In August, the Services PMI® registered 56.9 percent, a 0.2-percentage point increase compared to the July reading of 56.7 percent. The 12-month average is 59.7 percent, reflecting consistently strong growth in the services sector, which has expanded for 27 consecutive months. A reading above 50 percent indicates the services sector economy is generally expanding; below 50 percent indicates the services sector is generally contracting.

**Commodities Reported**

**Commodities Up in Price:** Chemicals (5); Chicken; Diesel Fuel* (21); Electrical Components (19); Fuel* (20); Hotel Rates (4); Labor (21); Labor — Construction; Labor — Contingent (2); Labor — Skilled; Labor — Temporary; Medical Gases; Maintenance, Repair and Operating (MRO) Supplies; Medical Supplies (2); Natural Gas; Paper; Personal Protective Equipment (PPE); Safety Products; Soybean Oil; Steel Products* (20); and Travel (4).

**Commodities Down in Price:** Aluminum Products (2); Beef; Dairy Products; Diesel Fuel*; Fuel* (2); Gasoline; Ocean Freight; and Steel Products*.

Economic activity in the services sector grew in August for the 27th month in a row — with the Services PMI® registering 56.9 percent — say the nation’s purchasing and supply executives in the latest Services ISM® Report On Business®.

The Business Activity Index registered 60.9 percent, an increase of 1 percentage point compared to the reading of 59.9 percent in July. The New Orders Index figure of 61.8 percent is 1.9 percentage points higher than the July reading of 59.9 percent. Employment improved slightly despite a restricted labor market.

The services sector had a slight uptick in growth for the month of August due to increases in business activity, new orders and employment. Based on comments from Business Survey Committee respondents, there are some supply chain, logistics and cost improvements; however, material shortages remain a challenge.

The 14 services industries reporting growth in August — listed in order — are: Mining; Real Estate, Rental & Leasing; Utilities; Construction; Educational Services; Information; Transportation & Warehousing; Wholesale Trade; Health Care & Social Assistance; Public Administration; Finance & Insurance; Management of Companies & Support Services; Professional, Scientific & Technical Services; and Other Services*. ISM

*Number of months moving in current direction.

Services ISM® Report On Business® data has been seasonally adjusted for the Business Activity, New Orders, Employment and Prices indexes.

**Other Services** (services such as Equipment & Machinery Repairing; Promoting or Administering Religious Activities; Grantmaking; Advocacy; and Providing Dry-Cleaning & Laundry Services, Personal Care Services, Death Care Services, Pet Care Services, Photofinishing Services, Temporary Parking Services and Dating Services).
Business Activity
ISM’s Business Activity Index registered 60.9 percent. The 11 industries reporting an increase in business activity for the month of August — listed in order — are: Real Estate, Rental & Leasing; Utilities; Information; Educational Services; Construction; Wholesale Trade; Transportation & Warehousing; Public Administration; Professional, Scientific & Technical Services; Health Care & Social Assistance; and Finance & Insurance.

Employment
ISM’s Employment Index registered 50.2 percent. The eight industries reporting an increase in employment in August — listed in order — are: Mining; Construction; Transportation & Warehousing; Accommodation & Food Services; Arts, Entertainment & Recreation; Other Services; Information; and Wholesale Trade.

Supplier Deliveries
The Supplier Deliveries Index registered 54.5 percent, down 3.3 percentage points from the 57.8 percent registered in July. The 12 industries reporting slower deliveries in August — listed in order — are: Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting; Mining; Finance & Insurance; Real Estate, Rental & Leasing; Public Administration; Wholesale Trade; Retail Trade; Health Care & Social Assistance; Management of Companies & Support Services; Finance & Insurance; and Professional, Scientific & Technical Services.

Inventories
The Inventories Index registered 46.2 percent. The eight industries reporting an increase in inventories in August — listed in order — are: Mining; Accommodation & Food Services; Utilities; Other Services; Transportation & Warehousing; Educational Services; Wholesale Trade; and Public Administration.

