



## South African Reserve Bank

**For further information regarding this release, please contact:**

Adél Bosch: +27 (12) 313 4242 [Adel.Bosch@resbank.co.za](mailto:Adel.Bosch@resbank.co.za)

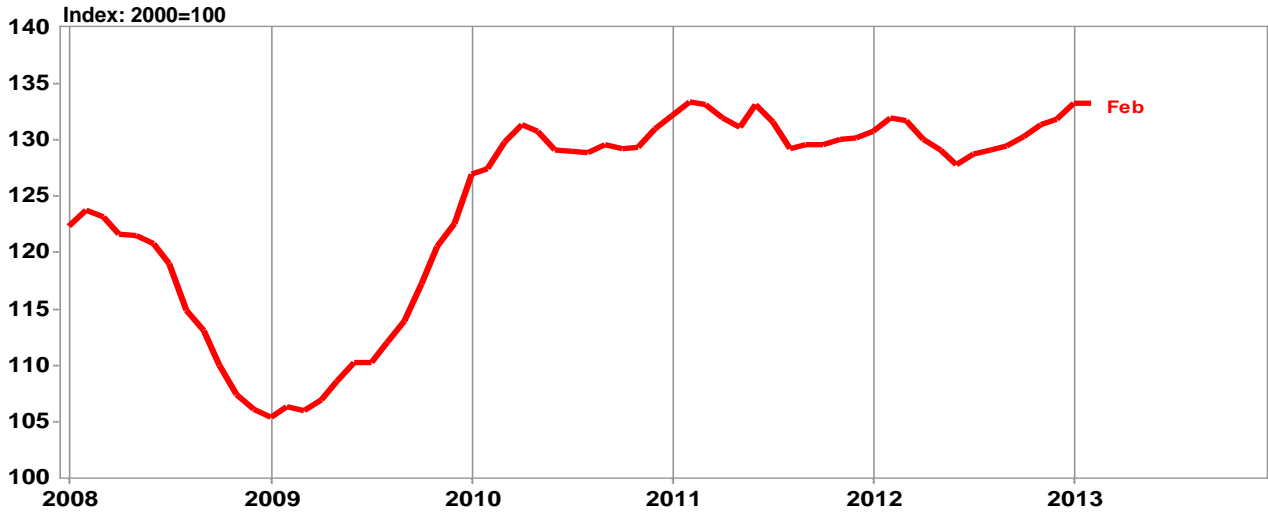
**FOR RELEASE: 09:00 A.M., Tuesday, 23 April 2013**

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

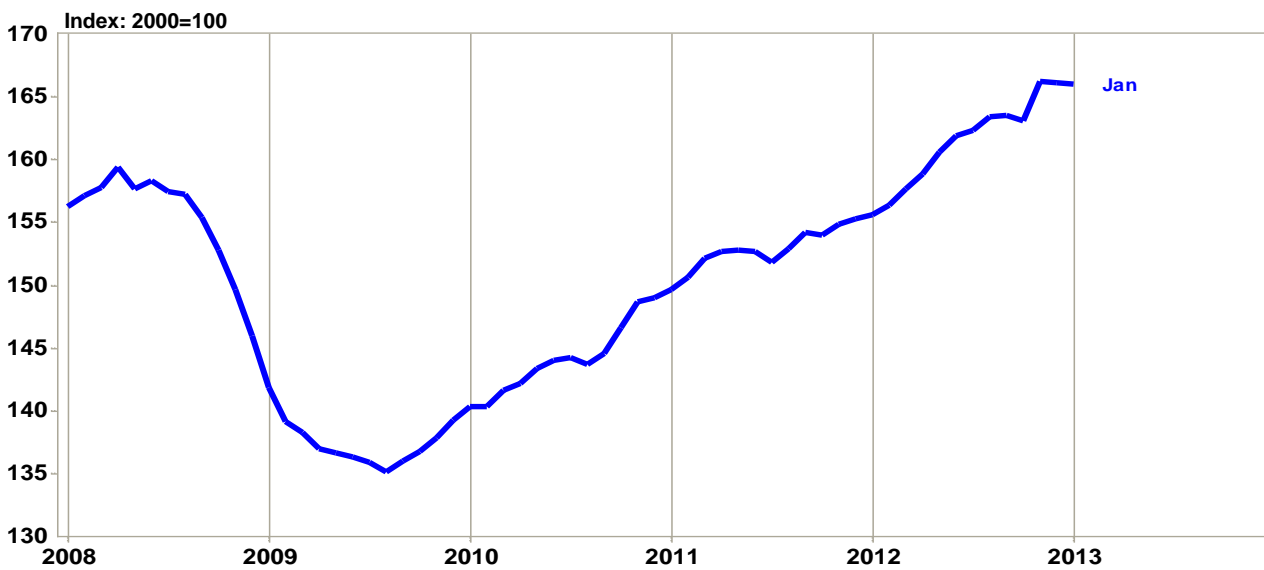
- The composite **leading** business cycle indicator *increased* by 0,1 per cent in February 2013 compared with the preceding month. Four of the eleven component time series that were available for February 2013 increased, while seven decreased. The largest positive contributions in February came from an increase in the number of residential building plans passed as well as an improvement in the BER's Business Confidence Index. The major negative contributions to the movement in the leading indicator in February came from a decrease in the twelve-month percentage change in job advertisement space, followed by a deceleration in the twelve-month percentage change in the number of new passenger vehicles sold.
- The composite **coincident** business cycle indicator *decreased* by 0,1 per cent on a month-to-month basis in January 2013.
- The composite **lagging** business cycle indicator *increased* by 0,7 per cent on a month-to-month basis in January 2012.

