

News Release

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For further information:

Carol Courter 212-339-0232 / courter@conference-board.org
Jonathan Liu 212-339-0257 / jonathan.liu@conference-board.org

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

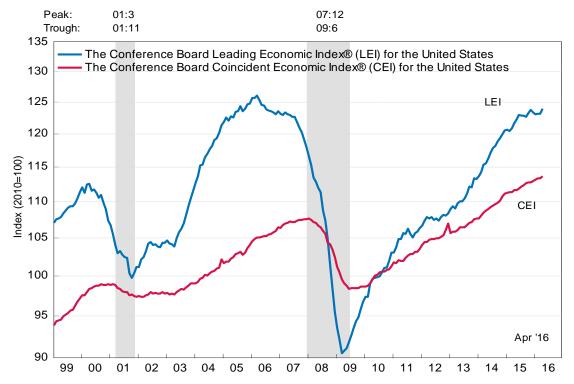
NEW YORK, May 19, 2016...The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) for the U.S. increased 0.6 percent in April to 123.9 (2010 = 100), following no change in March, and a 0.1 percent increase in February.

"The U.S. LEI picked up sharply in April, with all components except consumer expectations contributing to the rebound from an essentially flat first quarter," said Ataman Ozyildirim, Director of Business Cycles and Growth Research at The Conference Board. "Despite a slow start in 2016, labor market and financial indicators, and housing permits all point to a moderate growth trend continuing in 2016."

The Conference Board Coincident Economic Index® (CEI) for the U.S. increased 0.3 percent in April to 113.6 (2010=100), following no change in March, and a 0.2 percent increase in February.

The Conference Board Lagging Economic Index® (LAG) for the U.S. increased 0.3 percent in April to 121.5 (2010 = 100), following a 0.5 percent increase in March, and a 0.4 percent increase in February.

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



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

	2016						6-month
	Feb		Mar		Apr		Oct to Apr
Leading Index	123.1		123.1	r	123.9	p	
Percent Change	0.1	r	0.0	r	0.6		0.6
Diffusion	40.0		45.0		90.0		60.0
Coincident Index	113.3		113.3		113.6	p	
Percent Change	0.2	r	0.0		0.3		0.8
Diffusion	75.0		75.0		100.0		75.0
Lagging Index	120.5	r	121.1	r	121.5	p	
Percent Change	0.4	r	0.5	r	0.3		1.9
Diffusion	50.0		78.6		71.4		100.0

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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