



South African Reserve Bank

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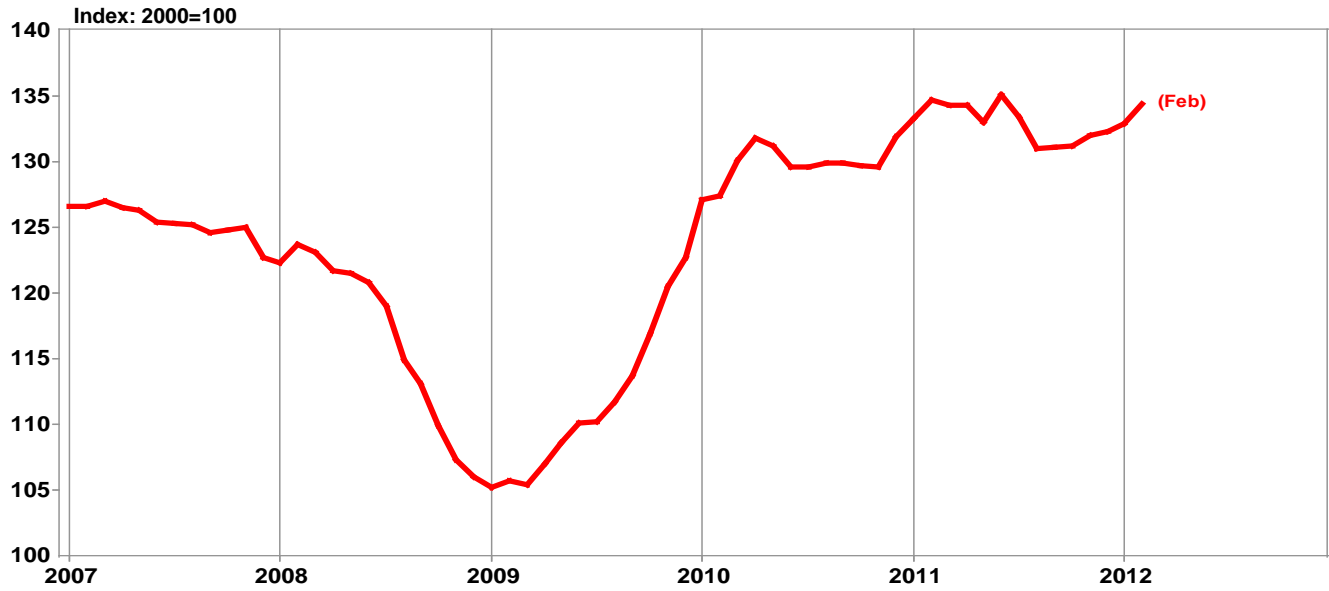
FOR RELEASE: 09:00 A.M., Tuesday, 24 April 2012

Composite business cycle indicators for South Africa

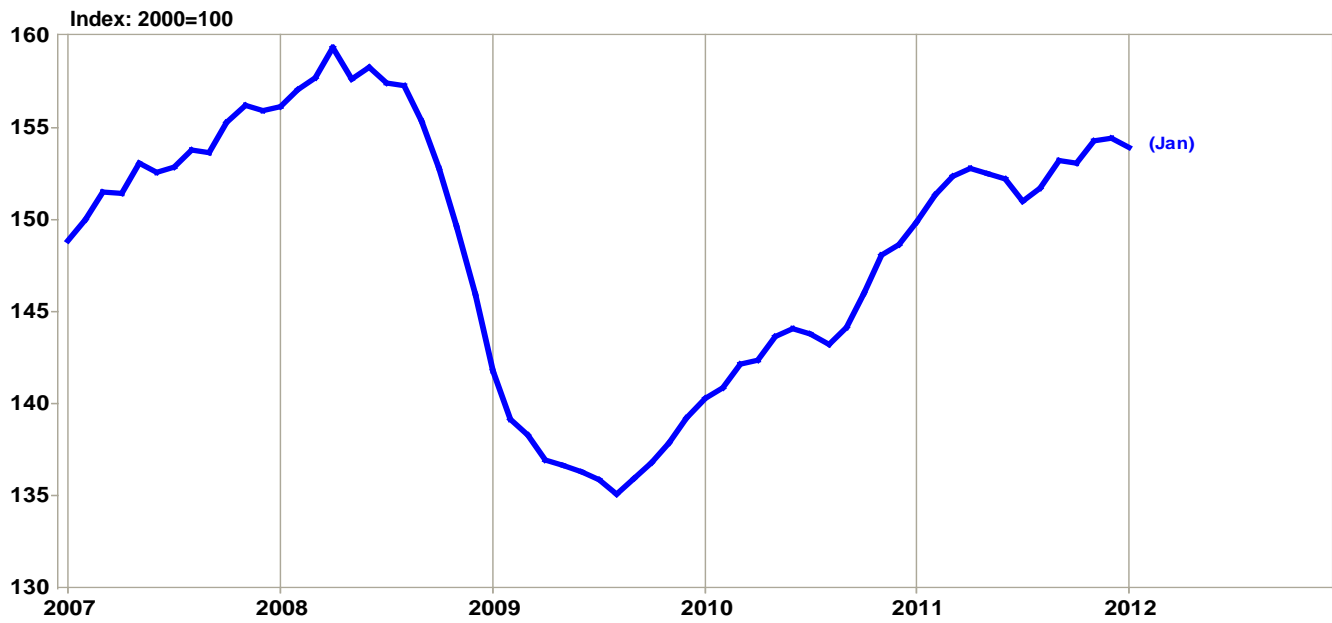
- The composite **leading** business cycle indicator *increased* by 1,1 per cent in February 2012 compared with the preceding month. Seven of the eleven component time series that were available for February 2012 increased, while four decreased. The major positive contributions to the movement in the leading indicator in February came from an improvement in the BER's Business Confidence Index, followed by an increase in the export commodity price index. The largest negative contributions in February came from a moderation in the twelve-month percentage change in the number of new passenger vehicles sold, as well as a narrowing of the interest rate spread.
- The composite **coincident** business cycle indicator *decreased* by 0,3 per cent on a month-to-month basis in January 2012.
- The composite **lagging** business cycle indicator *increased* by 1,1 per cent in January 2012.

