



## South African Reserve Bank

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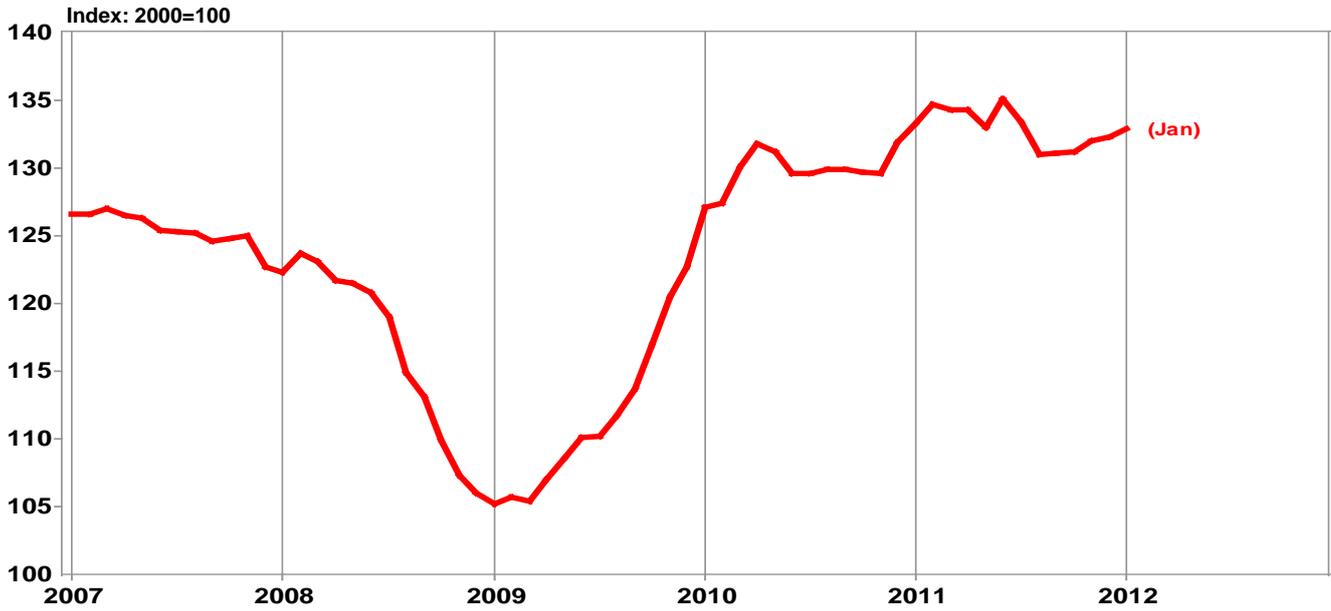
***FOR RELEASE: 09:00 A.M., Tuesday, 20 March 2012***

### **Composite business cycle indicators for South Africa**

- The composite **leading** business cycle indicator *increased* by 0,4 per cent in January 2012 compared with the preceding month. Increases in five of the eleven component time series outweighed decreases recorded in the remaining six component time series in January 2012. The major positive contributions to the movement in the leading indicator in January came from the BER Business Confidence Index, followed by the prices of all classes of shares traded on the JSE; while the largest negative contributions in January came from the twelve-month percentage change in job advertisement space, and the twelve-month percentage change in the number of new passenger vehicles sold.
- The composite **coincident** business cycle indicator *increased* by 0,3 per cent on a month-to-month basis in December 2011.
- The composite **lagging** business cycle indicator *decreased* by 0,5 per cent in December 2011.

**The next release is scheduled for 24 April 2012, at 09:00 A.M.**

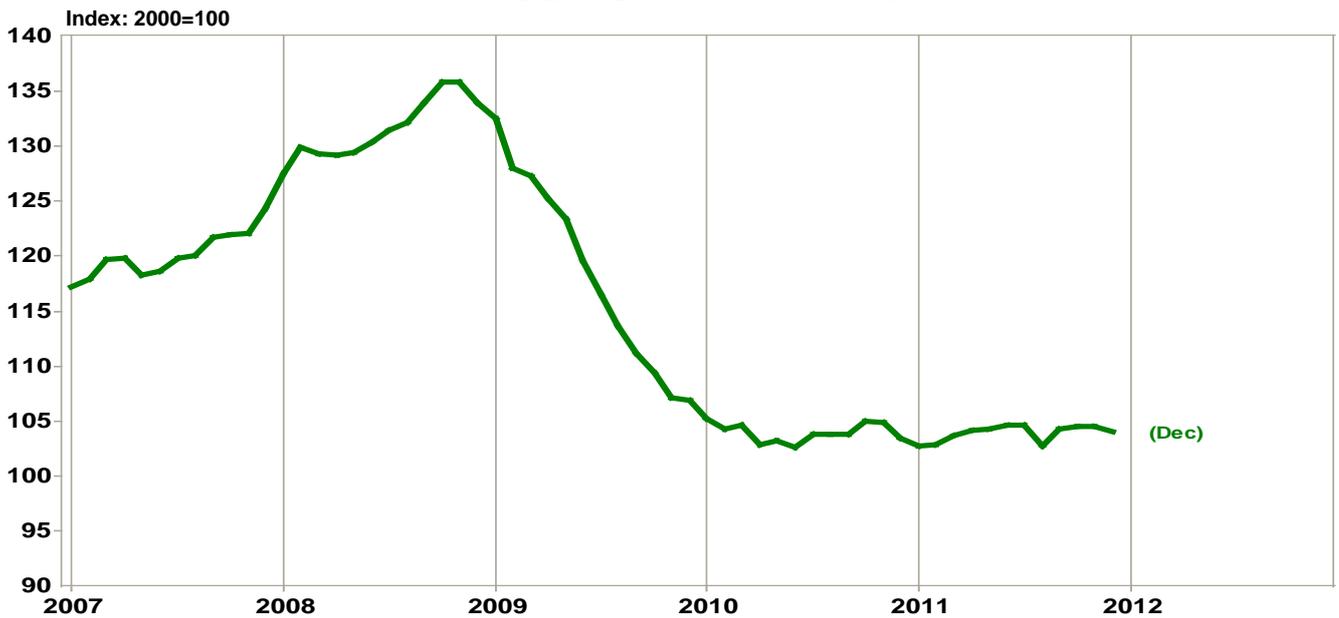
## Composite leading business cycle indicator



## Composite coincident business cycle indicator



## Composite lagging business cycle indicator



**Table 1 Summary of the composite business cycle indicators**

Indices: 2000 = 100	2011							2012
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Leading indicator	135,1	133,4	131,0	131,1	131,2	132,0	132,3	132,9
12-month percentage change	4,2	2,9	0,9	0,9	1,2	1,9	0,3	-0,3
Coincident indicator	152,2	151,0	151,7	153,2	153,1	154,8	155,3	-
12-month percentage change	5,6	5,0	5,9	6,2	4,9	4,6	3,6	-
Lagging indicator	104,7	104,6	102,7	104,2	104,5	104,5	104,0	-
12-month percentage change	2,0	0,9	-1,0	0,4	-0,4	-0,3	1,2	-

**Table 2 Component time series of the composite leading business cycle indicator and their contribution to the January 2012 data point:**

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

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