South African Reserve Bank

For further information regarding this release, please contact:
Kgopotso Moagi: +27 (12) 399 6376 Kgopotso.Moagi@resbank.co.za

FOR RELEASE: 09:00 A.M., Tuesday, 21 October 2025

Composite business cycle indicators for South Africa

- The composite **leading** business cycle indicator *increased* for a third consecutive month, by 1.6% in August 2025 as increases in 8 of the 10 available component time series outweighed decreases in the other 2 components. Notably, the largest positive contributors were an increase in the number of residential building plans approved and an acceleration in the six-month smoothed growth rate in job advertisement space. The only negative contributors were a deterioration in the RMB/BER Business Confidence Index and a narrowing of the interest rate spread.

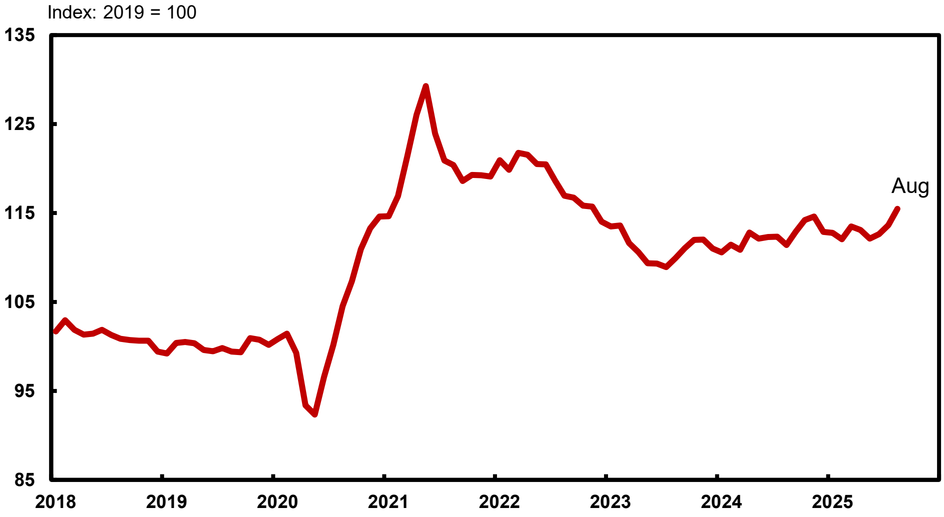
- The composite **coincident** business cycle indicator *increased* by 0.4% in July 2025 due to an increase in the real value of wholesale, retail and motor trade sales.

- The composite **lagging** business cycle indicator *decreased* by 0.1% in July 2025.

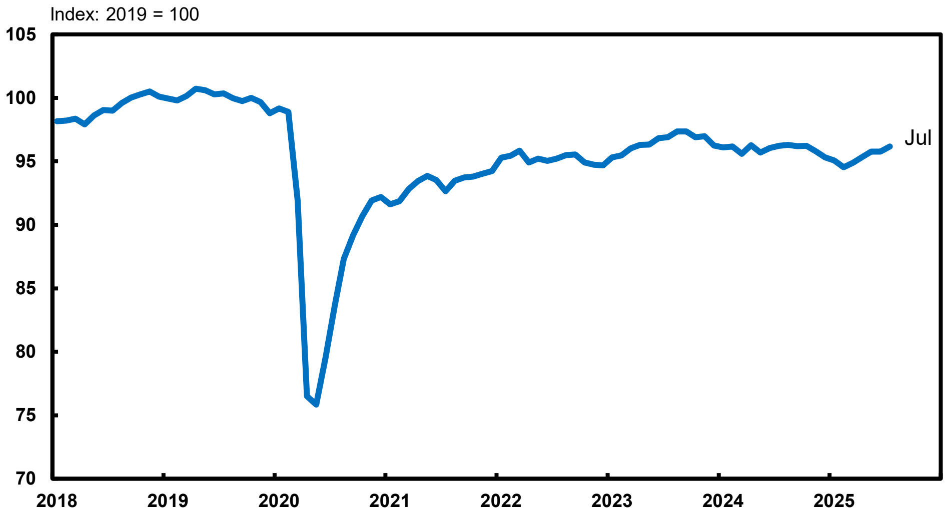
The next release is scheduled for 25 November 2025, at 09:00 A.M.

