IHS Markit US Sector PMI™

Consumer services gain considerable momentum in October

Key findings

Consumer services growth jumps to three-month high

Healthcare remains fastest-expanding area of activity

Consumer goods output falls for first time since May 2020

US Sector PMI™ indices are compiled from responses to questionnaires sent to purchasing managers in IHS Markit’s US manufacturing and services PMI survey panels, covering over 1,000 private sector companies. Indices are available for the basic materials, consumer goods, consumer services, financials, healthcare, industrials and technology sectors.

October data pointed to output growth in five of the seven broad categories monitored by the US Sector PMI. This was down from all seven in September, with Consumer Goods (49.7) and Technology (50.0) the laggards during the latest survey period.

Severe supply chain disruption was the main reason for falling output in the Consumer Goods sector. Although only marginal, the decrease was the first recorded since May 2020. Similarly, stalling business activity in the Technology category brought to an end a 14-month period of expansion.

Recovery momentum eased since September in the Basic Materials and Industrials categories (both indices at 55.2), with survey respondents often noting a brake on growth from supplier delays and staff shortages.

In contrast, the Consumer Services sector gained considerable speed in October. At 59.8, up from 52.1 in September, the latest rise in output was the fastest since July and exceeded only by the Healthcare category (68.3). The rate of growth among Healthcare businesses was the steepest since November 2020.

Finally, companies in the Financials sector reported a robust pace of activity growth that was the fastest for three months.
Output / Business Activity Index

Rank

May '21  Jun '21  Jul '21  Aug '21  Sep '21  Oct '21

1  2  3  4  5  6  7

Basic Materials  Consumer Goods  Consumer Services
Financials  Healthcare  Industrials  Technology

Source: IHS Markit.

Methodology

The IHS Markit US Sector PMI™ indices are compiled by IHS Markit from responses to questionnaires sent to purchasing managers in IHS Markit's US manufacturing and services PMI survey panels, covering over 1,000 private sector companies.

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

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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