The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) for the U.S. Declined Slightly

Index Still Points to Slow But Expanding Economy Through Early 2020

NEW YORK, October 18, 2019...The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) for the U.S. declined 0.1 percent in September to 111.9 (2016 = 100), following a 0.2 percent decline in August, and a 0.4 percent increase in July.

“The US LEI declined in September because of weaknesses in the manufacturing sector and the interest rate spread which were only partially offset by rising stock prices and a positive contribution from the Leading Credit Index,” said Ataman Ozyildirim, Senior Director of Economic Research at The Conference Board. “The LEI reflects uncertainty in the outlook and falling business expectations, brought on by the downturn in the industrial sector and trade disputes. Looking ahead, the LEI is consistent with an economy that is still growing, albeit more slowly, through the end of the year and into 2020.”

The Conference Board Coincident Economic Index® (CEI) for the U.S. was unchanged in September, remaining at 106.4 (2016 = 100), following a 0.3 percent increase in August, and no change in July.

The Conference Board Lagging Economic Index® (LAG) for the U.S. increased 0.1 percent in September to 108.3 (2016 = 100), following a 0.4 percent decline in August, and a 0.7 percent increase in July.
The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) for the U.S. declined in September

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2019</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jul</td>
<td>Aug</td>
<td>Sep</td>
<td>Mar to Sep</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leading Index</td>
<td>112.2 r</td>
<td>112.0 r</td>
<td>111.9 p</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percent Change</td>
<td>0.4 r</td>
<td>-0.2 r</td>
<td>-0.1 p</td>
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<td>Diffusion</td>
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<td>55.0</td>
<td>60.0</td>
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<td>Coincident Index</td>
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<td>106.4 p</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percent Change</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.0 p</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diffusion</td>
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<td>75.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lagging Index</td>
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<td>108.3 p</td>
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<td>0.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percent Change</td>
<td>0.7 r</td>
<td>-0.4 r</td>
<td>0.1 p</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diffusion</td>
<td>78.6</td>
<td>35.7</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>57.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- p Preliminary     r Revised

Indexes equal 100 in 2016

Source: The Conference Board

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**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:


For more information about The Conference Board global business cycle indicators:


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