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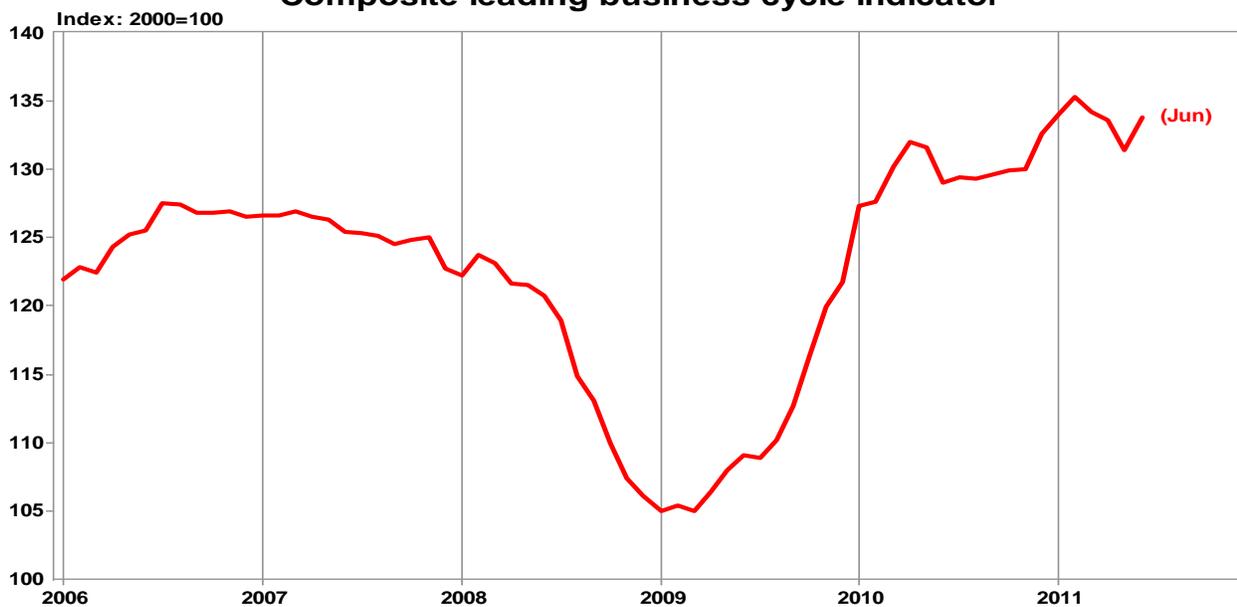
FOR RELEASE: 09:00 A.M., Tuesday, 23 August 2011

Composite business cycle indicators for South Africa

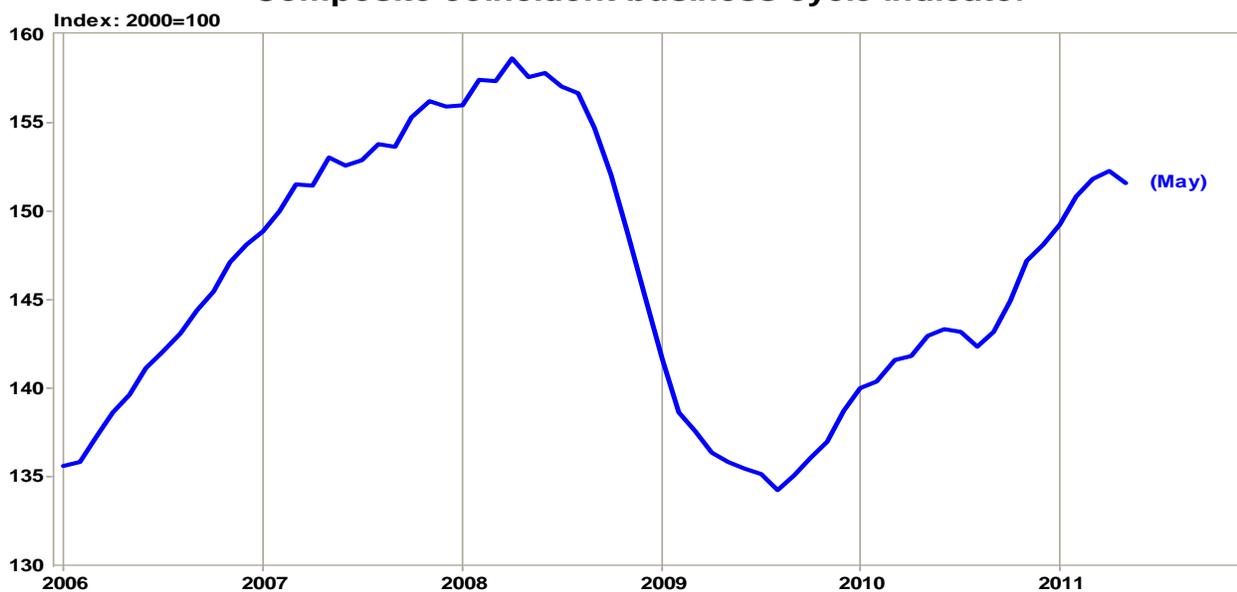
- The composite **leading** business cycle indicator *increased* by 1,8 per cent in June 2011 compared with the preceding month. Seven of the ten component time series that were available for June 2011 increased, while three decreased. The largest positive contributions to the movement in the leading indicator in June came from a notable increase in the number of residential building plans passed, particularly for flats and townhouses, as well as a marked increase in the twelve-month percentage change in job advertisement space, largely due to the low base that was created in June 2010 as a result of the hosting of the FIFA World Cup™ tournament. The major negative contributors were the prices of all classes of shares traded on the JSE, as well as the interest rate spread.
- The composite **coincident** business cycle indicator *decreased* by 0,5 per cent in May 2011 compared with the preceding month – its first monthly decline after eight consecutive increases.
- The composite **lagging** business cycle indicator *decreased* by 0,4 per cent in May 2011 compared with the preceding month. The lagging indicator appears to have bottomed out after January 2011.

