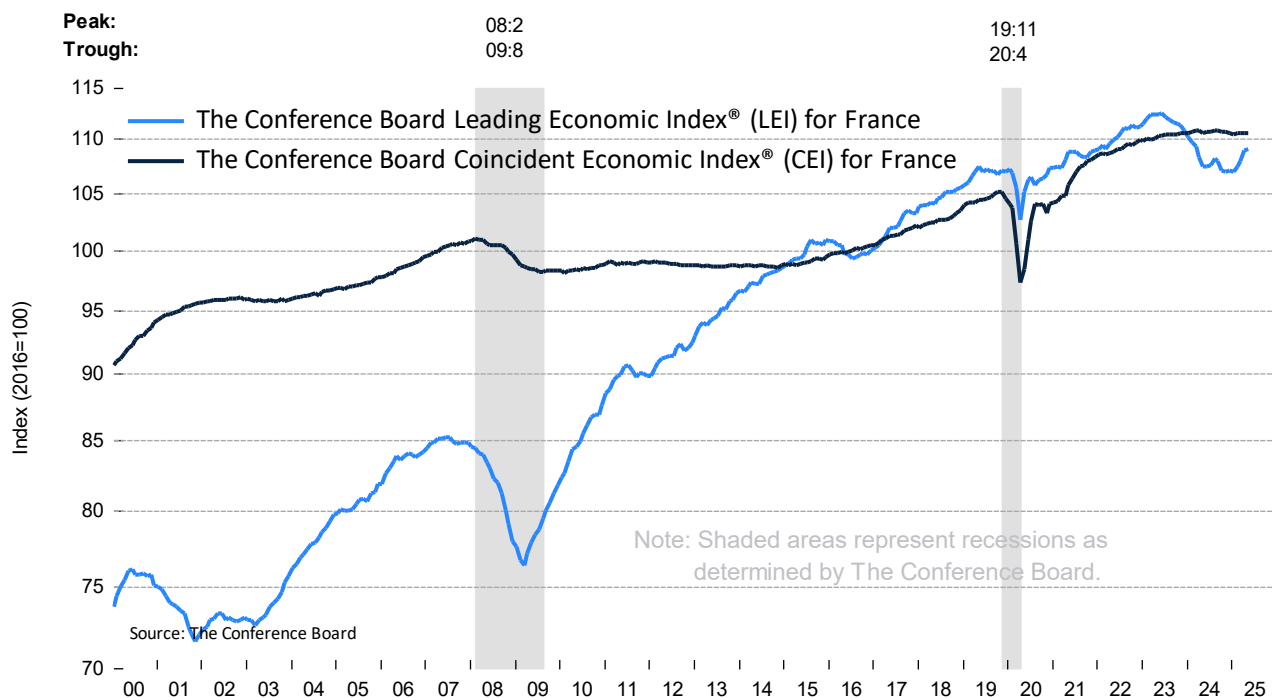
The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) for France ticked up by 0.1% in May 2025 to 109.0 (2016=100), after increasing by 0.8% in April. As a result, the France LEI grew by 1.9% over the six-month period between November 2024 and May 2025, a turnaround from the decline of 0.5% over the previous six-month period.

The Conference Board Coincident Economic Index® (CEI) for France has been unchanged at 110.6 (2016=100) since February 2025. Nevertheless, over the six-month period between November 2024 and May 2025, the CEI for France inched down by 0.1%, reversing a gain of 0.1% over the previous six-month period between May and November 2024.

“The France LEI increased in May, but at a much slower the pace than in previous three months,” said **Allen Li, Associate Economist at The Conference Board**. “Financial indicators, along with a decline in unemployment claims and stronger building permits supported the France LEI in May. However, these positive contributions were almost offset by renewed weakness in the industrial sector. The 6-month and annual growth rates of the France LEI have recovered from warning signals since the beginning of the year and were in positive territory in recent months. This trajectory suggests that headwinds to growth might have lessened compared to the beginning of this year. Still, given recent political instability, fiscal pressures, tariffs and slower global growth, this positive momentum is not expected to last. The Conference Board currently forecasts France GDP growth to slow to 0.4% in 2025 from 1.1% in 2024.”

The next release is scheduled for Wednesday, August 20, 2025, at 9:30 A.M. ET.

