

# Nikkei Flash Japan Manufacturing PMI™

## Positive demand trends underpin further growth in March

### Key points:

- Flash Japan Manufacturing PMI™ slips to 3-month low of 52.6 in March (53.3 in February).
- Flash Manufacturing Output Index at 53.4 (54.1 in February). Growth eases but remains marked.
- Business confidence softens to four-month low.

Data collected 13 – 22 March.

Today sees the latest public release of the **Nikkei Flash Japan Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index™ (PMI™)**. Published on a monthly basis approximately one week before final PMI data are released, this makes the PMI the earliest available indicator of manufacturing sector operating conditions in Japan. The estimate is typically based on approximately 85%–90% of total PMI survey responses each month and is designed to provide an accurate indication of final PMI data.

### Flash Japan Manufacturing PMI™ Summary

PMI	Increase, slower rate
Output	Increase, slower rate
New Orders	Increase, slower rate
New Export Orders	Increase, slower rate
Employment	Increase, unchanged
Backlogs of Work	Increase, slower rate
Output Prices	Decrease, change of direction
Input Prices	Increase, slower rate
Stocks of Purchases	Decrease, change of direction
Stocks of Finished Goods	Increase, faster rate
Quantity of Purchases	Increase, slower rate
Suppliers' Delivery Times	Lengthened, slower rate
Future Expectations	Positive, lower optimism

### Comment:

Commenting on the Japanese Manufacturing PMI survey data, **Paul Smith**, Senior Economist at IHS Markit, which compiles the survey, said:

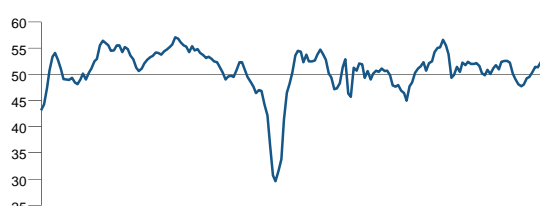
*“Although signalling a slower rate of expansion during March, the latest PMI data again point to a Japanese manufacturing economy expanding at a decent clip. Indeed, the data are consistent with manufacturing output expanding at an underlying trend rate of just below 2.0%.”*

*“New order books remain in solid growth territory, with gains seemingly supported by the weaker yen. However, this comes at the cost of ongoing marked rises in purchase costs: input price inflation remained close to a two-year high in March.”*

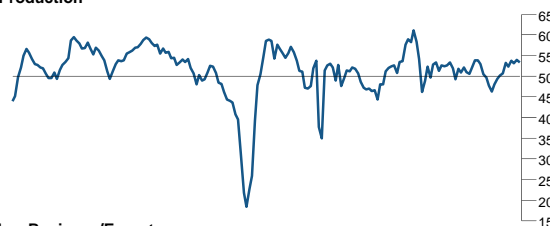
### Nikkei Flash Japan Manufacturing PMI

sa, 50 = no change on previous month

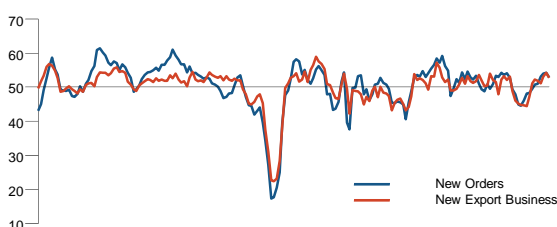
#### Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)



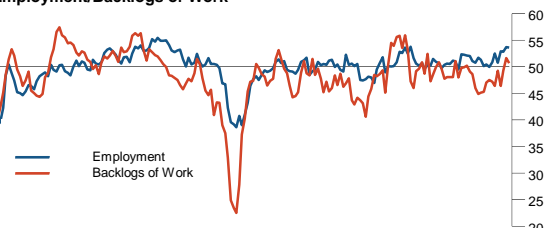
#### Production



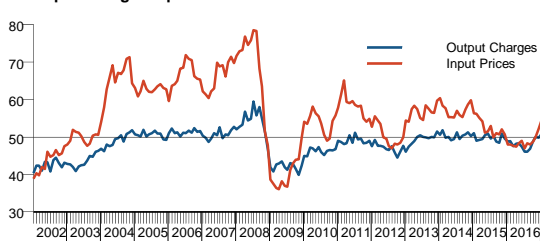
#### New Business/Exports



#### Employment/Backlogs of Work



#### Output Charges/Input Prices



-Ends

Sources: Nikkei, IHS Markit

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**Note to Editors:**

Final March data are published on April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The Nikkei Japan Manufacturing PMI™ is based on data compiled from monthly replies to questionnaires sent to purchasing executives in over 400 industrial companies. The panel is stratified by Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) group, based on the industry contribution to GDP. The manufacturing sector is divided into the following 8 broad categories: Basic Metals, Chemicals & Plastics, Electrical & Optical, Food & Drink, Mechanical Engineering, Textiles & Clothing, Timber & Paper, and Transport. The **flash** estimate is based on around 85% of total PMI survey responses each month and is designed to provide an accurate advance indication of the final PMI data.

The average differences between the flash and final PMI index values (final minus flash) since comparisons were first available in January 2008 are as follows (differences in absolute terms provide the better indication of true variation while average differences provide a better indication of any bias)

Index	Average difference	Average difference in absolute terms
Japan Manufacturing PMI <sup>(1)</sup>	0.0	0.3
Japan Manufacturing Output Index <sup>(2)</sup>	0.0	0.5

Survey responses reflect the change, if any, in the current month compared to the previous month based on data collected mid-month. For each of the indicators the 'Report' shows the percentage reporting each response, the net difference between the number of higher/better responses and lower/worse responses, and the 'diffusion' index. This index is the sum of the positive responses plus a half of those responding 'the same'. Diffusion indexes have the properties of leading indicators and are convenient summary measures showing the prevailing direction of change. An index reading above 50 indicates an overall increase in that variable, below 50 an overall decrease.

Markit do not revise underlying survey data after first publication, but seasonal adjustment factors may be revised from time to time as appropriate which will affect the seasonally adjusted data series. Historical data relating to the underlying (unadjusted) numbers, first published seasonally adjusted series and subsequently revised data are available to subscribers from Markit. Please contact [economics@ihsmarkit.com](mailto:economics@ihsmarkit.com).

**Notes**

1. The Manufacturing PMI is a composite index based on a weighted combination of the following five survey variables (weights shown in brackets): new orders (0.3); output (0.25); employment (0.2); suppliers' delivery times (0.15); stocks of materials purchased (0.1). The delivery times index is inverted.
2. The Manufacturing Output Index is based on the survey question "Is the level of production/output at your company higher, the same or lower than one month ago?"

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