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Iceland Leading Indicator – Outlook positive but risk factors remain

The Iceland Composite Leading Indicator (CLI) rose in January for the sixth month in a row – this time by 0.3 per cent. There are indications that the current CLI rise represents the renewal of faster growth.

All six components rise on the previous month. The largest contribution is from a rise in the value of fish catches. The long-term trend of some important CLI components remains strong. The main risk factors continue to include some external factors mainly in relation to the geopolitical situation. Also, there is some uncertainty related to local wage determination, but disputes could turn outlook to the worse.

Turning points of the CLI tend to precede turning points in economic activity relative to trend by approximately six months. Economic activity is measured by Gross Domestic Product published by the Statistical Bureau of Iceland. The calculation of Analytica's CLI is based on methodology adopted by the OECD.

Chart 1. GDP and Analytica's CLI – Trend Adjusted

Long term trend = 100

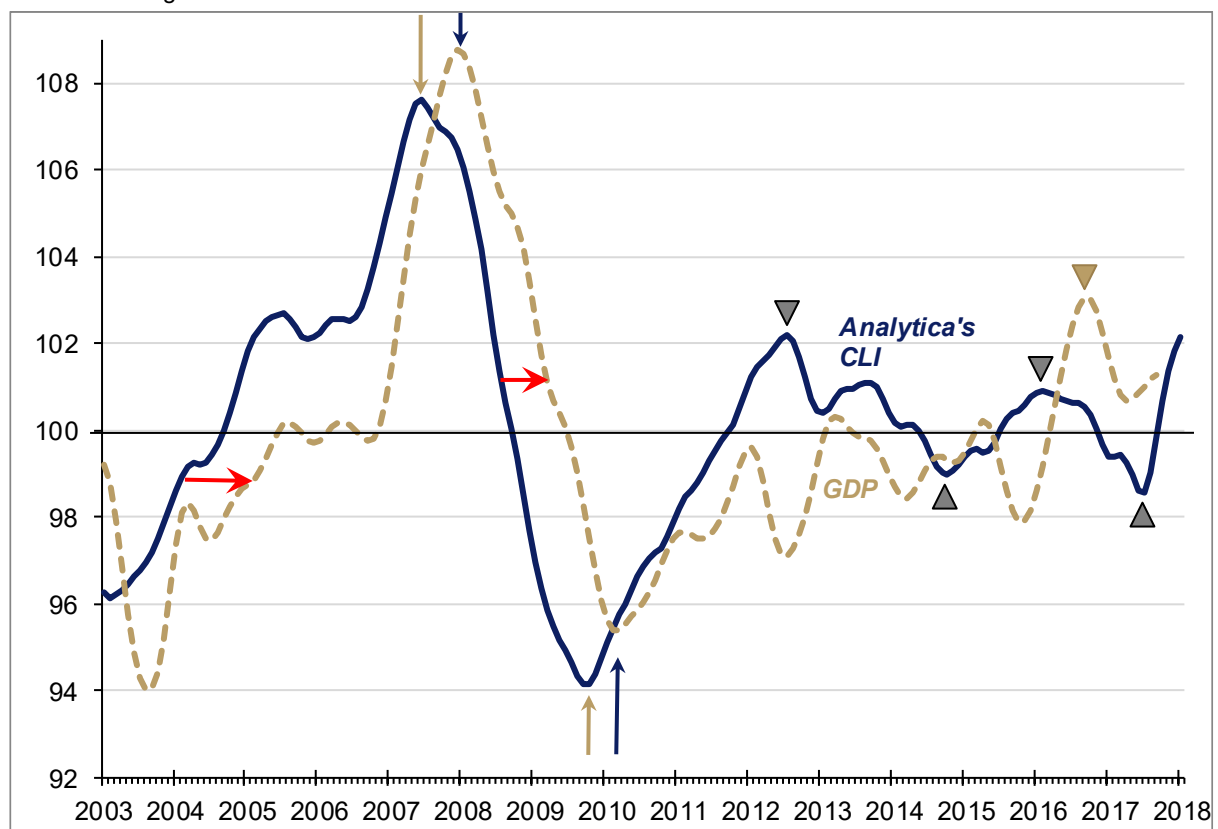


Chart 1 depicts Analytica's CLI together with trend adjusted GDP. The chart shows that the CLI leads GDP on average by around six months.

