

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.*

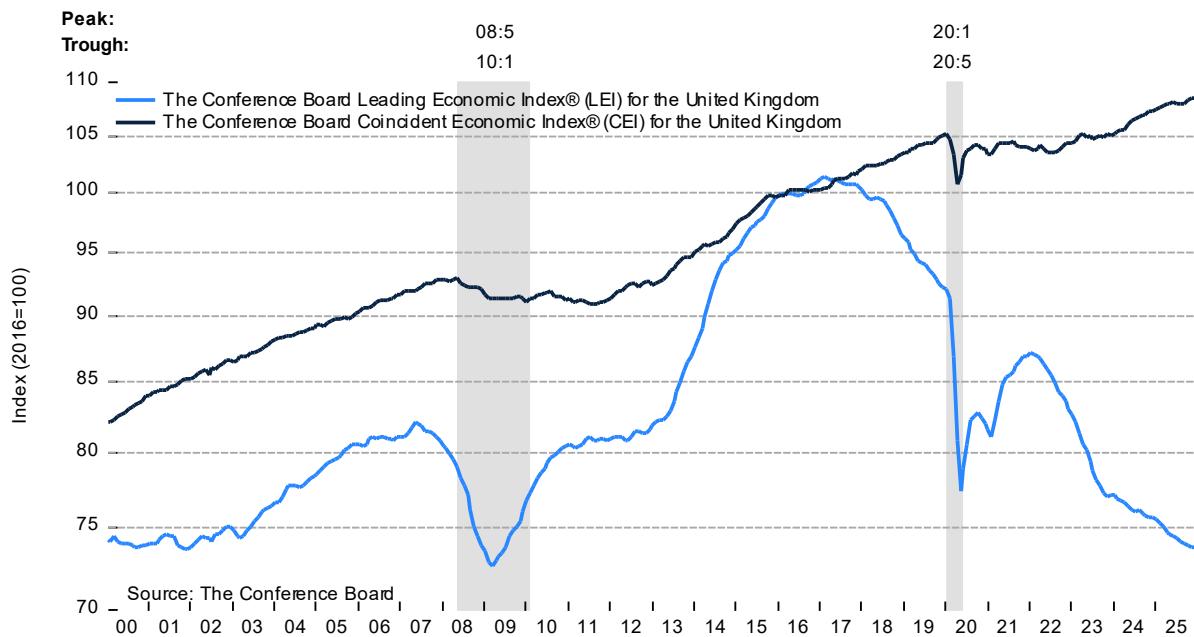
The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) for the UK Remained Unchanged in December

The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) for the United Kingdom remained unchanged in December 2025 at 73.8 (2016=100), after decreasing by 0.1% in November. As a result, the UK LEI contracted by 0.8% over second half of 2025, half the rate of decline compared to -1.6% over the first half of 2025.

The Conference Board Coincident Economic Index® (CEI) for the United Kingdom ticked up by 0.1% in December 2025 to 108.4 (2016=100), after growing by 0.2% in November. Overall, the CEI for the UK grew by 0.4% over the H2 2025, lower than the 0.7% increase observed over the first half of last year.

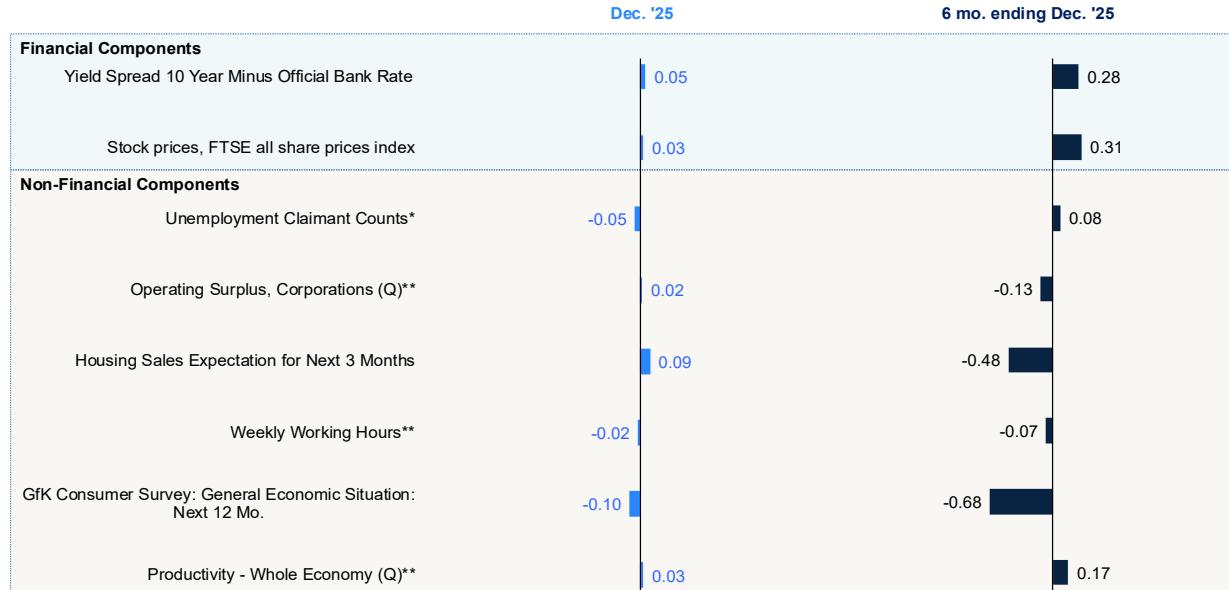
The next release is scheduled for Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 9:30 A.M. ET.