Other Services (services such as Equipment & Machinery Repairing; Promoting or Administering Religious Activities; Grantmaking; Advocacy; and Providing Dry-Cleaning & Laundry Services, Personal Care Services, Death Care Services, Pet Care Services, Photofinishing Services, Temporary Parking Services and Dating Services).
Prices
Prices paid by services organizations for materials and services registered 71.5 percent. Seventeen services industries reported an increase in prices paid during the month of August, in the following order: Mining; Real Estate, Rental & Leasing; Arts, Entertainment & Recreation; Other Services; Health Care & Social Assistance; Transportation & Warehousing; Public Administration; Utilities; Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting; Educational Services; Finance & Insurance; Management of Companies & Support Services; Information; Construction; Retail Trade; Wholesale Trade; and Professional, Scientific & Technical Services.

Backlog of Orders
The ISM Services Backlog of Orders Index registered 53.9 percent. The six industries reporting an increase in order backlogs in August — listed in order — are: Information; Mining; Real Estate, Rental & Leasing; Educational Services; Transportation & Warehousing; and Public Administration.

New Export Orders
The New Export Orders Index registered 61.9 percent. The six industries reporting an increase in new export orders in August — listed in order — are: Construction; Real Estate, Rental & Leasing; Utilities; Professional, Scientific & Technical Services; Health Care & Social Assistance; and Wholesale Trade.

Imports
The Imports Index contracted in August for the third consecutive month, registering 48.2 percent. The six industries reporting an increase in imports for the month of August — listed in order — are: Public Administration; Information; Utilities; Professional, Scientific & Technical Services; Health Care & Social Assistance; and Wholesale Trade.

Inventory Sentiment
The ISM Services Inventory Sentiment Index registered 47.1 percent. The seven industries reporting sentiment that their inventories were too high in August — listed in order — are: Arts, Entertainment & Recreation; Retail Trade; Mining; Wholesale Trade; Management of Companies & Support Services; Health Care & Social Assistance; and Professional, Scientific & Technical Services.
About This Report

DO NOT CONFUSE THIS NATIONAL REPORT with the various regional purchasing reports released across the country. The national report’s information reflects the entire U.S., while the regional reports contain primarily regional data from their local vicinities. Also, the information in the regional reports is not used in calculating the results of the national report.

The data presented herein is obtained from a survey of manufacturing and services 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.

Data and Method of Presentation

The Manufacturing ISM® Report On Business® is based on data compiled from purchasing and supply executives nationwide. The composition of the Manufacturing Business Survey Committee is stratified according to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) and each of the following NAICS-based industry’s contribution to gross domestic product (GDP): Food; Beverage & Tobacco Products; Textile Mills; Apparel; Leather & Allied Products; Wood Products; Paper Products; Printing & Related Support Activities; Petroleum & Coal Products; Chemical Products; Plastics & Rubber Products; Nonmetallic-Mineral Products; Primary Metals; Fabricated Metal Products; Machinery; Computer & Electronic Products; Electrical Equipment, Appliances & Components; Transportation Equipment; Furniture & Related Products; and Miscellaneous Manufacturing (products such as medical equipment and supplies, jewelry, sporting goods, toys and office supplies). The data are weighted based on each industry’s contribution to GDP. According to the BEA estimates for 2020 GDP (released December 22, 2021), the six largest manufacturing subsectors are: Computer & Electronic Products; Chemical Products, Transportation Equipment; Petroleum & Coal Products; Food; Beverage & Tobacco Products; and Machinery. Beginning in February 2018 with January 2018 data, computation of the index is accomplished utilizing unrounded numbers.

