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Iceland Leading Indicator – Outlook positive but sentiment turning negative

The Iceland Composite Leading Indicator (CLI) rose in May. Despite various uncertainties there is still outlook for continued recovery at least into the latter half of year 2022. Tourism seems to be on a strong recovery path. However, the deviation of the CLI above the base value of 100 is already large in historical perspective. Hence, the CLI seems to be entering a zone where a turning point might occur. Also, the Gallup index of Consumer Confidence indicates diminishing public optimism.

Three out of six CLI components rise on the previous month. The largest contributions are due to an increase in tourist arrivals, an increase in fish catches and in merchandise imports. Despite the strong outlook there remains uncertainty regarding developments in the tourism industry, the war in Ukraine and in the evolution of the pandemic. The developments in financial markets are also a risk factor in view of rising inflation as various central banks are in the process of reducing the monetary slack.

Turning points of the CLI tend to precede turning points in economic activity relative to trend by approximately six months. Economic activity in terms of GDP is measured by Statistics 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

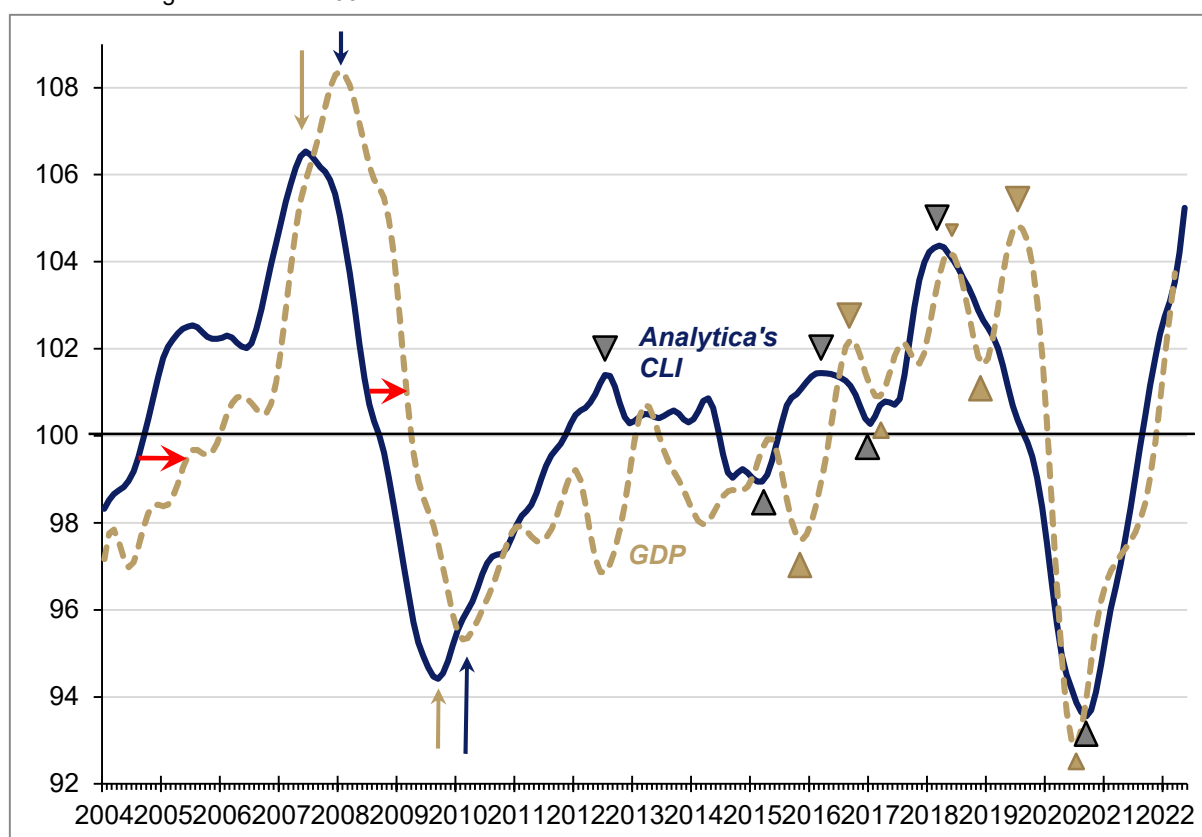


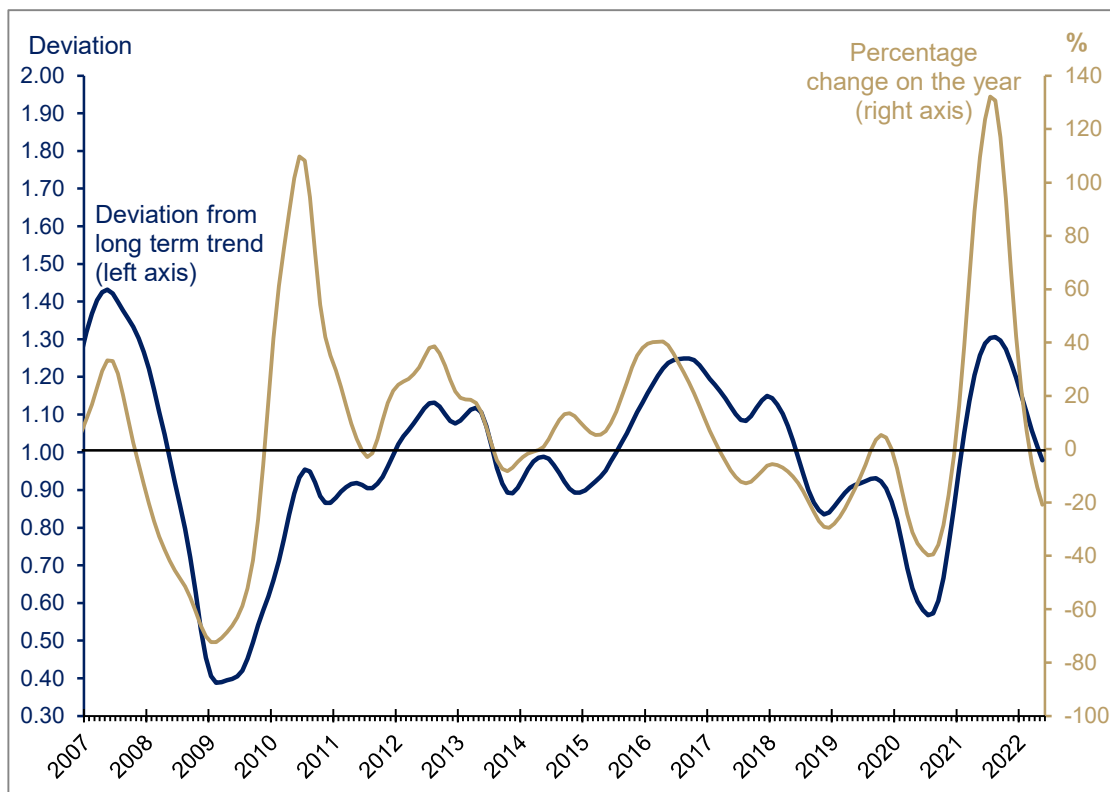
Chart 1 depicts Analytica’s CLI together with trend adjusted GDP. The chart shows that the CLI leads GDP on average by around six months.

Chart 2 depicts the developments of the Gallup index of Consumer Confidence seasonally adjusted and smoothed for the period 2007-2022. This is one of the CLI components and empirically it provides an early indication of the business cycle.

The dark blue curve in chart 2 shows the deviation of the Consumer Confidence index from the long-term trend whereas the brown curve depicts the index year on year change. The year-on-year change has turned negative and the deviation from long term trend has fallen in the last months. This indicates diminishing public optimism. Indications of a potential shift first appeared late last year. According to the index there are now more people pessimistic than optimistic for the first time since the start of year 2021.

Chart 2. The Gallup Index of Consumer Confidence – Deviation from long term trend and YoY %-change

Seasonally adjusted and smoothed



The same curves as shown in chart 2 are depicted in the Appendix charts A1 and A2. The purpose of chart 2 is to highlight developments of the index.

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 May, four out of six underlying components rise year on year. However, only three out of six components rise on the previous month. See Appendix, Charts A1 and A2.

Some revisions to the CLI 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 index for May rose on the month to a value of 105.2. This serves as an indicator to economic activity six months into the future, i.e. November 2022. A value of 100 indicates GDP in line with its long-term trend.

