



## News Release

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### ***The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) for the U.S. Increased Again***

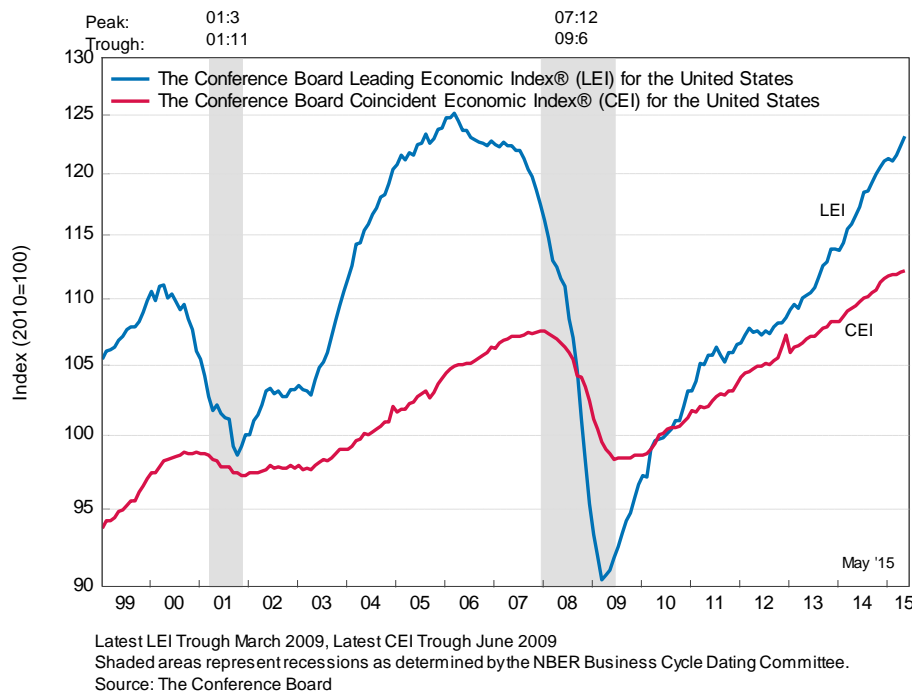
**NEW YORK, June 18, 2015...**The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) for the U.S. increased 0.7 percent in May to 123.1 (2010 = 100), following a 0.7 percent increase in April, and a 0.4 percent increase in March.

“The U.S. LEI increased sharply again in May, confirming the outlook for more economic expansion in the second half of the year after what looks to be a much weaker first half,” said Ataman Ozyildirim, Director, Business Cycles and Growth Research, at The Conference Board. “While residential construction and consumer expectations support the more positive outlook, industrial production and new orders in manufacturing are painting a somewhat more mixed picture.”

**The Conference Board Coincident Economic Index® (CEI)** for the U.S. increased 0.1 percent in May to 112.1 (2010 = 100), following a 0.2 percent increase in April, and no change in March.

**The Conference Board Lagging Economic Index® (LAG)** for the U.S. increased 0.2 percent in May to 117.0 (2010 = 100), following a 0.2 percent increase in April, and a 0.5 percent increase in March.

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



Summary Table of Composite Economic Indexes

	2015			6-month Nov to May
	Mar	Apr	May	
Leading Index	121.5	122.3	123.1	p
Percent Change	0.4	0.7	0.7	2.2
Diffusion	60.0	75.0	90.0	70.0
Coincident Index	111.8	112.0	112.1	p
Percent Change	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.8
Diffusion	62.5	75.0	75.0	75.0
Lagging Index	116.6	116.8	117.0	p
Percent Change	0.5	0.2	0.2	1.9
Diffusion	71.4	64.3	64.3	92.9

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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