

BLOM Lebanon PMI®

Output and new orders rise at fastest rates since February

Contents

Overview

Comment

Output and demand

Business expectations

Employment and capacity

Purchasing and inventories

Prices

International PMI

Survey methodology

Further information

Business activity and demand rebound in September

Middle East war continues to weigh on exports

Cost inflation accelerates to three-and-a-half-year high

Lebanon's private sector economy improved again in September, extending the current period of expansion to four months. The upturn was driven by rebounds to business activity and new orders, although a further decrease in exports implied that demand growth stemmed from domestic markets.

Meanwhile, inflation intensified as businesses raised their prices charged rapidly in response to stronger cost pressures.

The headline BLOM Lebanon PMI® rose to 50.5 in September, from 50.1 in August, indicating an accelerated pace of improvement in the Lebanese private sector economy. The expansionary reading was for the fourth month in a row, signalling sustained growth.

September's positive PMI number was principally driven by its two main components – new orders and output – with both seeing renewed increases when compared to August. In both instances, the rate of growth was the

sharpest since February.

A solid and accelerated reduction in new export orders implied that the upturn in total new order volumes was driven by strength in the domestic market. Anecdotal evidence from panellists indicated that the war in the Middle East was a hindrance to international sales volumes.

Amid higher new business intakes, September survey data indicated another rise in backlogs of work across Lebanon. The accumulation was the for the fifth in consecutive month, albeit at the softest pace over this period.

Nevertheless, employment levels were reduced slightly at the end of the third quarter. Purchasing was another area to witness cutbacks during the latest survey period – the first time since April that this has been the case. Respondents noted a preference to hold lean stocks, with some waiting for orders to be confirmed before buying the necessary inputs. Still, stocks of

BLOM Lebanon PMI

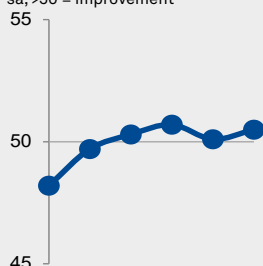
sa, >50 = improvement since previous month



50.5

LEBANON PMI
SEP '26

PMI
Apr - Sep '26
sa, >50 = improvement



purchases increased marginally in September.

Higher inventory levels coincided with signs of easing supply-chain pressures in September. Although average input lead times lengthened, they did so to the least extent since February.

As for prices, the latest survey results pointed to a rise in inflation across Lebanon at the end of the third quarter. Overall input prices increased at the sharpest pace in three-and-a-half years, reflecting steeper purchase cost inflation. Panel members mentioned higher prices paid for fuel, food and construction materials, as well as a rise in shipping and insurance fees. In

response, prices charged were raised rapidly, with the pace of increase the joint-sharpest, along with July 2026, since March 2023.

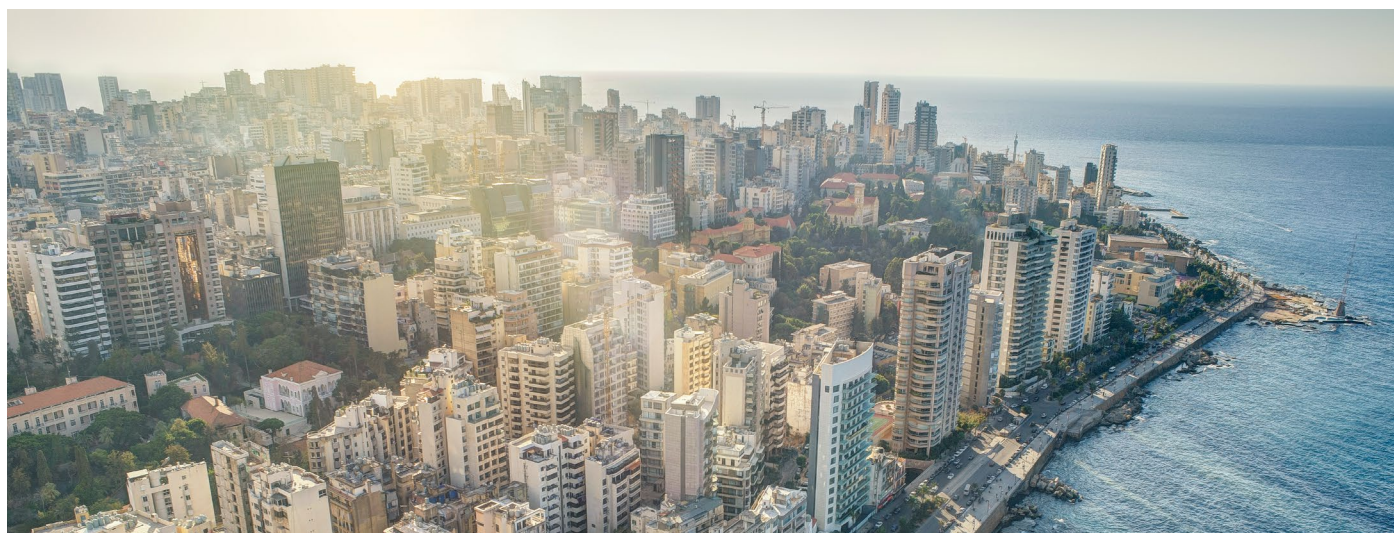
Lastly, business expectations were the least downbeat since February, prior to the outbreak of the war in the Middle East. Nonetheless, firms remained pessimistic overall.