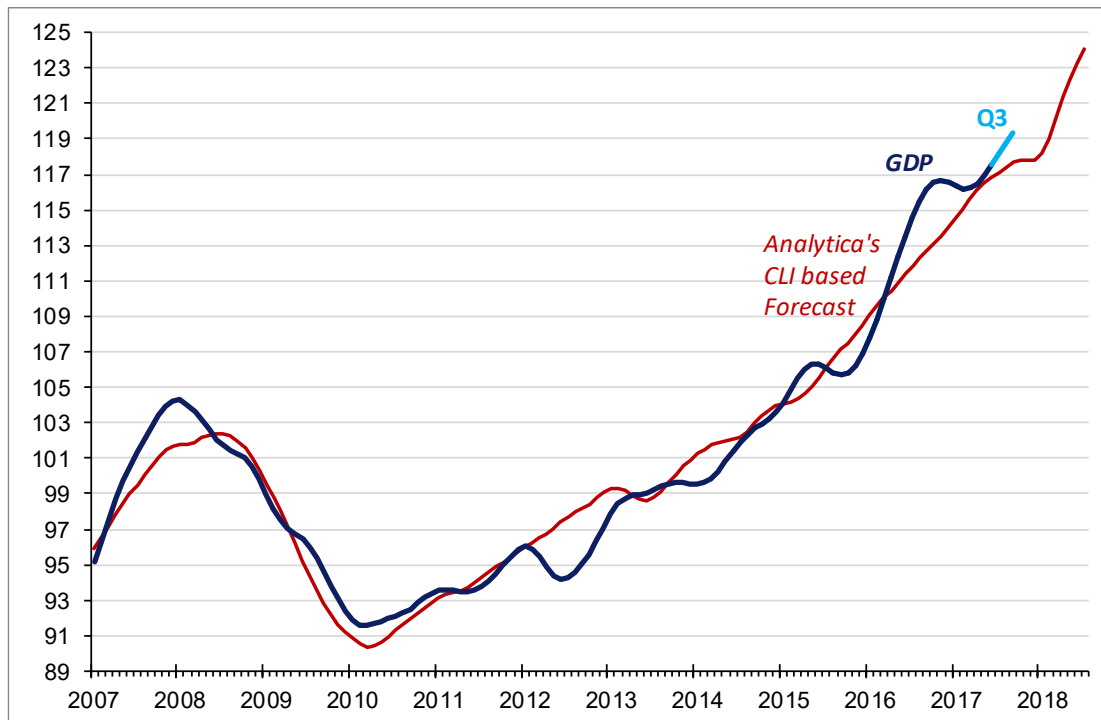
A gray triangle has been placed on Chart 1 for the month of March 2016 indicating a CLI turning point to the downside. A triangle is placed for July 2017 indicating a turning point to the upside for the trend adjusted GDP early this year.

As seen in Chart 2 decent growth is forecast into 2018. The forecast is based on the Iceland CLI and its components after shifting forward by six months.

The purpose of Chart 2 is to put GDP in context with the leading indicator depicted on Chart 1. As seen in Chart 2 GDP grew in Q3 and the underlying long-term remains strong.

Chart 2. GDP and Analytica's forecast into year 2018

ISK 000m per month - 2005 Prices



Note: GDP figures for 2015, 2016 and 2017 are preliminary estimates by the Statistical Bureau of Iceland.

The GDP figures presented in Chart 2 are based on the official quarterly estimates of the Statistical Bureau of Iceland. The quarterly GDP numbers have been distributed over individual months. The figures are seasonally adjusted and smoothed and are in amounts of thousands of million ISK at fixed 2005 prices.

