



South African Reserve Bank

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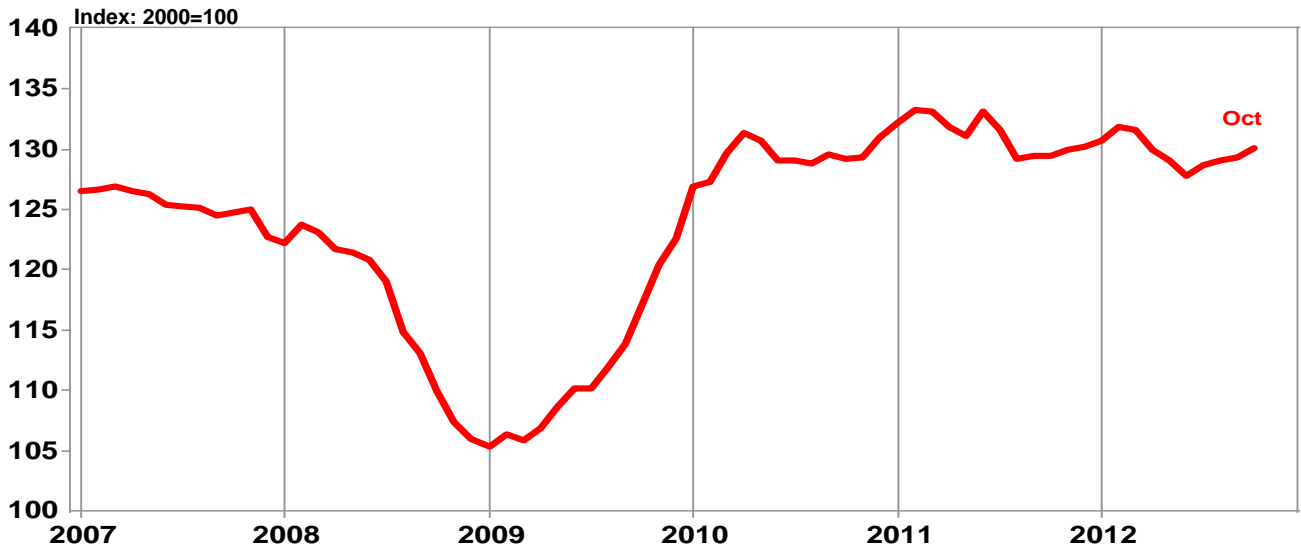
FOR RELEASE: 09:00 A.M., Wednesday, 19 December 2012

Composite business cycle indicators for South Africa

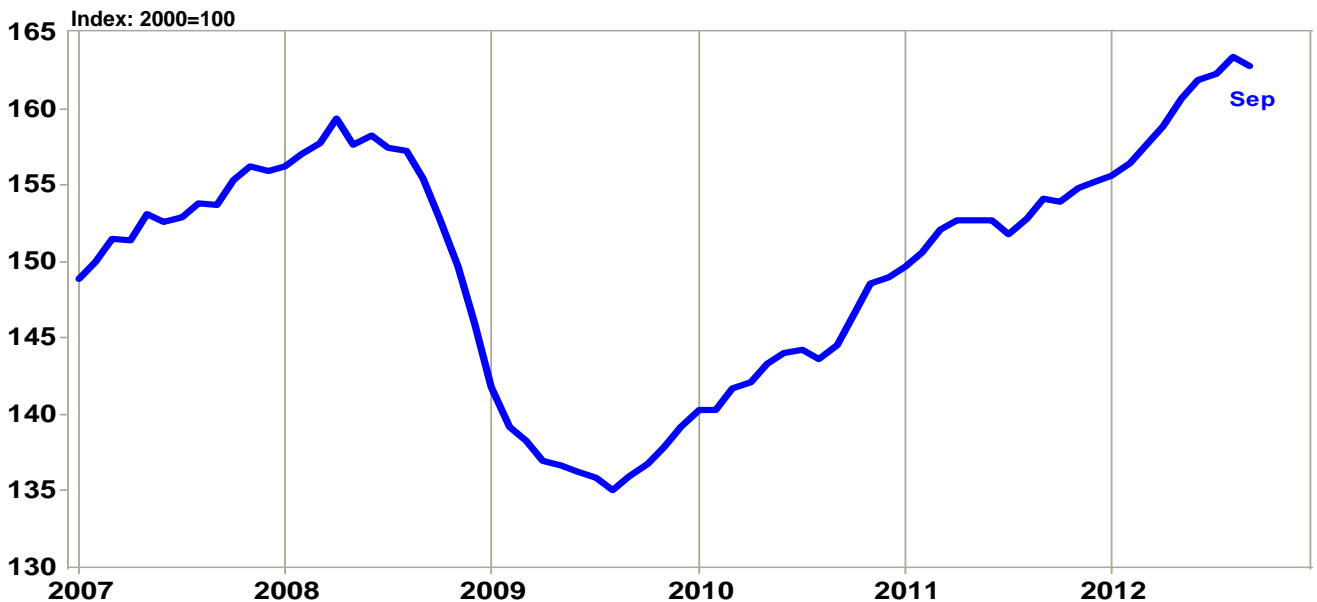
- The composite **leading** business cycle indicator *increased* by 0,6 per cent in October 2012 compared with the preceding month. Seven of the eleven component time series that were available for October 2012 increased, while four decreased. The largest positive contributions in October came from an increase in the number of residential building plans passed, as well as an acceleration in the twelve-month percentage change in the number of new passenger vehicles sold. The major negative contributions to the movement in the leading indicator in October came from a deceleration in the twelve-month percentage change in job advertisement space, as well as a decline in the six-month smoothed growth rate in the real M1 money supply.
- The composite **coincident** business cycle indicator *decreased* by 0,3 per cent on a month-to-month basis in September 2012.
- The composite **lagging** business cycle indicator *increased* by 1,1 per cent on a month-to-month basis in September 2012.

