

AIB Ireland Manufacturing PMI®

Steepest rise in input costs since September 2022

Key findings

New order growth hits one-year high

Supply chain delays most widespread since October 2022

Lowest business optimism since March 2024

April data indicated that Irish manufacturers faced challenges from sharply rising input prices as a result of the Middle East war. Moreover, suppliers' delivery times lengthened to the greatest extent for three-and-a-half years. Production volumes nonetheless expanded for the sixth consecutive month and new orders increased at the fastest pace since April 2025, helped by a strong rise in export sales. Some firms commented on a temporary boost to demand from advance purchasing and customer stock building, due to concerns about tight supply conditions and upcoming price rises.

The headline AIB Ireland 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.

At 54.9 in April, up from 53.7 in March, the seasonally adjusted AIB Ireland Manufacturing PMI was the highest since May 2022 and pointed to a robust improvement in manufacturing sector business conditions. This mostly reflected a solid pace of output growth alongside faster rises in new business and employment. Longer suppliers' delivery times also had an upward influence on the headline PMI in April.

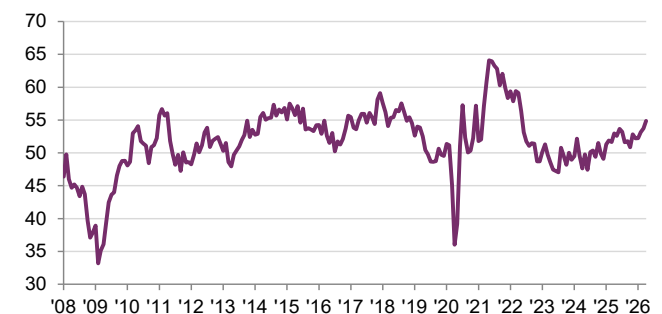
Production volumes increased at only a slightly slower pace than the eight-month high seen in March. Survey respondents commented on improved order books and resilient demand, despite many noting caution about the longer-term impact of the Middle East war on their workloads.

Total new work rose at the fastest rate for one year in April, with the acceleration since March mostly reflecting a surge in export sales. Latest data pointed to the strongest increase in new business from abroad since August 2021. Survey respondents typically commented on increased sales to clients in the UK and major euro area markets. There were reports that customers had brought forward spending due to expected prices rises and supply chain delays due to the Middle East war. Elevated geopolitical uncertainty was also noted as weighing on demand in some cases.

Manufacturers added to their payroll numbers at a robust pace in April. The rate of employment growth was the joint-fastest since June 2022 (equalling that seen in February). This was mainly linked to long-term business expansion plans and efforts to improve production capacity. Backlogs of work nonetheless increased for the second month running, the first back-to-back growth in four years.

April data signalled a sharp and accelerated increase in purchasing

AIB Ireland Manufacturing PMI
sa, >50 = improvement since previous month



Sources: AIB, S&P Global PMI.
Data were collected 9-23 April 2026.

Comment

Commenting on the survey results, David McNamara, AIB Chief Economist, said:

"The AIB Irish Manufacturing PMI indicated that the sector gained momentum in April, with the index rising to 54.9 from 53.7 in March. The expansion in April was due to sustained gains in output and new export orders, in part reflecting a temporary boost to demand and stock building due to the Middle East conflict. The Irish manufacturing PMI remains above the flash readings for the Eurozone, US and UK at 52.2, 54.0 and 53.6, respectively.

"Output rose solidly in April, sustaining a similar pace to that observed in March, with respondents citing resilient demand conditions. This was also evident in the surge in new orders and export orders, as firms reported a boost to sales in anticipation of rising prices and supply shortages. Firms cited improving demand from UK and European markets, while others noted the war in the Middle East as having a negative influence on new business from abroad. Given the strong demand backdrop, hiring rose solidly again in April. Moreover, purchasing activity by firms rose at the fastest pace since March 2022, in part driven by frontrunning of purchases ahead of the expected disruption to global supply chains from the Middle East conflict.

"While activity levels improved, the rate of input inflation accelerated sharply to the highest level since September 2022. Respondents noted raw materials, shipping costs and fuel surcharges as key drivers of inflation. Nonetheless, with demand still strong, many firms were able to increase selling prices, with the output prices index rising to the highest level since December 2022.

"Looking ahead, Irish manufacturers' assessment of the outlook for activity levels over the coming year has diminished. Around 38% predict an increase in output over the next year, while only 13% forecast a reduction (compared to 44% and 10% respectively in the prior month). Manufacturers cited heightened geopolitical tensions as weighing on sentiment in April."

activity across the manufacturing sector. The upturn in input buying was the fastest for just over four years. Anecdotal evidence cited improved order books and efforts to build safety stocks. As a result, pre-production inventories were accumulated for the second month running, but only marginally.

Some manufacturers noted that longer wait times for suppliers' deliveries had constrained their ability to build safety stocks in April. Around 23% of the survey panel reported worsening vendor performance, while only 1% suggested an improvement. Many firms commented on the impact of fuel protests and international shipping delays.

