AIB Ireland Manufacturing PMI®

Output falls for first time in 16 months

Key Findings

Renewed decline in production due to impact of inflation

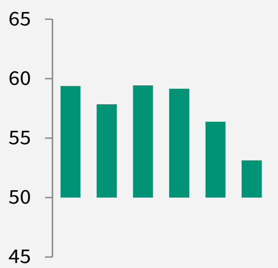
New orders and exports both fall

Input costs continue to rise sharply

Ireland Manufacturing PMI

JUN
53.1
MAY: 56.4

Last six months



The latest PMI® survey data from AIB highlighted the increasingly negative impact of rising costs on demand in the Irish manufacturing sector. New orders decreased for the first time in 16 months during June, with production also down. This represented a marked turnaround from the picture at the start of the second quarter, when both were rising sharply.

Commenting on the survey results, Oliver Mangan, AIB Chief Economist, said:

"There are clear signs that the slowdown in global manufacturing activity is extending to Ireland in the AIB Irish Manufacturing PMI survey for June. The Irish index fell to 53.1 in the month, down from 56.4 in May and 59.1 in April. While the index remained in expansion territory, it was the lowest reading since February 2021. The fall was in line with the trend seen in other economies - the flash June indices fell to 52.0 and 53.4 in the Eurozone and UK, respectively, with the US index declining to 52.4.

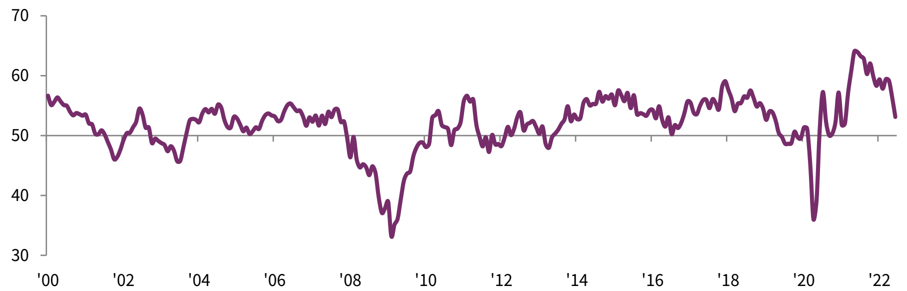
"The marked softening in business conditions in Irish manufacturing was led by the first declines in new orders and output since early 2021, reflecting the increasingly negative impact of rising inflation on demand. There was a particularly steep fall in new export orders. The drop in orders saw an easing in capacity pressures, as evidenced by declining backlogs for a second month running.

"The overall headline PMI was supported by a further strong increase in employment, as well as a rise in stocks of purchases and continued lengthening of supplier delivery times. Firms noted ongoing stock shortages at suppliers because of supply-chain disruptions. In terms of the 12-month outlook for activity, sentiment remained positive and has been stable for the past three months. However, some firms expressed concerns about the impact of rising prices on consumer demand.

"In this regard, the upward pressure on input prices is still intense, with marked increases in energy and transportation costs. Meanwhile, the rate of output price inflation remains elevated, though it did slow sharply to a five month low in June."

Manufacturing PMI

sa, >50 = improvement since previous month



PMI by S&P Global

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.

Overview

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.

The PMI posted 53.1 in June, down from 56.4 in May and the lowest reading since February 2021. The headline figure posted above the 50.0 no-change mark to signal an overall improvement in business conditions despite renewed declines in output and new orders. The index was held up by marked job creation, a rise in stocks of purchases and a further lengthening of suppliers' delivery times (this index is inverted in the PMI calculation).

The reduction in new orders in the Irish manufacturing sector ended a 15-month sequence of expansion. Respondents indicated that steep inflationary pressures was the principal factor leading demand to fall. New export orders also decreased for the first time in 16 months, and at a solid pace that was the fastest since the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. As with total new business, price pressures was the main factor acting to dampen international demand, according to survey respondents.

Manufacturers responded to lower new orders by scaling back production midway through the year. Output decreased for the first time since February 2021. Production was down in the consumer and intermediate goods sectors, but rose at investment goods producers.

Declining new orders meant there was a degree of spare capacity at manufacturers, which they used to work through outstanding business. Backlogs were subsequently down for the second month in a row, and to the greatest extent since January 2021.

