



## South African Reserve Bank

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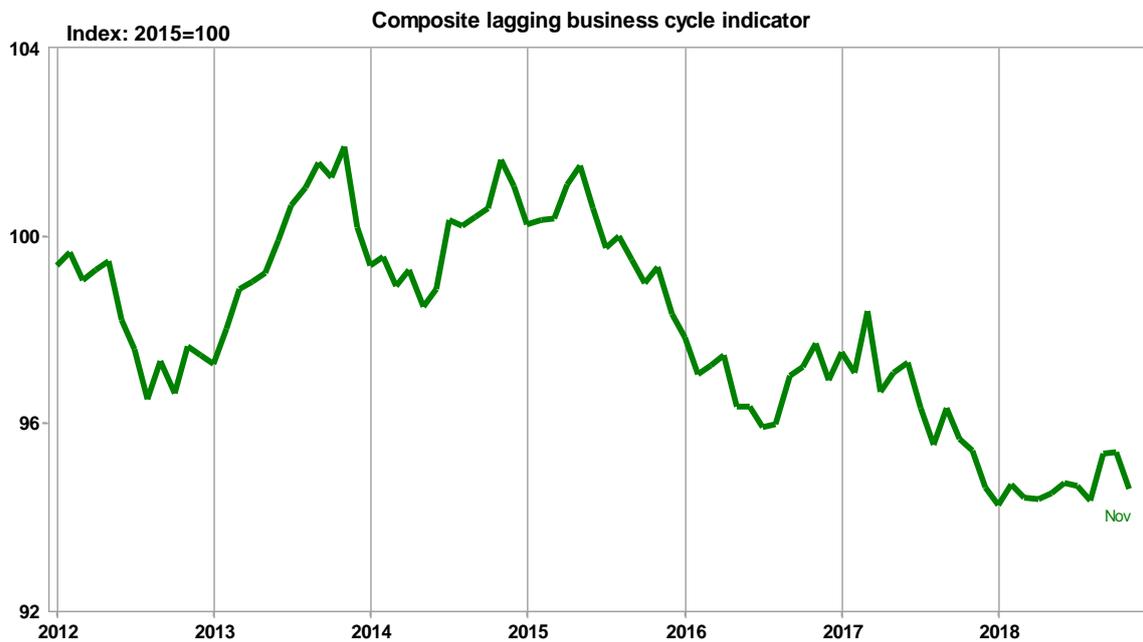
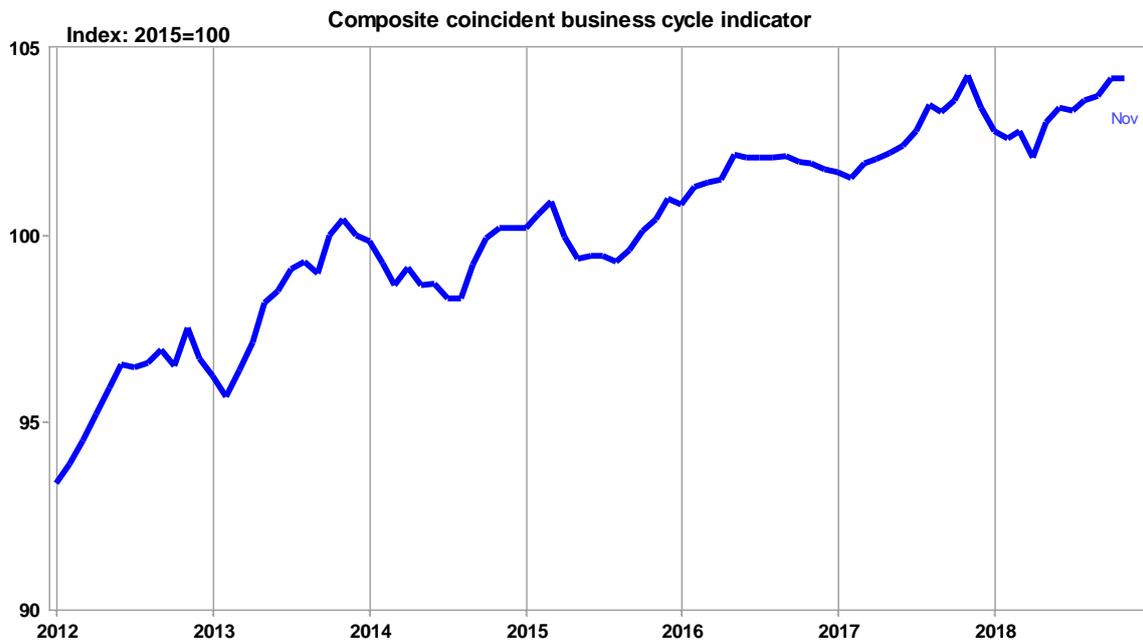
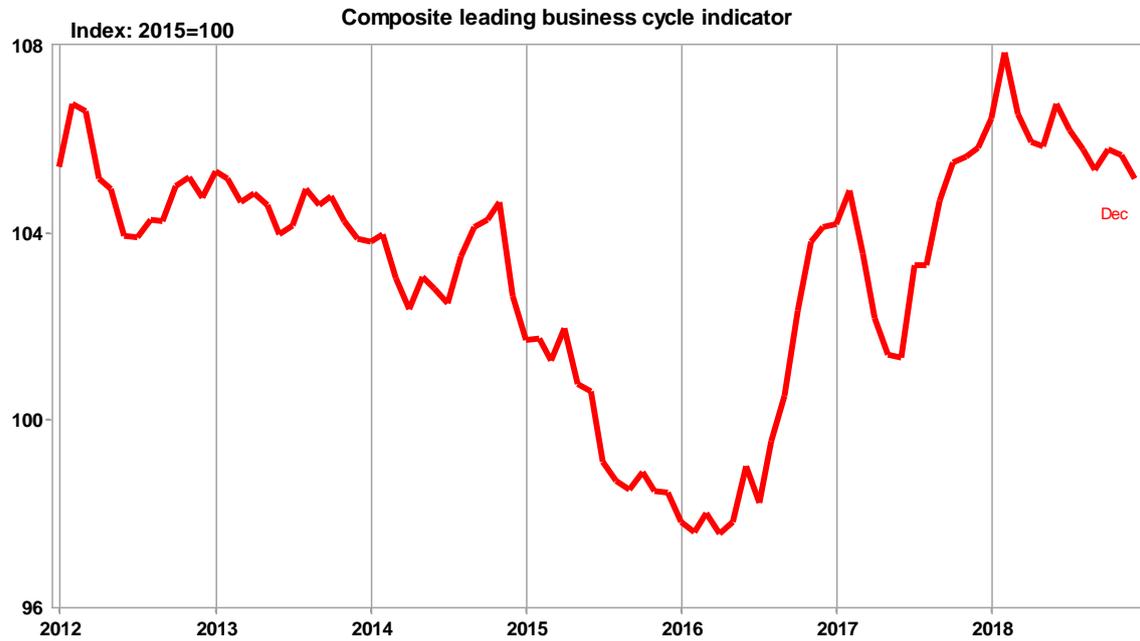
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### **Composite business cycle indicators for South Africa**