Comment

Commenting on the September 2026 BLOM Lebanon PMI, Jana Boumatar, Junior Research Analyst at BLOM Bank said:

"The BLOM Lebanon PMI rose to 50.5 in September 2026, from 50.1 in August, marking the fourth consecutive month of expansion. Growth was mainly supported by stronger domestic demand, as output and new orders recorded their fastest increases since February, while export orders remained weak amid continued regional instability. Business sentiment may have also benefited from Parliament's renewed confidence in the government, stronger economic engagement with the

UAE, Lebanese-Syrian discussions on trade and investment, and continued progress on banking sector reforms. Nevertheless, firms remained cautious, with employment edging lower and purchasing activity declining, while input cost inflation accelerated to a three-and-a-half-year high due to higher import, fuel, food, construction, shipping and insurance costs. Looking ahead, while domestic activity remained resilient, persistent geopolitical uncertainty, weak external demand and elevated cost pressures are expected to continue weighing on business confidence."



PMI®

by S&P Global

Output and demand

Output Index

Apr - Sep '26
sa, >50 = growth



Output

Private sector business activity growth returned to Lebanon in September. After a slight reduction in August, output rose for the third time in four months. Furthermore, the rate of increase was the quickest since February. That said, with the respective index posting close to the 50.0 mark, the pace of expansion signalled was marginal.

Output Index

sa, >50 = growth since previous month

50.7
Sep '26



New Orders Index

Apr - Sep '26
sa, >50 = growth



New orders

September survey data pointed to an improvement in demand conditions across Lebanon at the end of the third quarter. In line with output, this marked the third rise in new orders in the past four months, with growth its most robust since February.

New Orders Index

sa, >50 = growth since previous month

50.8
Sep '26



New Export Orders Index

Apr - Sep '26
sa, >50 = growth



New export orders

The seasonally adjusted New Export Orders Index remained in sub-50.0 territory during September, signalling a reduction in sales to international customers. Instability across the Middle East was often reported as a hindrance to export performance, according to anecdotal evidence. The pace of decline was marked and slightly faster than in August.

New Export Orders Index

sa, >50 = growth since previous month

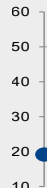
45.3
Sep '26



Business expectations

Future Output Index

Apr - Sep '26
>50 = growth expected



The Future Output Index was below the neutral 50.0 threshold but continued its ascent in September, rising for the fourth time over the past five months to reach its highest level since February. As a result, it signalled the lowest degree of pessimism in seven months. Around 18% of firms foresee lower activity in the year ahead, with the remaining 82% expecting no change from present levels.