There are six components of Analytica's CLI. These are: Fish catches, inflation adjusted debit card turnover, number of tourists visiting Iceland, the MSCI World equities index, inflation adjusted imports and the Gallup Index of Consumer Confidence. For the month of January, four of the six underlying components rise year on year. However, all six components rise on the previous month. See Appendix, Charts A1 and A2.

Some revisions to the index values have taken place. This is a result of component revisions and in part a result of the methodology employed, including the long-term trend estimate.

Table 1 shows the development of the CLI during the past twelve months. The value for January rises to 102.2 or by 0.3 per cent. This value serves as an indicator to economic activity six months into the future, i.e. July 2018. A value of 100 indicates GDP in line with its long-term trend.

Table 1. Analytica's CLI 2017-2018

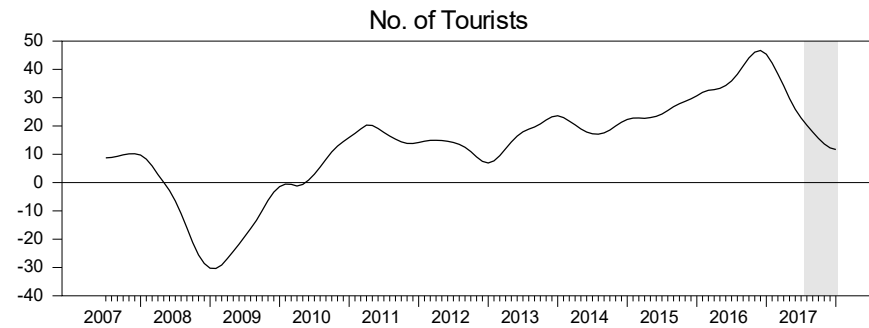
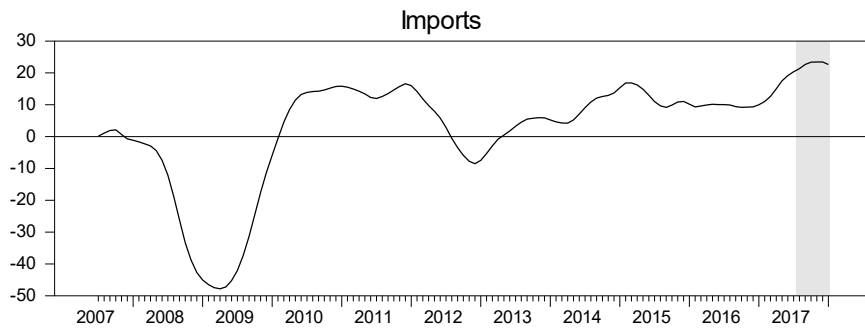