The Services ISM® Report On Business® (formerly the Non-Manufacturing ISM® Report On Business®) is based on data compiled from purchasing and supply executives nationwide. Membership of the Services Business Survey Committee (formerly Non-Manufacturing Business Survey Committee) is diversified by NAICS, based on each industry’s contribution to gross domestic product (GDP). The Services Business Survey Committee responses are divided into the following NAICS code categories: Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting; Mining; Utilities; Construction; Wholesale Trade; Retail Trade; Transportation & Warehousing; Information; Finance & Insurance; Real Estate, Rental & Leasing; Professional, Scientific & Technical Services; Management of Companies & Support Services; Educational Services; Health Care & Social Assistance; Arts; Entertainment & Recreation; Accommodation & Food Services; Public Administration; and Other Services (services such as Equipment & Machinery Repairing; Promoting or Administering Religious Activities; Grantmaking; Advocacy; and Providing Dry-Cleaning & Laundry Services, Personal Care Services, Death Care Services, Pet Care Services, Photofinishing Services, Temporary Parking Services, and Dating Services). The data are weighted based on each industry’s contribution to GDP. According to the BEA estimates for 2020 GDP (released December 22, 2021), the six largest services sectors are: Real Estate, Rental & Leasing; Government; Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services; Health Care & Social Assistance; Information; and Finance & Insurance. Beginning in February 2020 with January 2020 data, computation of the index is accomplished utilizing unrounded numbers.

Survey responses reflect the change, if any, in the current month compared to the previous month. Responses are raw data and are never changed. The diffusion index includes the percent of positive responses plus one-half of those responding the same (considered positive).

The resulting single index number for those meeting the criteria for seasonal adjustments (for Manufacturing: New Orders, Production, Employment, and Inventories) for Services: Business Activity, New Orders, Employment and Prices) is then seasonally adjusted to allow for the effects of repetitive intra-year variations resulting primarily from normal differences in weather conditions, various institutional arrangements, and differences attributable to non-moveable holidays. The remaining indexes have not indicated significant seasonality. All seasonal adjustment factors are subject annually to relatively minor changes when conditions warrant them.

The Manufacturing PMI® is a composite index based on the diffusion indexes of five of the indexes with equal weights: New Orders (seasonally adjusted), Production (seasonally adjusted), Employment (seasonally adjusted), Supplier Deliveries, and Inventories (seasonally adjusted). The Services PMI® is a composite index based on the diffusion indexes for four of the indicators with equal weights: Business Activity (seasonally adjusted), New Orders (seasonally adjusted), Employment (seasonally adjusted) and Supplier Deliveries.

Diffusion indexes have the properties of leading indicators and are convenient summary measures showing the prevailing direction of change and the scope of change.

A Manufacturing PMI® reading above 50 percent indicates that the manufacturing economy is generally expanding; below 50 percent indicates that it is generally declining. A Manufacturing PMI® above 48.7 percent, over a period of time, indicates that the overall economy, or gross domestic product (GDP), is generally expanding. Below 48.7 percent, it is generally declining. The distance from 50 percent or 48.7 percent is indicative of the extent of the expansion or decline. A Services PMI® reading above 50 percent indicates that the services economy is generally expanding; below 50 percent indicates that it is generally declining. A Services PMI® above 50.1 percent, over time, indicates that the overall economy, or gross domestic product (GDP), is generally expanding; below 50.1 percent, it is generally declining. The distance from 50 percent or 50.1 percent is indicative of the strength of the expansion or decline. With some of the indicators within the Manufacturing ISM® Report On Business®, ISM® has indicated the departure point between expansion and decline of comparable government series, as determined by regression analysis.

The Report On Business® surveys are sent out to Manufacturing and Services Business Survey Committee respondents the first part of each month. Respondents are asked to report on information for the current month for U.S. operations only. ISM® receives survey responses throughout most of any given month, with the majority of respondents generally waiting until late in the month to submit responses to give the most accurate picture of current business activity.

The industries reporting growth, as indicated in the monthly reports, are listed in the order of most growth to least growth. For the industries reporting contraction or decreases, those are listed in the order of the highest level of contraction/decrease to the least level of contraction/decrease.

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