

Economic Indicators Word Search

Answer Key

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■ 10 Terms & Definitions

<p>LEADING</p> <p>Leading economic indicators are data points that tend to change before the broader economy shifts, making them valuable for forecasting future conditions. The Conference Board's Leading Economic Index (LEI) combines 10 leading indicators including building permits, stock prices,</p>	<p>LAGGING</p> <p>Lagging economic indicators are data points that change after the economy has already begun to shift. They are used to confirm trends rather than predict them. Common lagging indicators include the unemployment rate, corporate profits, outstanding loans, and the consumer price in</p>
<p>PMI</p> <p>The Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) is a monthly survey of purchasing managers at manufacturing and services companies, measuring business activity, new orders, employment, and inventory levels. A PMI reading above 50 indicates expansion; below 50 signals contraction. Published w</p>	<p>HOUSING</p> <p>Housing starts and building permits are closely watched leading economic indicators because construction activity ripples through the economy — creating jobs in construction, manufacturing, and retail. Housing starts measure the number of new residential construction projects beg</p>
<p>JOBLESS</p> <p>Initial jobless claims measure the number of people who filed for unemployment insurance for the first time in a given week. Released every Thursday, it is one of the most timely and frequently watched economic indicators. Rising jobless claims signal deteriorating labor market c</p>	<p>RETAIL</p> <p>Retail sales measure the total receipts of retail stores — from grocery stores and gas stations to car dealerships and online retailers. Since consumer spending represents about 70% of US GDP, retail sales data provides a direct read on economic health. The monthly retail sales r</p>
<p>SENTIMENT</p> <p>Economic sentiment or consumer confidence measures how optimistic or pessimistic households are about the economy and their personal financial situation. The Conference Board and University of Michigan each publish influential monthly sentiment surveys. High consumer confidence t</p>	<p>DURABLE</p> <p>Durable goods orders measure new orders placed with US manufacturers for long-lasting items — products expected to last 3+ years, such as aircraft, machinery, cars, computers, and appliances. Because durable goods purchases require significant capital investment and are often pos</p>
<p>YIELD</p> <p>The yield curve plots interest rates across different bond maturities — from 3-month Treasury bills to 30-year Treasury bonds. Normally, longer-term bonds pay higher yields (upward-sloping curve). When short-term rates exceed long-term rates (inverted yield curve), it signals tha</p>	<p>NONFARM</p> <p>The Nonfarm Payrolls (NFP) report is the most important monthly US economic release, published on the first Friday of each month by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. It measures the number of new jobs created in the prior month across all sectors except agriculture, private househo</p>