

SOUTH AFRICAN RESERVE BANK

For media queries, please contact media@resbank.co.za

For further information regarding this release, please contact:

Kgopotso Moagi: +27 (12) 399 6376 Kgopotso.Moagi@resbank.co.za

Wandile Ndwandwe: +27 (12) 313 4006 Wandile.Ndwandwe@resbank.co.za

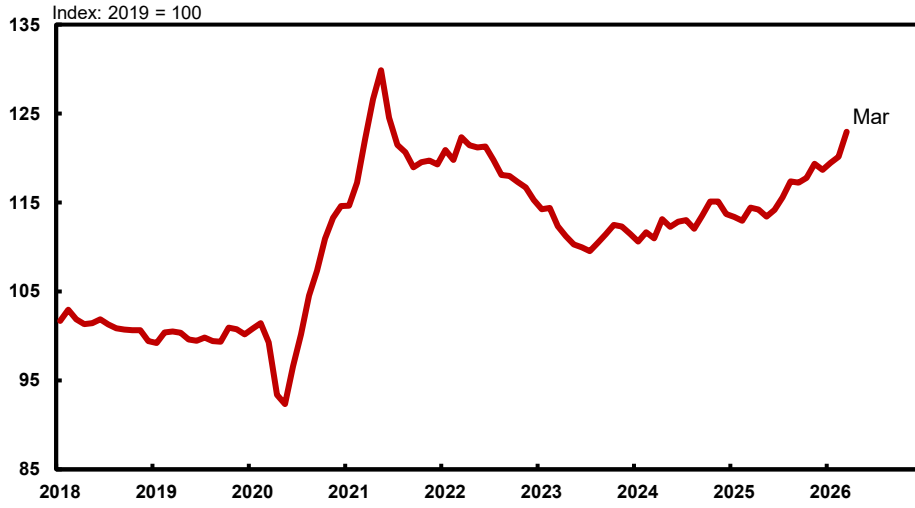
FOR RELEASE: 09:00 A.M., Tuesday, 26 May 2026

Composite business cycle indicators for South Africa

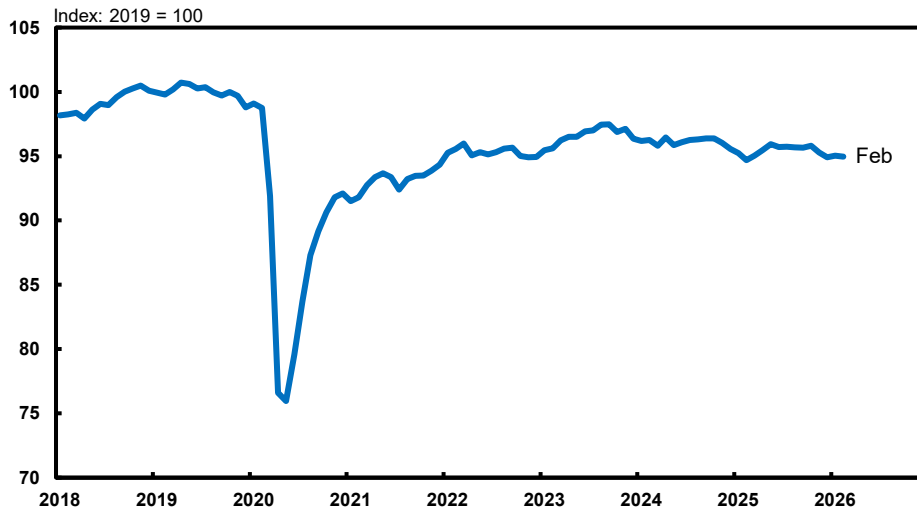
- The composite **leading** business cycle indicator *increased* by 2.4% in March 2026 as increases in six of the seven available component time series outweighed the decrease in the composite leading business cycle indicator for South Africa's major trading-partner countries. The largest positive contributors were an acceleration in the six-month smoothed growth rate in the real M1 money supply and a widening of the interest rate spread.
- The composite **coincident** business cycle indicator *decreased* by 0.1% in February 2026 due to decreases in the utilisation of production capacity in the manufacturing sector and the industrial production index.
- The composite **lagging** business cycle indicator *increased* by 0.6% in February 2026.

The next release is scheduled for 23 June 2026, at 09:00 A.M.

Composite leading business cycle indicator



Composite coincident business cycle indicator



Composite lagging business cycle indicator

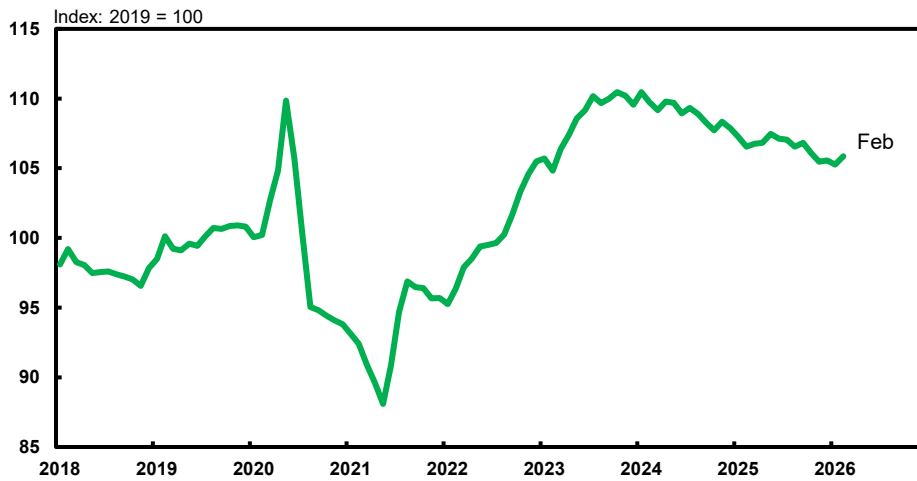


Table 1 Summary of the composite business cycle indicators*

Indices: 2019 = 100	2025						2026		
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Leading indicator	115.6	117.4	117.2	117.8	119.3	118.7	119.5	120.1	123.0
Monthly percentage change	1.3	1.5	-0.1	0.5	1.3	-0.6	0.7	0.6	2.4
12-month percentage change	2.3	4.7	3.2	2.3	3.7	4.4	5.4	6.3	7.5
Coincident indicator	95.7	95.7	95.7	95.8	95.3	94.9	95.0	95.0	-
Monthly percentage change	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	-0.5	-0.4	0.1	-0.1	-
12-month percentage change	-0.5	-0.6	-0.7	-0.6	-0.8	-0.7	-0.2	0.3	-
Lagging indicator	107.1	106.5	106.8	106.1	105.5	105.6	105.3	105.9	-
Monthly percentage change	-0.1	-0.5	0.3	-0.7	-0.6	0.1	-0.3	0.6	-
12-month percentage change	-2.1	-2.2	-1.3	-1.5	-2.6	-2.1	-1.8	-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 March 2026 data point:

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

* Bureau for Economic Research, Stellenbosch University