



South African Reserve Bank

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Composite business cycle indicators for South Africa

- The composite **leading** business cycle indicator *decreased* by 0.2% in February 2025 as decreases in seven of the ten available component time series outweighed increases in two component time series, while one component time series remained unchanged. The largest negative contributors were a decrease in the number of residential building plans approved and a deceleration in the six-month smoothed growth rate in the number of new passenger vehicles sold. The only positive contributors were a widening of the interest rate spread and an increase in South Africa's US-dollar denominated export commodity price index.
- The composite **coincident** business cycle indicator *increased* by 0.2% in January 2025 due to increases in the real value of wholesale, retail and motor trade sales and the industrial production index.
- The composite **lagging** business cycle indicator *decreased* by 0.8% in January 2025.

The next release is scheduled for 27 May 2025, at 09:00 A.M.

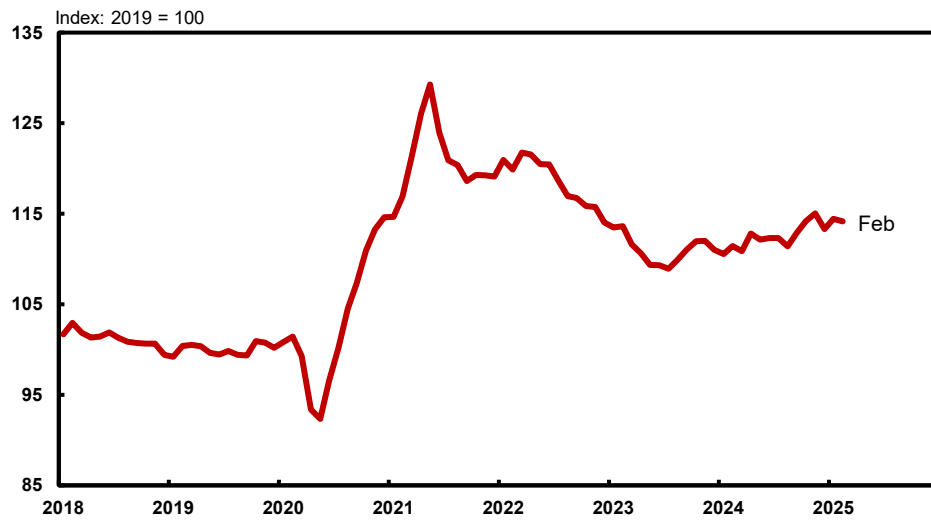
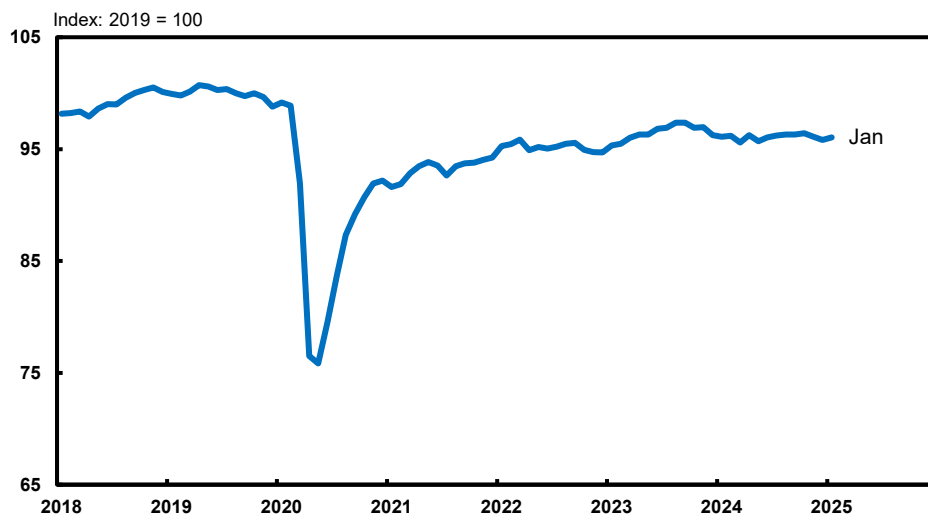
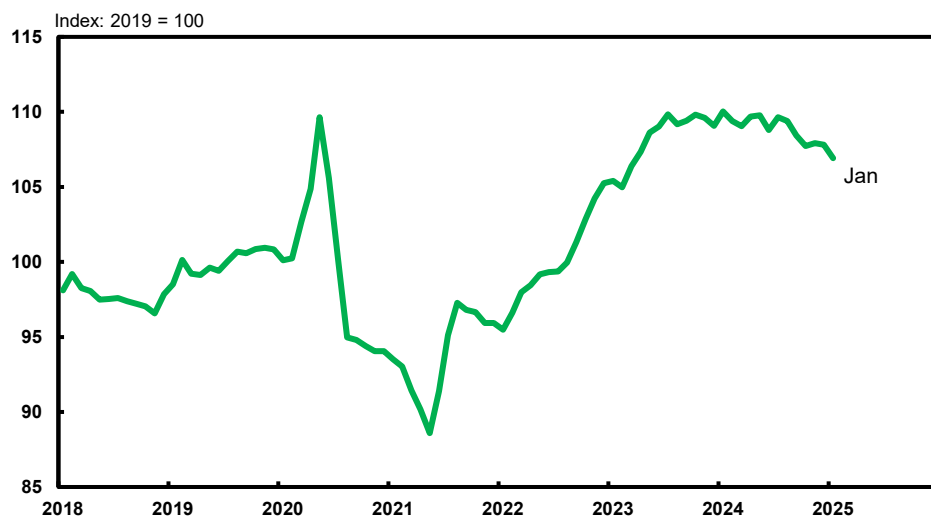
Composite leading business cycle indicator**Composite coincident business cycle indicator****Composite lagging business cycle indicator**

