



News Release

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The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) for the U.S. Increases **Indicators Point to Slow Growth Through the Summer and Fall**

NEW YORK, June 17, 2011...The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) for the U.S. increased 0.8 percent in May to 114.7 (2004 = 100), following a 0.4 percent decline in April, and a 0.7 percent increase in March. The largest contributions came from the interest rate spread, consumer expectations, and housing permits.

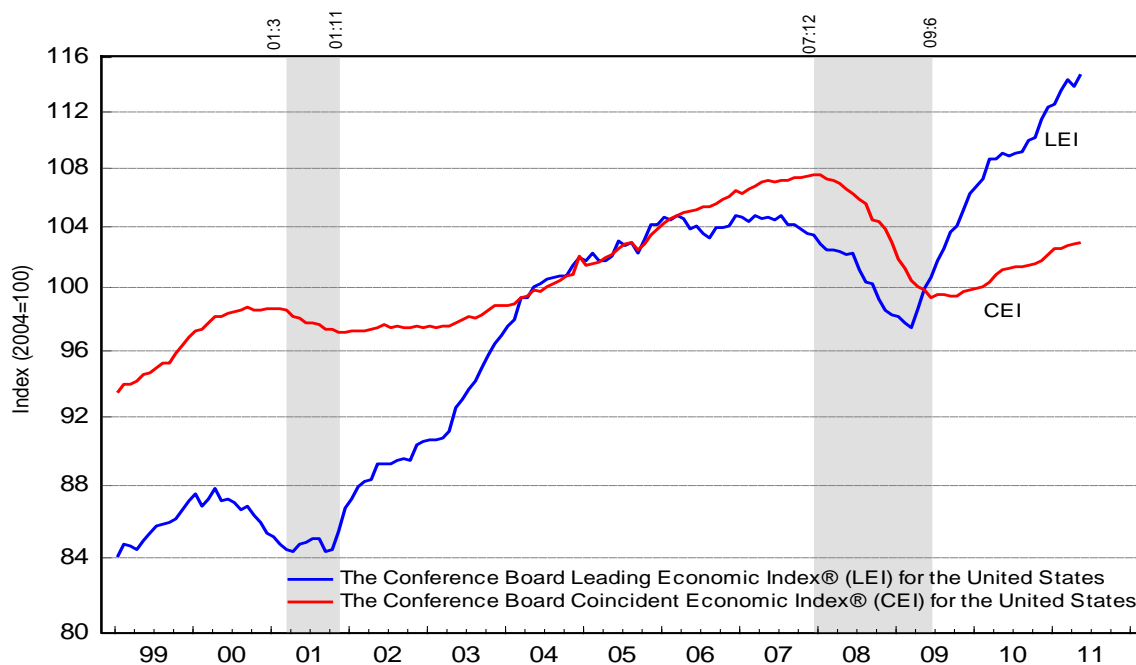
Says Ataman Ozyildirim, economist at The Conference Board: “The U.S. LEI rebounded in May and resumed its upward trend with a majority of the components supporting this gain. The Coincident Economic Index, a monthly measure of current economic conditions, continued to increase slowly but steadily. Overall, despite short-term volatility, the composite indexes still point to expanding economic activity in the coming months.”

Says Ken Goldstein, economist at The Conference Board: “Modest economic growth is being buffeted by some strong headwinds, including high gas and food prices and a soft housing market. The economy will likely continue to grow through the summer and fall, however it will be choppy.”

The Conference Board Coincident Economic Index® (CEI) for the U.S. increased 0.1 percent in May to 102.9 (2004 = 100), following a 0.1 percent increase in April, and a 0.2 percent increase in March.

The Conference Board Lagging Economic Index® (LAG) increased 0.3 percent in May to 109.1 (2004 = 100), following a 0.5 percent increase in April, and a 0.2 percent increase in March.

The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) for the U.S. Increases in May



Latest LEI Trough March 2009, Latest CEI Trough June 2009

Shaded areas represent recessions as determined by the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Source: The Conference Board

Summary Table of Composite Economic Indexes

	Mar	2011 Apr	May	6-month Nov to May
Leading index	114.3	113.8 r	114.7 p	
Percent Change	.7	-4 r	.8 p	3.0
Diffusion	70.0	40.0	85.0	80.0
Coincident Index	102.7	102.8 p	102.9 p	
Percent Change	.2	.1 p	.1 p	1.2
Diffusion	75.0	62.5	87.5	100.0
Lagging Index	108.3	108.8 p	109.1 p	
Percent Change	.2	.5 p	.3 p	1.1
Diffusion	50.0	78.6	64.3	50.0

n.a. Not available p Preliminary r Revised

Indexes equal 100 in 2004

Source: The Conference Board

About The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) for the U.S.

The composite economic indexes are the key elements in an analytic system designed to signal peaks and troughs in the business cycle. The leading, coincident, and lagging economic indexes are essentially composite averages of several individual leading, coincident, or lagging indicators. They are constructed to summarize and reveal common turning point patterns in economic data in a clearer and more convincing manner than any individual component – primarily because they smooth out some of the volatility of individual components.

The ten components of **The Conference Board Leading Economic Index®** for the U.S. include:

Average weekly hours, manufacturing
Average weekly initial claims for unemployment insurance
Manufacturers' new orders, consumer goods and materials
Index of supplier deliveries – vendor performance
Manufacturers' new orders, nondefense capital goods
Building permits, new private housing units
Stock prices, 500 common stocks
Money supply, M2
Interest rate spread, 10-year Treasury bonds less federal funds
Index of consumer expectations

For full press release and technical notes:

<http://www.conference-board.org/data/bcicountry.cfm?cid=1>

For more information about The Conference Board global business cycle indicators:

<http://www.conference-board.org/data/bci.cfm>

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