ISM® REPORT ON BUSINESS®

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Analysis by Timothy R. Fiore, CPSM, C.P.M., Chair of the Institute for Supply Management® Manufacturing Business Survey Committee

conomic activity in the manufacturing sector expanded in July, and the overall economy grew for the 123rd consecutive month, say the nation's supply executives in the latest Manufacturing ISM® Report On Business®.

Index registered 50.8 percent, a 3.3-percentage point decrease

compared to the June reading of 54.1 percent. The Employment

Index registered 51.7 percent, a decrease of 2.8 percentage

The July PMI® registered 51.2 percent. The New Orders Index registered 50.8 percent, an increase of 0.8 percentage point from the June reading of 50 percent. The Production

PMI[®] @ 51.2%

points from the June reading of 54.5 percent. The Supplier Deliveries Index registered 53.3 percent, a 2.6-percentage point increase from the June reading of 50.7 percent. The Inventories Index registered 49.5 percent, an increase of 0.4 percentage

point from the June reading of 49.1 percent. Of the 18 manufacturing industries, nine reported growth in July, in the following order: Wood Products; Printing & Related Support Activities; Furniture & Related

Products; Food, Beverage & Tobacco Products; Plastics & Rubber Products; Computer & Electronic Products; Textile Mills; Petroleum & Coal Products; and Chemical Products.

#Miscellaneous Manufacturing (products such as medical equipment and supplies, jewelry, sporting goods, toys and office supplies).

MANUFACTURING AT A GLANCE

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Index	July Index	June Index	% Point Change	Direction	Rate of Change	Trend* (months)
PMI®	51.2	51.7	-0.5	Growing	Slower	35
New Orders	50.8	50.0	+0.8	Growing	From Unchanged	1
Production	50.8	54.1	-3.3	Growing	Slower	35
Employment	51.7	54.5	-2.8	Growing	Slower	34
Supplier Deliveries	53.3	50.7	+2.6	Slowing	Faster	41
Inventories	49.5	49.1	+0.4	Contracting	Slower	2
Customers' Inventories	45.7	44.6	+1.1	Too Low	Slower	34
Prices	45.1	47.9	-2.8	Decreasing	Faster	2
Backlog of Orders	43.1	47.4	-4.3	Contracting	Faster	3
New Export Orders	48.1	50.5	-2.4	Contracting	From Growing	1
Imports	47.0	50.0	-3.0	Contracting	From Unchanged	1
OVERALL ECONOMY				Growing	Slower	123
Manufacturing Sector				Growing	Slower	35

*Number of months moving in current direction. Manufacturing ISM® Report On Business® data is seasonally adjusted for the New Orders, Production, Employment and Supplier Deliveries Indexes.



PMI®

Manufacturing expanded in July, as the PMI® registered 51.2 percent, a decrease of 0.5 percentage point from the June reading of 51.7 percent. This is the lowest reading since August 2016, when the index registered 49.6 percent. This indicates growth in manufacturing for the 35th consecutive month. The PMI® continued a period of expansion softening, with four straight months of expansion decline. Softening this month was primarily due to slower growth in demand and consumption, indicated by the New Orders, Production and Employment indexes.

COMMODITIES REPORTED

Commodities Up in Price: Corn (2); and Steel Products* (3).

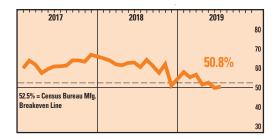
Commodities Down in Price: Aluminum (4); Aluminum Products; Copper (2); Corrugated Boxes (2); Electrical Components; Polypropylene; Steel; Steel — Hot Rolled (4); Steel — Scrap; Steel — Stainless (2); and Steel Products* (7).

Commodities in Short Supply: Electrical Components (2); and Helium.

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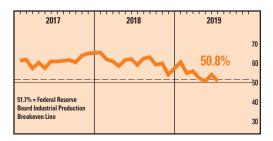
manufacturing

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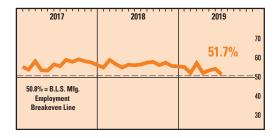
New Orders

ISM's New Orders Index registered 50.8 percent. Of 18 manufacturing industries, seven reported growth in new orders in July, in the following order: Furniture & Related Products; Wood Products; Printing & Related Support Activities; Food, Beverage & Tobacco Products; Textile Mills; Chemical Products; and Computer & Electronic Products.



