

Marquette-ISM Report on Manufacturing May 2015- Final Release

Contact: Dr. Douglas Fisher
 Director, Center for Supply Chain Management
 Marquette University
 (414) 288-3995
douglas.fisher@marquette.edu

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The Marquette-ISM Report on Manufacturing was prepared by **Chris Bango**, a graduate student in Applied Economics at Marquette University, and distributed by **Beth Krey**, Associate Director of the Center for Supply Chain Management.

Please direct data questions and requests for media commentary to Dr. Fisher.

This report should not be confused with the ISM National Report published by the Institute of Supply Management. While a reasonable attempt has been made to remain consistent with the national report, the contents of this report reflect only information pertinent to the southeast Wisconsin and northern Illinois region. This report is not used in the calculation of the national report.

Summary

Milwaukee-area PMI	May 2015	April 2015	March 2015
Seasonally adjusted	47.70	48.08	53.25

(Milwaukee, Wisconsin) – May's Index registered at 47.70, which is below the 50-level indicating negative territory for the second straight month. This places the index at or above 50 for only seventeen of the past twenty one months.

What respondents are saying in May 2015:

- There have not been that many major issues at this time.
- New construction has been improving.
- New business is being conducted with WEMP.

Important: See explanatory notes on the survey and diffusion index at the end of this report.

MANUFACTURING AT A GLANCE: May 2015*				
Index	Series Index May-2015	Series Index April-2015	Percentage Point Change	Direction
PMI	47.70	48.08	-0.4	declining
New Orders	44.13	57.42	-13.3	declining
Production	42.68	45.13	-2.4	declining
Employment	56.55	52.62	3.9	growing
Supplier Deliveries	49.70	38.57	11.1	faster
Inventories	45.45	46.67	-1.2	declining
Customers' Inventories *	50.00	46.43	3.6	growing
Prices *	45.45	36.67	8.8	declining
Backlog of Orders *	40.91	46.67	-5.8	declining
Exports *	43.75	40.91	2.8	declining
Imports *	56.25	54.17	2.1	growing

(*) The indices are seasonally adjusted *except for* the Customers' Inventories, Prices, Backlog of Orders, Exports, and Imports Indexes, which do not meet the accepted criteria for seasonal adjustments.

What respondents are saying in May 2015:

- Packaging is experiencing long lead times because of changes in the GHS compliant label requirements (*GHS: Globally Harmonized System of Classification*). The old warning labels have to be redone to comply with the new standards and new bags need to be ordered sooner as a result. Due to this change, lead times are out an additional 6-8 weeks. Expectations are that this should resolve itself by the 3rd quarter but since the requirements take effect on June 1, companies are taking short term measures to cope with the changes.
- Distribution (resellers) are not keeping an adequate amount of stock.
- The West Coast congestion has been clearing however the effects of the West Coast strikes are still lingering.

Blue and White Collar Employment:

We have collected input on Blue and White Collar Employment. The indices are below for **March 2015, April 2015, and May 2015.**

	Diffusion Index Mar-2015	Diffusion Index April-2015	Diffusion Index May-2015	Direction	Comments
Blue Collar	51.9	52.6	47.8	declining	-
White Collar	46.1	44.6	52.2	growing	-

Note: These have been calculated based on the seasonally adjusted (SA) Blue and White Collar indices.

What respondents are saying in May 2015:

- N/A

COMMODITIES REPORTED UP/DOWN IN PRICE and IN SHORT SUPPLY

As an addition to the report, we have calculated commodity price indexes. We look forward to continuing to do so going forward. Below we have shown **March 2015, and April 2015, and May 2015.**

