



South African Reserve Bank

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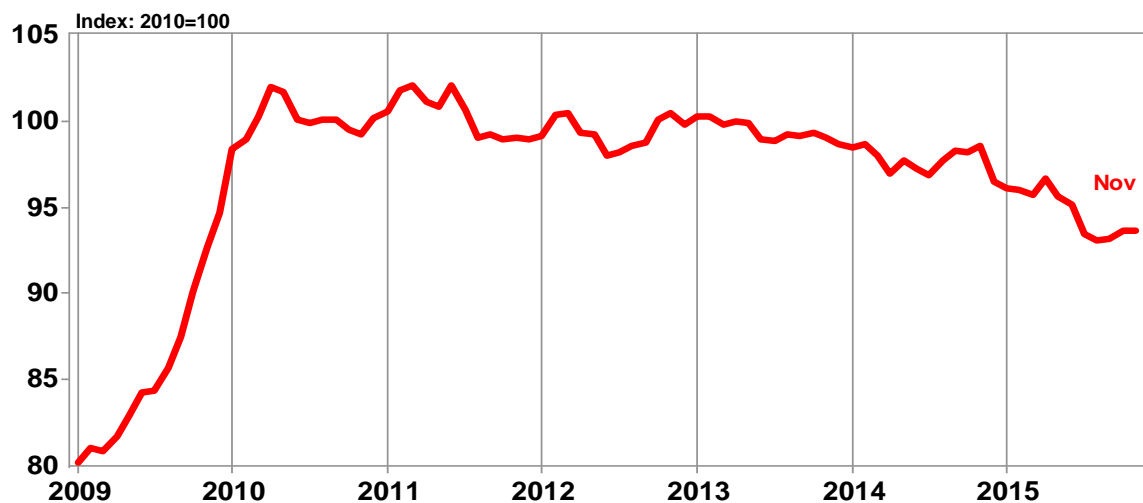
FOR RELEASE: 09:00 A.M., Tuesday, 26 January 2016

Composite business cycle indicators for South Africa

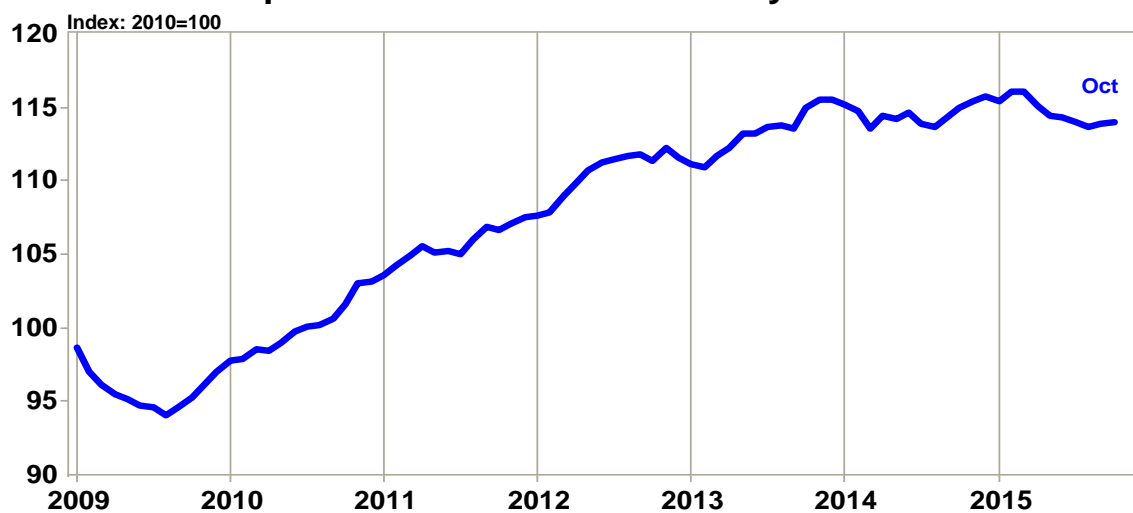
- The composite **leading** business cycle indicator *increased* by 0,1 per cent on a month-to-month basis in November 2015. Six of the eleven component time series that were available for November 2015 increased, while the remainder decreased. The largest positive contribution to the movement in the composite leading indicator in November came from an increase in the opinion survey measuring the average number of hours worked in the manufacturing sector, followed by an acceleration in the twelve-month percentage change in the number of new passenger vehicles sold. The largest negative contributions in November came from a decrease in the US dollar based export commodity price index, as well as a deceleration in the twelve-month percentage change in the composite leading business cycle indicator of South Africa's major trading-partner countries.
- The composite **coincident** business cycle indicator *increased* by 0,1 per cent on a month-to-month basis in October 2015.
- The composite **lagging** business cycle indicator *decreased* by 0,1 per cent on a month-to-month basis in October 2015.