Cost pressures remained elevated in June. Although slowing from the previous month, the rate of inflation was still faster than any seen prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Higher charges for energy and transportation were the main factors pushing up cost burdens, according to respondents. In turn, firms increased their own selling prices rapidly, although the pace of inflation slowed sharply from the series record posted in May.

June data pointed to a near-stalling of purchasing activity, with the fractional increase the weakest in the current 16-month sequence of expansion. Some firms lowered input buying in line with falling new orders, but others continued to buy more amid ongoing supply-chain disruption.

Suppliers' delivery times lengthened substantially again, and to a greater extent than in May, with delays often linked to stock shortages at vendors. Efforts to mitigate supply-chain disruption and hedge against cost increases led to a rise in stocks of purchases, albeit one that was only modest.

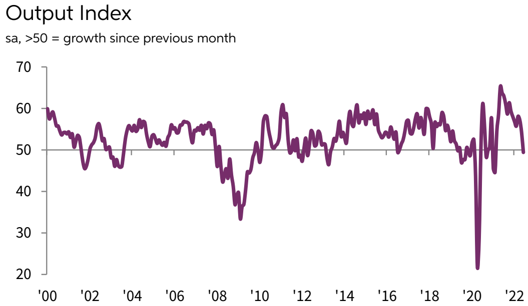
Meanwhile, stocks of finished goods decreased for the twelfth month running, and at the fastest pace since January.

Firms remained confident that output will increase over the next 12 months, with sentiment supported by hopes for improvements in new orders. The level of optimism was broadly in line with that seen in the previous month. That said, some firms expressed concern regarding the potential impact of price rises on demand.

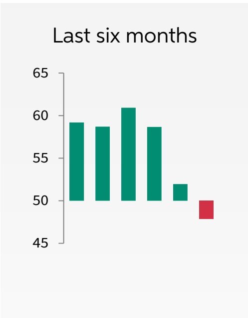
Output Index

Irish manufacturing firms signalled a decline in output during June, thereby ending a 15-month sequence of growth. Although only slight, the fall represented a marked turnaround from the strong growth seen just a few months previously.

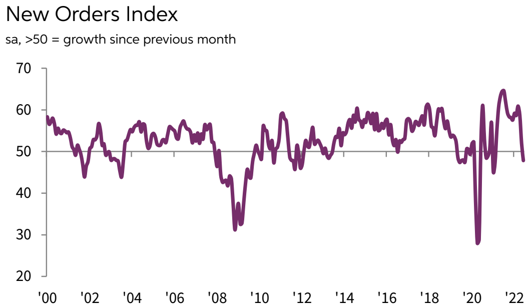
Panellists indicated that production had declined in response to lower new orders as price pressures dampened demand.



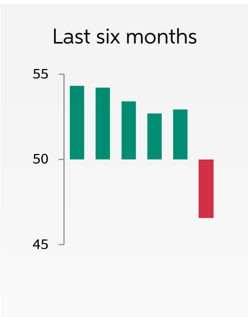
New Orders Index



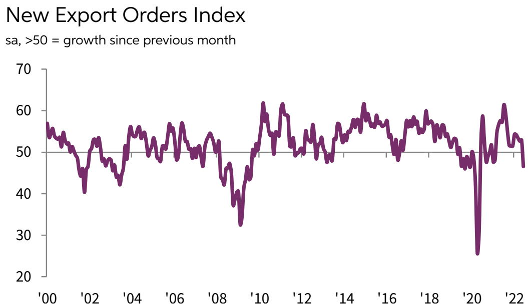
Pressure on customer demand due to higher living costs reportedly led to a reduction in new orders at the end of the second quarter. The decline was the first in 16 months. Sector data signalled reductions in new business in the consumer and intermediate goods categories, while investment goods producers continued to see new orders rise.