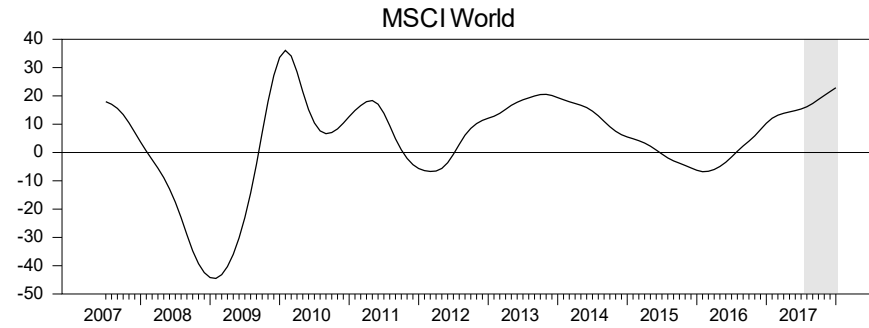
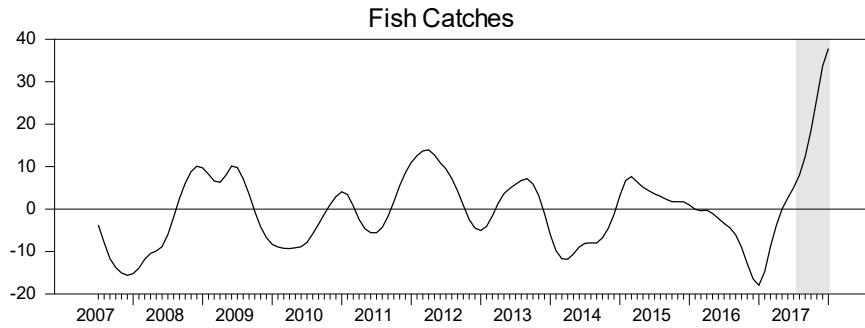
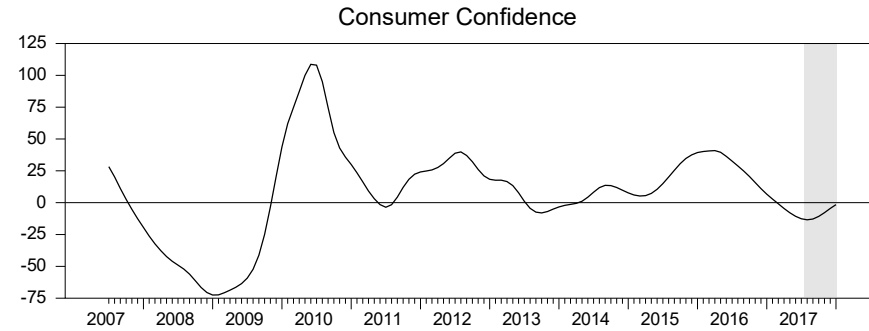
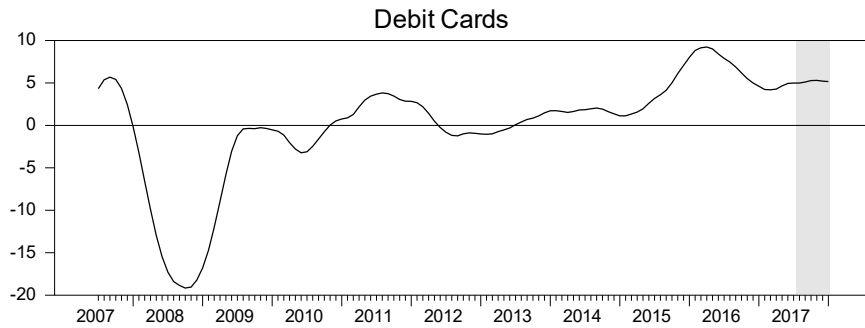
| | Index | Change in % | | Indication for month |
|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------------------|
| | | on month | YOY | |
| 2017 | | | | |
| January | 99.4 | -0.3% | -1.5% | July 2017 |
| February | 99.4 | 0.0% | -1.5% | August |
| March | 99.5 | 0.0% | -1.4% | Sept. |
| April | 99.3 | -0.2% | -1.5% | Oct. |
| May | 99.0 | -0.3% | -1.8% | Nov. |
| June | 98.6 | -0.3% | -2.0% | Dec. |
| July | 98.6 | -0.1% | -2.1% | Jan. 2018 |
| August | 99.0 | 0.5% | -1.6% | Feb. |
| September | 99.8 | 0.8% | -0.7% | March |
| October | 100.7 | 0.8% | 0.3% | April |
| November | 101.4 | 0.7% | 1.3% | May |
| December | 101.8 | 0.5% | 2.1% | June |
| 2018 | | | | |
| January | 102.2 | 0.3% | 2.8% | July |

The February Composite Leading Indicator is scheduled for release on March 19, 2018.