The next release is scheduled for 23 February 2016, at 09:00 A.M.

Composite leading business cycle indicator



Composite coincident business cycle indicator



Composite lagging business cycle indicator

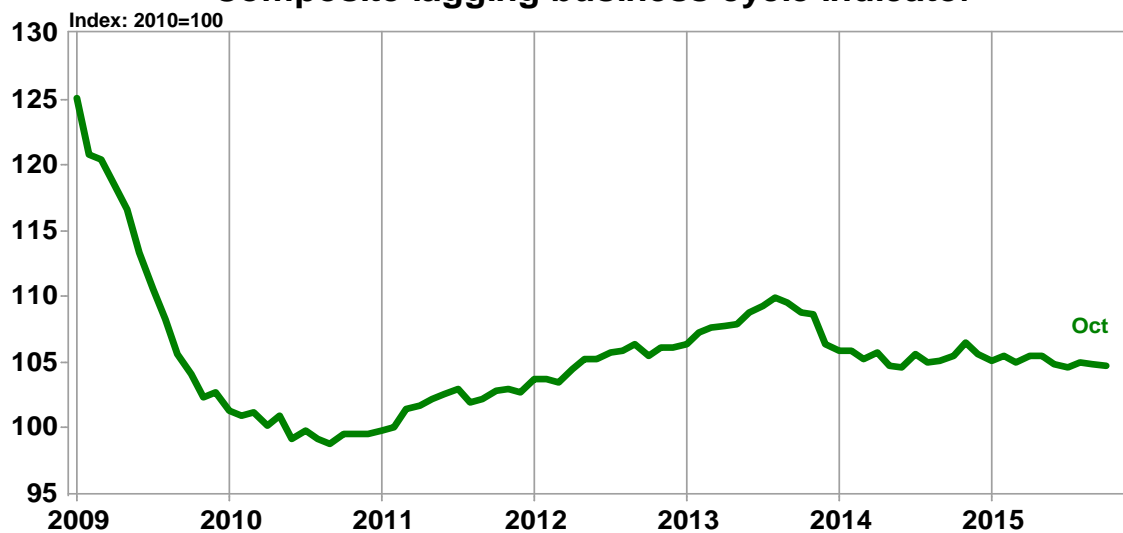


Table 1 Summary of the composite business cycle indicators*

Indices: 2010 = 100	2015							
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Leading indicator 12-month percentage change	96,7 -0,3	95,6 -2,1	95,2 -2,2	93,5 -3,5	93,1 -4,7	93,2 -5,1	93,6 -4,7	93,7 -5,0
Coincident indicator 12-month percentage change	115,0 0,5	114,4 0,2	114,3 -0,3	114,0 0,1	113,7 0,0	113,9 -0,4	114,0 -0,9	- -
Lagging indicator 12-month percentage change	105,5 -0,2	105,5 0,7	104,9 0,3	104,6 -0,9	105,0 0,0	104,8 -0,3	104,8 -0,7	- -

* 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 November 2015 data point:

Positive contributors (ranked from largest to smallest)	
BER *: Average hours worked per factory worker in manufacturing (half weight)	
Number of new passenger vehicles sold (percentage change over 12 months)	
Real M1 (six-month smoothed growth rate)	
Job advertisements: The Sunday Times (percentage change over 12 months)	
BER*: Volume of orders in manufacturing (half weight)	
Interest rate spread: 10-year government bonds minus 91-day Treasury bills	
Negative contributors (ranked from largest to smallest)	
Commodity price index for South Africa's main export commodities (US dollar based)	
Composite leading business cycle indicator for 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*: Business Confidence Index	
Unavailable component series	
Gross operating surplus as a percentage of gross domestic product	

* Bureau for Economic Research, Stellenbosch University