

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 South Korea Ticked Down in September

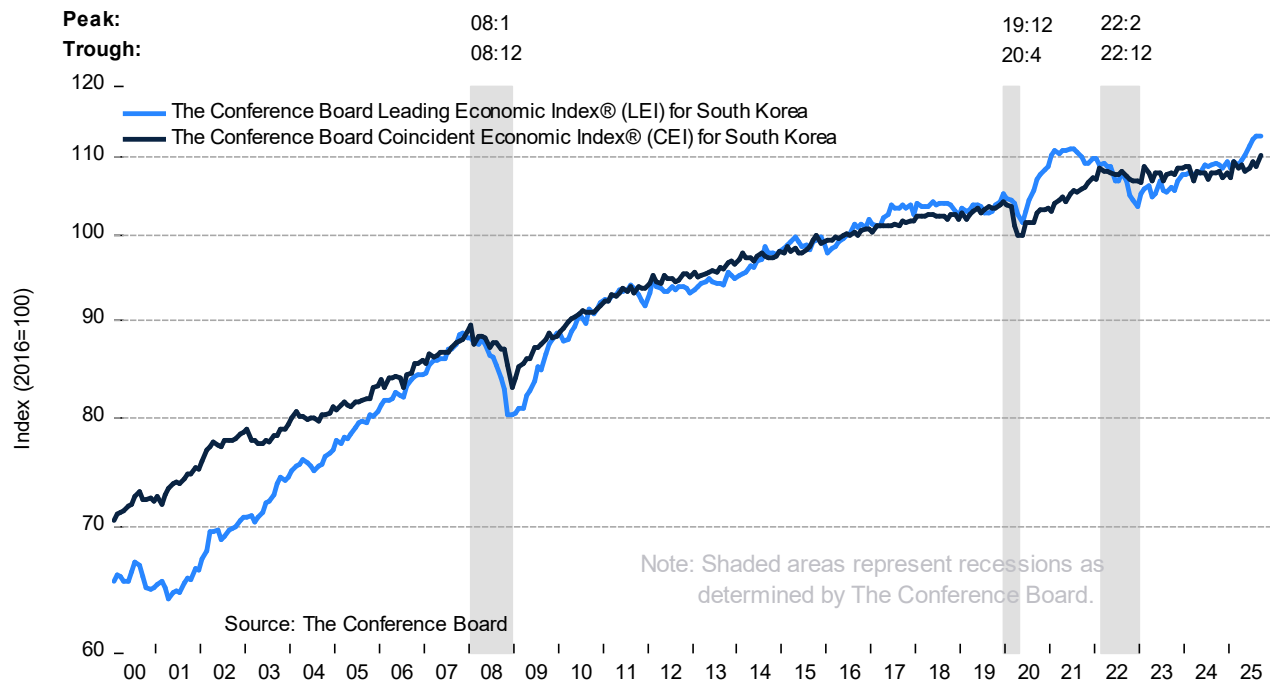
The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) for South Korea decreased by 0.1% to 112.8 (2016=100) in September 2025, after increasing by 0.4% in August. The LEI expanded by 3.6% over the six-month period between March and September 2025, after decreasing by 0.2% over the previous six-month period between September 2024 and March 2025.

The Conference Board Coincident Economic Index® (CEI) for South Korea rose by 1.5% to 110.3 (2016=100) in September 2025, after decreasing by 0.5% in August. As a result, the CEI increased by 1.8% over the six-month period between March and September 2025, a much faster rate than the 0.6% increase over the previous six-month period.

“The South Korea LEI ticked down in September” said **Malala Lin, Economic Research Associate, at The Conference Board**. “Performance across the LEI components was mixed. The slight decrease was mostly driven by an estimated increase in the inventories-to-shipments ratio and a decline in private construction orders. While the annual growth rate of the LEI slightly slumped, it remained elevated, still suggesting solid growth ahead. Additionally, with the recent announcement of US tariff reductions, easing trade tensions could reduce headwinds. Overall, The Conference Board expects real GDP growth at 1.1% this year, accelerating to 2.4% in 2026.”

