



South African Reserve Bank

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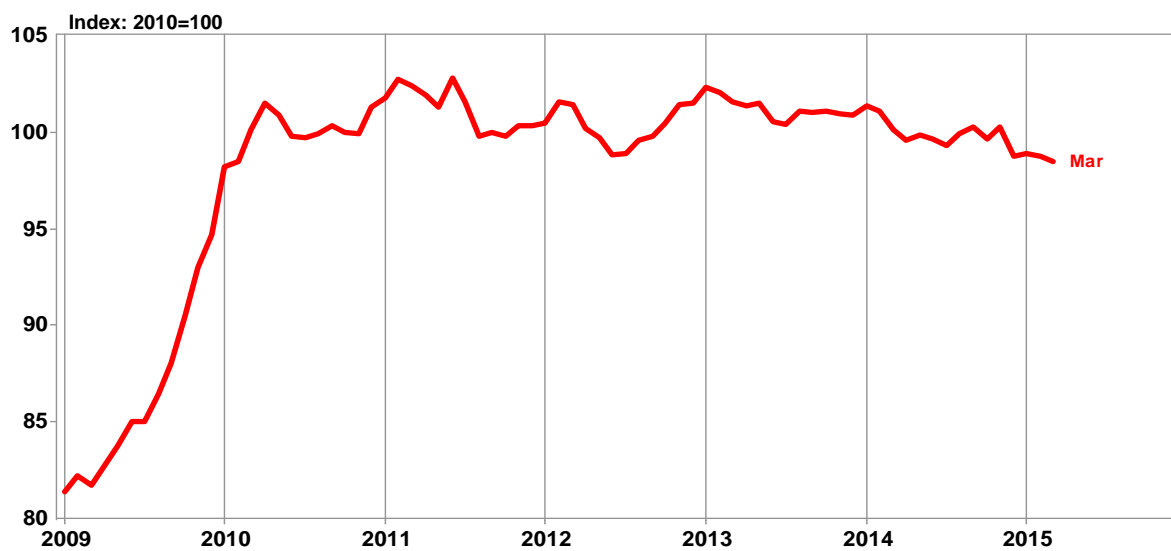
FOR RELEASE: 09:00 A.M., Tuesday, 26 May 2015

Composite business cycle indicators for South Africa

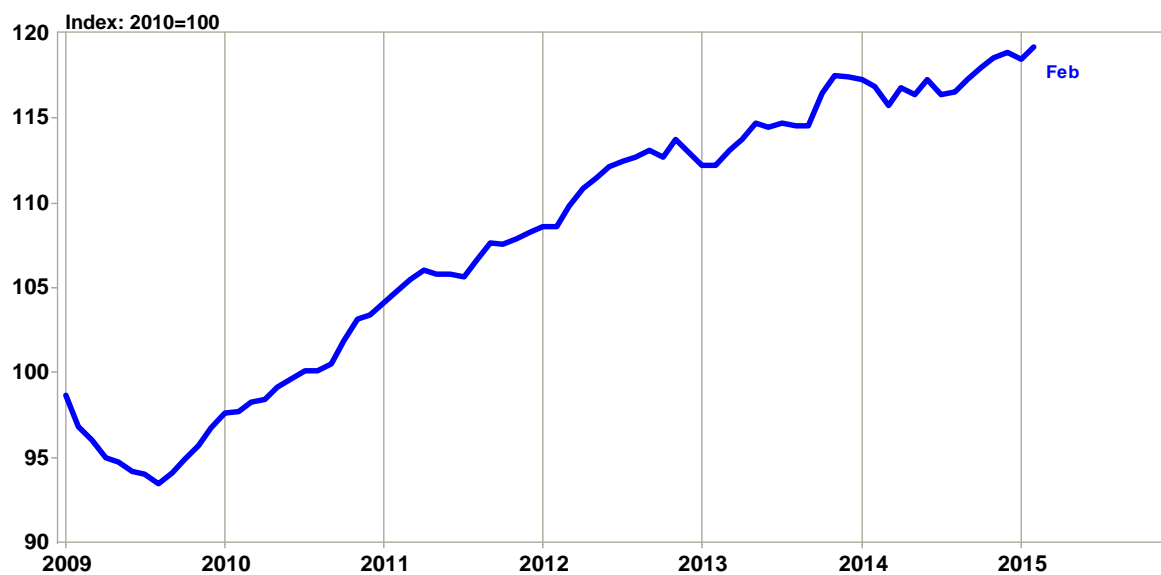
- The composite **leading** business cycle indicator *decreased* further by 0,2 per cent on a month-to-month basis in March 2015. Five of the ten component time series that were available for March 2015 decreased, while five increased. The largest negative contributions to the movement in the composite leading indicator in March came from a decrease in the number of residential building plans passed and a decrease in the US dollar based export commodity price index. The largest positive contributions in March resulted from an acceleration in the twelve-month percentage change in job advertisement space, followed by a widening in the interest rate spread.
- The composite **coincident** business cycle indicator *increased* by 0,6 per cent on a month-to-month basis in February 2015.
- The composite **lagging** business cycle indicator *increased* by 0,8 per cent on a month-to-month basis in February 2015.