File reference: (17/8/4/2)

Composite leading business cycle indicator



Composite coincident business cycle indicator



Composite lagging business cycle indicator

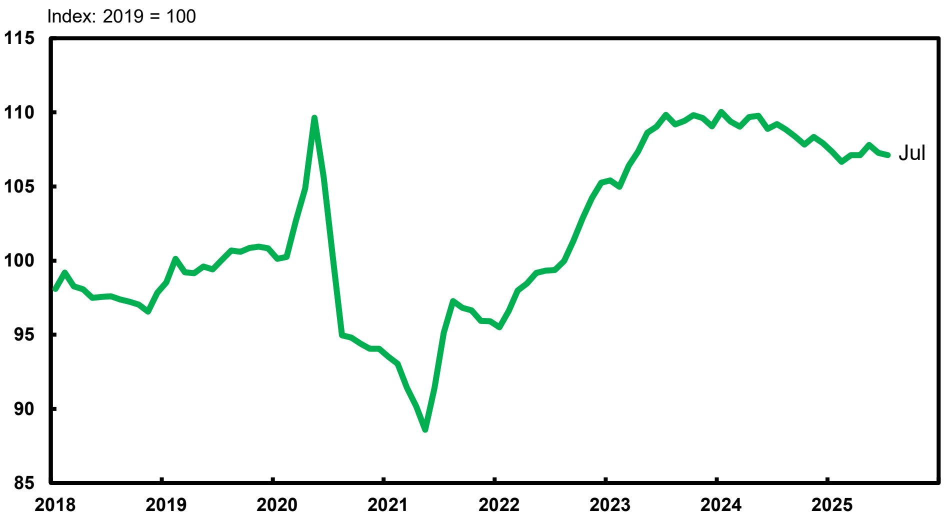


Table 1 Summary of the composite business cycle indicators*

Indices: 2019 = 100	2024 Dec	2025 Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Leading indicator	112.9	112.8	112.1	113.5	113.1	112.1	112.6	113.6	115.5
Monthly percentage change	*-1.5*	*-0.1*	*-0.6*	*1.3*	*-0.4*	*-0.8*	*0.4*	*0.9*	*1.6*
12-month percentage change	*1.7*	*2.0*	*0.6*	*2.4*	*0.2*	*0.0*	*0.3*	*1.2*	*3.6*
Coincident indicator	95.3	95.1	94.5	94.9	95.3	95.8	95.8	96.2	-
Monthly percentage change	*-0.5*	*-0.3*	*-0.6*	*0.4*	*0.5*	*0.5*	*0.0*	*0.4*	-
12-month percentage change	*-1.0*	*-1.1*	*-1.7*	*-0.7*	*-1.0*	*0.1*	*-0.3*	*-0.1*	-
Lagging indicator	107.9	107.3	106.7	107.1	107.1	107.8	107.3	107.1	-
Monthly percentage change	*-0.4*	*-0.6*	*-0.6*	*0.4*	*0.0*	*0.6*	*-0.5*	*-0.1*	-
12-month percentage change	*-1.0*	*-2.5*	*-2.5*	*-1.8*	*-2.3*	*-1.8*	*-1.5*	*-1.9*	-

* 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 August 2025 data point:

Positive contributors (ranked from largest to smallest)
Number of building plans approved: Flats, townhouses & houses larger than 80m²
Job advertisements: The Sunday Times and Pnet (six-month smoothed growth rate)
Commodity price index for South Africa's main export commodities (US dollar based)
Number of new passenger vehicles sold (six-month smoothed growth rate)
BER*: Volume of domestic orders in manufacturing (half weight)
Real M1 (six-month smoothed growth rate)
BER*: Average hours worked per factory worker in manufacturing (half weight)
Composite leading business cycle indicator for South Africa's major trading-partner countries (percentage change over 12 months
Negative contributors (ranked from largest to smallest)
RMB/BER* Business Confidence Index
Interest rate spread: 10-year government bonds minus 91-day Treasury bills
Unavailable component series
Gross operating surplus as a percentage of gross domestic product

* Bureau for Economic Research, Stellenbosch University