News Release

MARKET SENSITIVE INFORMATION Embargoed until 0730 ICT (0030 UTC) 4 September 2024

S&P Global ASEAN Manufacturing PMI®

ASEAN manufacturing sector growth cools, but remains modest overall

Key findings:

Headline index edges to four-month low Solid, albeit softer upticks in output and new orders

Renewed fall in employment

Data were collected 12-23 August

Modest improvement in the health of the ASEAN manufacturing sector was recorded midway through the third quarter. However, growth cooled on the month, as weaker expansions in output and new orders were recorded, the latter in part dragged down by the ongoing decline in new export sales. Meanwhile, employment slipped back into contraction territory.

A slightly more subdued performance of the manufacturing sector was accompanied by cooling inflationary pressures. Both cost burdens and selling prices rose at weaker rates in August, the upticks softer than their respective series averages.

The headline S&P Global ASEAN Manufacturing *Purchasing Managers' Index™* (*PMI®*) fell from 51.6 in July to a four-month low of 51.1 in August. Nonetheless, ASEAN goods producers reported an eighth successive month of improvement in the health of its manufacturing sector, and one which was modest overall.

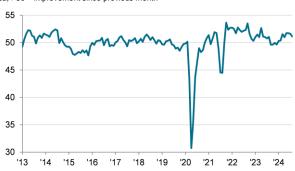
August data noted strengthening underlying demand trends, as expansions in new factory orders and output was solid overall. However, there were signs of cooling growth as the respective seasonally adjusted indexes measured an eight- and a fourmonth low, respectively.

Furthermore, demand was largely bolstered by domestic markets, as sales to foreign clients continued to fall in August. The downturn was sharp overall.

Growth in overall new orders supported firms' decisions to further raise their buying activity in August, the rate of growth quickening slightly from July's three-month low. That said, manufactures made further inroads in their holdings, as both preand post-production inventories were depleted at stronger rates.

S&P Global ASEAN Manufacturing PMI

sa, >50 = improvement since previous month



Source: S&P Global PMI.

Following two months of slight job creation, August data revealed a renewed, albeit marginal decline in workforce numbers. Manufacturers also noted a sixth consecutive month of backlog accumulation, pointing to rising pressures on capacity.

Turning to inflationary pressures, surveyed goods producers indicated that cost burdens, and in turn selling prices charged, rose at moderated paces in August. Moreover, price pressures were historically subdued.

Lastly, firms remained confident regarding output growth in the coming year. Expectations were the highest since February. That said, the index has now printed below the long-run average for 22 consecutive months.

Commenting on the ASEAN Manufacturing PMI data, Maryam Baluch, Economist at S&P Global Market Intelligence said:

"The ASEAN manufacturing sector benefited from strengthening underlying demand trends, as new orders rose solidly, thus encouraging firms to also raise their output in August. That said, latest data revealed a slight cooling on the month, as deteriorating foreign demand continued to act as a headwind to growth.

"The employment picture looks murky. Despite rising pressures on capacity, firms recorded a fresh decline in payroll numbers, albeit only fractionally. Instead, companies opted to further deplete their inventories to meet business requirements."



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Contact

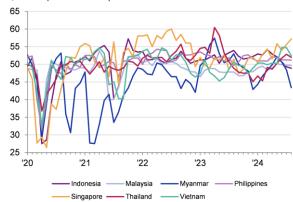
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Manufacturing PMI

sa, >50 = improvement since previous month



Source: S&P Global PMI.

Methodology

The S&P Global ASEAN Manufacturing PMI® is compiled by S&P Global from responses to monthly questionnaires sent to purchasing managers in panels of manufacturers in Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, totalling around 2,100 manufacturers. These countries account for 98% of ASEAN manufacturing value added*. The panels are 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 at the national level. 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. ASEAN indices are calculated by weighting together the national indices. Country weights are calculated from annual manufacturing value added*.

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.

*Source: World Bank World Development Indicators.

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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. To learn more go to www.spglobal.com/marketintelligence/en/mi/products/pmi.

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