



March - 2015 (FOR RELEASE: April 1, 2015 - 6 am EST)

**The ISM - Southeast Michigan Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) at 64.5 ↑**

**ISM-SEM Index:** In March the PMI climbed back, sharply higher, rising from 56.0 to 64.5. The evidence seems to indicate that January 2015 may have been an exception, where in the PMI came in at 50. The three month average is essentially unchanged, at 56.8.

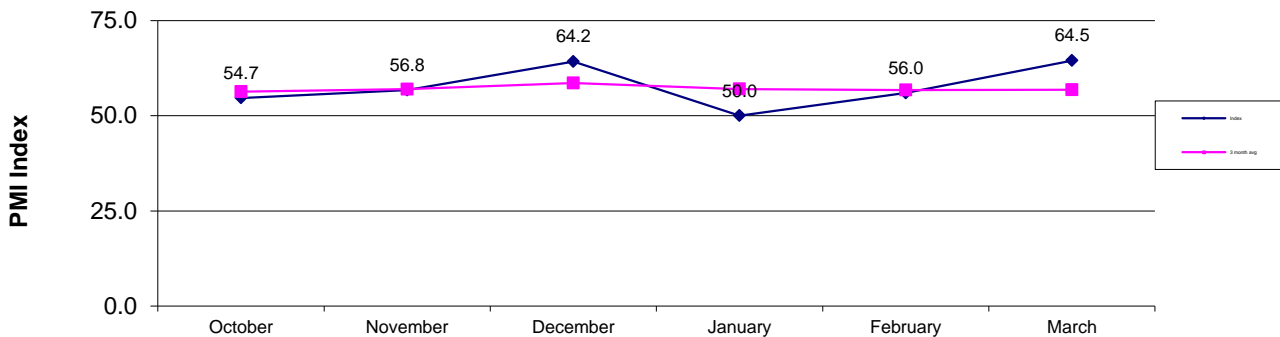
**Employment:** The Employment Index settled to a favorable 62.5, dropping from February's unusually high 71.1. The three month average dropped slightly, from 64.3 to 61.8, still reflecting the low score in January.

**Commodity Prices:** The Commodity Price Index fell slightly, down by a few points, falling from 52.5 to 50.0. What's interesting about this is that in 2014, the Commodity Price index was typically a strong performing index. The three month average now stands below 50, at 49.7.

**Items up or down in price:** *March showed consulting services up in price, while steel and storage hardware were cited as being down in price.*

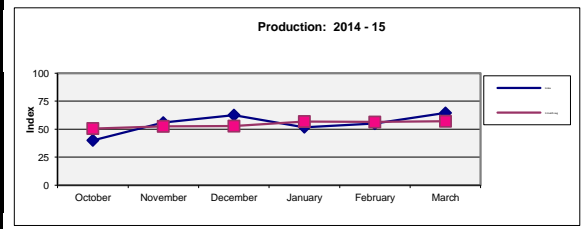
**Economic Issues:** *The March survey showed a powerful surge in economic activity in Southeast Michigan, with the Southeast Purchasing Managers Index (PMI), continuing its strong showing in February, and climbing to a high of 64.5. The three month moving average budged up slightly, coming in at 56.8, reflecting the slowdown in January. The strong showing of the index was powered by sub-components such as Production which grew sharply to 64.6, New Orders rebounding to a high of 75, and Employment though slowing, coming in at a very respectable 62.5. Respondents were, in general, very optimistic about the next six months, with over 95 percent anticipating that the economy would remain stable or become even more stable. Comments from respondents indicated some dark clouds on the horizon with some concern over the West Coast port stoppage, especially "Affecting imports," and "Appears more stable overall but we have been pretty stable regardless so we do not have much change," and "Quoting a lot, however, no work has come in. We have new military quotes out that we have been assured will be issued into orders," and "New development work is very sparse right now. Don't know who is getting all the work in the area but it's not us!"*

**Southeast Michigan Index: 2014-15**



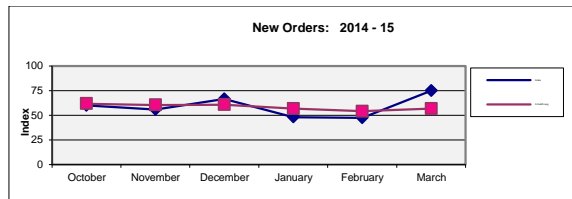
ISM-SEM Index		2014-15					
		October	November	December	January	February	March
Index		54.7	56.8	64.2	50.0	56.0	64.5
Index	3 month average	56.3	57.0	58.5	57.0	56.7	56.8
Production		2014-15					
		October	November	December	January	February	March
	Higher	6.7	35.3	41.7	27.6	25.0	37.5
	Same	66.7	41.2	41.7	48.3	60.0	54.2
	Lower	26.7	23.5	16.7	24.1	15.0	8.3
Index		40.0	55.9	62.5	51.7	55.0	64.6
Index	3 month average	50.5	52.4	52.8	56.7	56.4	57.1

Production shot up to 64.6.



