



South African Reserve Bank

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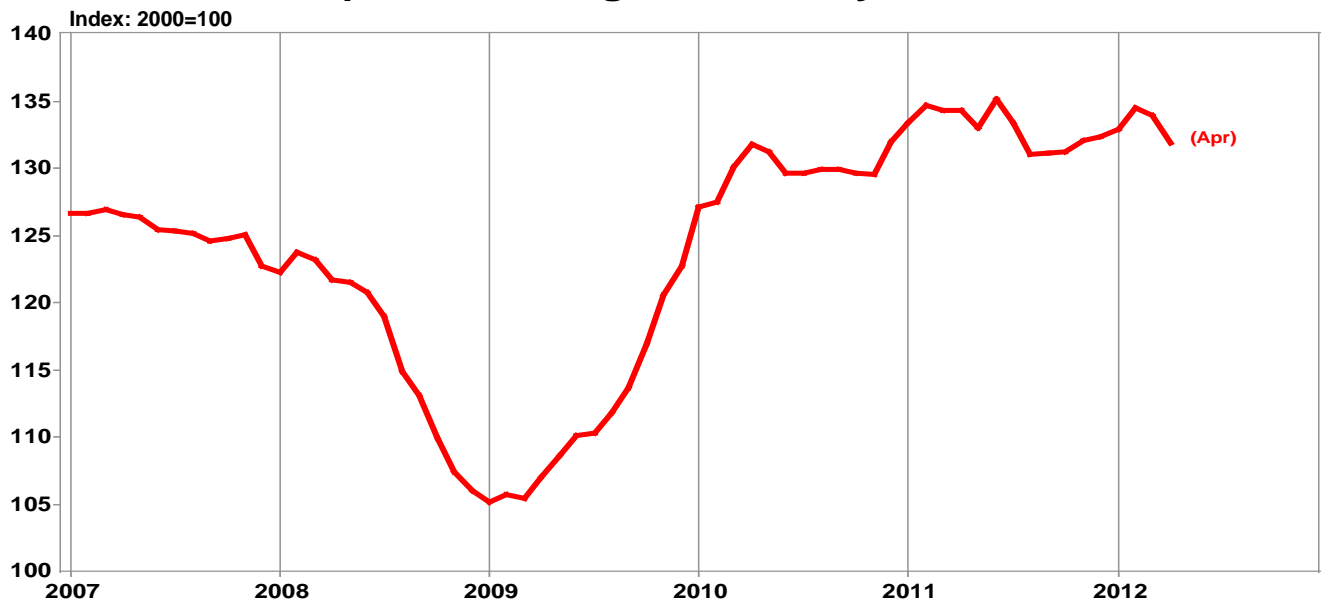
FOR RELEASE: 09:00 A.M., Tuesday, 26 June 2012

Composite business cycle indicators for South Africa

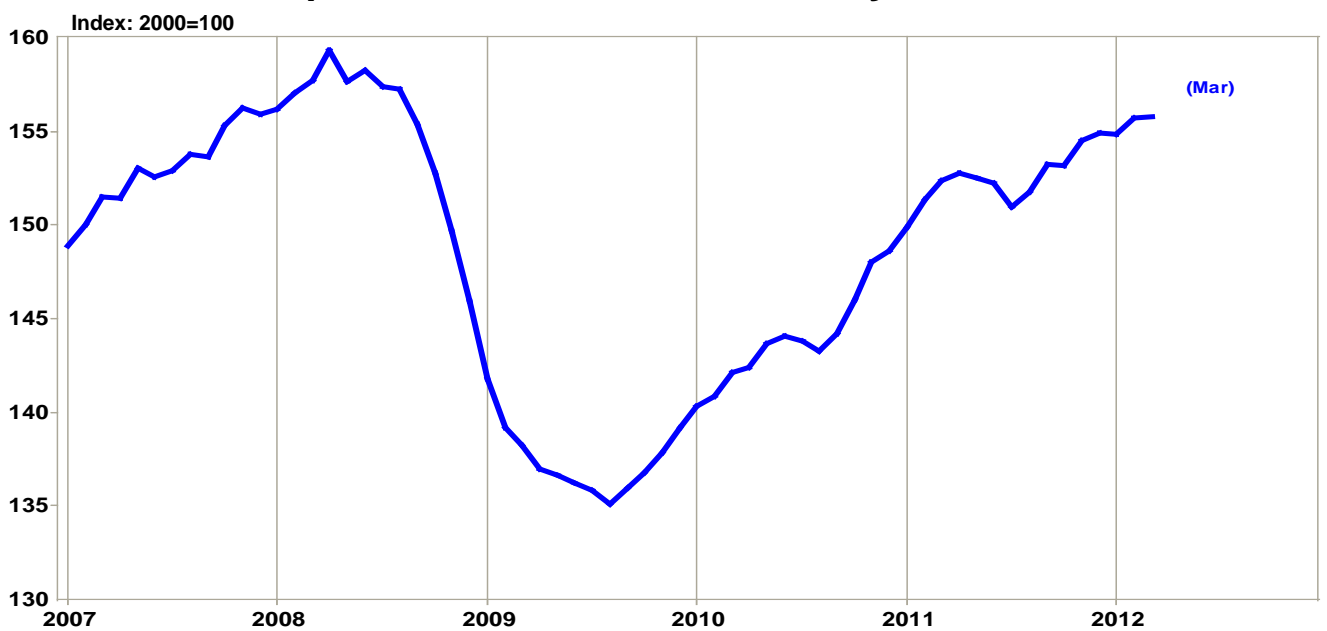
- The composite **leading** business cycle indicator *decreased* by 1,5 per cent in April 2012 compared with the preceding month. Nine of the eleven component time series that were available for April 2012 decreased, while two increased. The largest negative contributions in April came from a deterioration in the BER's Business Confidence Index, as well as a decline in the six-month smoothed growth rate in the real M1 money supply. The positive contributions to the movement in the leading indicator in April came from an acceleration in the twelve-month percentage change in the number of new passenger vehicles sold, followed by an acceleration in the twelve-month percentage change in job advertisement space.
- The composite **coincident** business cycle indicator remained *unchanged* on a month-to-month basis in March 2012.
- The composite **lagging** business cycle indicator *decreased* by 1,2 per cent in March 2012.

