News Release

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IHS Markit Europe Sector PMI®

European autos output continues to expand rapidly in August

Key findings

Growth rate for autos & parts production eases only slightly from July record

Pharmaceuticals & biotechnology and metals & mining climb to second and third in rankings

Only four sectors register falling output in August, but widespread job shedding persists

The latest detailed European sector PMI® data indicated sustained growth of output across many areas of the private sector economy in August, reflecting the ongoing lifting of lockdown restrictions across the continent. The autos sector in particular continued to see a marked rebound in output. That said, most sectors registered shrinking workforces in the latest period.

European Sector PMI indices are compiled from responses to IHS Markit’s European PMI surveys, covering over 8,000 private sector companies in 11 countries. Indices are available for the basic materials, consumer goods, consumer services, financials, healthcare, industrials and technology industry groups, and sub-sectors of these groups.

The strongest-growing sector remained automobiles & auto parts, where the Output Index eased only slightly from July’s record high. Prior to July, the last time the sector had topped the rankings was in July 2016. Marked accelerations in growth were seen in pharmaceuticals & biotechnology and metals & mining, which climbed by seven and nine places respectively since July, more than any other sector.

Only four sectors registered lower activity in August: other financials, tourism & recreation, technology equipment and construction & engineering, with the latter seeing only a fractional decline.

The latest employment data contrasted with the broad recovery in output growth, with all but three sectors monitored shedding jobs in August. The strongest rate of decline was in metals & mining, followed by transportation and tourism & recreation. Workforce growth was limited to pharmaceuticals & biotechnology, healthcare services and real estate.

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**Methodology**

The IHS Markit Europe Sector PMI® indices are compiled by IHS Markit from responses to questionnaires sent to purchasing managers in IHS Markit’s European PMI survey panels, covering over 8,000 private sector companies in Germany, UK, France, Italy, Spain, Netherlands, Austria, Greece, Ireland, Poland and the Czech Republic.

IHS Markit maps individual company responses to industry sectors according to standard industry classification (SIC) codes. Europe Sector PMI indices are available for the basic materials, consumer goods, consumer services, financials, healthcare and technology industry groups, and sub-sectors of these groups.

Survey responses are collected in the second half of each month and indicate the direction of change compared to the previous month. Survey responses are weighted by country of origin, based on sectoral gross value added. A diffusion index is calculated for each survey variable. The index is the sum of the percentage of ‘higher’ responses and half the percentage of ‘unchanged’ responses. The indices vary between 0 and 100, with a reading above 50 indicating an overall increase compared to the previous month, and below 50 an overall decrease. The indices are then seasonally adjusted.

For manufacturing sectors, the headline figure is the Purchasing Managers’ Index® (PMI). The PMI is a weighted average of the following five indices: New Orders (30%), Output (25%), Employment (20%), Suppliers’ Delivery Times (15%) and Stocks of Purchases (10%). For the PMI calculation the Suppliers’ Delivery Times Index is inverted so that it moves in a comparable direction to the other indices.

For services sectors, or sectors covering both manufacturing and services, the headline figure is the Business Activity Index. This is a diffusion index calculated from a question that asks for changes in the volume of business activity or output compared with one month previously.

For further information on the PMI survey methodology, please contact economics@ihsmarkit.com.

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**About PMI**

Purchasing Managers’ Index® (PMI®) surveys are now available for over 40 countries and also for key regions including the eurozone. They are the most closely watched business surveys in the world, favoured by central banks, financial markets and business decision makers for their ability to provide up-to-date, accurate and often unique monthly indicators of economic trends.

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