

News Release

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

Index Points to Moderate Growth in Second Half

NEW YORK, August 22, 2019...The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) for the U.S. increased 0.5 percent in July to 112.2 (2016 = 100), following a 0.1 percent decline in June, and a 0.1 percent decline in May.

“The US LEI increased in July, following back-to-back modest declines. Housing permits, unemployment insurance claims, stock prices and the Leading Credit Index were the major drivers of the improvement,” said Ataman Ozyildirim, Senior Director of Economic Research at The Conference Board. “However, the manufacturing sector continues exhibiting signs of weakness and the yield spread was negative for a second consecutive month. While the LEI suggests the US economy will continue to expand in the second half of 2019, it is likely to do so at a moderate pace.”

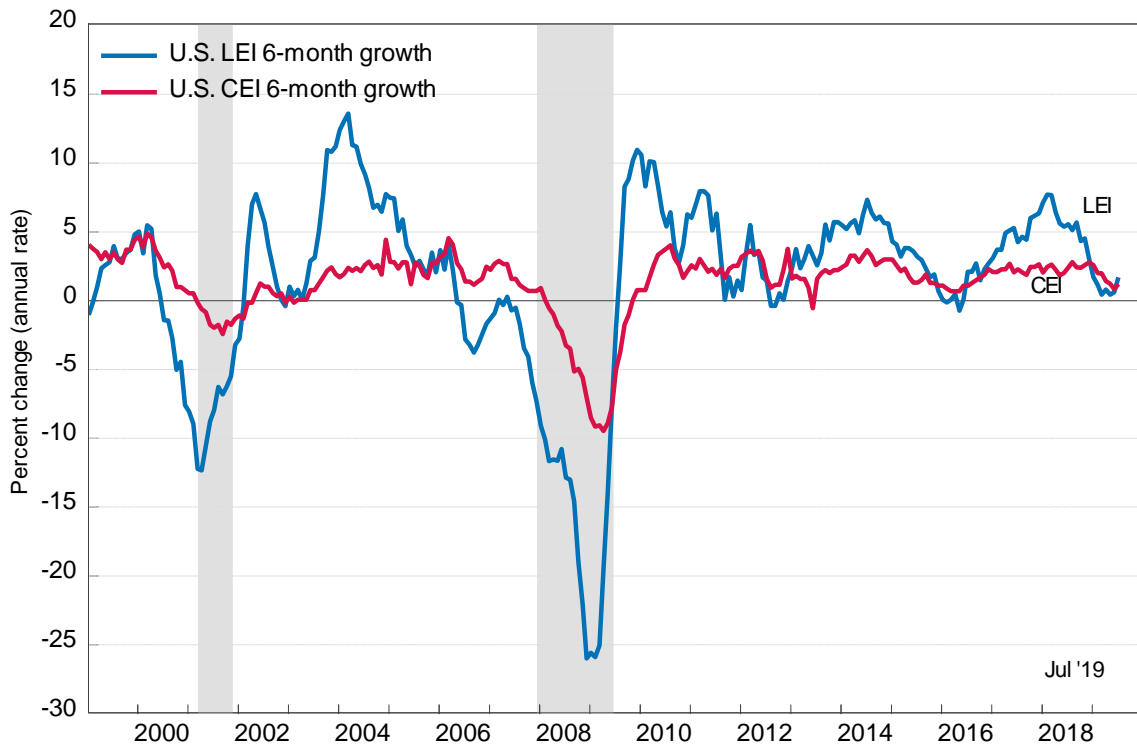
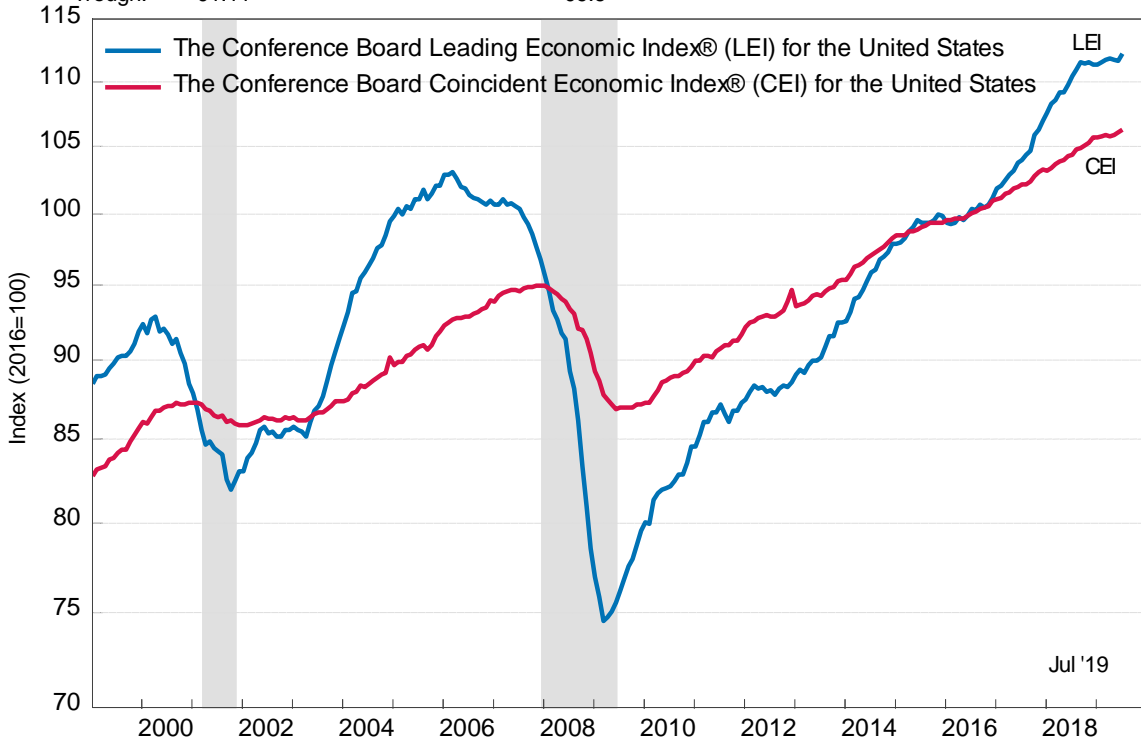
The Conference Board Coincident Economic Index® (CEI) for the U.S. increased 0.2 percent in July to 106.2 (2016 = 100), following a 0.2 percent increase in June, and a 0.1 percent increase in May.

The Conference Board Lagging Economic Index® (LAG) for the U.S. increased 0.6 percent in July to 108.5 (2016 = 100), following a 0.5 percent increase in June, and a 0.1 percent decline in May.

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

Peak: 01:3 07:12

Trough: 01:11 09:6



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

	2019			6-month
	May	Jun	Jul	Jan to Jul
Leading Index	111.7 r	111.6 r	112.2 p	
Percent Change	-0.1 r	-0.1 r	0.5 p	0.8
Diffusion	55.0	55.0	55.0	70.0
Coincident Index	105.8	106.0 r	106.2 p	
Percent Change	0.1 r	0.2 r	0.2 p	0.6
Diffusion	87.5	100.0	75.0	50.0
Lagging Index	107.3 r	107.8 r	108.5 p	
Percent Change	-0.1 r	0.5 r	0.6 p	1.6
Diffusion	50.0	57.1	64.3	71.4

p Preliminary r Revised
Indexes equal 100 in 2016
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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