Further information is provided by Analytica's CEO, Mr. Yngvi Hardarson
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Chart A1 - Analytica's Leading Indicator - Individual Components

*Per cent Change Year on Year **



Notes:

Debit Cards: Domestic debit card turnover, inflation adj. – Fish Catches: Chain linked volume index. – Imports: Inflation adjusted imports.
 Cons. Confidence: Gallup Index of Consumer Confidence. – MSCI World: MSCI World equities index. – No. of Tourists: No. of passenger arrivals at Keflavik Airport.
 All figures are seasonally adjusted and smoothed. – Shadow on charts covers latest six months data.

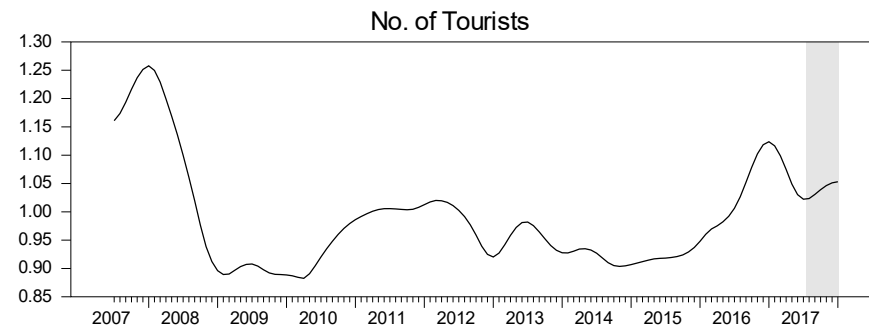
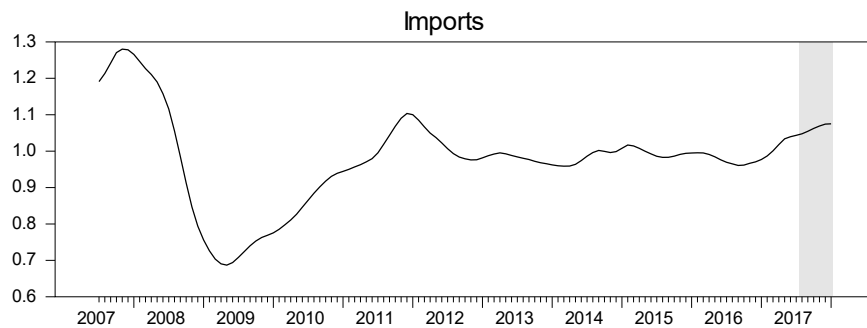
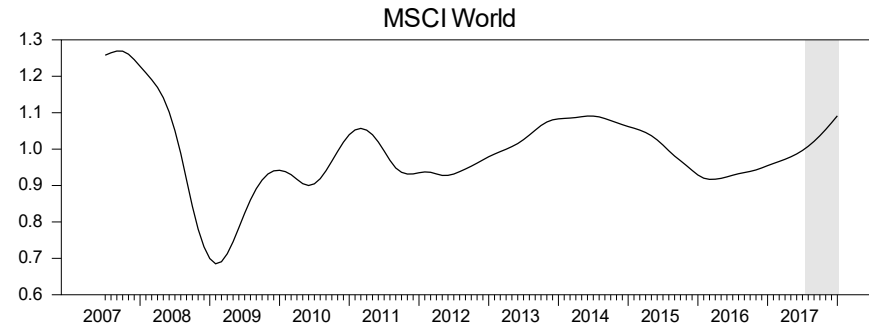
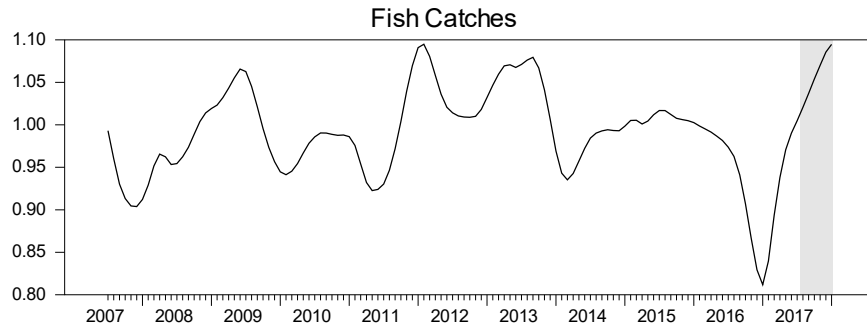
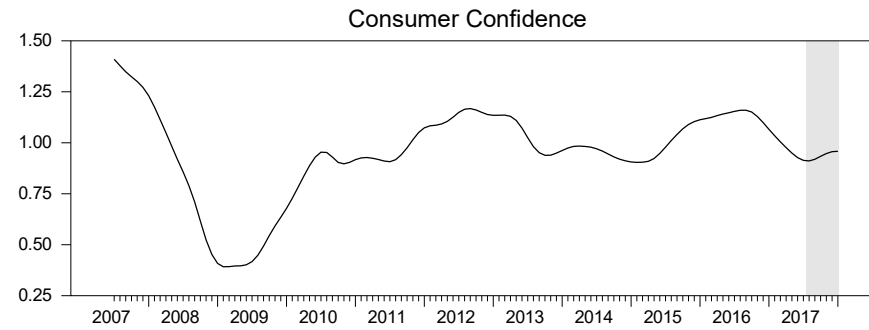
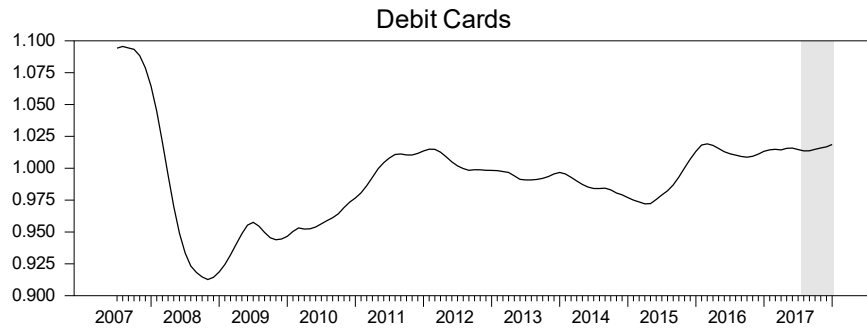
Sources:

