

Nikkei Asia Sector PMI™

Strong growth recorded in Household & Personal use products sector

Key points:

- **Household & personal use products** registers fastest growth of all sectors...
- ...followed by **pharmaceuticals & biotechnology**
- **Healthcare services** activity falls sharply

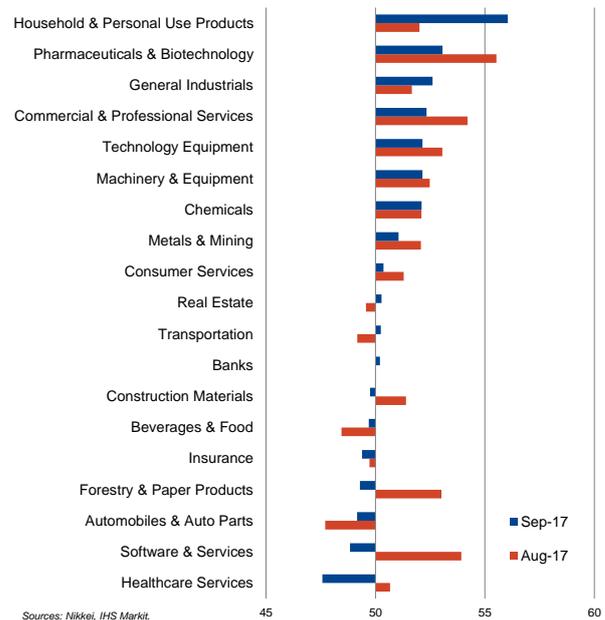
Summary:

The latest Asia Sector PMI™ data, compiled by IHS Markit and sponsored by Nikkei, indicated that **household & personal use products** recorded the fastest output expansion in September. Moreover, growth in this segment was the sharpest since February 2015, supported by marked inflows of new orders. Meanwhile, the rate of growth in **pharmaceuticals & biotechnology** slowed towards the end of the third quarter, but it was still the second-fastest growing sector overall. In contrast, **healthcare services** activity declined for the first time in ten months, posting the sharpest contraction of the 19 categories monitored. Overall, 12 sectors registered growth.

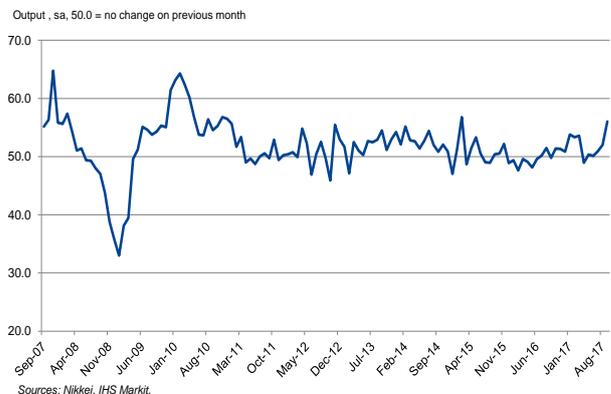
Comparatively strong rises in output were also recorded in **general industrials, commercial & professional services, technology equipment, machinery & equipment** and **chemicals**. Meanwhile, only fractional growth was evident in **consumer services, banks, transportation** and **real estate**.

Marginal declines in output were registered in **construction materials, beverages & food, insurance, forestry & paper products** and **automobiles & auto parts**. Following a marked increase in August, **software & services** fell into decline. Subsequently, the sector fell from fourth in the rankings in August to second-bottom in September. The steepest overall rate of decline was noted in **healthcare services** as the respective index fell to its lowest in 27 months.

Asia Sector Output Index: detailed sectors



Asia: Household & Personal Use Products



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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.

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