Fuel surcharges, rising transportation costs and increased raw material prices all contributed to greater input cost inflation in April. More than half of the survey panel (55%) reported a rise in their purchasing prices, compared to just 2% that saw a decline. This pointed to the fastest pace of input cost inflation since September 2022. Moreover, efforts to pass on higher costs led to the steepest rate of factory gate price inflation for over three years in April.

Concerns about the longer-term impact of the war in the Middle East contributed to a decline in business optimism in April. The degree of positive sentiment eased considerably since March and was the lowest for just over two years. Those predicting an upturn in production volumes in the year ahead mostly cited strong order books and hopes of an easing of geopolitical tensions. However, there were also many reports that rising business uncertainty and higher inflationary pressures were likely to weigh on output growth in the months ahead.

Survey methodology

The AIB Ireland Manufacturing PMI® is compiled by S&P Global from responses to questionnaires sent to purchasing managers in a panel of around 250 manufacturers. The panel is stratified by detailed sector and company workforce size, based on contributions to GDP. Data collection began in May 1998.

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.

For further information on the PMI survey methodology, please contact economics@spglobal.com.

Disclaimer

This publication is issued by Allied Irish Banks, p.l.c. ("AIB") and is for general information purposes only. This publication should not be considered as an offer or solicitation to sell, buy or subscribe to any financial instruments or product, securities or any derivative instrument (together, "instruments"), or any other rights pertaining thereto. AIB does not express any opinion as to the present or future value or price of any instruments referred to in this publication.

The information provided in this publication is believed to be valid and accurate on the date it is first published but AIB, along with its directors, officers, or employees, does not accept any liability for any loss arising from the use of the information. The information contained therein, including any expressions of opinion, has been obtained from, or is based on, or compiled from, sources believed to be reliable but its accuracy or completeness is not guaranteed and is subject to change without notice.

Any decision made by a party shall be on the basis of its own research and shall not be influenced or based on any view expressed by AIB in this publication or otherwise. This publication does not address all risks. This publication does not constitute investment advice or a recommendation and has been prepared without regard to individual financial circumstances, objectives or particular needs of recipients. Readers should seek their own financial, tax, legal, regulatory and other advice regarding the appropriateness or otherwise of investing in any investments and/or pursuing any investment strategies. Past performance is not a reliable guide to future performance. To the extent that this publication is deemed to contain any forecasts as to the performance of any instruments, forecasts are not a reliable indicator of future performance.

This publication is not to be reproduced in whole or in part without the prior express written consent of AIB. Allied Irish Banks, p.l.c. is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.

The intellectual property rights to the data provided herein are owned by or licensed to S&P Global and/or its affiliates. Any unauthorised use, including but not limited to copying, distributing, transmitting or otherwise of any data appearing is not permitted without S&P Global's prior consent. S&P Global 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 S&P Global 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 S&P Global Inc or licensed to S&P Global Inc and/or its affiliates..

This Content was published by S&P Global Market Intelligence and not by S&P Global Ratings, which is a separately managed division of S&P Global. Reproduction of any information, data or material, including ratings ("Content") in any form is prohibited except with the prior written permission of the relevant party. Such party, its affiliates and suppliers ("Content Providers") do not guarantee the accuracy, adequacy, completeness, timeliness or availability of any Content and are not responsible for any errors or omissions (negligent or otherwise), regardless of the cause, or for the results obtained from the use of such Content. In no event shall Content Providers be liable for any damages, costs, expenses, legal fees, or losses (including lost income or lost profit and opportunity costs) in connection with any use of the Content.

Contact

David McNamara
AIB Chief Economist
T: +353-(0)87-4071825
david.g.mcnamara@aib.ie
AIBeconomics.Unit@aib.ie
www.aibeconomics.com

Paddy McDonnell
AIB Press Office
T: +353-87-739-0743
paddy.x.mcdonnell@aib.ie

Louise Kelly
AIB Press Office
T: +353-87-216-1545
louise.Y.kelly@aib.ie

Tim Moore
Economics Director
S&P Global Market Intelligence
T: +44-1491-461-067
tim.moore@spglobal.com

Hannah Brook
EMEA Communications Manager
S&P Global Market Intelligence
T: +44-7483-439-812
hannah.brook@spglobal.com

If you prefer not to receive news releases from S&P Global, please email press.mi@spglobal.com. To read our privacy policy, click [here](#).

About AIB

AIB is a financial services group operating predominantly in the Republic of Ireland and the UK. We provide a comprehensive range of services to personal, business and corporate customers in our target markets and have leading market shares in banking products in the Republic of Ireland.

About S&P Global

S&P Global (NYSE: SPGI) S&P Global provides essential intelligence. We enable governments, businesses and individuals with the right data, expertise and connected technology so that they can make decisions with conviction. From helping our customers assess new investments to guiding them through ESG and energy transition across supply chains, we unlock new opportunities, solve challenges and accelerate progress for the world.

We are widely sought after by many of the world's leading organizations to provide credit ratings, benchmarks, analytics and workflow solutions in the global capital, commodity and automotive markets. With every one of our offerings, we help the world's leading organizations plan for tomorrow, today. www.spglobal.com.

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. www.spglobal.com/marketintelligence/en/mi/products/pmi