

# Empire State Manufacturing Survey

Survey responses were collected between September 5 and September 12.

Business activity was little changed in New York State, according to firms responding to the September 2023 *Empire State Manufacturing Survey*. The headline general business conditions index rose twenty-one points to 1.9. New orders and shipments increased. Delivery times remained steady, and inventories continued to contract. Labor market indicators pointed to a slight decline in employment levels and the average workweek. The pace of input price increases was similar to last month, while selling price increases picked up. Looking ahead, firms continued to grow more optimistic about the six-month outlook.

## Activity Steadies

Manufacturing activity held steady in New York State, according to the September survey. After dropping

sharply last month, the general business conditions index reversed course and climbed twenty-one points to 1.9. Twenty-seven percent of respondents reported that conditions had improved over the month, while twenty-five percent reported that conditions had worsened. The new orders index shot up twenty-five points to 5.1, and the shipments index also rose twenty-five points to 12.4, pointing to an increase in orders and shipments. The unfilled orders index remained below zero at -5.2, a sign that unfilled orders continued to decline. Similarly, the inventories index came in at -6.2, indicating that inventories contracted again. The delivery times index ticked up to 2.1, suggesting little change in delivery times.

## Labor Market Indicators Soft

The index for number of employees came in at -2.7, indicating a slight decline

in employment levels, and the average workweek index edged up to -5.0, indicating another monthly decline in hours worked. The prices paid index held steady at 25.8, pointing to little change in the pace of input price increases, while the prices received index rose seven points to 19.6, signaling a modest pickup in the pace of selling price increases.

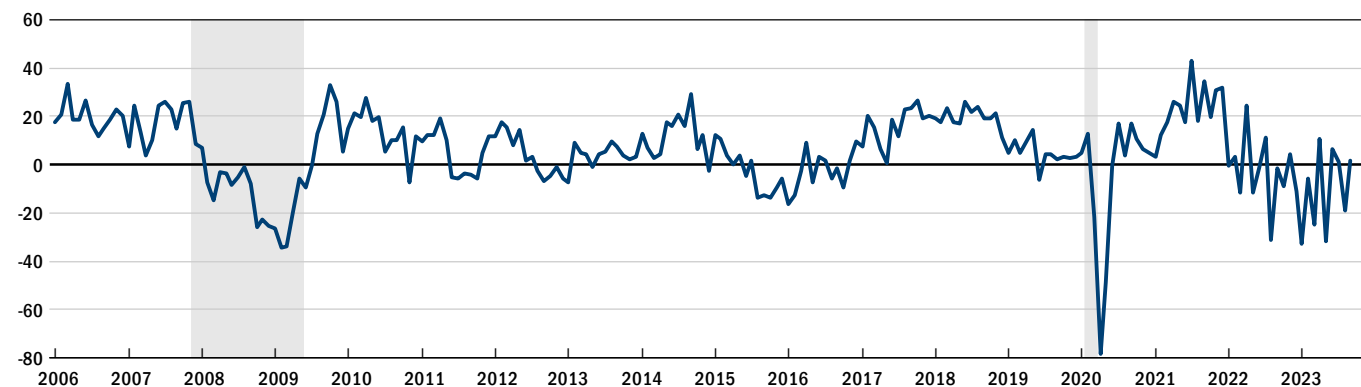
## Optimism Continues to Grow

The index for future business conditions rose six points to 26.3, its highest level in more than a year, suggesting that firms have become more optimistic about future conditions. New orders and shipments are expected to increase significantly in the months ahead, and employment is expected to grow. The capital spending index edged down to 10.3, suggesting that capital spending plans remained somewhat weak. ■

## General Business Conditions

Seasonally Adjusted

Diffusion Index

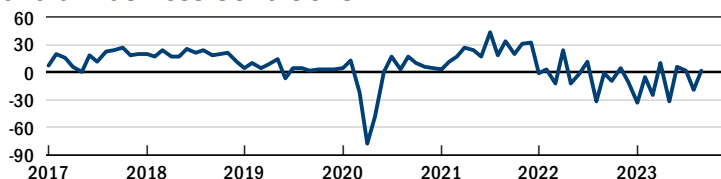


Note: The shaded areas indicate periods designated as recessions by the National Bureau of Economic Research.

