Economic activity in the hospital subsector grew in February for the ninth consecutive month, say the nation’s hospital supply executives in the latest Hospital ISM® Report On Business®.

The Hospital PMI™ registered 57.5 percent in February, up 1.7 percentage points from the January reading of 55.8, indicating a ninth consecutive month of growth. The Business Activity Index decreased slightly compared to January. The New Orders and Employment indexes saw increases in February compared to January. The Case Mix Index decreased to 52 percent, down 4.5 percentage points compared to the January reading of 56.5 percent. The Days Payable Outstanding Index decreased to 50.5 percent, down 4.5 percentage points from the January reading of 55 percent. The Technology Spend Index registered 58 percent, an increase of 8 percentage points from the January reading of 50 percent.

February comments from Business Survey Committee panelists were cautiously optimistic, with the exception of one panelist who wrote, “2021 is full speed ahead!” Overall, coronavirus (COVID-19) cases declined, and some organizations began to schedule more elective surgeries. Panelists reported varying rates of declines in cases, but the consensus expectation was that declines would continue. Supply chain disruptions continued, especially for needles and syringes and nitrile gloves. Availability and high prices were more of an issue for small providers and in rural areas.

About This Report
The information compiled in this report is for the month of February 2021.

The data presented herein is obtained from a survey of hospital supply executives based on information they have collected within their respective organizations. ISM® makes no representation, other than that stated within this release, regarding the individual company data collection procedures. The data should be compared to all other economic data sources when used in decision-making.

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