In October, the Services PMI® registered 54.4 percent, a 2.3-percentage point decrease compared to the September reading of 56.7 percent. The 12-month average is 58.2 percent, reflecting consistently strong growth in the services sector, which has expanded for 29 consecutive months. A reading above 50 percent indicates the services sector economy is generally expanding; below 50 percent indicates it is generally contracting.

Commodities Reported

- **Commodities Up in Price:** Caustic Soda; Cheese (2); Computer Hardware; Diesel Fuel*; Electrical Components (21); Electronic Components (2); Food and Beverages (2); Fuel; Gasoline*; Labor (23); Paper (2); Steel Products (22); and Stretch Wrap.
- **Commodities Down in Price:** Chicken; Diesel Fuel* (3); Gasoline* (3); Plastic; and Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) Products (2).
- **Commodities in Short Supply:** Concrete; Electrical Components; Electronic Assemblies; Labor (15); Labor — Full-Time; Needles and Syringes (2); Paper (3); Semiconductors; Transformers (2); and Vehicles (4).

Economic activity in the services sector grew in October for the 29th month in a row, say the nation’s purchasing and supply executives in the latest Services ISM® Report On Business®.

In October, the Services PMI® registered 54.4 percent. This is the lowest reading since May 2020, when the index registered 45.2 percent. The Business Activity Index registered 55.7 percent, a decrease of 3.4 percentage points compared to the reading of 59.1 percent in September. The New Orders Index figure of 56.5 percent is 4.1 percentage points lower than the September reading of 60.6 percent. Growth continues at a slower rate for the services sector, which has expanded for all but two of the last 153 months. The sector had a pullback in growth for the second consecutive month in October due to decreases in business activity, new orders and employment.

The 16 services industries reporting growth in October — listed in order — are: Mining; Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting; Arts, Entertainment & Recreation; Transportation & Warehousing; Accommodation & Food Services; Construction; Utilities; Other Services; Information; Retail Trade; Professional, Scientific & Technical Services; Educational Services; Finance & Insurance; Public Administration; Health Care & Social Assistance; and Wholesale Trade. ISM

**Commodities**

- **Commodities Up in Price:** Caustic Soda; Cheese (2); Computer Hardware; Diesel Fuel*; Electrical Components (21); Electronic Components (2); Food and Beverages (2); Fuel; Gasoline*; Labor (23); Paper (2); Steel Products (22); and Stretch Wrap.
- **Commodities Down in Price:** Chicken; Diesel Fuel* (3); Gasoline* (3); Plastic; and Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) Products (2).
- **Commodities in Short Supply:** Concrete; Electrical Components; Electronic Assemblies; Labor (15); Labor — Full-Time; Needles and Syringes (2); Paper (3); Semiconductors; Transformers (2); and Vehicles (4).

*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.

*Note: To view the full report, visit the ISM® Report On Business® website at ismrob.org*

The number of consecutive months the commodity has been listed is indicated after each item. *Reported as both up and down in price.*
Business Activity
ISM’s Business Activity Index registered 55.7 percent. The 15 industries reporting an increase in business activity for the month of October — listed in order — are: Mining; Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting; Construction; Information; Arts, Entertainment & Recreation; Educational Services; Transportation & Warehousing; Utilities; Accommodation & Food Services; Professional, Scientific & Technical Services; Other Services; Finance & Insurance; Retail Trade; Wholesale Trade; and Health Care & Social Assistance.

Employment
ISM’s Employment Index registered 49.1 percent. The 11 industries reporting an increase in employment in October — listed in order — are: Mining; Arts, Entertainment & Recreation; Accommodation & Food Services; Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting; Retail Trade; Wholesale Trade; Professional, Scientific & Technical Services; Construction; Finance & Insurance; Utilities; and Public Administration.

Supplier Deliveries
The Supplier Deliveries Index registered 56.2 percent. The nine industries reporting slower deliveries in October — listed in order — are: Real Estate, Rental & Leasing; Utilities; Other Services; Transportation & Warehousing; Public Administration; Educational Services; Health Care & Social Assistance; Construction; and Information.

Inventories
The Inventories Index registered 47.2 percent. The nine industries reporting an increase in inventories in October — listed in order — are: Arts, Entertainment & Recreation; Retail Trade; Transportation & Warehousing; Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting; Mining; Finance & Insurance; Wholesale Trade; Construction; and Professional, Scientific & Technical Services.

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 70.7 percent. Seventeen services industries reported an increase in prices paid during the month of October, in the following order: Real Estate, Rental & Leasing; Information; Finance & Insurance; Health Care & Social Assistance; Mining; Utilities; Construction; Transportation & Warehousing; Educational Services; Professional, Scientific & Technical Services; Public Administration; Management of Companies & Support Services; Arts, Entertainment & Recreation; Other Services; Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting; Accommodation & Food Services; and Retail Trade.

Backlog of Orders
The ISM Services Backlog of Orders Index registered 52.2 percent. The eight industries reporting an increase in order backlogs in October — listed in order — are: Accommodation & Food Services; Finance & Insurance; Information; Educational Services; Mining; Other Services; Professional, Scientific & Technical Services; and Health Care & Social Assistance.

New Export Orders
The New Export Orders Index registered 47.7 percent. The eight industries reporting an increase in new export orders in October — listed in order — are: Construction; Mining; Accommodation & Food Services; Educational Services; Utilities; Professional, Scientific & Technical Services; and Transportation & Warehousing.

Imports
The Imports Index grew in October for the second consecutive month after three previous months of contraction, registering 50.4 percent. The four industries reporting an increase in imports for the month of October are: Professional, Scientific & Technical Services; Information; Utilities; and Health Care & Social Assistance.

Inventory Sentiment
The ISM Services Inventory Sentiment Index registered 46.4 percent. The eight industries reporting sentiment that their inventories were too high in October — listed in order — are: Other Services; Wholesale Trade; Retail Trade; Finance & Insurance; Utilities; Construction; Health Care & Social Assistance; and Information.
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 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 Delivers, 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 Delivers.

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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Institute for Supply Management® (ISM®) serves supply management professionals in more than 90 countries. Its 50,000 members around the world manage about US$1 trillion in corporate and government supply chain procurement annually. Founded in 1915 as the first supply management institute in the world, ISM is committed to advancing the practice of supply management to drive value and competitive advantage for its members, contributing to a prosperous and sustainable world. ISM leads the profession through the ISM® Report On Business®, its highly regarded certification programs and the ISM Advance™ Digital Platform. This report has been issued by the association since 1931, except for a four-year interruption during World War II.