# Current Indicators

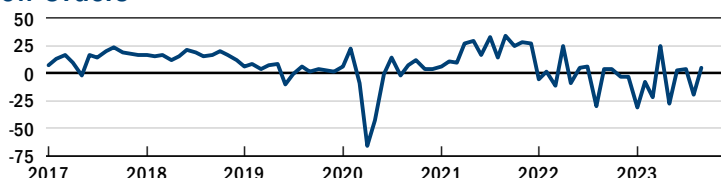
Change from Preceding Month

## General Business Conditions



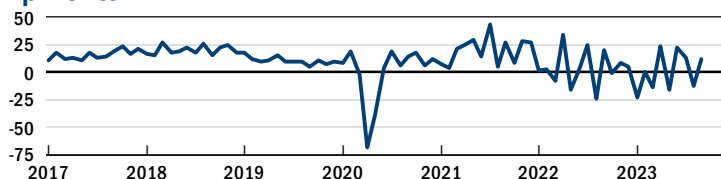
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	16.1	35.0	-19.0
Sep	26.6	24.8	1.9
Change			20.9

## New Orders



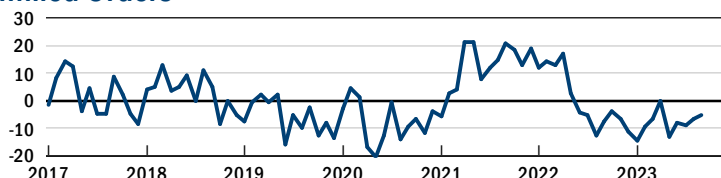
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	19.5	39.4	-19.9
Sep	32.6	27.5	5.1
Change			25.0

## Shipments



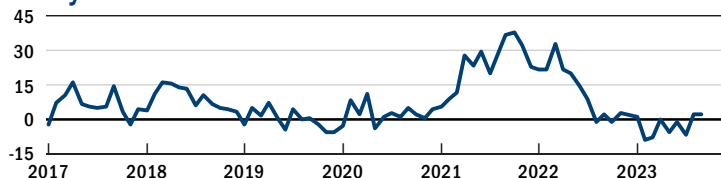
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	22.0	34.3	-12.3
Sep	32.5	20.1	12.4
Change			24.7

## Unfilled Orders



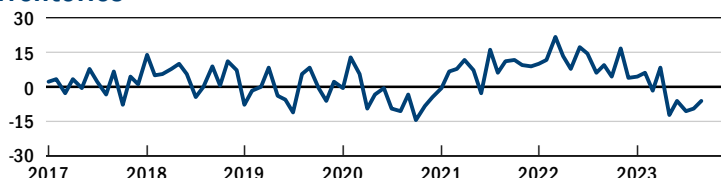
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	16.5	23.3	-6.8
Sep	13.4	18.6	-5.2
Change			1.6

## Delivery Time



	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	14.6	12.6	1.9
Sep	14.4	12.4	2.1
Change			0.2

## Inventories

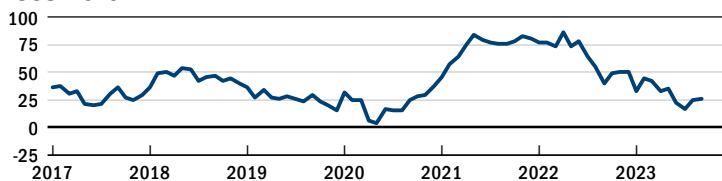


	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	14.6	24.3	-9.7
Sep	15.5	21.6	-6.2
Change			3.5

# Current Indicators, *continued*

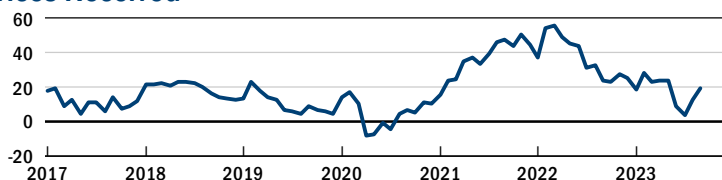
Change from Preceding Month

## Prices Paid



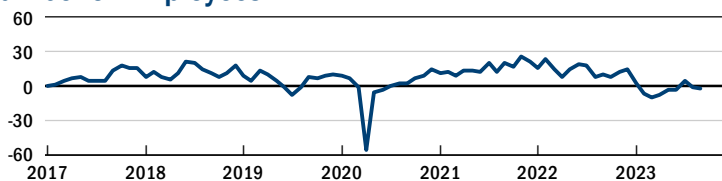
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	32.0	6.8	25.2
Sep	29.9	4.1	25.8
Change			0.6