The next release is scheduled for 22 May 2012, at 09:00 A.M.

Composite leading business cycle indicator



Composite coincident business cycle indicator



Composite lagging business cycle indicator

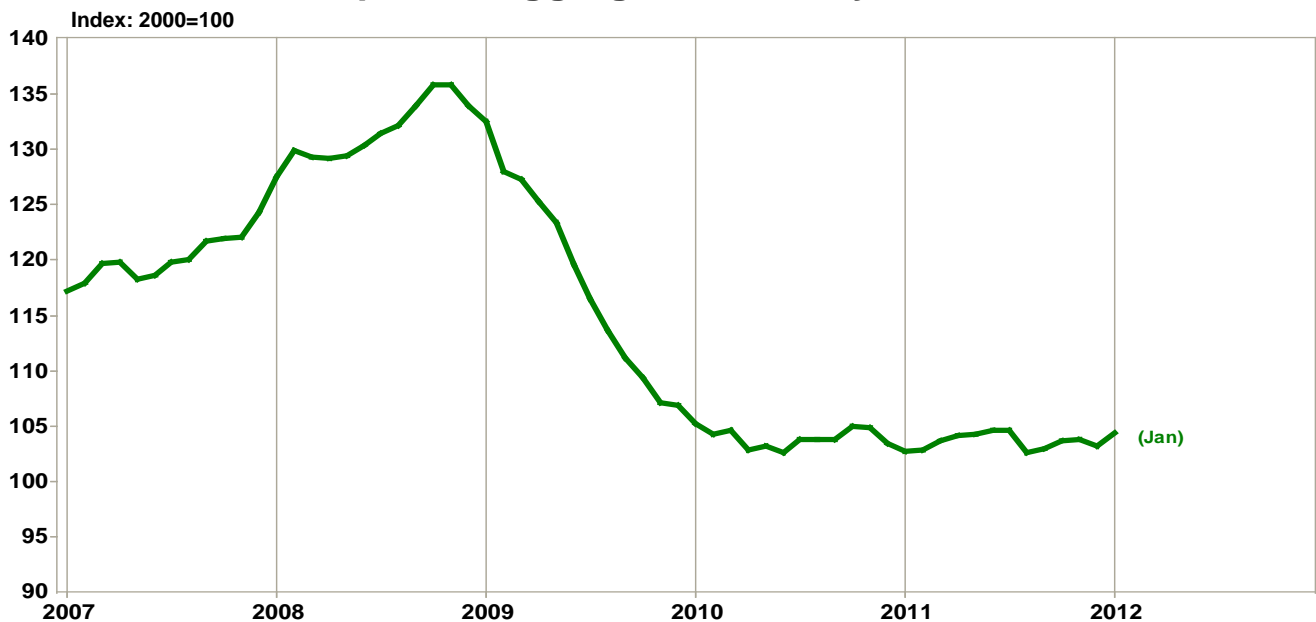


Table 1 Summary of the composite business cycle indicators

Indices: 2000 = 100	2011						2012	
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Leading indicator	133,4	131,0	131,1	131,2	132,0	132,3	132,9	134,4
<i>12-month percentage change</i>	2,9	0,9	0,9	1,2	1,9	0,3	-0,3	-0,2
Coincident indicator	151,0	151,7	153,2	153,1	154,3	154,4	153,9	-
<i>12-month percentage change</i>	5,0	6,0	6,2	4,9	4,3	3,0	2,7	-
Lagging indicator	104,6	102,6	102,9	103,6	103,8	103,2	104,4	-
<i>12-month percentage change</i>	0,9	-1,1	-0,8	-1,2	-1,0	-0,2	1,6	-

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

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

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