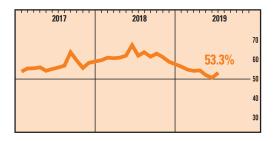
Production

ISM's Production Index registered 50.8 percent. The eight industries reporting growth in production during the month of July — listed in order — are: Wood Products; Printing & Related Support Activities; Furniture & Related Products; Food, Beverage & Tobacco Products; Textile Mills; Primary Metals; Chemical Products; and Computer & Electronic Products.



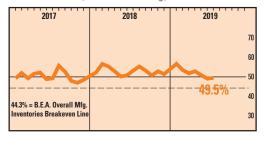
Employment

ISM's Employment Index registered 51.7 percent. Of 18 manufacturing industries, nine reported employment growth in July, in the following order: Furniture & Related Products; Printing & Related Support Activities; Food, Beverage & Tobacco Products; Plastics & Rubber Products; Petroleum & Coal Products; Electrical Equipment, Appliances & Components; Paper Products; Machinery; and Chemical Products.



Supplier Deliveries

The delivery performance of suppliers to manufacturing organizations slowed in July, as the Supplier Deliveries Index registered 53.3 percent. The seven industries reporting slower supplier deliveries in July — listed in order — are: Wood Products; Petroleum & Coal Products; Apparel, Leather & Allied Products; Plastics & Rubber Products; Computer & Electronic Products; Food, Beverage & Tobacco Products; and Miscellaneous Manufacturing[‡].



Inventories

The Inventories Index registered 49.5 percent. The seven industries reporting higher inventories in July — listed in order — are: Printing & Related Support Activities; Plastics & Rubber Products; Electrical Equipment, Appliances & Components; Nonmetallic Mineral Products; Paper Products; Food, Beverage & Tobacco Products; and Computer & Electronic Products.

[‡]Miscellaneous Manufacturing (products such as medical equipment and supplies, jewelry, sporting goods, toys and office supplies).

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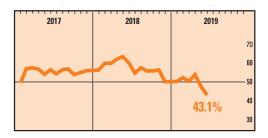
Customers' Inventories

ISM's Customers' Inventories Index registered 45.7 percent. The five industries reporting customers' inventories as too high during the month of July are: Apparel, Leather & Allied Products; Nonmetallic Mineral Products; Miscellaneous Manufacturing[‡]; Electrical Equipment, Appliances & Components; and Paper Products.



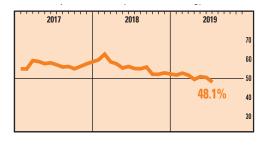
Prices

The ISM Prices Index registered 45.1 percent. Four of the 18 industries reported paying increased prices for raw materials in July: Printing & Related Support Activities; Food, Beverage & Tobacco Products; Petroleum & Coal Products; and Miscellaneous Manufacturing[‡].



Backlog of Orders

ISM's Backlog of Orders Index registered 43.1 percent. The two industries reporting growth in order backlogs in July are: Printing & Related Support Activities; and Furniture & Related Products.



New Export Orders

ISM's New Export Orders Index registered 48.1 percent. The three industries reporting growth in new export orders in July are: Miscellaneous Manufacturing[‡]; Food, Beverage & Tobacco Products: and Chemical Products.



Imports

ISM's Imports Index registered 47 percent. The only industry reporting growth in imports during the month of July is Wood Products. The 11 industries reporting a decrease in imports in July — in the following order — are: Apparel, Leather & Allied Products; Paper Products; Electrical Equipment, Appliances & Components; Furniture & Related Products; Primary Metals; Nonmetallic Mineral Products; Fabricated Metal Products; Machinery; Computer & Electronic Products; Plastics & Rubber Products; and Transportation Equipment.

[‡]Miscellaneous Manufacturing (products such as medical equipment and supplies, jewelry, sporting goods, toys and office supplies).