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BUREAU OF
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COMPOSITE INDEX OF LEADING INDICATORS: APRIL 1976

The composite index of leading indicators increased 1.1 percent in April, and now stands at 107.8 (1967=100), according to preliminary data released today by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce. On the basis of more complete data, the March index has been revised to 106.6, 0.9 percent above the February figure. The March figure for change in inventories on hand and on order in 1967 dollars was the major contributor to the revision.

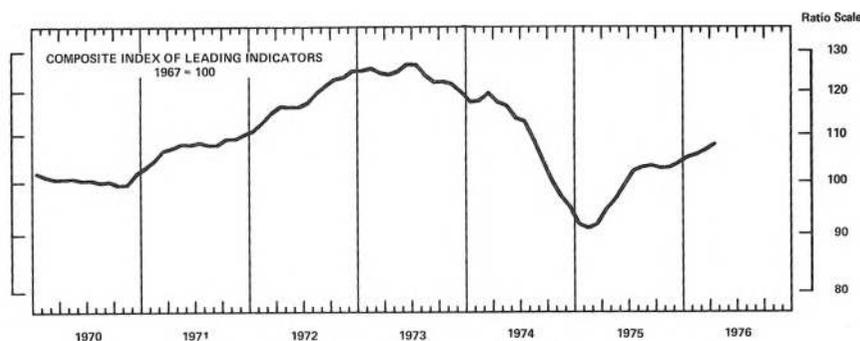
Six of ten indicators now available^{1/} for April (vendor performance, net business formation, stock prices, change in sensitive prices, money balance in 1967 dollars, change in total liquid assets) showed increases from March while four (layoff rate, new orders in 1967 dollars, contracts and orders for plant and equipment in 1967 dollars, building permits) showed declines.

The series contributing most to the increase in the index was money balance in 1967 dollars. Of the series which declined, layoff rate had the largest influence on the index.

Detailed descriptions and information about the composite index of leading indicators appeared in the May 1975 issue of Business Conditions Digest. Reprints of the article, plus back data, are available upon request.

More data on the composite index of leading indicators, as well as other important measures of economic activity, appear in Business Conditions Digest, a monthly publication of the Bureau of Economic Analysis. It is available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Annual subscription \$55.25.

^{1/} See footnote 2 on reverse side.



Composite Index of Leading Indicators (1967=100)

Monthly

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1970	101.9	101.1	100.6	100.7	100.8	100.4	100.5	100.0	100.2	99.5	99.6	101.8
1971	103.0	104.5	106.6	107.1	107.9	107.8	108.3	107.7	107.7	109.1	109.1	110.1
1972	110.9	112.8	115.0	116.4	116.3	116.3	117.3	119.6	121.4	123.0	123.5	125.0
1973	125.0	125.7	124.5	124.1	124.9	126.6	126.5	123.9	122.3	122.4	121.7	119.8
1974	117.5	117.7	119.6	117.4	116.5	113.7	112.9	108.8	104.3	100.2	97.1	95.0
1975	91.8	91.1	91.9	94.6	r96.6	r99.4	r102.2	103.0	r103.2	r102.7	r102.9	r103.8
1976	r105.0	r105.6	r106.6	p107.8								

Percent Change

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1970	-2.1	-0.8	-0.5	0.1	0.1	-0.4	0.1	-0.5	0.2	-0.7	0.1	2.2
1971	1.2	1.5	2.0	0.5	0.7	-0.1	0.5	-0.6	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.9
1972	0.7	1.7	2.0	1.2	-0.1	0.0	0.9	2.0	1.5	1.3	0.4	1.2
1973	0.0	0.6	-1.0	-0.3	0.6	1.4	-0.1	-2.1	-1.3	0.1	-0.6	-1.6
1974	-1.9	0.2	1.6	-1.8	-0.8	-2.4	-0.7	-3.6	-4.1	-3.9	-3.1	-2.2
1975	-3.4	-0.8	0.9	2.9	r2.1	r2.9	r2.8	r0.8	r0.2	-0.5	0.2	0.9
1976	1.2	r0.6	r0.9	p1.1								

Quarterly

Year	I	II	III	IV
1970	101.2	100.6	100.2	100.3
1971	104.7	107.6	107.9	109.4
1972	112.9	116.3	119.4	123.8
1973	125.1	125.2	124.2	121.3
1974	118.3	115.9	108.7	97.4
1975	91.6	r96.9	r102.8	r103.1
1976	r105.7			

Percent Change

Year	I	II	III	IV
1970	-4.5	-0.6	-0.4	0.1
1971	4.4	2.8	0.3	1.4
1972	3.2	3.0	2.7	3.7
1973	1.0	0.1	-0.8	-2.3
1974	-2.5	-2.0	-6.2	-10.4
1975	-6.0	r5.8	6.1	r0.3
1976	r2.5			

Indicator	Basic Data						Net Contribution to Index ¹		Direction of Change Mar. to Apr.
	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Feb. to Mar.	Mar. to Apr.	
							Mar.	Apr.	
Average workweek, production workers, manufacturing (hours).....	39.9	40.3	40.5	r40.3	40.2	p39.3	-0.10	(2)	
*Layoff rate, manufacturing (percent)....	1.6	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.2	p1.3	-0.15	-0.16	-
Vendor performance, companies reporting slower deliveries (percent).....	44	39	42	50	52	58	+0.09	+0.29	+
#Change in total liquid assets (percent).	0.75	0.90	0.87	0.74	r0.66	p0.74	-0.29	+0.34	+
#Change in sensitive prices (WPI of crude mtrls., excl. food, feeds) (percent)..	0.59	0.27	0.53	0.54	0.30	0.57	-0.11	+0.15	+
Contracts and orders, plant & equipment, (billions of 1967 dollars).....	7.14	6.82	7.71	7.37	r8.01	p7.77	+0.33	-0.14	-
Net business formation index (1967=100).	112.5	116.2	115.1	114.5	116.1	e117.6	+0.20	+0.22	+
Index of stock prices, 500 common stocks (1941-43=10).....	90.07	88.70	96.86	100.64	101.08	101.93	+0.02	+0.06	+
Money balance (M1), (billions of 1967 \$)	r178.6	177.2	r176.6	r177.2	r177.8	p179.4	+0.14	+0.45	+
New orders, mfg., consumer products and materials, (millions of 1967 \$).....	24352	25110	24711	25913	r26756	p26709	+0.26	-0.02	-
Building permits (1967=100).....	93.5	88.6	96.5	97.7	r97.7	94.4	0.0	-0.13	-
#Change in inventories on hand and on order (ann. rate, billions of 1967 \$).	-4.74	-3.22	-6.94	r-4.01	p+4.88	n.a.	+0.55	n.a.	
Percent change in the index							0.94	1.06	

(*) Series inverted in calculating the composite index of leading indicators: a decrease in the layoff rate is considered an increase in the series.

(#) Smoothed by a weighted 4-month moving average placed at terminal month.

n.a. - not available p - preliminary r - revised e - estimated

¹Net contribution of each individual component is that component's share in the composite movement of the group. Net contributions add up to the monthly percent change in the index (except for occasional rounding differences).

²Because the April value for the average workweek in manufacturing did not reflect the true level of that series, it was omitted from the preliminary April estimate of the composite index of leading indicators. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the 2.2 percent decline in the average workweek was due to Easter and Passover observances during the survey week.