Future Output Index

>50 = growth expected over next 12 months

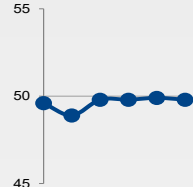
40.9
Sep '26



Employment and capacity

Employment Index

Apr - Sep '26
sa, >50 = growth



Employment

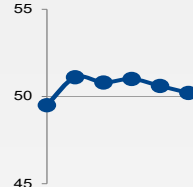
Private sector companies in Lebanon reduced their workforce numbers slightly at the end of the third quarter. This was evidenced by the respective seasonally adjusted index posting just below the no-change mark of 50.0. This was broadly in line with the long-run average of the survey, which began in May 2013.

Backlogs of work

The seasonally adjusted Backlogs of Work Index registered above the 50.0 no-change threshold for a fifth month in a row in September, signalling a sustained increase in outstanding business across the Lebanese private sector. However, the rate of accumulation was only marginal and the slowest over this period.

Backlogs of Work Index

Apr - Sep '26
sa, >50 = growth

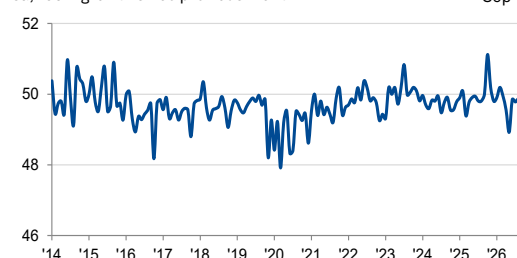


Employment Index

sa, >50 = growth since previous month

49.8

Sep '26



Backlogs of Work Index

sa, >50 = growth since previous month

50.2

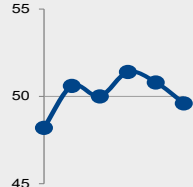
Sep '26



Purchasing and inventories

Quantity of Purchases Index

Apr - Sep '26
sa, >50 = growth



Quantity of purchases

For the first time since April, September saw private sector companies in Lebanon reduce their purchasing volumes. Efforts by businesses to prevent the build-up of excess stocks was a factor, according to firms, while others preferred a more cautious approach to spending until order confirmations are received. The reduction in buying volumes was marginal overall.

Quantity of Purchases Index

sa, >50 = growth since previous month

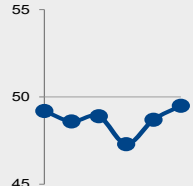
49.6

Sep '26



Suppliers' Delivery Times Index

Apr - Sep '26
sa, >50 = faster times



Suppliers' delivery times

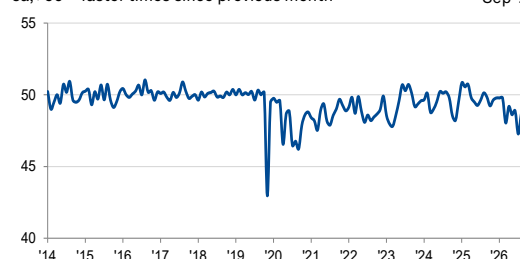
Although there were further delays to supplier deliveries, September data indicated fewer bottlenecks as the respective seasonally adjusted index rose to a seven-month high and was only just below the 50.0 no-change threshold. The vast majority (95%) reported no change in average lead times compared to August.