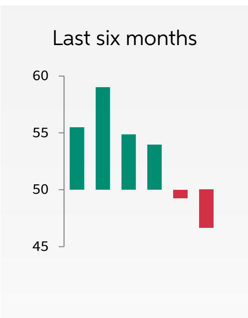
New Export Orders Index



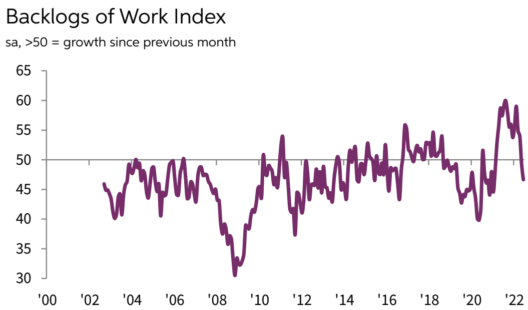
In line with the picture for total new business, new export orders decreased in June, ending a 15-month sequence of expansion. Furthermore, the rate of decline was solid and the most marked since May 2020. Firms mainly linked lower new business from abroad to the impact of inflationary pressures.



Backlogs of Work Index

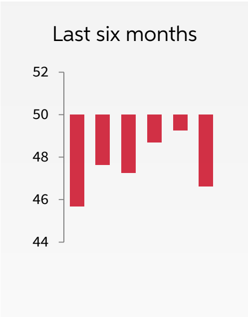


The drop in new orders at the end of the second quarter led to spare capacity in the manufacturing sector, enabling firms to work through outstanding business. As a result, backlogs decreased for the second month running, and at a solid pace that was the quickest since January 2021.



PMI® by S&P Global

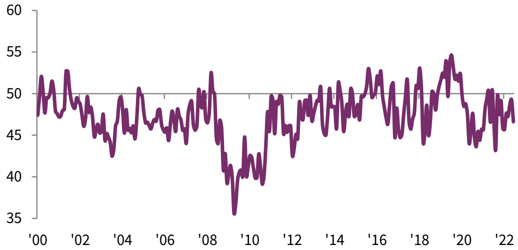
Stocks of Finished Goods Index



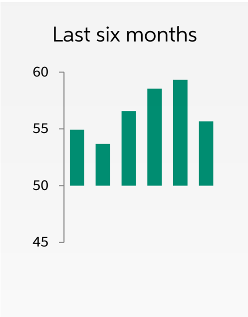
As has been the case on a monthly basis throughout the past year, stocks of finished goods decreased during June. The rate of depletion was solid and the fastest in five months. According to respondents, the reduction in post-production inventories often reflected the completion of orders.

Stocks of Finished Goods Index

sa, >50 = growth since previous month



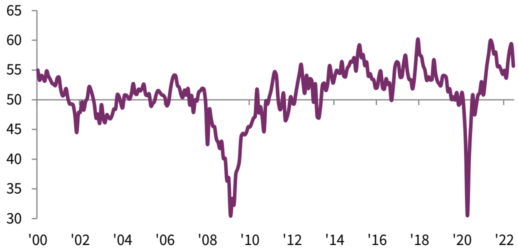
Employment Index



Despite recording declines in output and new orders during June, manufacturers continued to expand their staffing levels. The rate of job creation remained marked, but softened to a four-month low. Where additional staff were taken on, firms mentioned efforts to improve capacity and planning for future projects.

Employment Index

sa, >50 = growth since previous month

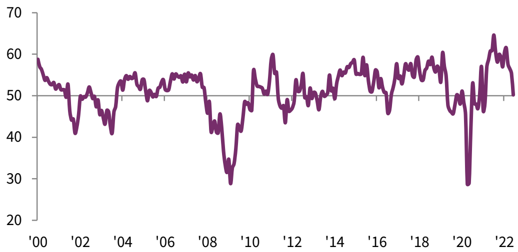


Quantity of Purchases Index

The rate of expansion in purchasing activity was only fractional at the end of the second quarter, having slowed for the fourth month running to the weakest in the current sequence of growth which began in March 2021. While some firms continued to raise purchasing in order to build safety stocks amid supply-chain disruption, others scaled back input buying in response to lower new orders.

Quantity of Purchases Index

sa, >50 = growth since previous month

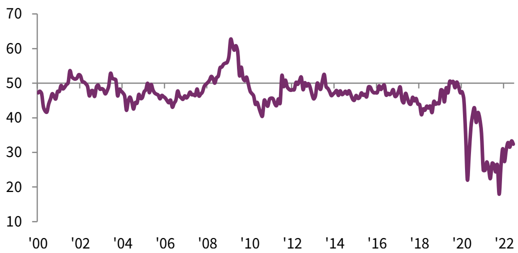


Suppliers' Delivery Times Index

Suppliers' delivery times lengthened again in June, the thirty-second successive month in which this has been the case. The rate of deterioration in vendor performance remained substantial and was slightly more marked than in May. According to respondents, longer lead times often reflected stock shortages at suppliers.