Gallup Iceland, Statistical Bureau of Iceland, Central Bank of Iceland, Thomson Reuters, Analytica's calculations.

* Not Trend Adjusted

Chart A2 - Analytica's Leading Indicator - Individual Components

Trend Adjusted - Trend=1.0



Notes:

Debit Cards: Domestic debit card turnover, inflation adj. – Fish Catches: Chain linked volume index. – Imports: Inflation adjusted imports.
 Cons. Confidence: Gallup Index of Consumer Confidence. – MSCI World: MSCI World equities index. – No. of Tourists: No. of passenger arrivals at Keflavik Airport.
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Sources:

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About Analytica

Analytica provides independent and value added financial advisory services. The company specializes in treasury and risk management services provided to qualifying investors. The company's position is based on decades of experience and expertise.

The CEO and founder of Analytica is Mr. Yngvi Hardarson.

Mr. Hardarson was born in 1960 and holds an MA degree in Economics from Queen's University of Kingston Canada, with specialization in Econometrics and Monetary Economics. In addition, he holds a certificate in international trade and resource allocation from the Yrjö Jahnsso Foundation in Helsinki, Finland and a CMT designation by the Market Technicians Association in NY.

Mr. Hardarson started his career as an economist at the National Economic Institute in 1988. In 1990 he became the Chief Economist at the Federation of Icelandic Industries. In 1993 he co-founded Economic Consulting and Forecasting Ltd. In 2007 and until the summer of 2010 Mr. Hardarson was employed as a Managing Director at Askar Capital hf. Investment Bank. In the period 1993-2008 Mr. Hardarson also served as the editor of Gjaldeyrismál (FX-mail), a daily and subsequently weekly newsletter on FX, money markets and global economics.

Further information is provided on Analytica's web page <http://www.analytica.is>