Category	March 2015 Diffusion index	April 2015 Diffusion index	May 2015 Diffusion index	change in percentage point
Aluminum	27.78%	31.25%	50.00%	18.8
Brass	50.00%	66.67%	50.00%	-16.7
Caustic Soda	25.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.0
Chemicals	41.67%	50.00%	50.00%	0.0
Copper	25.00%	70.00%	83.33%	13.3
Copper Based Products	37.50%	83.33%	83.33%	0.0
Cocoa Powder	-	-	-	-
Corn	0.00%	50.00%	-	-
Corrugated Containers	50.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.0
Diesel	60.00%	70.00%	87.50%	17.5
Electronic Components	75.00%	50.00%	75.00%	25.0
Gasoline	71.43%	66.67%	91.67%	25.0
High Density Polyethylene	50.00%	25.00%	50.00%	25.0
Natural Gas	40.00%	30.00%	50.00%	20.0

Nickel	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	50.0
PET	-	50.00%	50.00%	0.0
Plastic Resins	41.67%	37.50%	25.00%	-12.5
Polyester	50.00%	50.00%	33.33%	-16.7
Polyethylene	50.00%	25.00%	50.00%	25.0
Resins	50.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.0
Soybean Oil	-	-	-	-
Stainless Steel	35.71%	40.00%	30.00%	-10.0
Starch	-	-	50.00%	-
Steel	25.00%	18.75%	33.33%	14.6
Steel Products	20.00%	31.25%	37.50%	6.3
Sulfur	-	-	-	-
Tin Plate	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.0
Titanium Dioxide	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%	-50.0
Wheat	-	-	-	-
Beef/Pork	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.0

Buying Policy

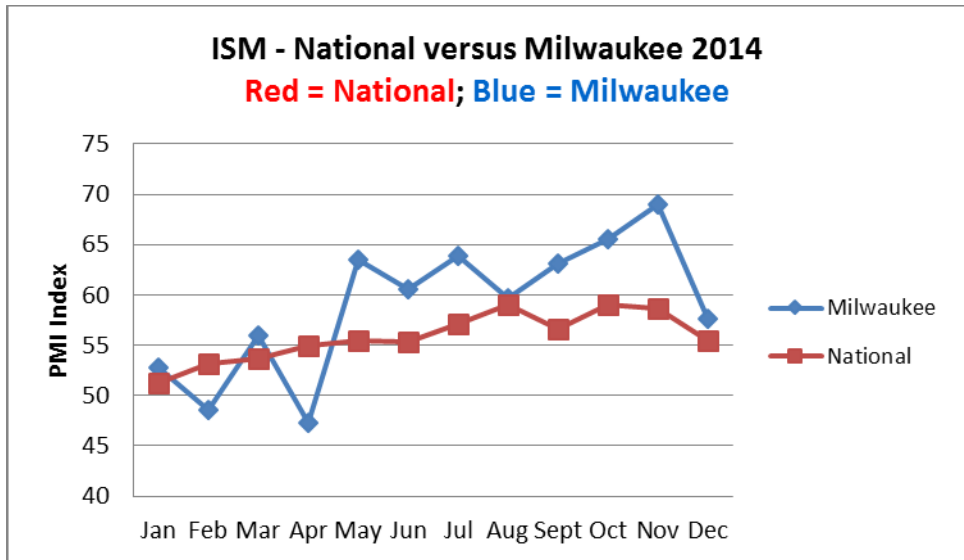
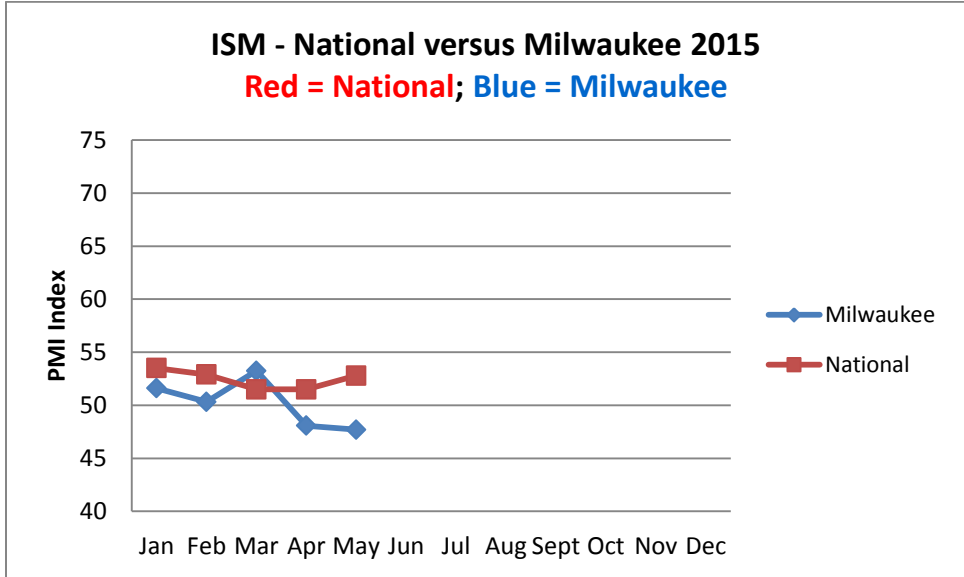
Average commitment lead time for Capital Expenditures increased by 25 days to 121 days. Average lead time for Production Materials decreased by 7 days to 27 days. Average lead time for Maintenance, Repair and Operating (MRO) Supplies increased by 4 days to 17 days.