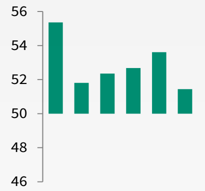
Suppliers' Delivery Times Index

sa, >50 = faster times since previous month



Stocks of Purchases Index

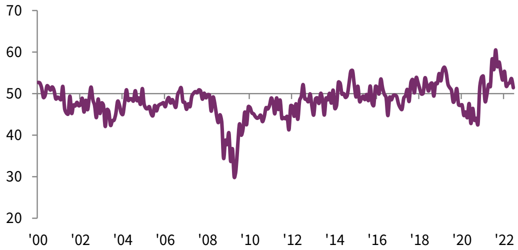
Last six months



Irish manufacturers continued to raise their stocks of purchases during June, thereby extending the current sequence of expansion to 15 months. Panellists often linked stockbuilding to efforts to mitigate the impacts of supply-chain disruption and cost inflation. That said, the rate of accumulation eased to the weakest in the current sequence of rising stocks.

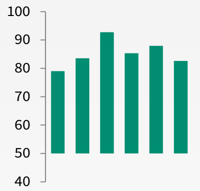
Stocks of Purchases Index

sa, >50 = growth since previous month



Input Prices Index

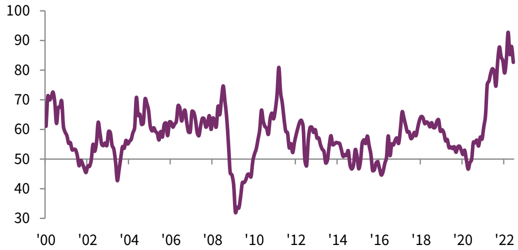
Last six months



The rate of input cost inflation remained elevated in June, and stronger than at any point prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Higher prices for energy and transportation were the main factors behind the latest increase. Cost pressures were most pronounced among investment goods producers.

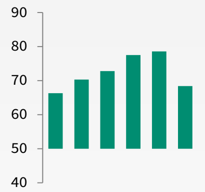
Input Prices Index

sa, >50 = inflation since previous month



Output Prices Index

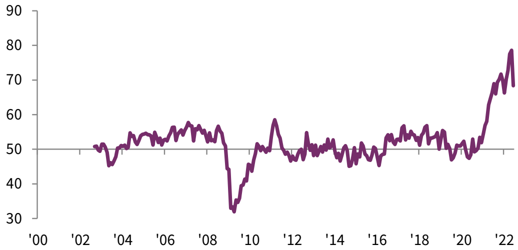
Last six months



The passing on of higher input costs to customers resulted in a further sharp increase in selling prices in the Irish manufacturing sector during June. The rate of inflation remained elevated, despite slowing sharply from the series record posted in May.

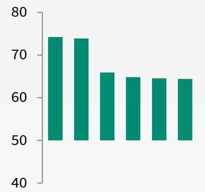
Output Prices Index

sa, >50 = inflation since previous month



Future Output Index

Last six months

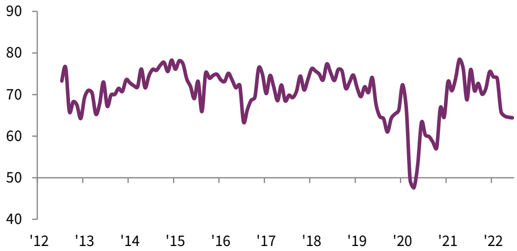


Manufacturers maintained optimism in the year-ahead outlook for production at the end of the second quarter, with sentiment broadly unchanged from the previous month. Firms hope for new orders to pick up, feeding through to higher output.

That said, there were some concerns expressed about the impact of price rises on customer demand.

Future Output Index

>50 = growth expected over next 12 months



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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.

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.

Data were collected 13-23 June 2022.

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

About AIB

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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.

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.

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