



South African Reserve Bank

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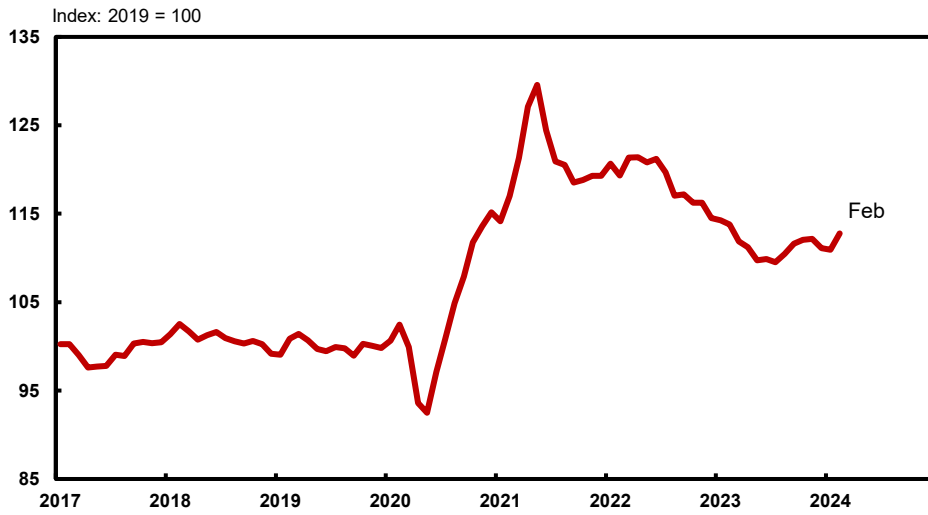
FOR RELEASE: 09:00 A.M., Tuesday, 23 April 2024

Composite business cycle indicators for South Africa

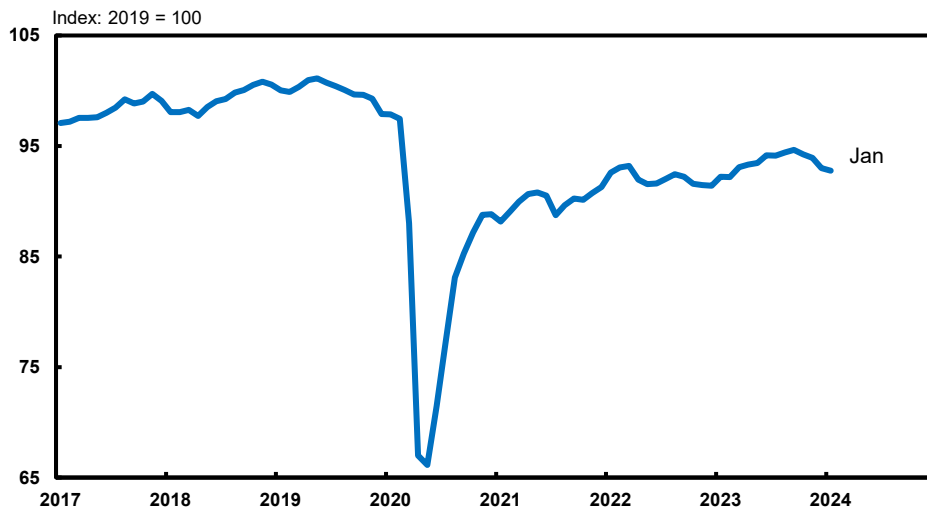
- The composite **leading** business cycle indicator *increased* by 1.7% in February 2024 as increases in five of the ten available component time series outweighed decreases in the remaining five. The largest positive contributors were an acceleration in the six-month smoothed growth rate in job advertisement space and an increase in the number of residential building plans approved. The largest negative contributors were a decrease in South Africa's US dollar-denominated export commodity price index and the average hours worked per factory worker in the manufacturing sector.
- The composite **coincident** business cycle indicator *decreased* by 0.2% in January 2024 due to a decrease in industrial production and in the real value of retail and new vehicle sales.
- The composite **lagging** business cycle indicator *increased* by 1.3% in January 2024.

The next release is scheduled for 21 May 2024, at 09:00 A.M.

Composite leading business cycle indicator



Composite coincident business cycle indicator



Composite lagging business cycle indicator

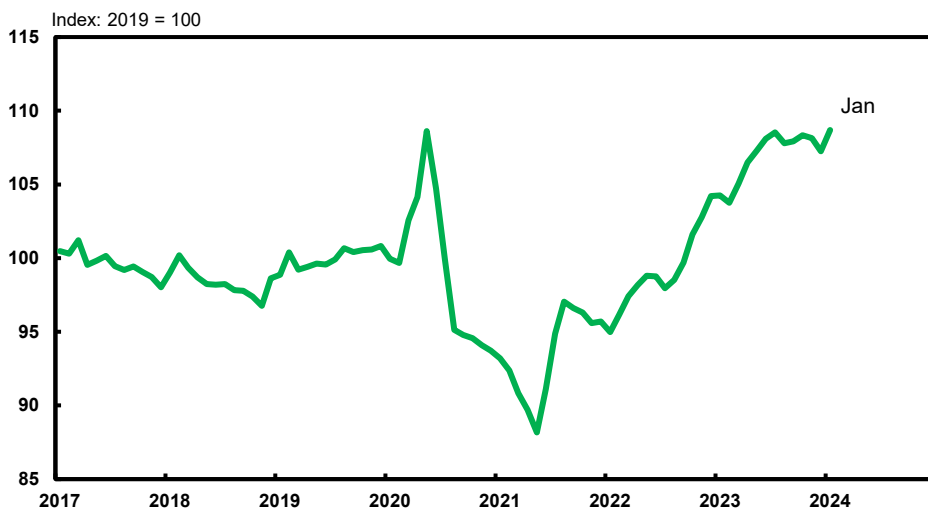


Table 1 Summary of the composite business cycle indicators*

Indices: 2019 = 100	2023							2024	
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Leading indicator	109.9	109.5	110.4	111.6	112.0	112.1	111.1	110.9	112.8
<i>Monthly percentage change</i>	0.1	-0.4	0.9	1.1	0.4	0.1	-0.9	-0.2	1.7
<i>12-month percentage change</i>	-9.3	-8.5	-5.7	-4.8	-3.6	-3.5	-3.0	-2.9	-0.9
Coincident indicator	94.2	94.2	94.4	94.7	94.2	93.9	93.0	92.8	-
<i>Monthly percentage change</i>	0.7	0.0	0.3	0.3	-0.5	-0.3	-1.0	-0.2	-
<i>12-month percentage change</i>	2.8	2.3	2.1	2.7	2.9	2.7	1.8	0.6	-
Lagging indicator	108.1	108.5	107.8	107.9	108.3	108.1	107.3	108.7	-
<i>Monthly percentage change</i>	0.8	0.4	-0.7	0.1	0.4	-0.2	-0.8	1.3	-
<i>12-month percentage change</i>	9.5	10.8	9.4	8.3	6.6	5.2	2.9	4.2	-

* 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 2024 data point:

Positive contributors (ranked from largest to smallest)
Job advertisements: The Sunday Times (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
Number of new passenger vehicles sold (six-month smoothed growth rate)
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)
Commodity price index for South Africa's main export commodities (US dollar based)
BER*: Average hours worked per factory worker in manufacturing (half weight)
BER*: Volume of orders in manufacturing (half weight)
RMB/BER* Business Confidence Index
Real M1 (six-month smoothed growth rate)
Unavailable component series
Gross operating surplus as a percentage of gross domestic product

* Bureau for Economic Research, Stellenbosch University