

Embargoed until 1100 Athens (0900 UTC) 1 March 2019

## IHS MARKIT GREECE MANUFACTURING PMI®

### PMI rises to nine-month high in February

#### KEY FINDINGS

Operating conditions improve at the strongest rate since May 2018

Sharp increases in output and new business

Business confidence picks up to six-month high

February data indicated a solid improvement in operating conditions across the Greek manufacturing sector. The rate of output growth matched that seen in January and was strong overall as the upturn in new business accelerated to the quickest in a year. Employment expanded at a pace broadly in line with those since the start of 2018, with greater new export orders driving the rise in production requirements. Manufacturers were reportedly buoyed by stronger client demand and business confidence rose to a six-month high.

The seasonally adjusted IHS Markit Greece Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index® (PMI®) – a composite indicator designed to measure the performance of the manufacturing economy – registered 54.2 in February, up slightly from 53.7 posted in January. The latest improvement in the health of the manufacturing sector was the strongest since May 2018 and solid overall. The headline PMI was also well above the long-run series trend midway through the first quarter of 2019.

The latest upturn in production extended the current sequence of expansion that began in June 2017 and was strong overall. The rate of growth matched that seen in January and was the joint-fastest since March 2018. Greater output levels were attributed to increased new orders and efforts to replenish stocks of finished goods.

New business received by manufacturers rose at a sharp and accelerated pace in February. The expansion in new orders was the quickest in a year. Panellists suggested new client acquisitions and greater customer demand drove the rise.

Manufacturing PMI  
sa, >50 = improvement since previous month



Demand from foreign clients continued to grow, with new export orders rising for the seventeenth successive month.

Encouragingly, manufacturers registered another solid rise in employment in February. The rate of job creation was broadly in line with those seen since the start of 2018 and extended the current sequence of growth in workforce numbers that began in May 2017. That said, backlogs contracted at a solid pace following a slight increase in work-in-hand in January.

Greek goods producers remained upbeat regarding the year-ahead outlook for output, with the degree of business confidence picking up in February. The level of optimism was the strongest in six months as firms reported greater foreign client demand and the acquisition of new customers.

On the price front, the rate of input cost inflation matched that seen in January and was moderate in the context of the series history. Where a rise was reported, panellists linked this to higher raw material prices, but the pace of increase was the joint-slowest since July 2016.

A faster rise in new business spurred firms on to raise their output charges in February. The increase was only the second in the last five months, and fractional overall.

Meanwhile, buying activity increased in line with expectations of further rises in production in the coming months.

## COMMENT

Siân Jones at IHS Markit, which compiles the Greece Manufacturing PMI survey, commented:

*"The Greek manufacturing sector continued to signal solid and stable growth midway through the first quarter of 2019 on the back of a sharper upturn in new business. Exports showed further strength, supporting another month of job creation. In fact, the sequence of employment growth that began at the start of 2018 is the strongest in the series history.*

*"Input price inflation remained relatively moderate, while a steep rise in new orders allowed manufacturers to increase their charges for the first time since last November.*

*"The acquisition of new clients and expectations of further export growth reportedly drove business confidence, which rose to a six-month high. Encouragingly, firms expect output to rise over the coming months despite uncertainty over upcoming elections."*

## PMI

sa, >50 = improvement since previous month



Source: IHS Markit, National Statistical Service of Greece.

## CONTACT

### IHS Markit

Siân Jones  
Economist  
T: +44-1491-461-017  
[sian.jones@ihsmarkit.com](mailto:sian.jones@ihsmarkit.com)

Joanna Vickers  
Corporate Communications  
T: +44-207-260-2234  
[joanna.vickers@ihsmarkit.com](mailto:joanna.vickers@ihsmarkit.com)

### Methodology

The IHS Markit Greece Manufacturing PMI® is compiled by IHS Markit from responses to questionnaires sent to purchasing managers in a panel of around 300 manufacturers. The panel is stratified by detailed sector and company workforce size, based on contributions to GDP.

Survey responses are collected in the second half of each month and indicate the direction of change compared to the previous month. 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.

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.

Underlying survey data are not revised after publication, but seasonal adjustment factors may be revised from time to time as appropriate which will affect the seasonally adjusted data series.

February 2019 data were collected 12-21 February 2019.

For further information on the PMI survey methodology, please contact [economics@ihsmarkit.com](mailto:economics@ihsmarkit.com).

### Disclaimer

The intellectual property rights to the data provided herein are owned by or licensed to IHS Markit. Any unauthorised use, including but not limited to copying, distributing, transmitting or otherwise of any data appearing is not permitted without IHS Markit's prior consent. IHS Markit shall not have any liability, duty or obligation for or relating to the content or information ("data") contained herein, any errors, inaccuracies, omissions or delays in the data, or for any actions taken in reliance thereon. In no event shall IHS Markit be liable for any special, incidental, or consequential damages, arising out of the use of the data. Purchasing Managers' Index® and PMI® are either registered trade marks of Markit Economics Limited or licensed to Markit Economics Limited. IHS Markit is a registered trademark of IHS Markit Ltd. and/or its affiliates.

### About IHS Markit

IHS Markit (Nasdaq: INFO) is a world leader in critical information, analytics and solutions for the major industries and markets that drive economies worldwide. The company delivers next-generation information, analytics and solutions to customers in business, finance and government, improving their operational efficiency and providing deep insights that lead to well-informed, confident decisions. IHS Markit has more than 50,000 business and government customers, including 80 percent of the Fortune Global 500 and the world's leading financial institutions.

IHS Markit is a registered trademark of IHS Markit Ltd. and/or its affiliates. All other company and product names may be trademarks of their respective owners © 2019 IHS Markit Ltd. All rights reserved.

If you prefer not to receive news releases from IHS Markit, please email [joanna.vickers@ihsmarkit.com](mailto:joanna.vickers@ihsmarkit.com). To read our privacy policy, click [here](#).

### 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. To learn more go to [ihsmarkit.com/products/pmi.html](https://www.ihsmarkit.com/products/pmi.html).