



South African Reserve Bank

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Composite business cycle indicators for South Africa

- The composite **leading** business cycle indicator *increased* by 0.9% in January 2025 as increases in four of the ten available component time series outweighed decreases in five component time series, while one component time series remained unchanged. The largest positive contributors were an acceleration in the six-month smoothed growth rate in the number of new passenger vehicles sold and an increase in the number of residential building plans approved. The largest negative contributors were a decrease in the average hours worked per factory worker in the manufacturing sector and a deceleration in the six-month smoothed growth rate in job advertisement space.
- The composite **coincident** business cycle indicator *remained unchanged* in December 2024 as the increase in the real value of wholesale, retail and motor trade sales was offset by the decrease in the industrial production index.
- The composite **lagging** business cycle indicator *decreased* by 0.1% in December 2024.

The next release is scheduled for 22 April 2025, at 09:00 A.M.

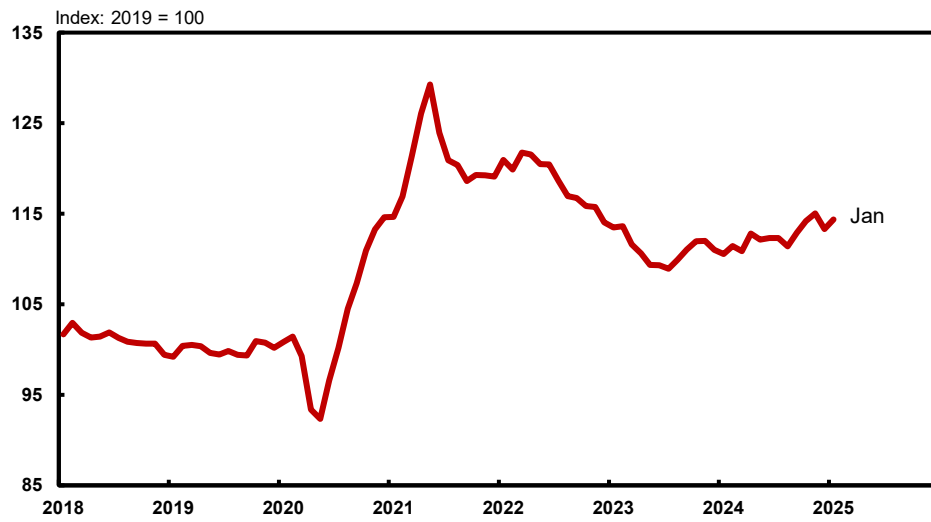
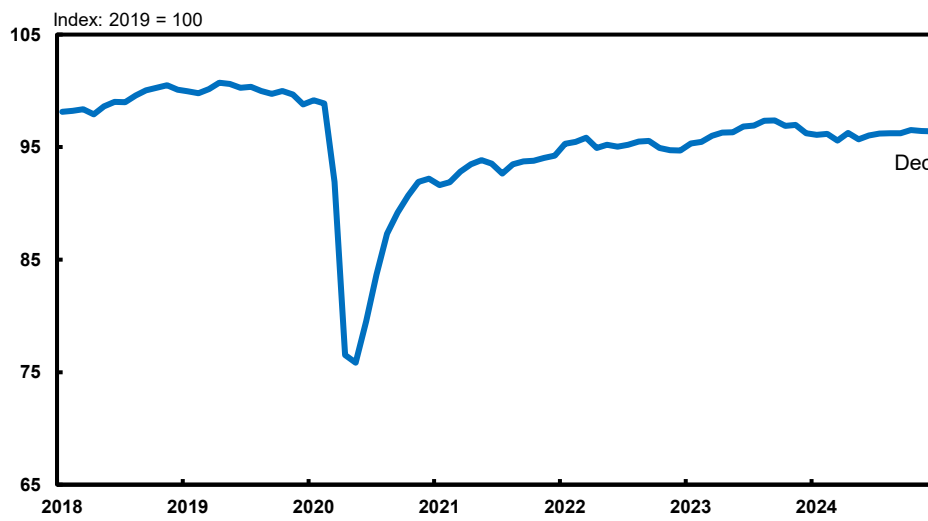
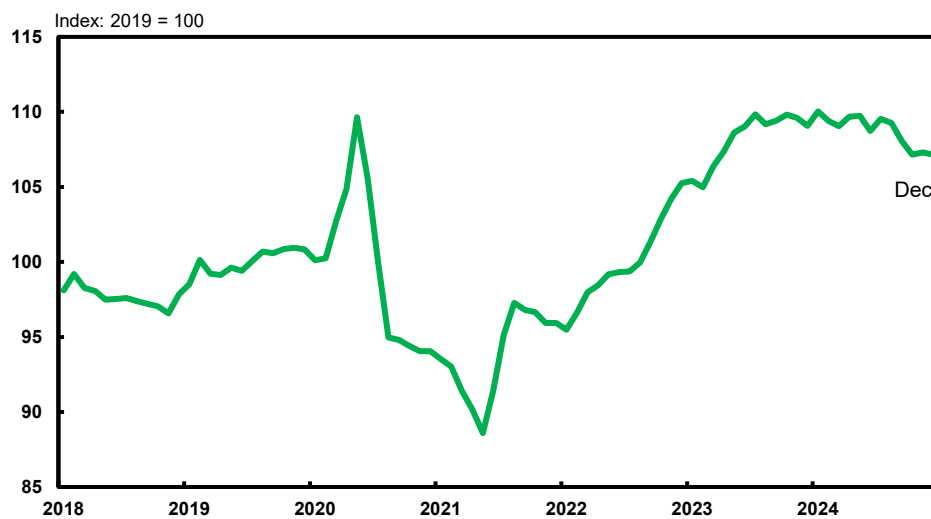
Composite leading business cycle indicator**Composite coincident business cycle indicator****Composite lagging business cycle indicator**

Table 1 Summary of the composite business cycle indicators*

Indices: 2019 = 100	2024								2025
	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Leading indicator	112.1	112.3	112.3	111.4	112.9	114.2	115.0	113.3	114.4
Monthly percentage change	-0.6	0.2	0.0	-0.8	1.3	1.1	0.7	-1.5	0.9
12-month percentage change	2.5	2.7	3.1	1.4	1.7	2.0	2.7	2.1	3.4
Coincident indicator	95.7	96.0	96.2	96.2	96.2	96.5	96.4	96.4	-
Monthly percentage change	-0.6	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.3	-0.1	0.0	-
12-month percentage change	-0.6	-0.8	-0.7	-1.1	-1.2	-0.4	-0.6	0.2	-
Lagging indicator	109.7	108.7	109.5	109.3	108.1	107.1	107.3	107.2	-
Monthly percentage change	0.0	-0.9	0.8	-0.2	-1.1	-0.8	0.1	-0.1	-
12-month percentage change	1.0	-0.3	-0.3	0.1	-1.3	-2.4	-2.1	-1.7	-

* 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 January 2025 data point:

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

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