

## News Release

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***The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) for the U.S. Increased in March  
Index Points to Continued Economic Growth Through 2017***

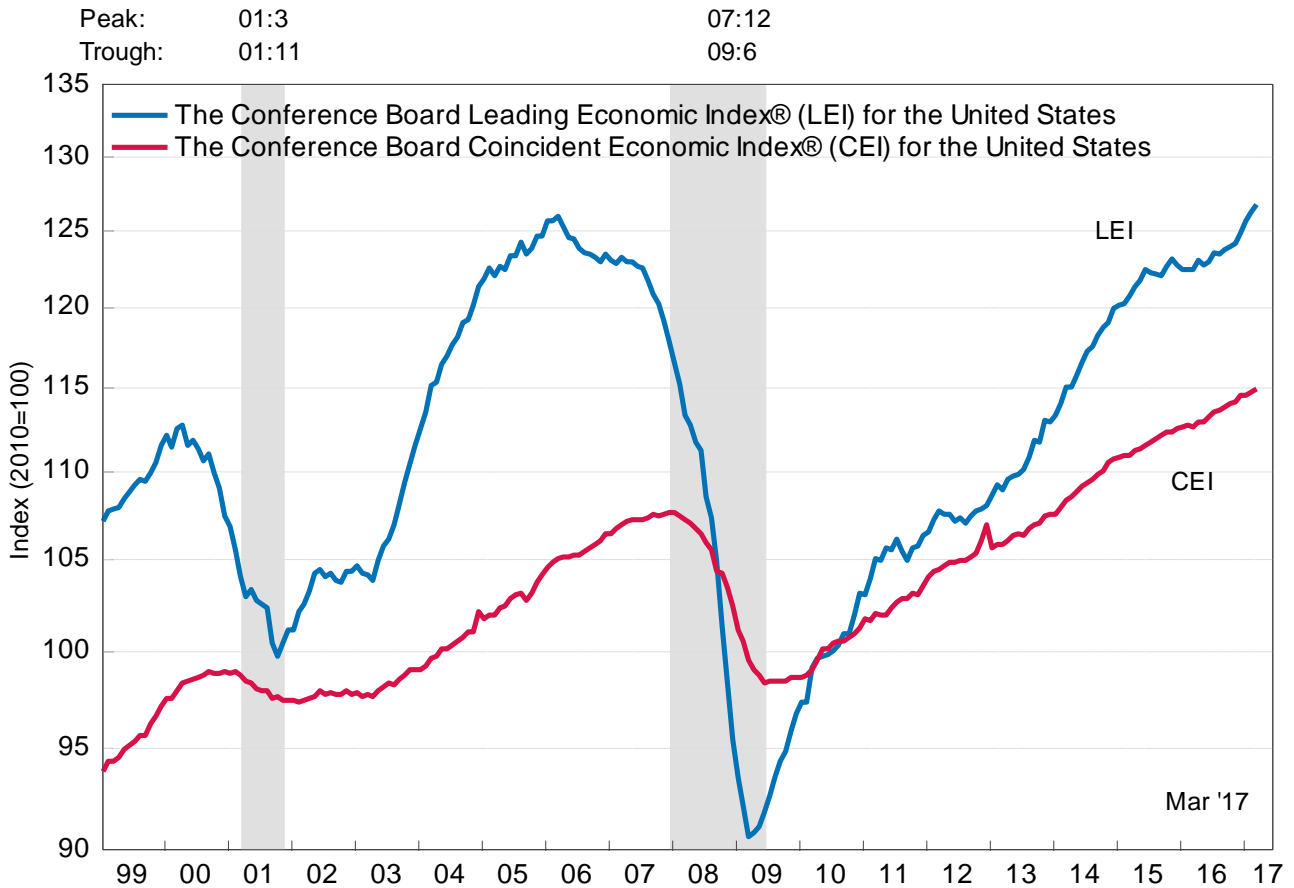
**NEW YORK, April 20, 2017...**The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) for the U.S. increased 0.4 percent in March to 126.7 (2010 = 100), following a 0.5 percent increase in February, and a 0.6 percent increase in January.

“The March increase and upward trend in the U.S. LEI point to continued economic growth in 2017, with perhaps an acceleration later in the year if consumer spending and investment pick up,” said Ataman Ozyildirim, Director of Business Cycles and Growth Research at The Conference Board. “The gains among the leading indicators were very widespread, with new orders in manufacturing and the interest rate spread more than offsetting declines in the labor market components in March.”

**The Conference Board Coincident Economic Index® (CEI)** for the U.S. increased 0.2 percent in March to 114.9 (2010 = 100), following a 0.2 percent increase in February, and no change in January.

**The Conference Board Lagging Economic Index® (LAG)** for the U.S. was unchanged in March, remaining at 123.6 (2010 = 100), following a 0.2 percent increase in both February and January.

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



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

	2017			6-month Sep to Mar
	Jan	Feb	Mar	
Leading Index	125.6	r 126.2	126.7	p
Percent Change	0.6	0.5	r 0.4	p 2.4
Diffusion	90.0	85.0	80.0	95.0
Coincident Index	114.5	r 114.7	r 114.9	p
Percent Change	0.0	r 0.2	r 0.2	p 1.0
Diffusion	25.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Lagging Index	123.4	r 123.6	r 123.6	p
Percent Change	0.2	0.2	0.0	p 1.1
Diffusion	50.0	28.6	42.9	57.1

p Preliminary    r Revised

Indexes equal 100 in 2010

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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