Table 1. Analytica's CLI 2021-2022

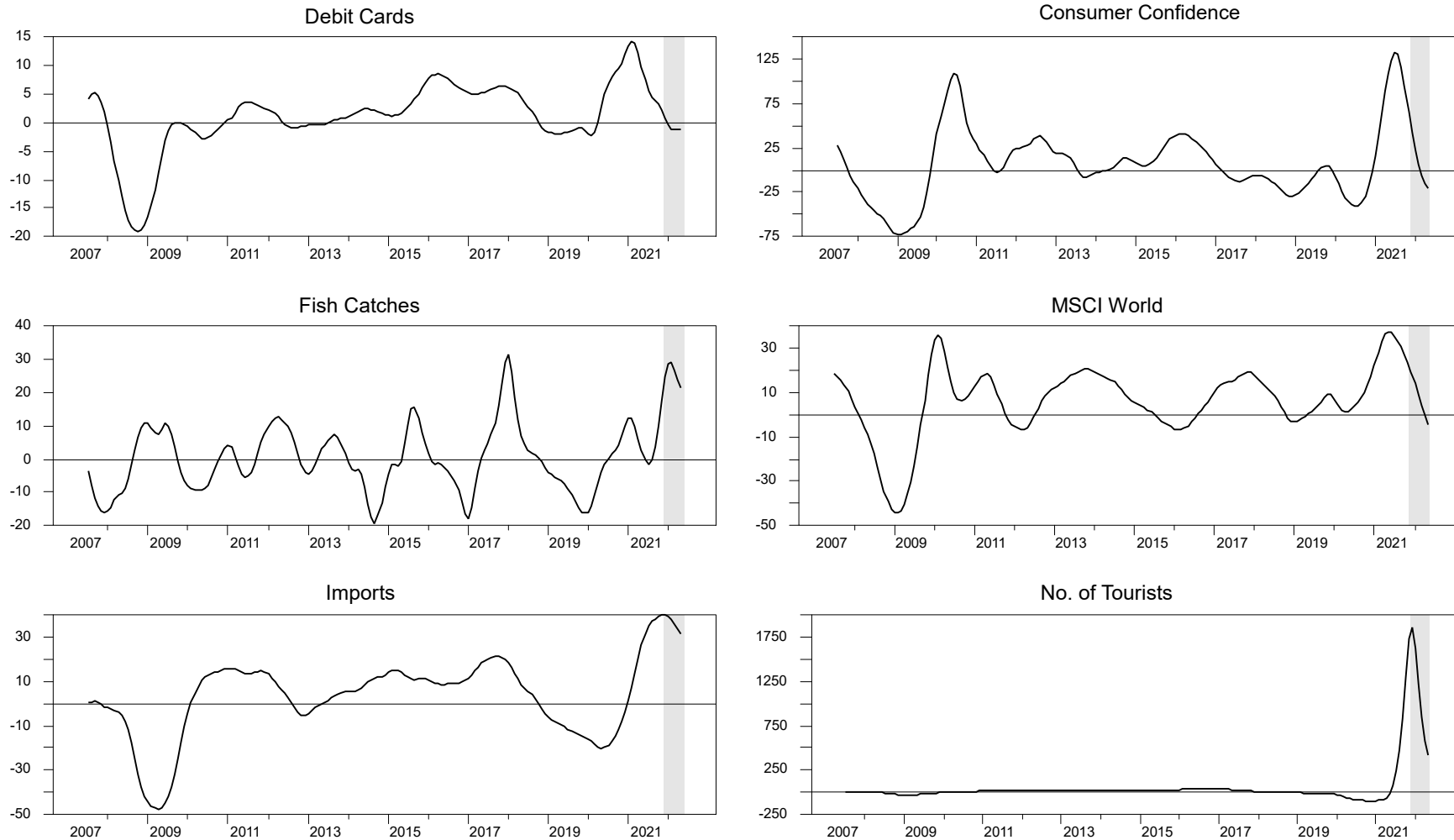
	Index	Change in %		Indication for month
		on month	YOY	
2021				
May	97.7	0.6%	3.3%	Nov.
June	98.3	0.7%	4.4%	Dec.
July	99.0	0.7%	5.5%	Jan. 2022
August	99.8	0.7%	6.5%	Feb.
September	100.5	0.7%	7.4%	March
October	101.1	0.7%	8.0%	April
November	101.8	0.6%	8.1%	May
December	102.3	0.5%	8.0%	June
2022				
January	102.7	0.4%	7.7%	July
February	103.1	0.3%	7.4%	August
March	103.5	0.4%	7.2%	Sept.
April	104.2	0.7%	7.4%	Oct.
May	105.2	1.0%	7.8%	Nov.

The June Composite Leading Indicator is scheduled for release on July 19, 2022.