## Prices Received



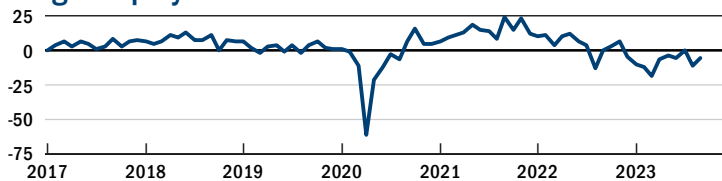
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	20.4	7.8	12.6
Sep	22.7	3.1	19.6
Change			7.0

## Number of Employees



	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	14.1	15.5	-1.4
Sep	8.9	11.6	-2.7
Change			-1.3

## Average Employee Workweek



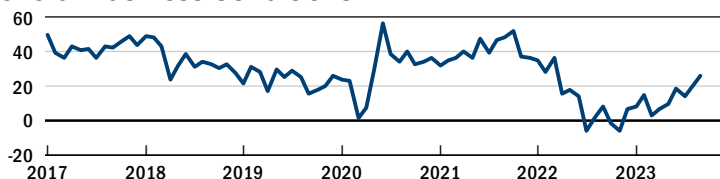
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	9.6	20.2	-10.7
Sep	7.8	12.8	-5.0
Change			5.7

Note: Data are seasonally adjusted.

# Forward-Looking Indicators

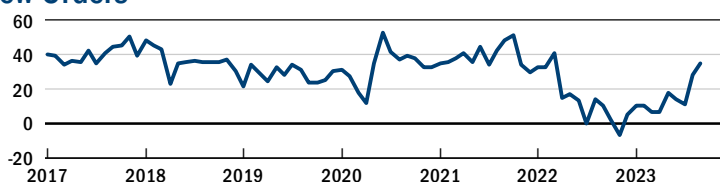
Expectations Six Months Ahead

## General Business Conditions



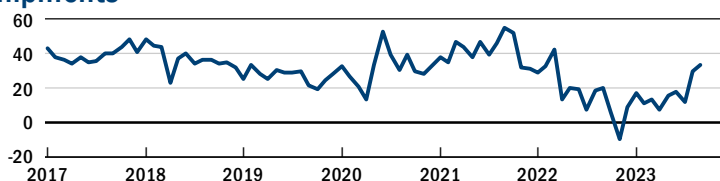
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	42.6	22.7	19.9
Sep	41.6	15.3	26.3
Change			6.4

## New Orders



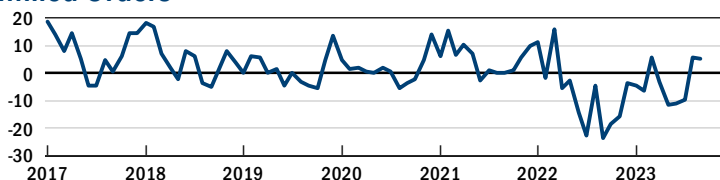
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	47.6	19.5	28.1
Sep	47.5	12.7	34.8
Change			6.7

## Shipments



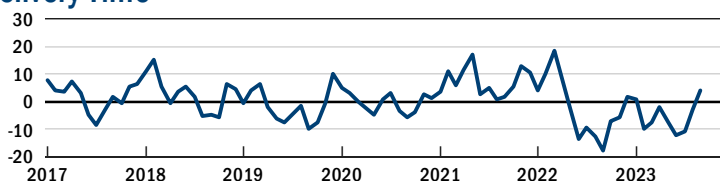
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	49.6	20.0	29.6
Sep	46.7	13.0	33.7
Change			4.1