Suppliers' Delivery Times Index

sa, >50 = faster times since previous month

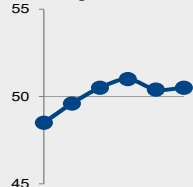
49.5

Sep '26



Stocks of Purchases Index

Apr - Sep '26
sa, >50 = growth



Stocks of purchases

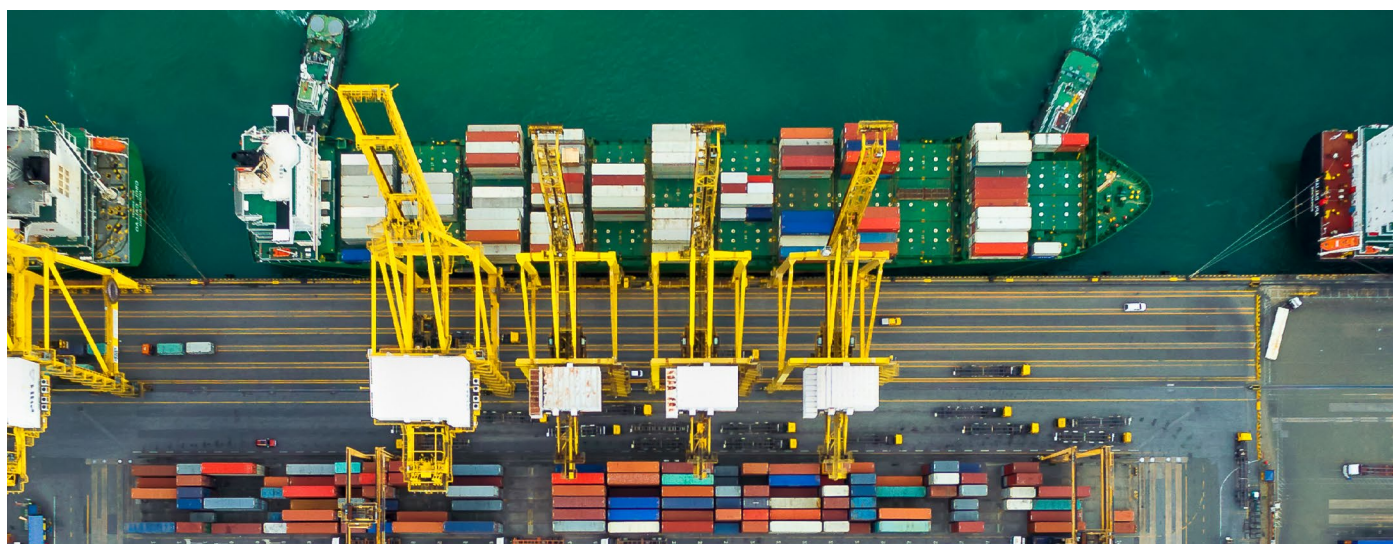
There was another modest rise in stocks of purchases at the end of the third quarter, with September's expansion marking the fourth successive month of inventory growth. The seasonally adjusted index posted in line with its long-run average.

Stocks of Purchases Index

sa, >50 = growth since previous month

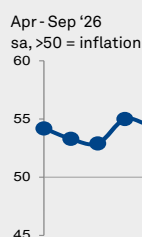
50.5

Sep '26

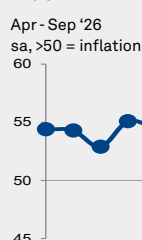


Prices

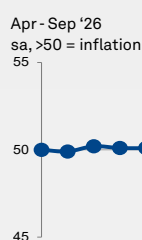
Input Prices Index



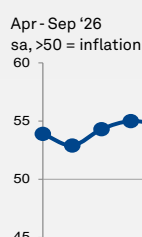
Purchase Prices Index



Staff Costs Index



Output Prices Index



Overall input prices

The overall rate of input price inflation rose in September, taking it to a three-and-a-half-year high. Purchasing costs were the main contributing factor, underlying data showed, as wage pressures were mild.

Purchase prices

September survey data signalled sharp purchase price pressures for Lebanese businesses. Panel members reported greater import prices, shipping fees and insurance premiums. Food, fuel and construction materials were also up in price during the month, according to anecdotal responses.

Staff costs

The seasonally adjusted Staff Costs Index recorded slightly above the 50.0 no-change threshold during the final month of the third quarter, in line with the trend since June. Overall, this signalled a fractional increase in wage expenses for Lebanese private sector firms.

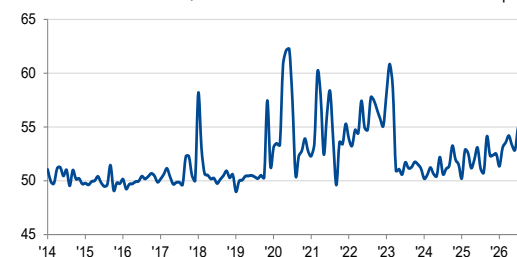
Output prices

Private sector companies in Lebanon raised their prices in September. The rate of inflation ticked up from the previous month and was the joint-sharpest, along with July 2026, since March 2023. Charges often rose due to higher operating expenses.