**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:

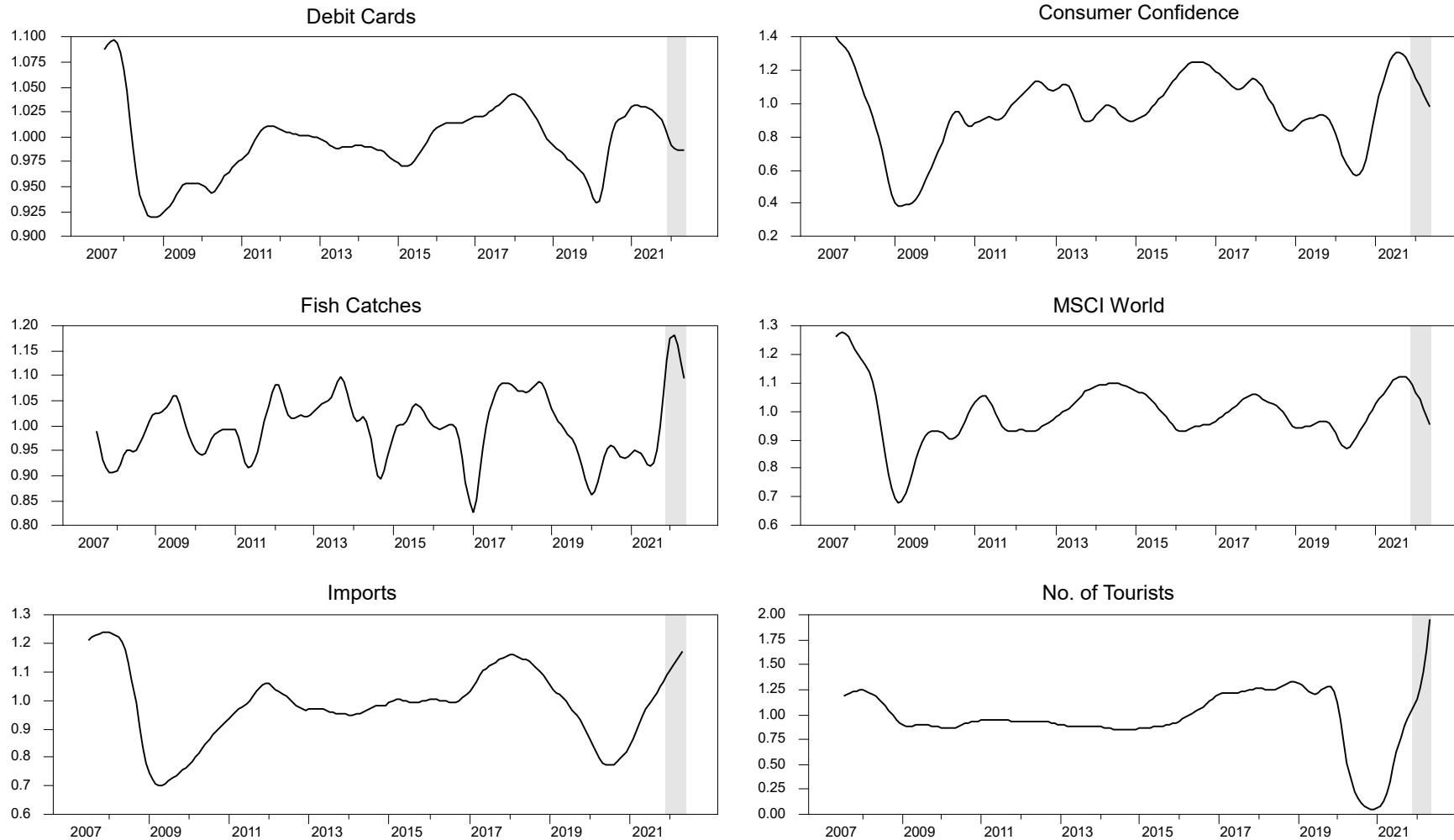
Debit Cards: Domestic debit card turnover, inflation adj. – Fish Catches: Chain linked volume index. – Imports: Inflation adjusted imports. – MSCI World: MSCI World equities index. – No. of Tourists: No. of passenger arrivals at Keflavik Airport. All figures are seasonally adjusted and smoothed. – Shadow on charts covers latest six months data. * Not Trend Adjusted

Sources:

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

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.
 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, Refinitiv, Analytica's calculations.

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 CMT 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>