

## Economic highlights from the week ending on October 20, 2017



The Index of Leading Economic Indicators (LEI) declined 0.2% in September, following a 0.4% increase in August and a 0.3% increase in July. It was the first monthly decline in more than a year. However, six of the ten index components made positive contributions, and those that made negative contributions were likely distorted by the hurricanes. On a year-over-year basis, the LEI was up 4.0% in September, versus up 4.4% in August. According to the Conference Board, "the trend in the US LEI remains consistent with continuing solid growth in the US economy for the second half of the year."

Total housing starts were weaker than expected in September, down 4.7%. Single-family starts decreased 4.6% in September, while multi-family starts declined 5.1%. Permits were also slightly weaker than expected in September, down 4.5%, due to weakness in multi-family permits. Overall, September housing starts were soft, but activity may rebound in the fourth quarter as hurricane-related rebuilding efforts intensify.

Overall, economic data remains distorted by the hurricanes but those distortions should be relatively short-lived and will likely fade by year-end.



### Next Week

*Chicago Fed National Activity Index, Durable Goods, FHFA House Price Index, New Home Sales, Pending Home Sales, GDP, Consumer Sentiment*

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