News Release

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

NEW YORK, February 22, 2021…**The Conference Board Leading Economic Index®** (LEI) for the U.S. increased 0.5 percent in January to 110.3 (2016 = 100), following a 0.4 percent increase in December and a 0.9 percent increase in November.

"While the pace of increase in the U.S. LEI has slowed since mid-2020, January's gains were broad-based and suggest economic growth should improve gradually over the first half of 2021," said Ataman Ozyildirim, Senior Director of Economic Research at The Conference Board. "As the vaccination campaign against COVID-19 accelerates, labor markets and overall growth are likely to continue improving through the rest of this year as well. The Conference Board now expects the U.S. economy to expand by 4.4 percent in 2021, after a 3.5 percent contraction in 2020."

The Conference Board Coincident Economic Index® (CEI) for the U.S. increased 0.2 percent in January to 103.3 (2016 = 100), following a 0.1 percent increase in December and no change in November.

The Conference Board Lagging Economic Index® (LAG) for the U.S. decreased 0.6 percent in January to 106.2 (2016 = 100), following a 0.5 percent increase in December and no change in November.

The next release is scheduled for Thursday, March 18 at 10 A.M. ET.

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Peak: 01:3   07:12   20:2
Trough: 01:11   09:6
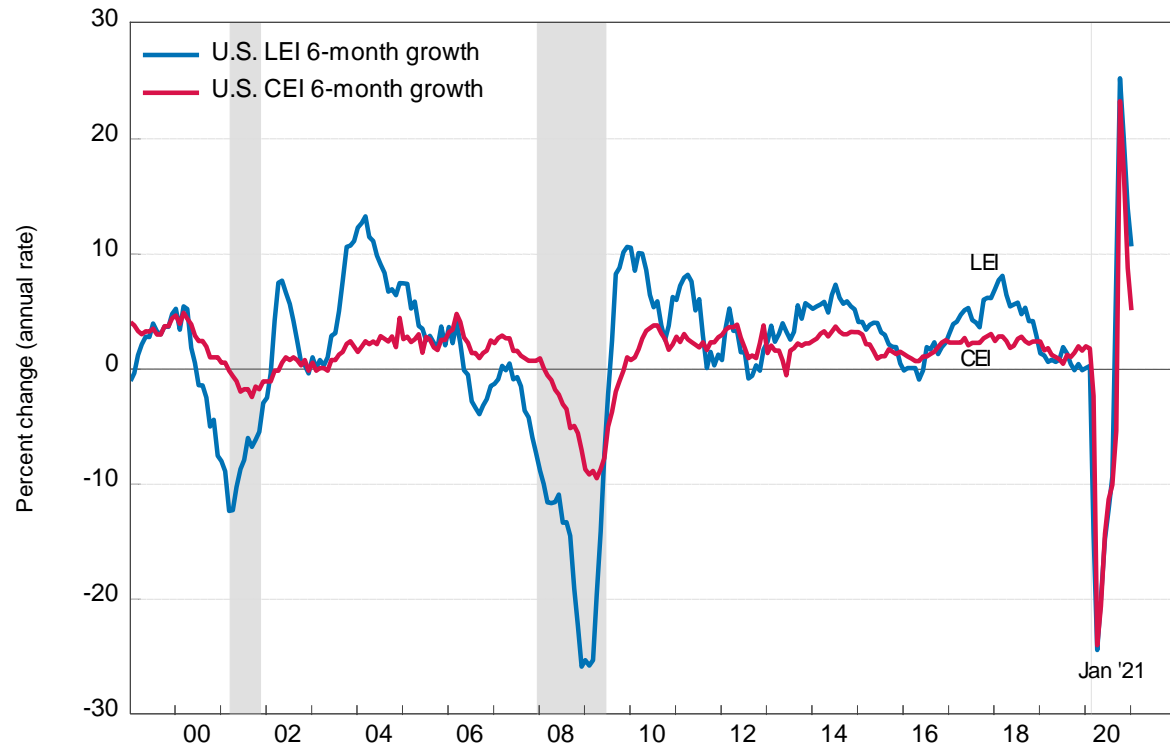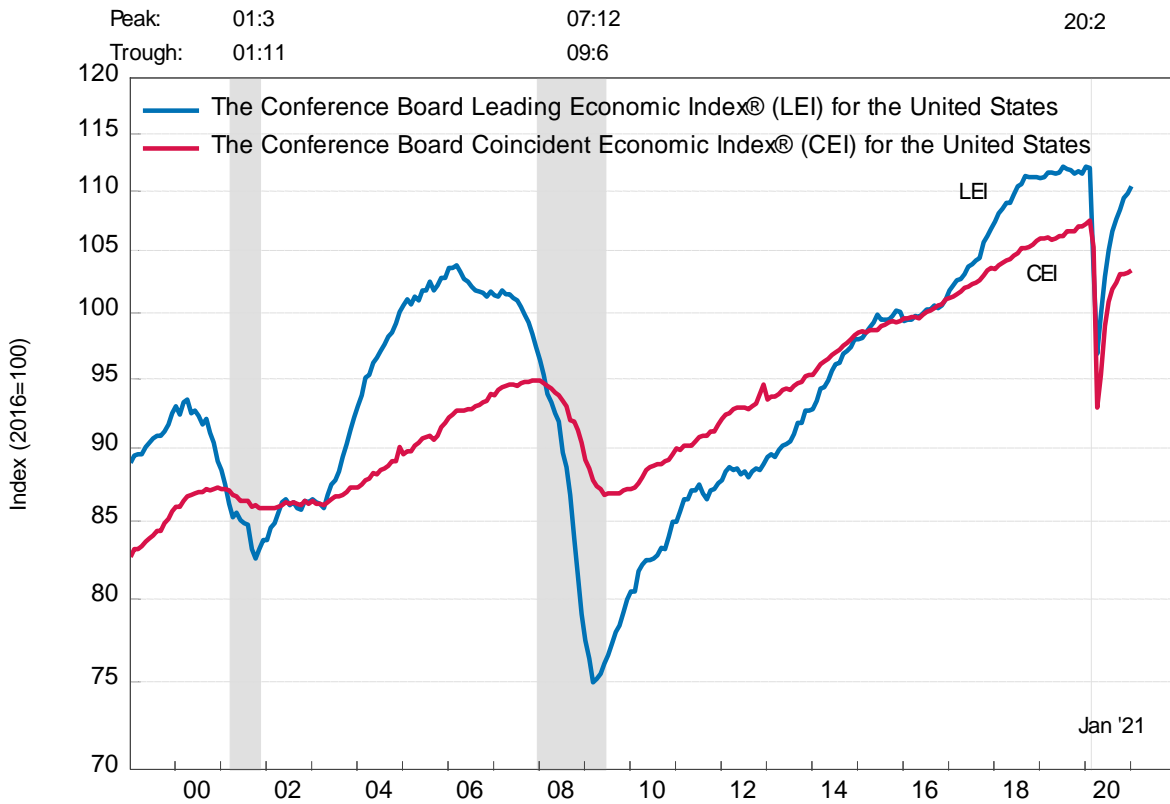
Latest LEI Trough March 2009, Latest CEI Trough June 2009
Shaded areas represent recessions as determined by the NBER Business Cycle Dating Committee.
Source: The Conference Board

Summary Table of Composite Economic Indexes

	2020		2021		6-month
	Nov	Dec	Jan		Jul to Jan
Leading Index	109.3	109.7	110.3	p	
Percent Change	0.9	0.4	0.5	p	5.1
Diffusion	85	75	70		90
Coincident Index	103.0	103.1	103.3	p	
Percent Change	0.0	0.1	0.2	p	2.5
Diffusion	50	50	88		100
Lagging Index	106.3	106.8	106.2	p	
Percent Change	0.0	0.5	-0.6	p	-1.6
Diffusion	50	42.9	42.9		21.4

p Preliminary   r Revised
Indexes equal 100 in 2016
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

About The Conference Board

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