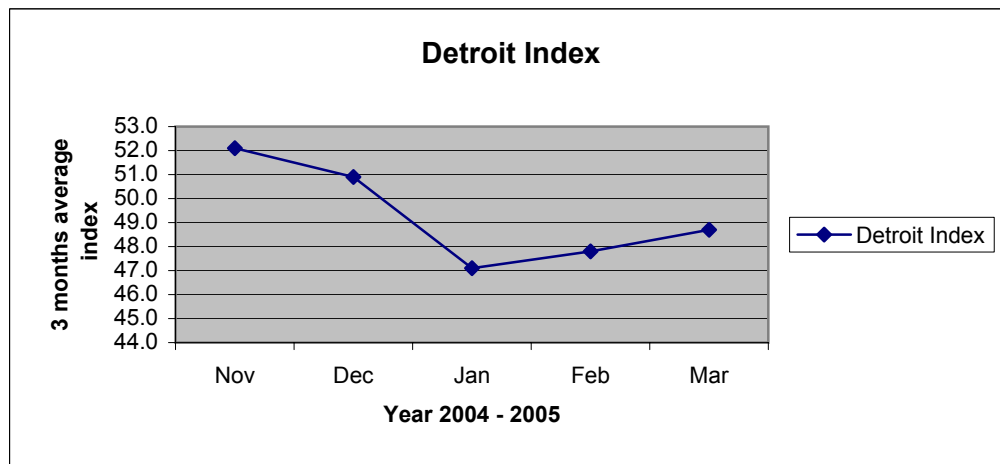


The NAPM - Metro Detroit Purchasing Managers index 52.6

Detroit Index: The gains are coming from production, new orders and employment.
Employment: The March index came in at 51.0, the strongest since September 2004.
Production: Production falls back slightly but is still expanding at 54.9.
Commodity Prices: Commodity prices surged to 76.0, reversing the Jan/Feb declines.
Commodities up/down in price: Survey respondents report a wide range of materials price increases. A few cited some moderation in steel prices. Commodities with higher prices included: imports from Europe and Japan, plastic containers, steel, chromic acid, MRO materials, paper, resins, acrylic, pigments, flame retardants, relay panels, rubber, recycled polypropylene pellets, aluminum, copper, zinc, plywood, titanium and natural gas.
Comments from respondents: A new question in March. Seventy-five percent see moderate to growing price pressure. About 62 percent under price pressure have not been able to pass the cost forward to their customers. Why? Competitive conditions, contract limitations, and customer resistance were cited



Detroit Index	2004			2005		
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Index	51.0	51.8	49.8	39.8	53.8	52.6
Index 3 month average		52.1	50.9	47.1	47.8	48.7

Next Release
2 May 2005

Production	2004			2005		
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Higher	29	27	37	19	38	37
Same	43	52	20	35	38	35
Lower	29	20	43	45	25	27
Index	50.0	53.4	46.7	37.1	56.6	54.9
Index 3 month average		53.0	50.0	45.7	46.8	49.5

Production drops back in March

New Orders	2004			2005		
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Higher	33	32	43	29	26	29
Same	40	45	21	19	51	46
Lower	26	23	36	52	23	25
Index	53.6	54.5	53.6	38.7	51.9	51.9
Index 3 month average		53.2	53.9	# 48.9	48.1	47.5

New orders unchanged, but expanding

Inventory - Raw Materials		2004			2005		
		Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
	Higher	21	20	27	19	19	19
	Same	62	57	30	42	60	48
	Lower	17	23	43	39	21	33
Index		52.4	48.9	41.7	40.3	49.1	43.3
Index	3 month average		50.0	47.7	43.6	43.7	44.2

Raw materials inventory contract

Inventory - Finished Goods		2004			2005		
		Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
	Higher	26	20	20	32	21	21
	Same	64	68	47	39	72	50
	Lower	10	11	33	29	8	29
Index		58.3	54.5	43.3	51.6	56.6	46.2
Index	3 month average		53.8	52	49.8	50.5	51.4

Finished goods inventory decline

Employment		2004			2005		
		Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
	Higher	17	18	7	3	11	21
	Same	60	55	77	61	75	60
	Lower	24	27	17	35	13	19
Index		46.4	45.5	45	33.9	49.1	51
Index	3 month average		50.1	45.6	43.2	42.7	44.7

Employment moves up in March

Vendor Deliveries		2004			2005		
		Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
	Faster	17	11	10	16	8	6
	Same	69	77	63	74	70	75
	Slower	14	11	27	10	23	19
Index		48.8	50.0	58.4	46.8	57.5	56.7
Index	3 month average		50.0	52.4	51.7	54.2	53.7

Little change

Commodity Prices		2004			2005		
		Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
	Higher	52	50	53	39	42	56
	Same	48	43	37	58	49	40
	Lower	0	7	10	3	9	4
Index		76.2	71.6	71.7	67.7	66	76
Index	3 month average		76.6	73.2	70.3	68.5	69.9

Commodity prices move up sharply

Pricing Policy:		2004			2005		
		Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
	Little Impact						25
	Moderate, but absorbing						25
	Moderate, pass along						11.5
	Growing pressure, but absorbing						26.9
	Growing pressure, pass along						11.5

75% report moderate or greater price increases

NOTICE:

No warranty, expressed or implied, is attached to these figures or their use. While the figures are compiled with professional care, no representations about appropriateness, accuracy, or suitability for specific applications are made.

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