The next release is scheduled for Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at 10:30 A.M. ET.

The South Korea LEI decreased slightly in September



The decrease in the LEI was led by the inventories to shipments index and private construction orders

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

	Sep.'25	6 mo. ending Sep.'25
Financial Components		
Yield of Government Public Bonds*	-0.03	0.08
Stock Prices	0.28	1.39
Non-Financial Components		
Index of Inventories to Shipments*,**	-0.48	-0.21
Exports FOB	-0.02	1.43
Value of Machinery Orders**	0.22	0.00
Private Construction Orders	-0.15	0.37

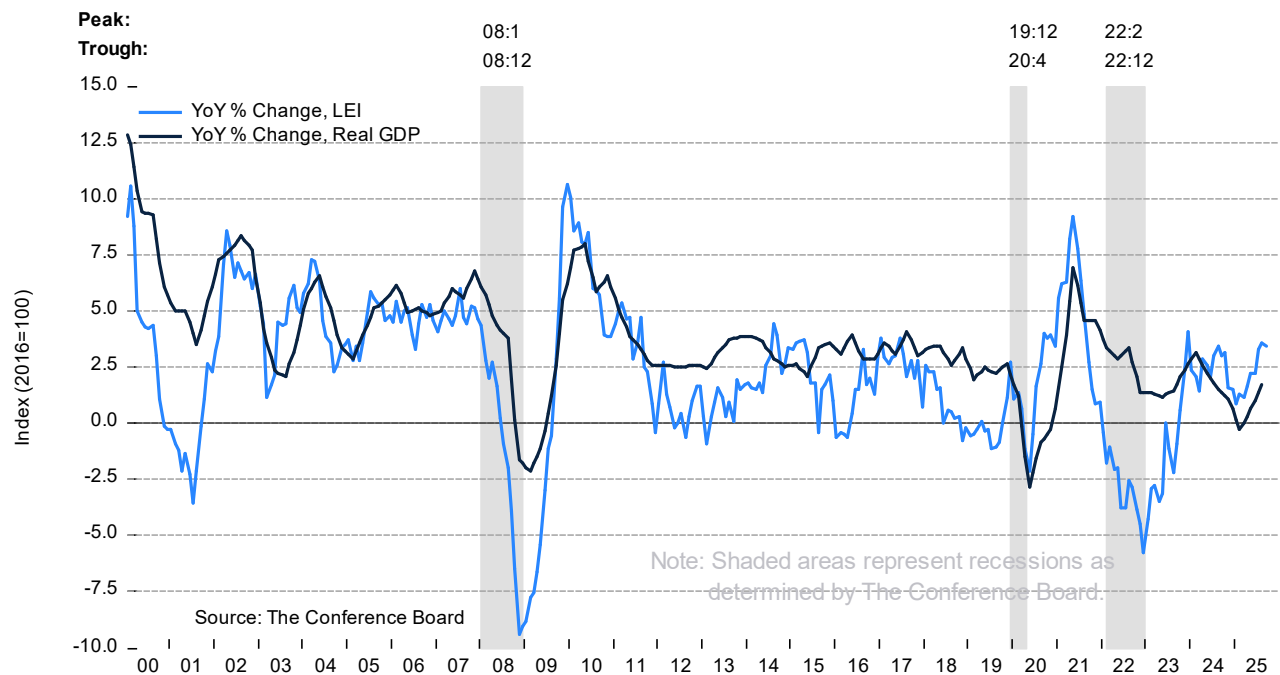
Source: The Conference Board

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

** Statistical imputation

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

The South Korea LEI annual growth rate remained strong



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

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 three months.

The six components of the *Leading Economic Index*® for South Korea are:

- Stock Prices
- Yield of Government Public Bonds
- Real Exports FOB (3-month moving average)
- Value of Machinery Orders
- Index of Inventories to Shipments
- Private Construction Orders

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

- Industrial Production
- Wholesale and Retail Sales
- Total Employment
- Monthly Cash Earnings

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

About The Conference Board

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