HSBC Purchasing Managers' Index™ Press Release

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HSBC Flash China Manufacturing PMI™

Operating conditions stabilise in August

Key points

- Flash China Manufacturing PMI™ at 50.1 (47.7 in July). Four-month high.
- Flash China Manufacturing Output Index at 50.6 (48.0 in July). Three-month high.

Data collected 12-20 August 2013.

The HSBC Flash China Manufacturing *Purchasing Managers' Index™* (*PMI™*) is published on a monthly basis approximately one week before final PMI data are released, making the HSBC PMI the earliest available indicator of manufacturing sector operating conditions in China. 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 the final PMI data.

China Flash Manufacturing PMI™ Summary

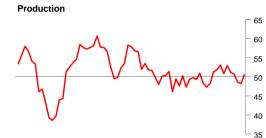
50.0 = no change on previous month (seasonally adjusted)

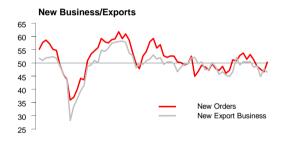
PMI	Increase, change of direction	
Output	Increase, change of direction	
New Orders	Increase, change of direction	
New Export Orders	Decrease, faster rate	
Employment	Decrease, slower rate	
Backlogs of Work	Increase, change of direction	
Output Prices	Increase, change of direction	
Input Prices	Increase, change of direction	
Stocks of Purchases	Decrease, slower rate	
Stocks of Finished Goods	Contraction, faster rate	
Quantity of Purchases	Increase, change of direction	
Suppliers' Delivery Times	Lengthening, change of direction	

Commenting on the Flash China Manufacturing PMI survey, Hongbin Qu, Chief Economist, China & Co-Head of Asian Economic Research at HSBC said:

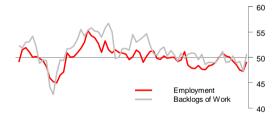
"China's manufacturing growth has started to stabilise on the back of modest improvements of new business and output. This is mainly driven by the initial filtering-through of recent fine-tuning measures and companies' restocking activities, despite the continuous external weakness. We expect further filtering-through, which is likely to deliver some upside surprises to China's growth in the coming months."



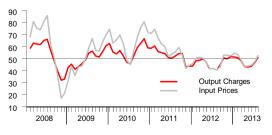




Employment/Backlogs of Work



Output Charges/Input Prices







For further information, please contact:

HSBC

Hongbin Qu, Chief Economist, China & Co-Head of Asian Economic Research Telephone +852-2822-2025 Email hongbingu@hsbc.com.hk

Diana Mao, Head of Group Communications, China Telephone +86 21-3888-1251
Email dianaygmao@hsbc.com.cn

Markit

Annabel Fiddes, Economist
Telephone +44-1491-461-010
Email annabel.fiddes@markit.com

Caroline Lumley, Corporate Communications
Telephone +44-20-7260-2047
Mobile +44-781-581-2162
Email caroline.lumley@markit.com

Notes to Editors:

Final August data are published on 2 September 2013.

The HSBC China Report on Manufacturing is based on data compiled from monthly replies to questionnaires sent to purchasing executives in over 420 manufacturing companies. The flash estimate is typically based on approximately 85%–90% 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
HSBC China Manufacturing PMI	0.0	0.5
HSBC China Manufacturing Output Index	0.1	0.8

The panel is stratified by Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) group and company size, based on industry contribution to Chinese GDP. 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'.

The *Purchasing Managers' Index™* (*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.

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@markit.com.

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About PMIs:

Purchasing Managers' Index™ (PMI™) surveys are now available for 32 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 www.markit.com/economics

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