



News Release

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***The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) for the U.S. Increased Again
But Weaker Growth May be Ahead***

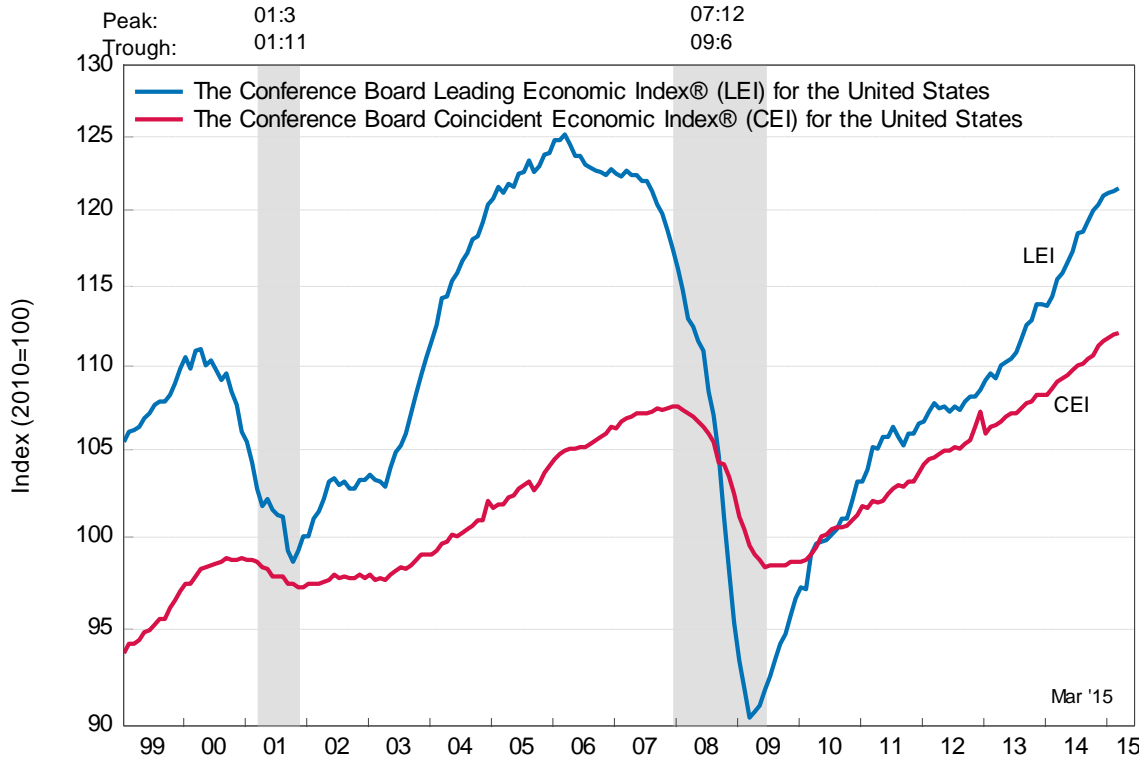
NEW YORK, April 17, 2015...The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) for the U.S. increased 0.2 percent in March to 121.4 (2010 = 100), following a 0.1 percent increase in February, and a 0.2 percent increase in January.

“Although the leading economic index still points to a moderate expansion in economic activity, its slowing growth rate over recent months suggests weaker growth may be ahead,” said Ataman Ozyildirim, Economist at The Conference Board. “Building permits was the weakest component this month, but average working hours and manufacturing new orders have also slowed the LEI’s growth over the last six months.”

The Conference Board Coincident Economic Index® (CEI) for the U.S. increased 0.1 percent in March to 112.0 (2010 = 100), following a 0.2 percent increase in February, and a 0.2 percent increase in January.

The Conference Board Lagging Economic Index® (LAG) for the U.S. increased 0.4 percent in March to 116.2 (2010 = 100), following a 0.3 percent increase in February, and a 0.3 percent increase in January.

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



Latest LEI Trough March 2009, Latest CEI Trough June 2009

Shaded areas represent recessions as determined by the NBER Business Cycle Dating Committee.

Source: The Conference Board

Summary Table of Composite Economic Indexes

	2014		2015	6-month Sep to Mar
	Jan	Feb	Mar	
Leading Index	121.1	121.2 r	121.4 p	
Percent Change	0.2	0.1 r	0.2	1.8
Diffusion	40.0	50.0	60.0	65.0
Coincident Index	111.7	111.9	112.0 p	
Percent Change	0.2	0.2	0.1	1.4
Diffusion	75.0	100.0	75.0	87.5
Lagging Index	115.4	115.7 r	116.2 p	
Percent Change	0.3	0.3	0.4	1.6
Diffusion	64.3	92.9	71.4	78.6

p Preliminary r Revised

Indexes equal 100 in 2010

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
ISM® Index of New Orders
Manufacturers' new orders, nondefense capital goods excluding aircraft orders
Building permits, new private housing units
Stock prices, 500 common stocks
Leading Credit Index™
Interest rate spread, 10-year Treasury bonds less federal funds
Average consumer expectations for business conditions

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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