Six- Month Outlook on Business Conditions

In this outlook, there is an upward shift in positive expectations compared with April in terms of market conditions. Approximately 54.5% of respondents expect positive conditions, 36.4% expect conditions to remain the same and 9.1% of the respondents expect conditions to worsen within the next six months.

	Expect Positive Conditions	Expect Same Conditions	Expect Worse Conditions	Diffusion Index
May-15	54.5%	36.4%	9.1%	72.7%
April-15	46.2%	53.8%	0.0%	73.1%
Mar-15	53.3%	40.0%	6.7%	73.3%

Milwaukee versus the Nation – (for graphs of 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013 see the December 2013 and December 2012 reports)



Insights on the ISM PMI from the National Organization:

ISM *Manufacturing Report On Business*[®] Background

In February 1982, the PMI was developed by the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) and ISM. The index, based on analytical work by the DOC, adjusts five components of the Institute's monthly survey — new orders, production, employment, supplier deliveries and inventories — for normal seasonal variations, applies equal weights to each and then calculates them into a single monthly index number.

An update of research originally done by Theodore S. Torda, the late economist for the DOC, shows a close parallel between growth in real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and the PMI. The index can explain about 60 percent of the annual variation in GDP, with a margin of error that averaged $\pm .48$ percent during the last ten years. George McKittrick, an economist at the DOC, said "Not only does the PMI track well with the overall economy, but the indication provided by ISM data about how widespread changes are, complements analogous government series that show size and direction of change."

In January 1989, the Supplier Deliveries Index from the *Report* became a standard element of the DOC's Bureau of Economic Analysis Index of Leading Economic Indicators. The data was incorporated into the index from June 1976 forward. In January 1996, The Conference Board began compiling this index.

What Is a Diffusion Index?

Diffusion indexes have the properties of leading indicators and are convenient summary measures showing the prevailing direction of change. The percent response to the "Better," "Same" or "Worse" question is difficult to compare to prior periods. Therefore, the percentages are "diffused" for this purpose. A diffusion index takes those indicating "Better" and half of those indicating "Same" and adds the percentages. This effectively measures the bias toward a positive (above 50 percent) or negative index (below 50 percent). For example, if the response is 20 percent "Better," 70 percent "Same," and 10 percent "Worse," then the diffusion index would be 55 percent ($20\% + [0.50 \times 70\%]$). The data for each question is converted to a diffusion index and then seasonally adjusted.

For each index, a reading above 50 percent indicates expansion of an index, while a reading below 50 percent indicates it is generally declining. And a reading of 50 percent indicates "no change" from the previous month. Supplier Deliveries is an exception. A Supplier Deliveries Index above 50 percent indicates slower deliveries, and below 50 percent indicates faster deliveries.

<http://www.ism.ws/files/ISMReport/ROBBroch08.pdf>