The next release is scheduled for 22 January 2013, at 09:00 A.M.

Composite leading business cycle indicator



Composite coincident business cycle indicator



Composite lagging business cycle indicator

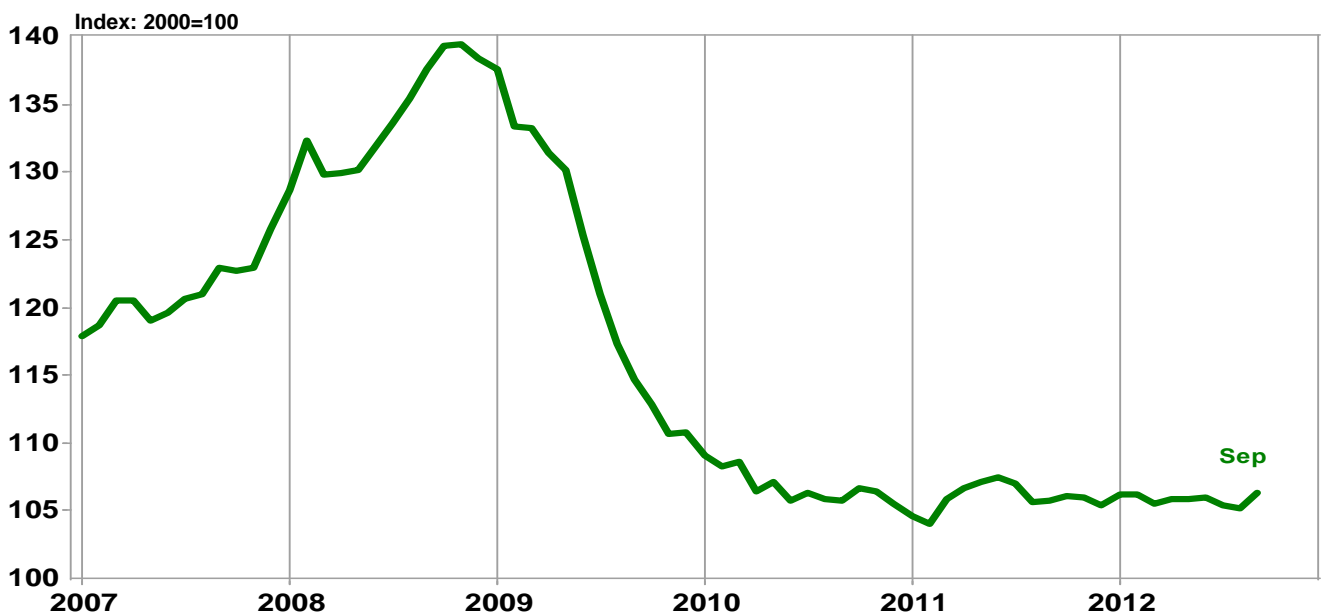


Table 1 Summary of the composite business cycle indicators

Indices: 2000 = 100	2012							
	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Leading indicator	131,7	129,9	129,1	127,8	128,8	129,1	129,3	130,1
<i>12-month percentage change</i>	-1,1	-1,5	-1,5	-4,0	-2,1	0,0	-0,1	0,5
Coincident indicator	157,7	158,8	160,6	161,9	162,3	163,4	162,8	-
<i>12-month percentage change</i>	3,6	4,0	5,2	6,0	6,9	6,9	5,6	-
Lagging indicator	105,5	105,8	105,9	106,0	105,4	105,2	106,3	-
<i>12-month percentage change</i>	-0,3	-0,8	-1,2	-1,4	-1,5	-0,3	0,6	-

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

Positive contributors (ranked from largest to smallest)
Number of building plans approved: Flats, townhouses & houses larger than 80m ²
Number of new passenger vehicles sold: (percentage change over 12 months)
Interest rate spread: 10-year government bonds minus 91-day Treasury bills
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)
BER*: Volume of orders in manufacturing (half weight)
Commodity price index for South Africa's main export commodities (US dollar based)
Negative contributors (ranked from largest to smallest)
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)
BER*: Business Confidence Index
Unavailable component series
Gross operating surplus as a percentage of gross domestic product

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