



## News Release

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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.



## **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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