Input Prices Index

sa, >50 = inflation since previous month

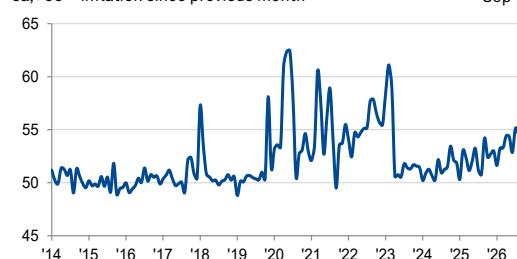
55.3
Sep '26



Purchase Prices Index

sa, >50 = inflation since previous month

55.8
Sep '26



Staff Costs Index

sa, >50 = inflation since previous month

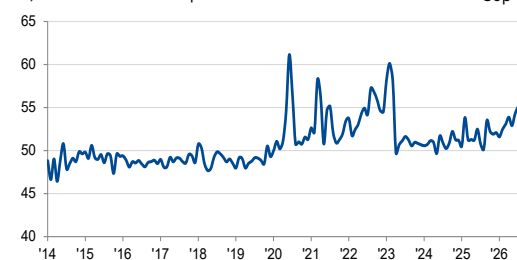
50.2
Sep '26



Output Prices Index

sa, >50 = inflation since previous month

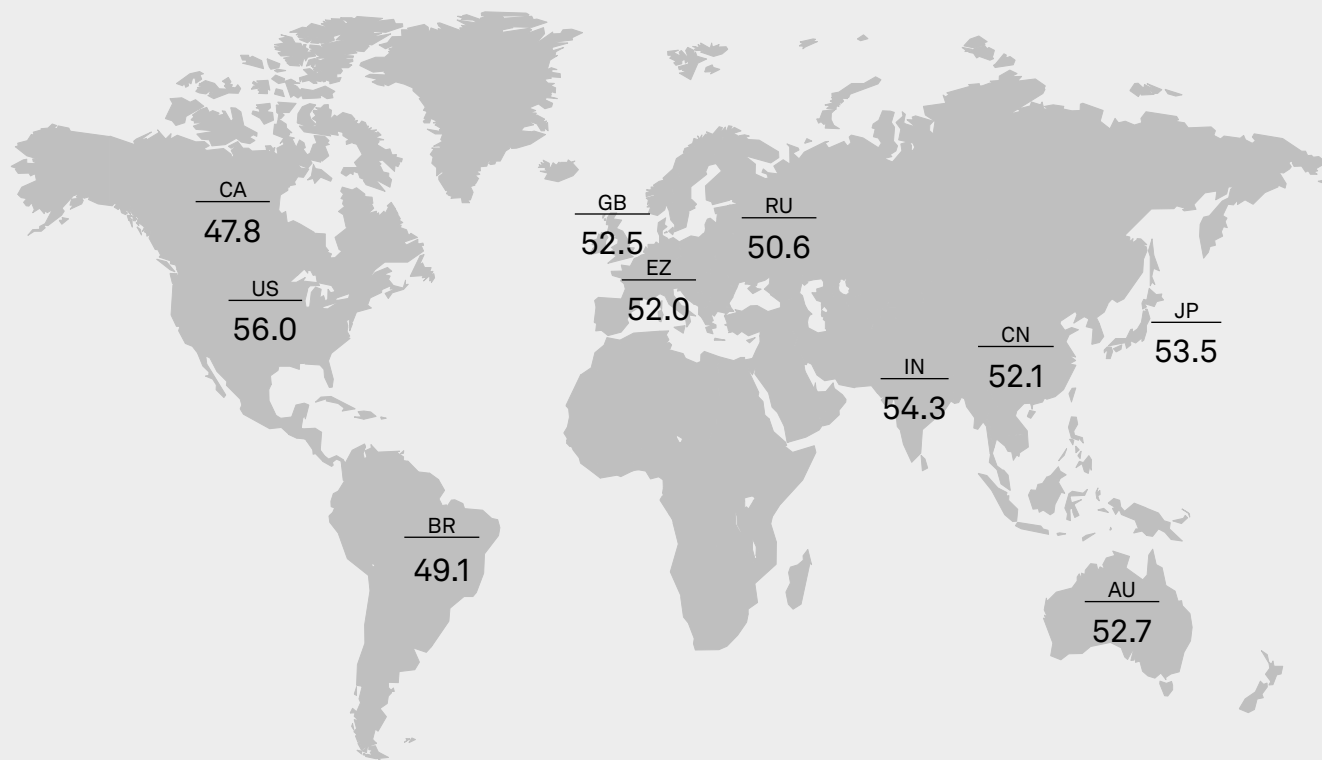
55.0
Sep '26



International PMI

Composite Output Index, Aug '26
sa, >50 = growth since previous month

The Composite Output Index is a GDP-weighted average of the Manufacturing Output Index and the Services Business Activity Index.

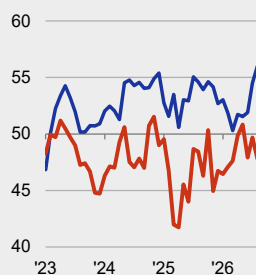


Composite Output Index

■ USA

■ Canada

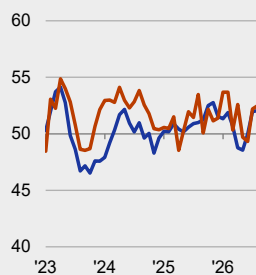
sa, >50 = growth



■ Eurozone

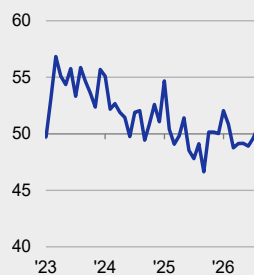
■ UK

sa, >50 = growth



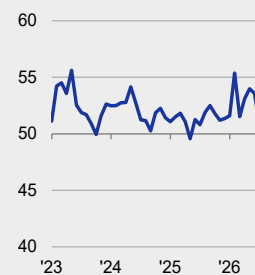