The France LEI ticked up in May



Financial indicators, along with unemployment claims and building permits supported the France LEI in May but that was largely offset by weaknesses in the industrial sector

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

	May '25	6 mo. ending May '25
Financial Components		
Stock Price SBF250 Index	0.16	0.19
Yield Spread, 10 year minus short-term rates #	0.23	0.79
Non-Financial Components		
Ratio Deflator of Value Added to Unit Labor Cost (Q)**	0.00	-0.27
Production Expectations	-0.24	-0.14
Industrial New Orders	-0.18	-0.08
New Unemployment Claims*	0.14	1.37
Building Permits, Residential	0.12	0.46

Source: The Conference Board

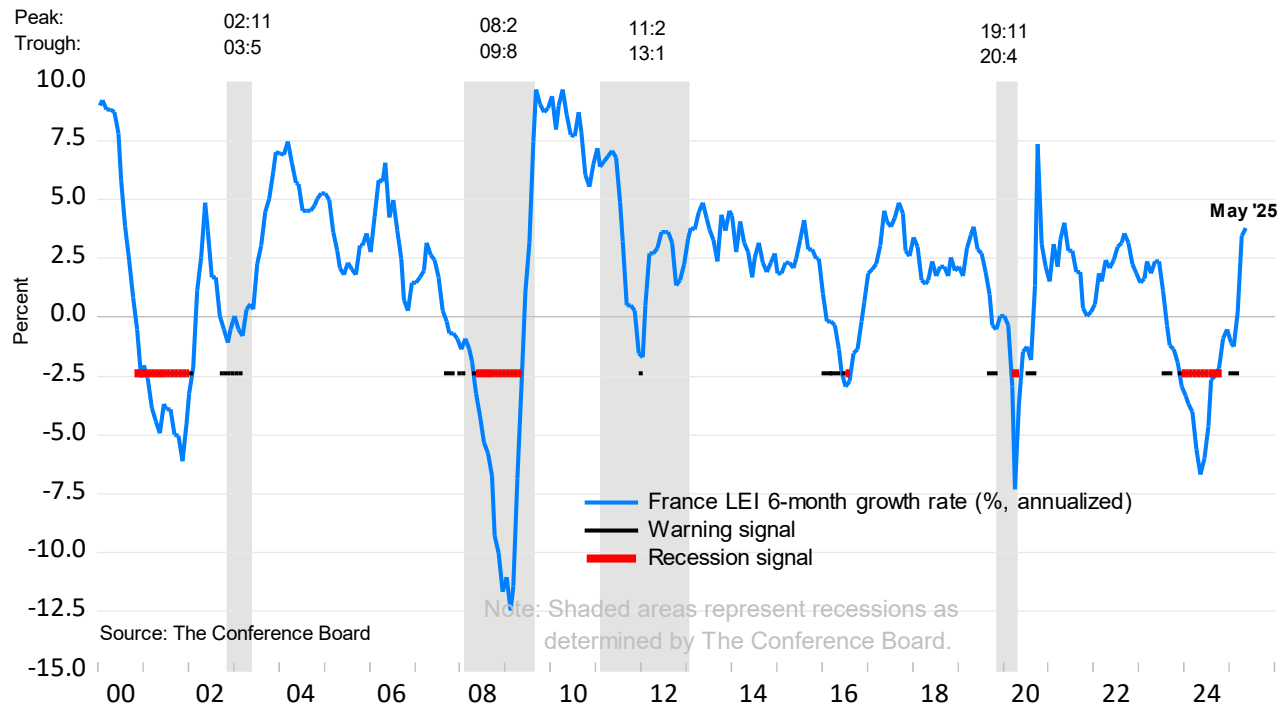
* Inverted series; a negative change in this component makes a positive contribution.

** Statistical Imputation--Q: Quarterly series; these series are converted to a monthly series through a linear interpolation.

The short-term rates used are Daily-Dollar Loan rate, Euribor, and Easier through the history of this variable.

LEI change might not equal sum of contributions due to application of trend adjustment factor.

The growth rate of the France LEI continued to recover, suggesting that economic growth will continue in the near term



NOTE: The chart illustrates the so-called **3Ds**—**duration, depth, and diffusion**—for interpreting a downward movement in the LEI. **Duration** refers to how long the decline has lasted. **Depth** denotes the size of decline. Duration and depth are measured by the rate of change of the index over the most recent six months at an annualized rate. **Diffusion** is a measure of how widespread the decline is among the LEI's component indicators—on a scale of 0 to 100, a **diffusion index** reading below 50 indicates most components are weakening.

The **3Ds rule** signals an impending recession when: 1) the six-month diffusion index lies at or below 50, shown by the black warning signal lines in the chart; and 2) the LEI's six-month growth rate (annualized) falls below the threshold of -2.4%. The **red recession signal lines** indicate months when both criteria are met simultaneously—and thus that a recession is likely imminent or underway.

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

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 twelve months.

The seven components of *Leading Economic Index*® for France are:

- Yield Spread
- Stock Prices
- Building Permits
- New Unemployment Claims
- Industrial New Orders
- Production Expectations
- Ratio P/L Cost

The four components of the *Coincident Economic Index*® for France are:

- Industrial Production
- Personal Consumption
- Employment (Private sector)
- Wages and Salaries

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

About The Conference Board

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