The next release is scheduled for 20 September 2011, at 09:00 A.M.

Composite leading business cycle indicator



Composite coincident business cycle indicator



Composite lagging business cycle indicator

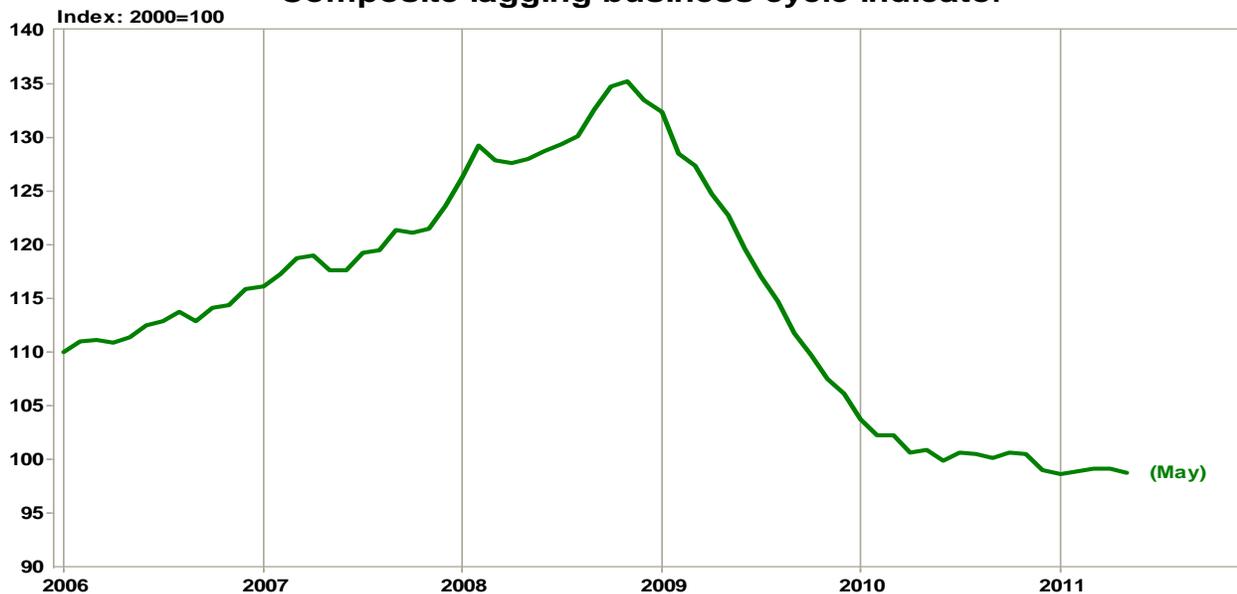


Table 1 Summary of the composite business cycle indicators

Indices: 2000 = 100	2010		2011					
	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Leading indicator	130,0	132,6	134,0	135,3	134,2	133,6	131,4	133,8
<i>12-month percentage change</i>	8,3	8,9	5,3	6,0	3,1	1,1	-0,2	3,6
Coincident indicator	147,2	148,1	149,2	150,8	151,8	152,3	151,6	-
<i>12-month percentage change</i>	7,4	6,8	6,6	7,4	7,2	7,4	6,1	-
Lagging indicator	100,4	99,0	98,7	98,8	99,1	99,2	98,8	-
<i>12-month percentage change</i>	-6,6	-6,7	-4,8	-3,4	-3,1	-1,4	-2,1	-

Table 2 Component time series of the composite leading business cycle indicator and their contribution to the June 2011 data point:

Positive contributors (ranked from largest to smallest)
Number of building plans passed: Flats, townhouses & houses larger than 80m ²
Job advertisements: The Sunday Times (percentage change over 12 months)
Number of new passenger vehicles sold: (percentage change over 12 months)
BER*: Volume of orders in manufacturing (half weight)
Commodity price index for South Africa's main export commodities (US dollar based)
Composite leading business cycle indicator of South Africa's major trading-partner countries (percentage change over 12 months)
Real M1 (six-month smoothed growth rate)
Negative contributors (ranked from largest to smallest)
Index of prices of all classes of shares traded on the JSE
Interest rate spread: 10-year government bonds minus 91-day Treasury bills
BER*: Average hours worked per factory worker in manufacturing (half weight)

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