■ Russia

sa, >50 = growth



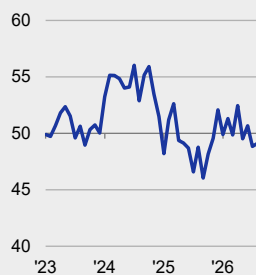
■ China

sa, >50 = growth



■ Brazil

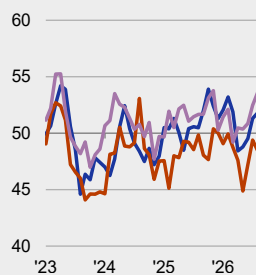
sa, >50 = growth



■ Germany ■ Italy

■ France

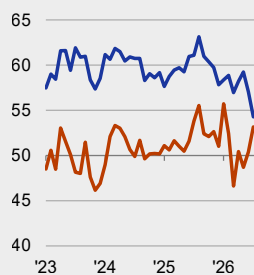
sa, >50 = growth



■ India

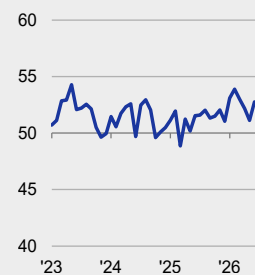
■ Australia

sa, >50 = growth



■ Japan

sa, >50 = growth



Survey methodology

The BLOM Lebanon PMI® is compiled by S&P Global from responses to questionnaires sent to purchasing managers in a panel of around 400 private sector companies. The panel is stratified by detailed sector and company workforce size, based on contributions to GDP. The sectors covered by the survey include agriculture, mining, manufacturing, construction, wholesale, retail and services. Data were first collected May 2013.

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.

Survey dates

Data were collected 10-24 September 2026.