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

Composite leading business cycle indicator



Composite coincident business cycle indicator



Composite lagging business cycle indicator

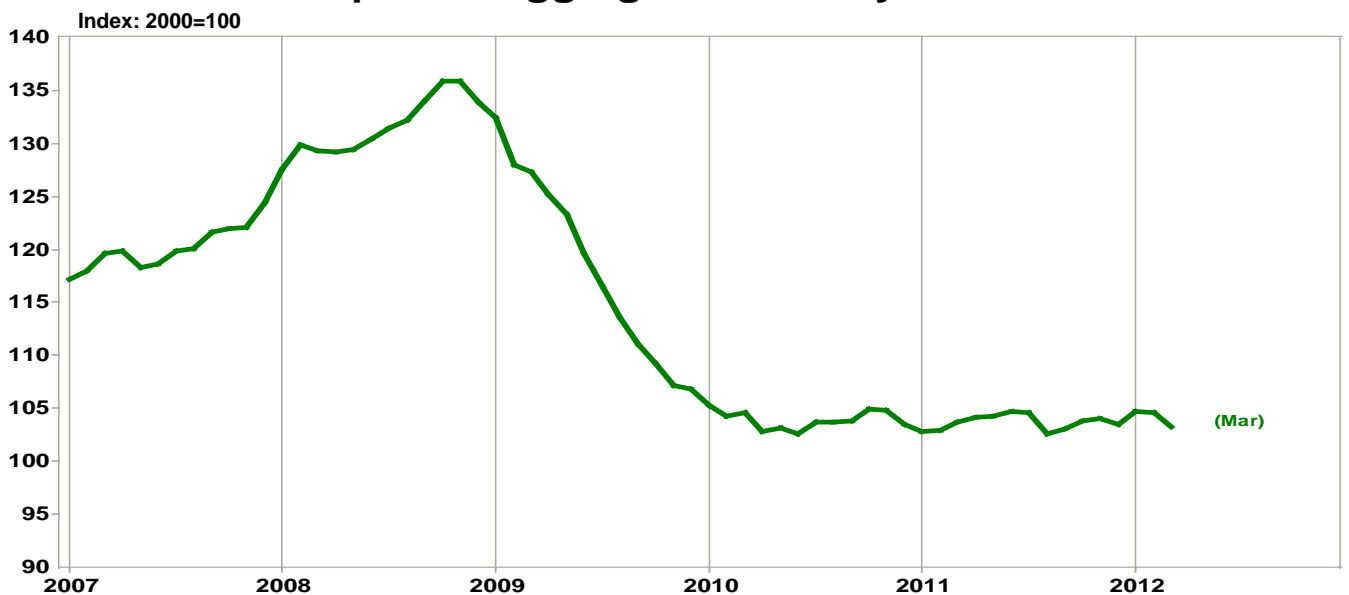


Table 1 Summary of the composite business cycle indicators

Indices: 2000 = 100	2011				2012			
	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Leading indicator	131,1	131,2	132,0	132,3	132,9	134,5	133,9	131,9
12-month percentage change	0,9	1,2	1,9	0,3	-0,3	-0,1	-0,3	-1,8
Coincident indicator	153,2	153,1	154,5	154,9	154,9	155,7	155,8	-
12-month percentage change	6,2	4,9	4,4	4,2	3,3	2,9	2,3	-
Lagging indicator	103,0	103,8	104,0	103,5	104,7	104,6	103,3	-
12-month percentage change	-0,8	-1,0	-0,7	0,1	1,9	1,6	-0,4	-

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

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

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