

## News Release

**Purchasing Managers' Index<sup>®</sup>**  
**MARKET SENSITIVE INFORMATION**  
**EMBARGOED UNTIL 1000 (CEST) / 0800 (UTC) March 28 2018**

### UniCredit Bank Austria Manufacturing PMI<sup>®</sup>

#### Austrian manufacturing growth slows further in March

##### Key findings:

- PMI falls to ten-month low of 58.0
- Slowest rise in output since October 2016
- Job creation remains historically strong

Data collected from March 12-22

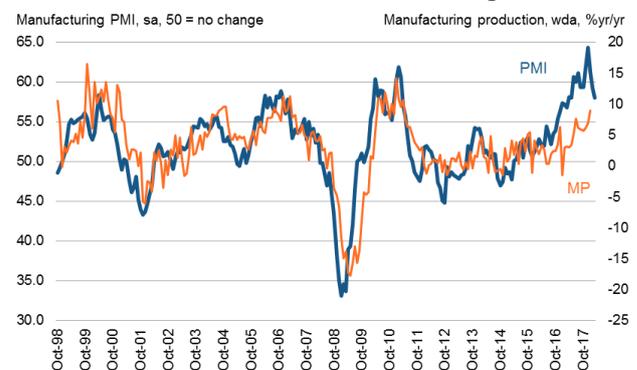
The latest PMI<sup>®</sup> data from Unicredit Bank Austria signalled a further moderation in growth of the Austrian manufacturing sector in March, although business conditions still improved at a strong overall rate. Output, new orders and exports all increased at the weakest rates in 17 months. More positively, employment growth remained at one of the highest levels on record. Input and output price inflation also slowed during the latest period, but remained sharp overall in both cases.

The headline UniCredit Bank Austria Manufacturing PMI is a composite single-figure indicator of manufacturing performance. It is derived from indicators for new orders, output, employment, suppliers' delivery times and stocks of purchases. Any figure greater than 50.0 indicates overall improvement of the sector.

The PMI fell to a ten-month low of 58.0 in March, down from February's 59.2. The latest figure was still well above the long-run average of 52.2, however, and signalled a marked improvement in business conditions. At 36 months, the current sequence of positive PMI readings is the longest in the survey's nineteen-and-a-half-year history.

Inflows of new work at Austrian manufacturers increased for the twenty-seventh consecutive month in March. The rate of growth was strong overall, but weakened to the slowest since October 2016. Growth of new export business also moderated to a 17-month low.

#### UniCredit Bank Austria Manufacturing PMI



Sources: Unicredit Bank Austria, IHS Markit, Eurostat.

Backlogs of work continued to rise in March, despite the slower increase in new business. Outstanding contracts have risen since September 2016, and the rate of growth was strong despite easing to a 16-month low.

Production also increased at a slower but strong overall pace in March, with the rate of expansion the weakest since October 2016. Notably, a further fall in consumer goods output was registered.

Manufacturing employment growth remained historically sharp in March. The rate of job creation eased to a five-month low, but was still the seventh-highest on record.

Supply chains remained under intense pressure in March, as delivery times for inputs ordered lengthened to the third-greatest extent in the survey history. This was despite the slowest growth of purchasing activity in nearly a year.

Price pressures eased in March but remained strong overall. Input price inflation slowed to a seven-month low, but remained well above the long-run survey trend. Similarly, output prices also rose at a strong, albeit slower, rate.

Output expectations moderated to a ten-month low in March, but remained strong overall. Firms generally expected good current economic conditions to continue.

### For further information, please contact:

#### IHS Markit

Trevor Balchin, Director  
Telephone +44-1491-461-065  
Email: [trevor.balchin@ihsmarkit.com](mailto:trevor.balchin@ihsmarkit.com)

Joanna Vickers, Corporate Communications  
Telephone +44207 260 2234  
Email [joanna.vickers@ihsmarkit.com](mailto:joanna.vickers@ihsmarkit.com)

### Note to Editors:

The UniCredit Bank Austria Manufacturing *PMI*<sup>®</sup> is based on data compiled from monthly replies to questionnaires sent to purchasing executives in 300 industrial companies. The panel is stratified by GDP and company workforce size.

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. All data are seasonally adjusted.

IHS 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 IHS Markit. Please contact [economics@ihsmarkit.com](mailto:economics@ihsmarkit.com).

The UniCredit Bank Austria Manufacturing *PMI* is a composite index based on five of the individual indexes with the following weights: New Orders - 0.3, Output - 0.25, Employment - 0.2, Suppliers' Delivery Times - 0.15, Stock of Items Purchased - 0.1, with the Delivery Times index inverted so that it moves in a comparable direction. The *PMI* is designed to show a convenient single-figure summary of the health of the manufacturing sector.

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

IHS Markit (Nasdaq: INFO) is a world leader in critical information, analytics and expertise to forge 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 key business and government customers, including 85 percent of the Fortune Global 500 and the world's leading financial institutions. Headquartered in London, IHS Markit is committed to sustainable, profitable growth.

IHS Markit is a registered trademark of IHS Markit Ltd. All other company and product names may be trademarks of their respective owners © 2018 IHS Markit Ltd. All rights reserved.

#### About PMI

Purchasing Managers' Index<sup>®</sup> (PMI<sup>®</sup>) 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 <https://ihsmarkit.com/products/pmi.html>.

The intellectual property rights to the UniCredit Bank Austria Manufacturing *PMI*<sup>®</sup> 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<sup>®</sup> and *PMI*<sup>®</sup> are either registered trademarks of Markit Economics Limited or licensed to Markit Economics Limited. IHS Markit is a registered trademark of IHS Markit Ltd.

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](#).