The next release is scheduled for 23 June 2015, at 09:00 A.M.

Composite leading business cycle indicator



Composite coincident business cycle indicator



Composite lagging business cycle indicator

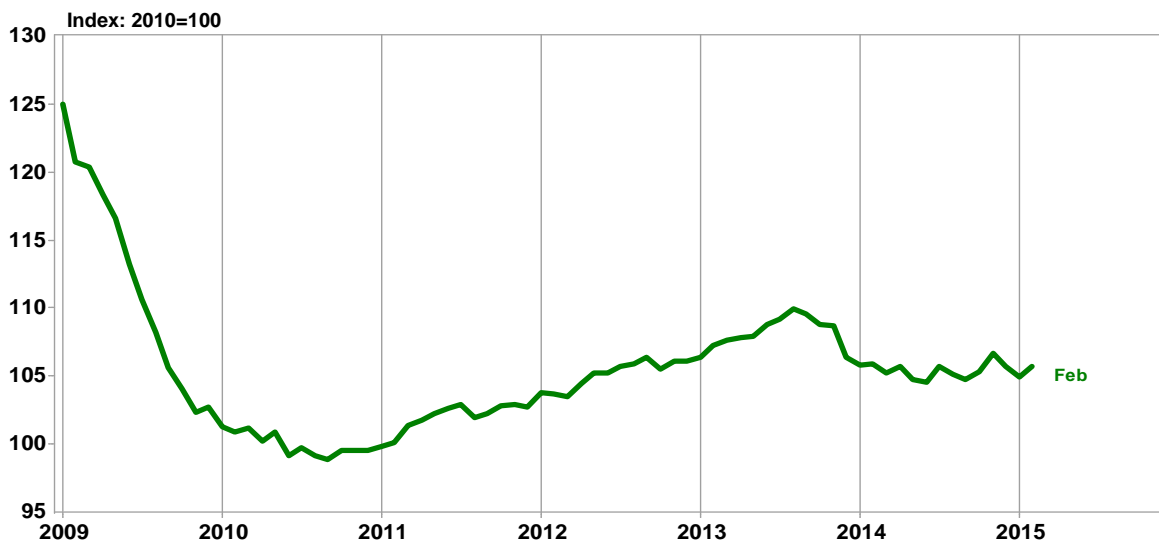


Table 1 Summary of the composite business cycle indicators*

Indices: 2010 = 100	2014					2015		
	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Leading indicator	99,9	100,2	99,6	100,3	98,7	98,9	98,7	98,5
12-month percentage change	-1,1	-0,8	-1,5	-0,7	-2,1	-2,4	-2,3	-1,6
Coincident indicator	116,6	117,3	118,0	118,5	118,9	118,5	119,2	-
12-month percentage change	1,8	2,4	1,3	0,9	1,3	1,0	1,9	-
Lagging indicator	105,1	104,8	105,4	106,7	105,7	104,9	105,7	-
12-month percentage change	-4,3	-4,4	-3,1	-1,8	-0,6	-0,9	-0,1	-

* The composite business cycle indicators are revised continuously following revisions to underlying component time series data.

Table 2 Component time series of the composite leading business cycle indicator and their contribution to the March 2015 data point:

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

* Bureau for Economic Research, Stellenbosch University