## Unfilled Orders



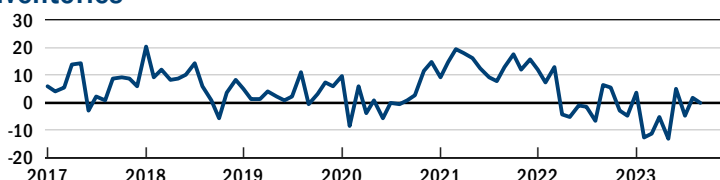
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	21.4	15.5	5.8
Sep	18.6	13.4	5.2
Change			-0.6

## Delivery Time



	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	13.6	16.5	-2.9
Sep	16.5	12.4	4.1
Change			7.0

## Inventories

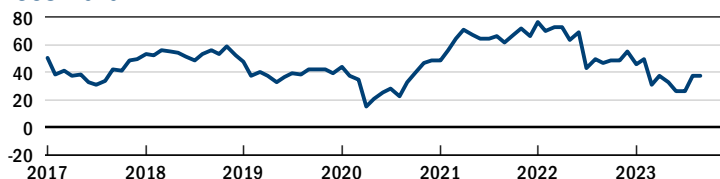


	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	23.3	21.4	1.9
Sep	20.6	20.6	0.0
Change			-1.9

# Forward-Looking Indicators, *continued*

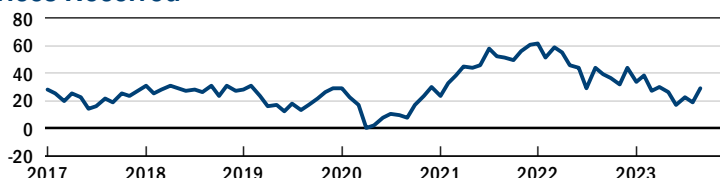
Expectations Six Months Ahead

## Prices Paid



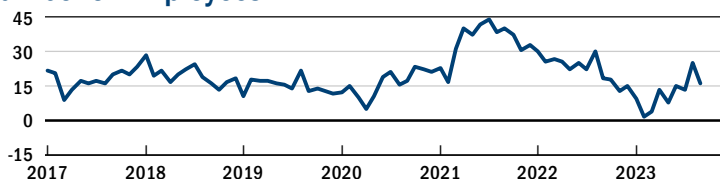
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	43.7	5.8	37.9
Sep	45.4	8.2	37.1
Change			-0.8

## Prices Received



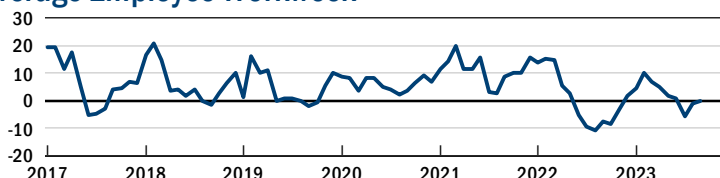
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	31.1	12.6	18.4
Sep	37.1	8.2	28.9
Change			10.5

## Number of Employees



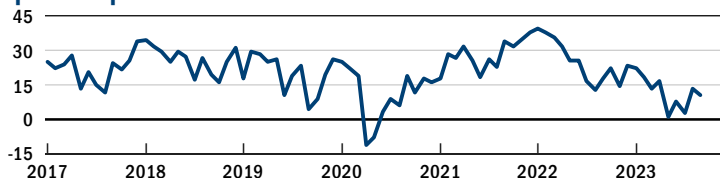
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	35.9	11.0	24.9
Sep	29.3	13.4	15.9
Change			-9.0

## Average Employee Workweek



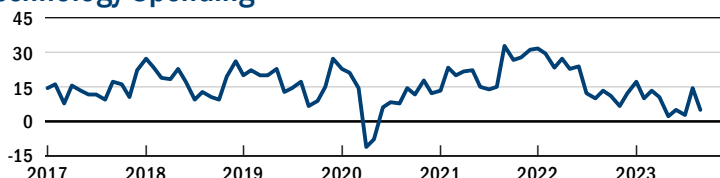
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	14.6	15.5	-1.0
Sep	14.4	14.4	0.0
Change			1.0

## Capital Expenditures



	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	26.2	12.6	13.6
Sep	24.7	14.4	10.3
Change			-3.3

## Technology Spending



	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	28.2	13.6	14.6
Sep	17.5	12.4	5.2
Change			-9.4

Note: Data are seasonally adjusted.