**The next release is scheduled for 21 May 2013, at 09:00 A.M.**

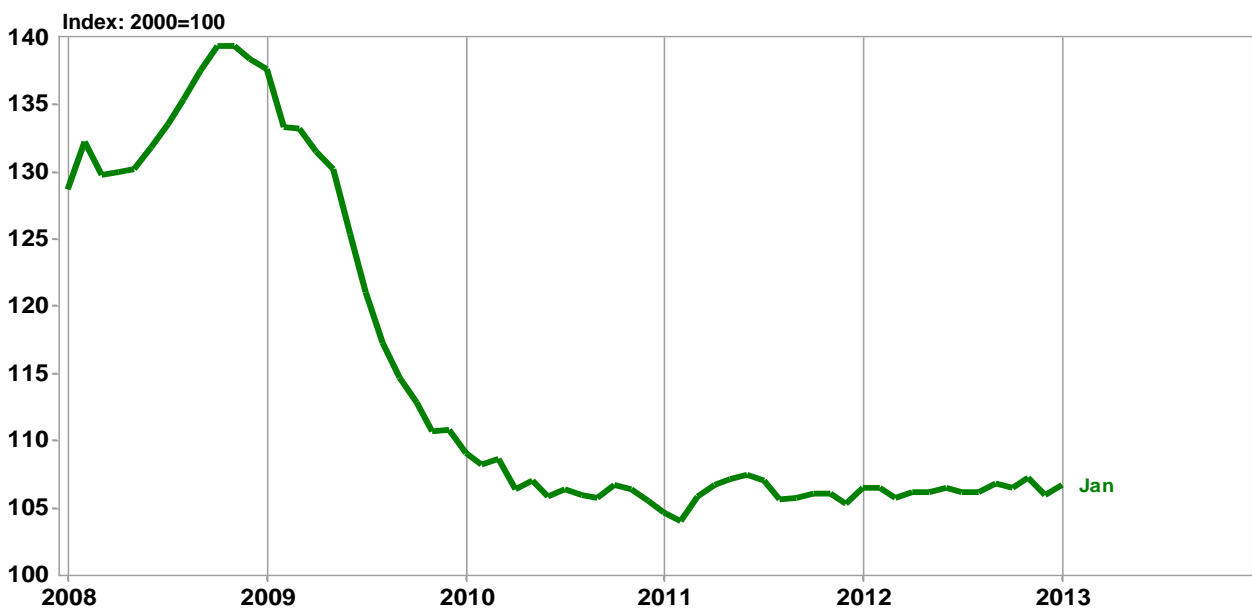
## Composite leading business cycle indicator



## Composite coincident business cycle indicator



## Composite lagging business cycle indicator



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

Indices: 2000 = 100	2012						2013	
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Leading indicator	128,7	129,1	129,4	130,3	131,3	131,8	132,2	133,3
<i>12-month percentage change</i>	-2,2	-0,1	0,0	0,6	1,0	1,2	1,9	1,0
Coincident indicator	162,3	163,4	163,5	163,1	166,3	166,1	166,0	-
<i>12-month percentage change</i>	6,9	6,9	6,0	6,0	7,4	7,0	6,7	-
Lagging indicator	106,1	106,1	106,8	106,5	107,2	105,9	106,7	-
<i>12-month percentage change</i>	-0,8	0,5	1,0	0,4	1,1	0,6	0,2	-

**Table 2 Component time series of the composite leading business cycle indicator and their contribution to the February 2013 data point:**

<b>Positive contributors (ranked from largest to smallest)</b>
Number of building plans approved: Flats, townhouses & houses larger than 80m <sup>2</sup>
BER*: Business Confidence Index
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
<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)
BER*: Volume of orders in manufacturing (half weight)
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)
Real M1 (six-month smoothed growth rate)
Index of prices of all classes of shares traded on the JSE
<b>Unavailable component series</b>
Gross operating surplus as a percentage of gross domestic product

\* Bureau for Economic Research, Stellenbosch University