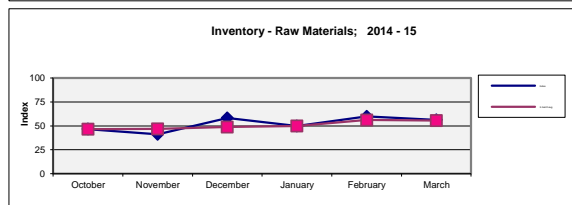
New Orders		2014-15					
		October	November	December	January	February	March
	Higher	33.3	35.3	41.7	24.1	20.0	54.2
	Same	53.3	41.2	50.0	48.3	55.0	41.7
	Lower	13.3	23.5	8.3	27.6	25.0	4.2
Index		60.0	55.9	66.7	48.3	47.5	75.0
Index	3 month average	61.9	60.5	60.8	56.9	54.1	56.9

New orders accelerated to 75.0.



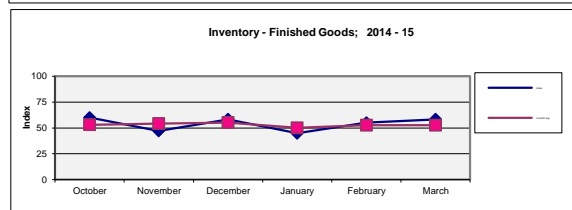
Inventory - Raw Materials		2014-15					
		October	November	December	January	February	March
	Higher	6.7	5.9	33.3	20.7	30.0	20.8
	Same	80.0	70.6	50.0	58.6	60.0	70.8
	Lower	13.3	23.5	16.7	20.7	10.0	8.3
Index		46.7	41.2	58.3	50.0	60.0	56.3
Index	3 month average	46.5	46.9	48.7	49.8	56.1	55.4

Raw materials inventories dropped to 56.3.



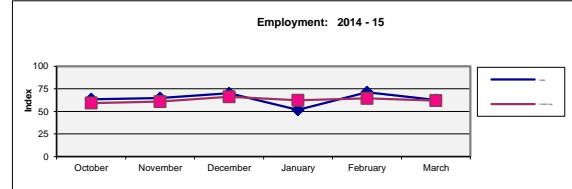
Inventory - Finished Goods		2014-15					
		October	November	December	January	February	March
	Higher	33.3	17.6	33.3	6.9	20.0	29.2
	Same	53.3	58.8	50.0	75.9	70.0	58.3
	Lower	13.3	23.5	16.7	17.2	10.0	12.5
Index		60.0	47.1	58.3	44.8	55.0	58.3
Index	3 month average	53.0	54.3	55.1	50.1	52.7	52.7

Finished goods inventories climbed to 58.3.



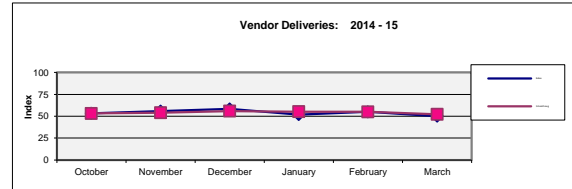
Employment		2014-15					
		October	November	December	January	February	March
	Higher	40.0	41.2	50.0	24.1	47.4	41.7
	Same	46.7	47.1	40.0	55.2	47.4	41.7
	Lower	13.3	11.8	10.0	20.7	5.3	16.7
Index		63.3	64.7	70.0	51.7	71.1	62.5
Index	3 month average	59.2	60.8	66.0	62.1	64.3	61.8

Employment still above 60 at 62.5.



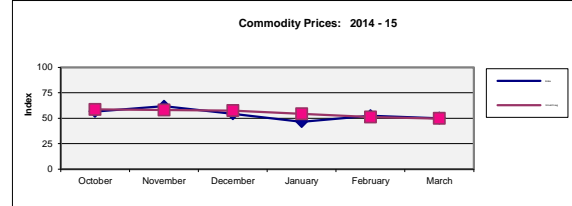
Vendor Deliveries		2014-15					
		October	November	December	January	February	March
	Faster	6.7	5.9	0.0	6.9	0.0	0.0
	Same	80.0	76.5	83.3	82.8	90.0	100.0
	Slower	13.3	17.6	16.7	10.3	10.0	0.0
Index		53.3	55.9	58.3	51.7	55.0	50.0
Index	3 month average	53.2	54.0	55.8	55.3	55.0	52.2

Deliveries fell to 50.0.



Commodity Prices		2014-15					
		October	November	December	January	February	March
	Higher	26.7	29.4	25.0	10.3	10.0	0.0
	Same	60.0	64.7	58.3	72.4	85.0	100.0
	Lower	13.3	5.9	16.7	17.2	5.0	0.0
Index		56.7	61.8	54.2	46.6	52.5	50.0
Index	3 month average	58.6	58.0	57.5	54.2	51.1	49.7

Commodity prices also fell to 50.0.



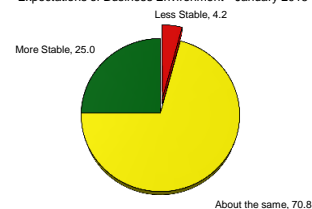
#### Expectations of Business Environment - January 2015

6 months into the future:

Less Stable	4.2	percent
About the same	70.8	percent
More Stable	25.0	percent

For more information about the Survey or to obtain copies of previous surveys, visit our website at [www.ism-sem.org](http://www.ism-sem.org) and click on "Economic Surveys"

Expectations of Business Environment - January 2015



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