The UK LEI remained unchanged in December



Lower consumer expectations, a rise in the number of unemployment claims, and a reduction in weekly working hours were offset by positive contributions from the other components

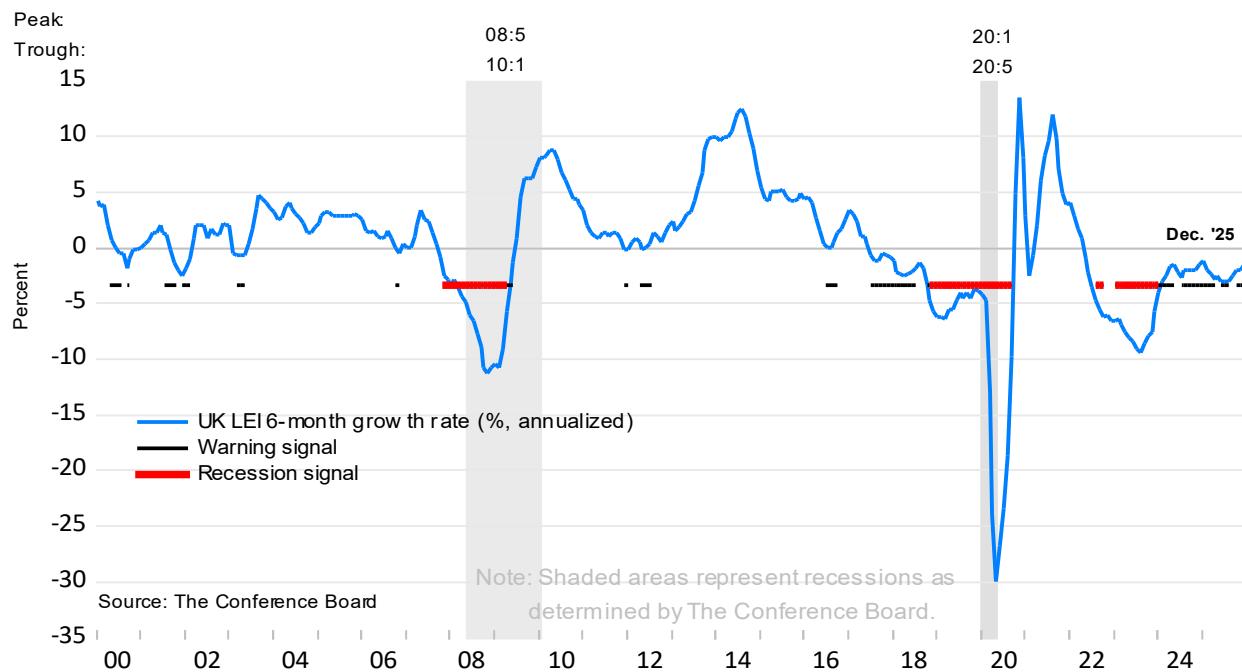
The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® and Component Contributions (Percent)



Source: The Conference Board * Inverted series; a negative change in this component makes a positive contribution.

** Statistical Imputation. -- Q: Quarterly series; these series are converted to a monthly series through a linear interpolation. LEI change might not equal sum of its contributions due to application of trend adjustment factor.

The 6-month growth rate of the UK LEI remained above the recession threshold, but still is indicating sluggish economic activity ahead



NOTE: The chart illustrates the so-called **3Ds**—duration, depth, and diffusion—for interpreting a downward movement in the LEI. **Duration** refers to how long the decline has lasted. **Depth** denotes the size of decline. Duration and depth are measured by the rate of change of the index over the most recent six months at an annualized rate. **Diffusion** is a measure of how widespread the decline is among the LEI's component indicators—on a scale of 0 to 100, a **diffusion index** reading below 50 indicates most components are weakening.

The **3Ds rule** signals an impending recession when: 1) the six-month diffusion index lies at or below 50, shown by the black warning signal lines in the chart; and 2) the LEI's six-month growth rate (annualized) falls below the threshold of -3.6%. The **red recession signal lines** indicate months when both criteria are met simultaneously—and thus that a recession is likely imminent or underway.

About The Conference Board *Leading Economic Index® (LEI)* and *Coincident Economic Index® (CEI)* for the United Kingdom

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 eleven months.

The eight components of the ***Leading Economic Index® for the U.K.*** are:

- Unemployment Claimant Counts
- Weekly Working Hours
- GfK Consumer Survey: General Economic Situation: Next 12 months
- Stock prices, FTSE all share prices index
- Yield Spread
- Productivity, Whole Economy
- Total Gross Operating Surplus of Corporations
- Housing Sales Expectation for next 3 months ©

The four components of the ***Coincident Economic Index® for the U.K.*** are:

- Industrial Production
- Retail Sales
- Employment
- Real Household Disposable Income

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

About The Conference Board

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