Table 1 Summary of the composite business cycle indicators*

Indices: 2019 = 100	2024							2025	
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Leading indicator	112.3	112.3	111.4	112.9	114.2	115.0	113.3	114.4	114.2
Monthly percentage change	0.2	0.0	-0.8	1.3	1.1	0.7	-1.5	1.0	-0.2
12-month percentage change	2.7	3.1	1.4	1.7	2.0	2.7	2.1	3.5	2.4
Coincident indicator	96.0	96.2	96.3	96.3	96.4	96.1	95.8	96.0	-
Monthly percentage change	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	-0.3	-0.3	0.2	-
12-month percentage change	-0.8	-0.7	-1.1	-1.1	-0.5	-0.9	-0.4	-0.1	-
Lagging indicator	108.8	109.6	109.4	108.4	107.7	107.9	107.8	106.9	-
Monthly percentage change	-0.9	0.8	-0.2	-0.9	-0.7	0.2	-0.1	-0.8	-
12-month percentage change	-0.2	-0.2	0.2	-0.9	-1.9	-1.5	-1.1	-2.8	-

* 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 February 2025 data point:

Negative contributors (ranked from largest to smallest)
Number of building plans approved: Flats, townhouses & houses larger than 80m ²
Number of new passenger vehicles sold (six-month smoothed growth rate)
BER*: Average hours worked per factory worker in manufacturing (half weight)
Real M1 (six-month smoothed growth rate)
BER*: Volume of domestic orders in manufacturing (half weight)
Job advertisements: The Sunday Times and Pnet (six-month smoothed growth rate)
Composite leading business cycle indicator for South Africa's major trading-partner countries (percentage change over 12 months)
Unchanged component series
RMB/BER* Business Confidence Index
Positive contributors (ranked from largest to smallest)
Interest rate spread: 10-year government bonds minus 91-day Treasury bills
Commodity price index for South Africa's main export commodities (US dollar based)
Unavailable component series
Gross operating surplus as a percentage of gross domestic product

* Bureau for Economic Research, Stellenbosch University