

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.*

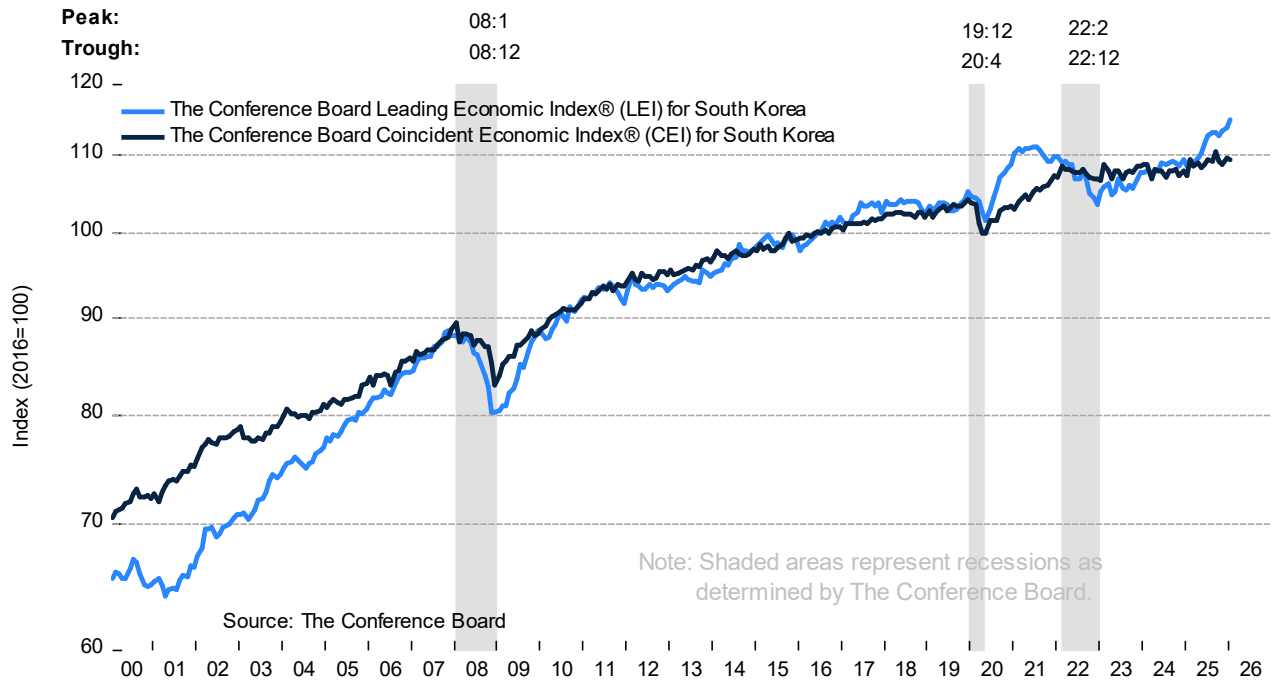
The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) for South Korea Increased in January

The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) for South Korea increased by 0.9% to 114.8 (2016=100) in January 2026, after increasing by 0.4% in December (Please note that this release covers January data and does not reflect the most recent historically largest dip in stock prices related to Iran's conflict). The LEI expanded by 2.0% over the six-month period between July 2025 and January 2026, a slower rate compared to the 3.7% growth over the previous six-month period between January and July 2025.

The Conference Board Coincident Economic Index® (CEI) for South Korea ticked down by 0.1% to 109.4 (2016=100) in January 2026, only slightly reversing a 0.6% increase in December. Overall, the CEI was unchanged over the six-month period between July 2025 and January 2026, after expanding by 2.1% over the previous six-month period.

The next release is scheduled for Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at 10:30 A.M. ET.

The South Korea LEI increased in January



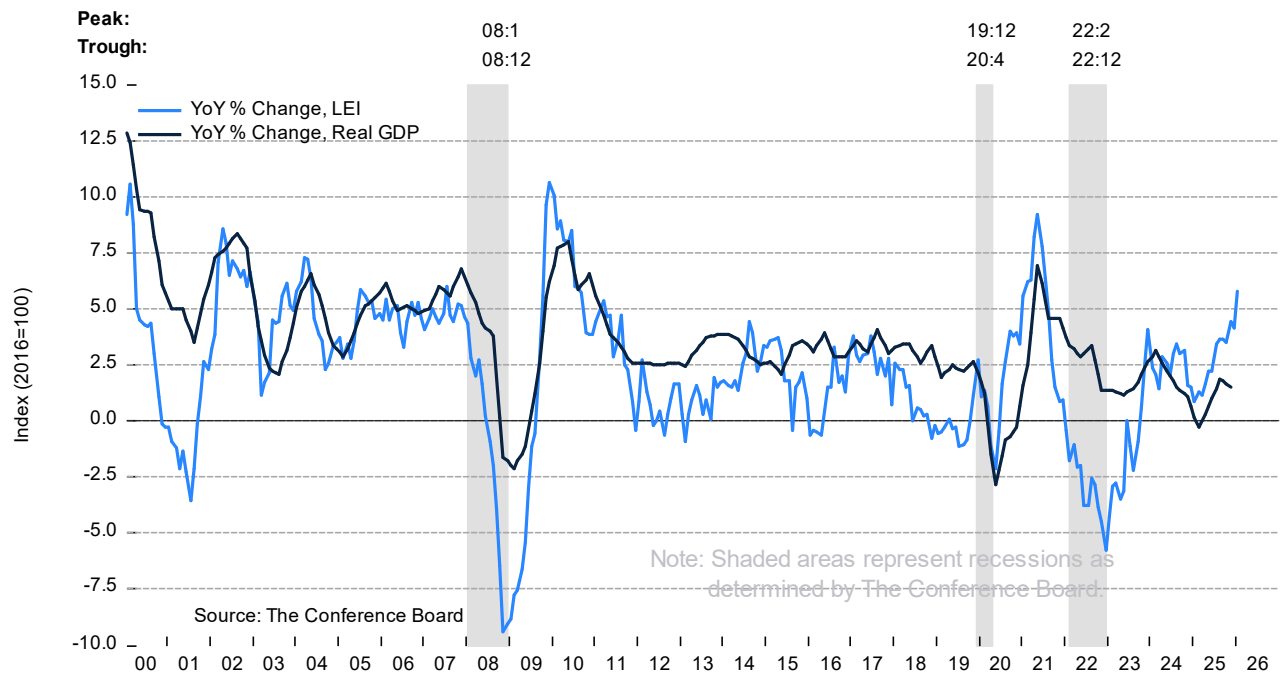
Stock prices' rally in January and gain in private construction orders drove LEI's gain

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

	Jan.'26	6 mo. ending Jan.'26
Financial Components		
Yield of Government Public Bonds*	-0.06	-0.52
Stock Prices	0.86	2.23
Non-Financial Components		
Index of Inventories to Shipments**,**	-0.17	-0.34
Exports FOB	0.00	-0.01
Value of Machinery Orders**	-0.06	0.12
Private Construction Orders	0.29	0.09

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 continued to rise, indicating improving growth for 2026



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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