Survey questions

Private sector

Output
New Orders
New Export Orders
Future Output
Employment
Backlogs Of Work
Quantity Of Purchases

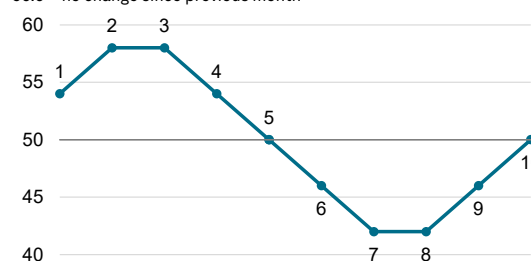
Suppliers' Delivery Times
Stocks Of Purchases
Input Prices
Purchase Prices
Staff Costs
Output Prices

Index calculation

$$\% \text{ "Higher"} + (\% \text{ "No change"})/2$$

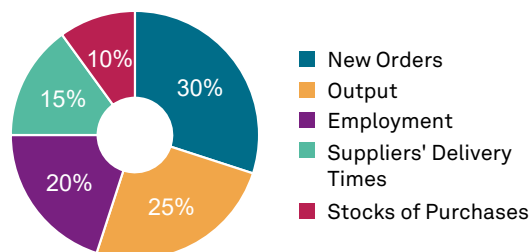
Index interpretation

50.0 = no change since previous month



- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Growth | 6 Decline, from no change |
| 2 Growth, faster rate | 7 Decline, faster rate |
| 3 Growth, same rate | 8 Decline, same rate |
| 4 Growth, slower rate | 9 Decline, slower rate |
| 5 No change, from growth | 10 No change, from decline |

PMI component weights



Sector coverage

PMI data include responses from companies operating in sectors classified according to the following ISIC Rev.4 codes:

C	Manufacturing	M	Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities
F	Construction	N	Administrative and Support Service Activities
G	Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles	P	Education*
H	Transportation and Storage	Q	Human Health and Social Work Activities*
I	Accommodation and Food Service Activities	R	Arts, Entertainment and Recreation
J	Information and Communication	S	Other Service Activities
K	Financial and Insurance Activities		

*Private sector

Index summary

Private sector

sa, 50 = no change over previous month. *50 = no change over next 12 months.

	PMI	Output	New Orders	New Export Orders	Future Output*	Employment	Backlogs of Work	Quantity of Purchases	Suppliers' Delivery Times	Stocks of Purchases	Overall Input Prices	Purchase Prices	Staff Costs	Output Prices
04 '26	48.2	47.4	46.5	30.0	19.2	49.6	49.5	48.2	49.2	48.5	54.2	54.4	50.0	53.9
05 '26	49.7	49.5	49.7	41.9	24.3	48.9	51.1	50.6	48.6	49.6	53.3	54.3	49.9	52.9
06 '26	50.3	50.2	50.2	46.5	36.7	49.8	50.8	50.0	48.9	50.5	52.9	52.9	50.2	54.3
07 '26	50.7	50.5	50.4	40.4	35.6	49.8	51.0	51.4	47.3	51.0	55.0	55.1	50.1	55.0
08 '26	50.1	49.9	49.6	45.7	39.0	49.9	50.6	50.8	48.7	50.4	54.5	54.7	50.1	54.7
09 '26	50.5	50.7	50.8	45.3	40.9	49.8	50.2	49.6	49.5	50.5	55.3	55.8	50.2	55.0

Contact

Dr Ali Bolbol
Chief Economist / Head of Research
BLOM Bank
T: +961 1 739 817
ali.bolbol@blom.com.lb

Joe Hayes
Senior Principal Economist
S&P Global Market Intelligence
T: +44-1344-328-099
joe.hayes@spglobal.com

Kriti Khurana
Corporate Communications
S&P Global Market Intelligence
T: +91-971-101-7186
kritikhurana@spglobal.com
press.mi@spglobal.com

About BLOM Bank

BLOM Bank, established in 1951, is one of Lebanon's leading banks and the largest in the country by total assets, deposits, and equity. Operating a universal banking model, the Bank serves its clients through Retail, Commercial, Private, and Investment Banking, including brokerage, research, custody, and asset management, alongside Islamic Banking and Insurance, through a network of branches and subsidiaries spanning a total of 10 countries, including Lebanon. For more information, visit www.blombank.com.

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.html

Disclaimer

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 trade marks or 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.

PMI®

by **S&P Global**

© 2026 S&P Global