- The composite **leading** business cycle indicator *decreased* by 0.5% on a month-to-month basis in December 2018. Of the nine available component time series, four decreased and four increased, while the other component remained unchanged. The largest negative contributions to the movement in the composite leading business cycle indicator in December came from decreases in the number of residential building plans approved and the South African produced export commodity price index (US dollar based). The largest positive contributions resulted from an acceleration in the twelve-month percentage changes in job advertisement space and in the twelve-month percentage change in the number of new passenger vehicles sold.
- The composite **coincident** business cycle indicator remained *unchanged* in November 2018.
- The composite **lagging** business cycle indicator *decreased* by 0.8% on a month-to-month basis in November 2018.

**The next release is scheduled for 26 March 2019, at 09:00 A.M.**



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

Indices: 2015 = 100	2018								
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Leading indicator <i>12-month percentage change</i>	105.9 3.7	105.8 4.4	106.7 5.3	106.2 2.8	105.8 2.4	105.3 0.6	105.8 0.3	105.7 0.0	105.2 -0.6
Coincident indicator <i>12-month percentage change</i>	102.1 0.0	103.0 0.8	103.4 1.0	103.3 0.5	103.6 0.1	103.7 0.4	104.2 0.6	104.2 -0.1	- -
Lagging indicator <i>12-month percentage change</i>	94.4 -2.4	94.5 -2.6	94.7 -2.6	94.7 -1.7	94.4 -1.2	95.3 -1.0	95.4 -0.3	94.6 -0.8	- -

\* 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 December 2018 data point:**

<b>Negative contributors (ranked from largest to smallest)</b>
Number of building plans approved: Flats, townhouses & houses larger than 80m <sup>2</sup>
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)
Interest rate spread: 10-year government bonds minus 91-day Treasury bills
<b>Positive 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)
Real M1 (six-month smoothed growth rate)
BER*: Volume of orders in manufacturing (half weight)
<b>Unchanged component series</b>
BER*: Average hours worked per factory worker in manufacturing (half weight)
<b>Unavailable component series</b>
BER*: Business Confidence Index
Gross operating surplus as a percentage of gross domestic product

\* Bureau for Economic Research, Stellenbosch University