

## Nikkei Asia Sector PMI™

### Output at Technology Equipment producers drops at fastest rate in nearly four years

**Key points:**

- **Machinery & Equipment** output declines at fastest pace of all sectors
- **Technology Equipment** production falls to sharpest extent since June 2015
- Renewed growth seen in **Metals & Mining** and **Automobiles & Auto Parts** sectors

**Summary:**

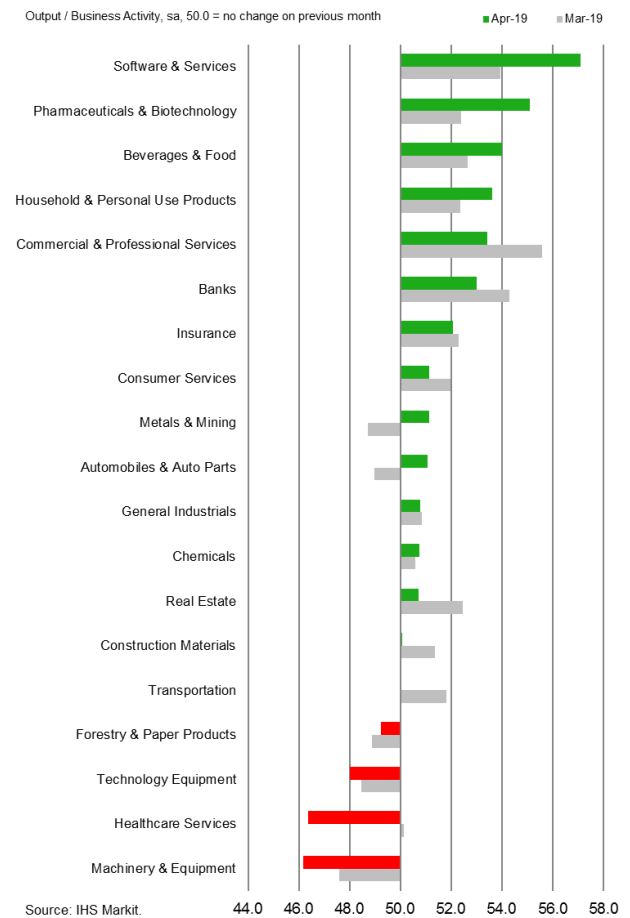
According to the latest Asia Sector PMI™ data, compiled by IHS Markit and sponsored by Nikkei, the majority of monitored sectors across Asia recorded output growth during the opening month of the second quarter. While expansions in a number of industries gathered pace, other sectors maintained a positive trend or observed renewed increases in output.

Leading growth was the **Software & Services** sector, which registered a sharp and accelerated rise in output that was the strongest in over nine years during April. This was followed by **Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology**, where the expansion also picked up since March.

Elsewhere, there was a renewed increase in **Automobiles & Auto Parts** production, ending a six-month downturn. **Metals & Mining** followed suit, returning to growth in April having previously recorded falling output since last October.

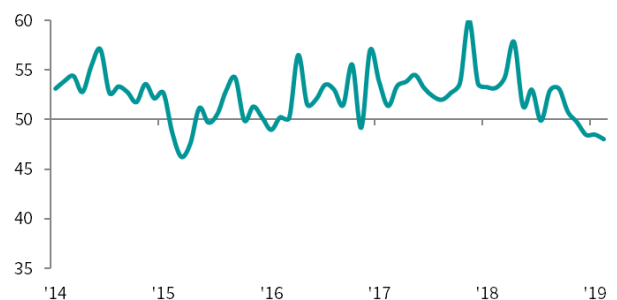
However, at the other end of the spectrum, declines in the **Machinery & Equipment** and **Technology Equipment** sectors intensified during the latest survey period. The former registered the strongest decline in production for six-and-a-half years while in the case of the latter, the contraction was the most severe since June 2015.

**Asia Sector PMI**



**Asia Technology Equipment PMI**

Output Index, sa, >50 = growth since previous month



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In 2013, we kicked off the Nikkei Asian Review, an English-language news service provided both online and as a weekly print magazine. The following year, we established an Editorial Headquarters for Asia in Bangkok to deepen our coverage of Asian economic news. In addition, we doubled the number of reporters stationed in Asia outside Japan. 2014 also saw the launch of Nikkei Group Asia Pte., a new company in Singapore tasked with spreading the Nikkei brand in the region. Our goal is to make Nikkei the leading media voice in Asia.

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### Notes to Editors:

Nikkei Asia Sector PMI™ data are derived from surveys of over 6,700 companies operating in 13 economies, including China, Japan, India, South Korea, Indonesia, Taiwan, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Vietnam, Myanmar, Thailand and the Philippines. The data are typically released on the fifth working day of each month, two days' after the Global Composite PMI, at 0030 UTC time (0830 Hong Kong).

The Asia Sector PMI data provide corporate decision makers, economic analysts, policy makers and investors with a powerful database with which to monitor business cycles by industry. Sector trends over time can be tracked – with historic data to September 2007 – as well as relative performance between sectors, allowing identification of key growth industries and the drivers within them.

The dataset provides monthly indicators of business trends across variables such as output, order books, prices, inventories and employment for seven major groups including: basic materials, consumer goods, consumer services, financials, healthcare, industrials and technology; and a further 21 sectors and subsectors of those groups.

Sector PMI data are generated from the same questionnaire responses as national PMI data, and mapped to IHS Markit's sector classification structure using Standard Industry Classification (SIC) codes. Respondents are asked to state whether business conditions for a number of variables have improved, deteriorated or stayed the same compared with the previous month. Diffusion indexes are calculated for each variable (the percentage of positive responses plus half the percentage of neutral responses). These indexes vary between 0 and 100 with levels of 50.0 signalling no change on the previous month. Readings above 50.0 signal an improvement or increase on the previous month. Readings below 50.0 signal a deterioration or decrease on the previous month. The greater the divergence from 50.0 the greater the rate of change signalled.

Individual company responses will be weighted on the basis of that company's country of origin. Country weights for each sector are derived from a combination of GDP data and detailed industry gross value added.

The PMI diffusion indexes are then adjusted for seasonality using the X-12 ARIMA program.

Detailed historical Asia sector data are available via a subscription from IHS Markit, and datasets are also available for Global, Europe and the US sectors. For further information please contact [economics@ihsmarkit.com](mailto:economics@ihsmarkit.com).

### About IHS Markit ([www.ihsmarkit.com](http://www.ihsmarkit.com))

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