

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 South Korea Increased in December

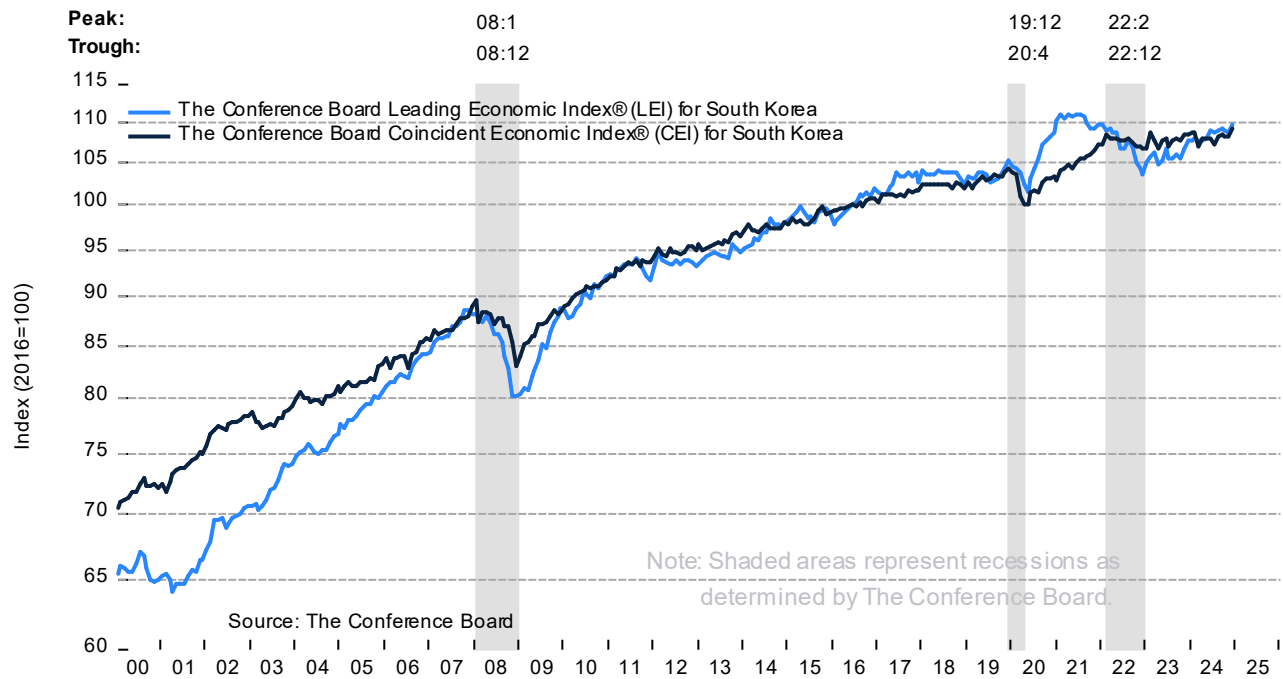
The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) for South Korea rose by 0.9% to 109.7 (2016=100) in December 2024, after decreasing by 0.2% in November. Overall, the LEI expanded by 0.6% over the second half of 2024, a slower pace than the 1.2% growth over the first half of 2024.

The Conference Board Coincident Economic Index® (CEI) for South Korea increased by 0.8% to 109.2 (2016=100) in December 2024, after being unchanged in November. The CEI also expanded by 1.2% over the second half of 2024, more than reversing the 0.5% contraction over the first half of last year.

“The South Korea LEI increased in December, more than reversing the previous two consecutive declines” said **Malala Lin, Economic Research Associate, at The Conference Board**. “The increase in LEI was most notably driven by an improvement in the inventories to shipment Index. This can be attributed to significant increases in shipments for manufactured goods, including electronic products such as semiconductors and computers. Additionally, positive contributions from the bonds yield and private construction orders further boosted the Index. Despite the monthly rebound, the semi-annual and annual growth rates of the LEI remain relatively low compared to the past one and a half years, indicating possible moderation ahead. The Conference Board expects real GDP to moderate in the first quarter of the year and annual growth to reach 2.1% in 2025.”

The next release is scheduled for Thursday, March 6th, 2025, at 10:30 A.M. ET.

