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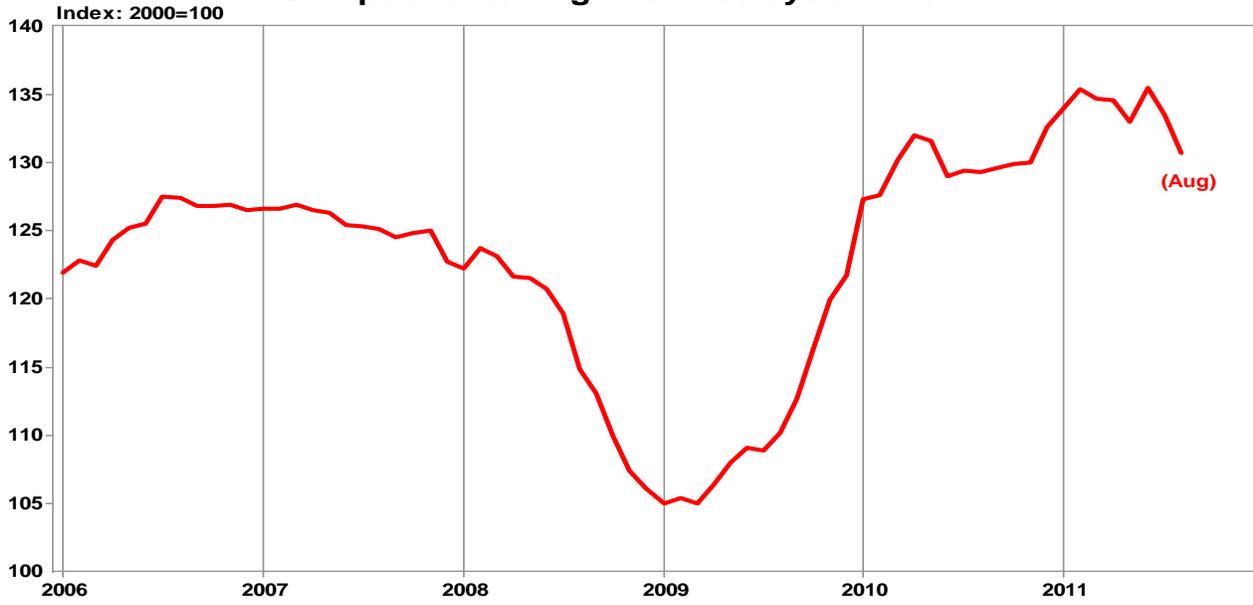
FOR RELEASE: 09:00 A.M., Tuesday, 25 October 2011

Composite business cycle indicators for South Africa

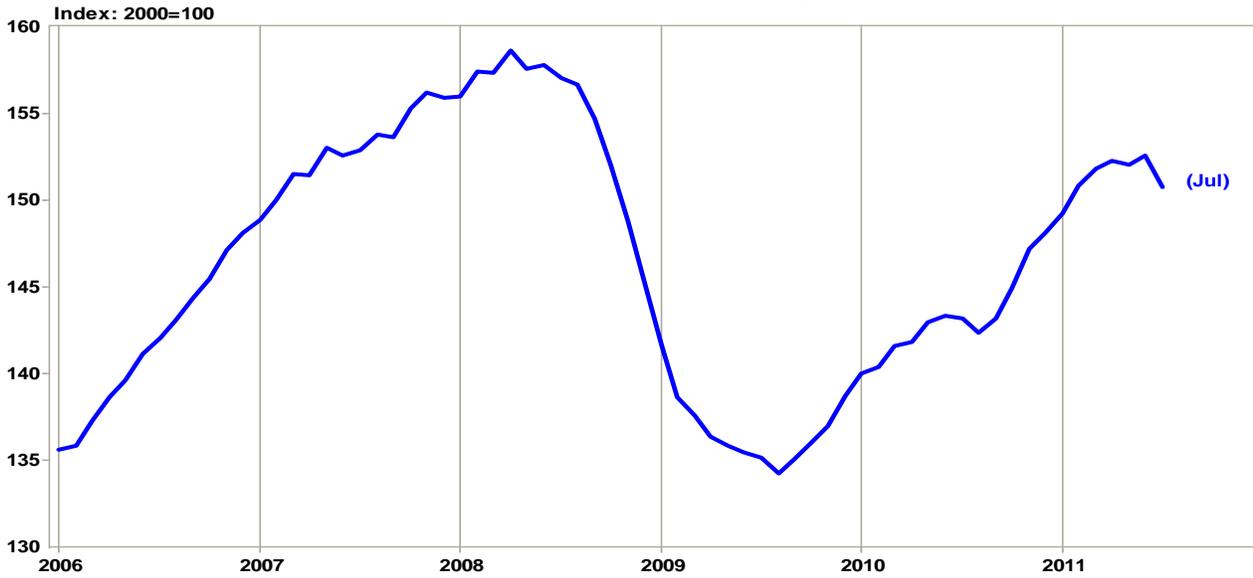
- The composite **leading** business cycle indicator *decreased* by 2,1 per cent in August 2011 compared with the preceding month. Ten of the eleven component time series that were available for August 2011 decreased, while one increased. The major negative contributors to the movement in the leading indicator in August were the twelve-month percentage change in the composite leading business cycle indicator of South Africa's major trading-partner countries, followed by the prices of all classes of shares traded on the JSE. The only positive contribution came from the export commodity price index.
- The composite **coincident** business cycle indicator *decreased* by 1,2 per cent in July 2011 compared with the preceding month, as widespread industrial action impacted negatively on industrial output during the month.
- The composite **lagging** business cycle indicator *decreased* by 0,3 per cent in July 2011 compared with the preceding month.

The next release is scheduled for 22 November 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	2011							
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Leading indicator	134.0	135.4	134.7	134.6	133.1	135.5	133.5	130.7
12-month percentage change	5.3	6.0	3.5	1.9	1.1	5.0	3.2	1.1
Coincident indicator	149.2	150.8	151.8	152.3	152.0	152.6	150.7	-
12-month percentage change	6.6	7.4	7.2	7.4	6.4	6.5	5.2	-
Lagging indicator	98.7	98.7	99.3	99.7	99.7	100.3	100.0	-
12-month percentage change	-4.8	-3.5	-2.9	-0.9	-1.2	0.4	-0.6	-

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

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

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