The South Korea LEI increased in December



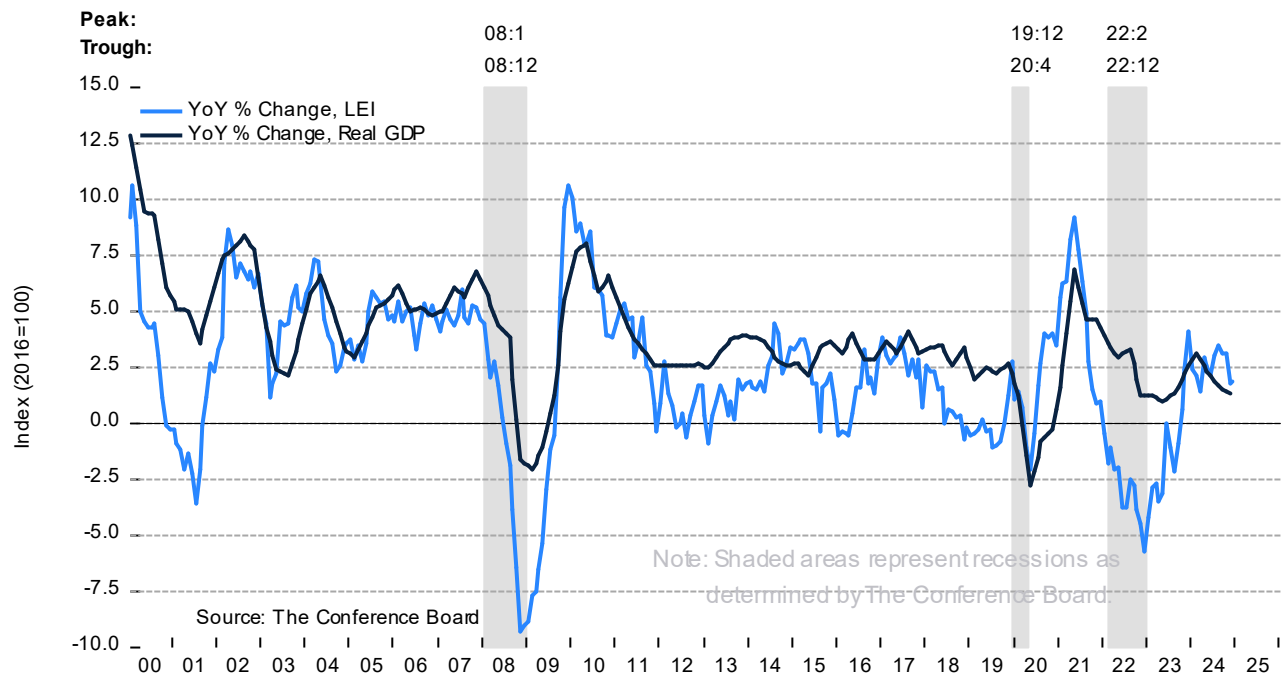
Improvements in the inventories to shipment index, bonds yield, and private construction orders led to the increase in the LEI

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

	Dec. '24	6 mo. ending Dec. '24
Financial Components		
Yield of Government Public Bonds*	0.15	0.37
Stock Prices	-0.13	-0.61
Non-Financial Components		
Index of Inventories to Shipments*	1.11	0.31
Exports FOB	-0.29	0.12
Value of Machinery Orders	-0.08	-0.11
Private Construction Orders	0.07	0.11

Source: The Conference Board
 * Inverted series; a negative change in this component makes a positive contribution
 LEI change might not equal sum of its contributions due to application of trend adjustment factor

The South Korea LEI annual growth rate improved slightly in December, but remains weak compared to the past 18 months



About The Conference Board *Leading Economic Index*® (LEI) and *Coincident Economic Index*® (CEI) for South Korea

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 three months.

The six components of the *Leading Economic Index*® for South Korea are:

- Stock Prices
- Yield of Government Public Bonds
- Real Exports FOB (3-month moving average)
- Value of Machinery Orders
- Index of Inventories to Shipments
- Private Construction Orders

The four components of the *Coincident Economic Index*® for South Korea are:

- Industrial Production
- Wholesale and Retail Sales
- Total Employment
- Monthly Cash Earnings

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

About The Conference Board

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