



March - 2010 (FOR RELEASE: April 6, 2010 - 6am EST)

**The ISM - Southeast Michigan Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) at 64.1 ↑**

**ISM-SEM Index:** March's reports reveal that the ISM-SEM composite index continued its upward climb from 57.6 to a score of 64.1. This is the fourth month in the last six that scored above 50.0. The 3 Month average is at 55.6.

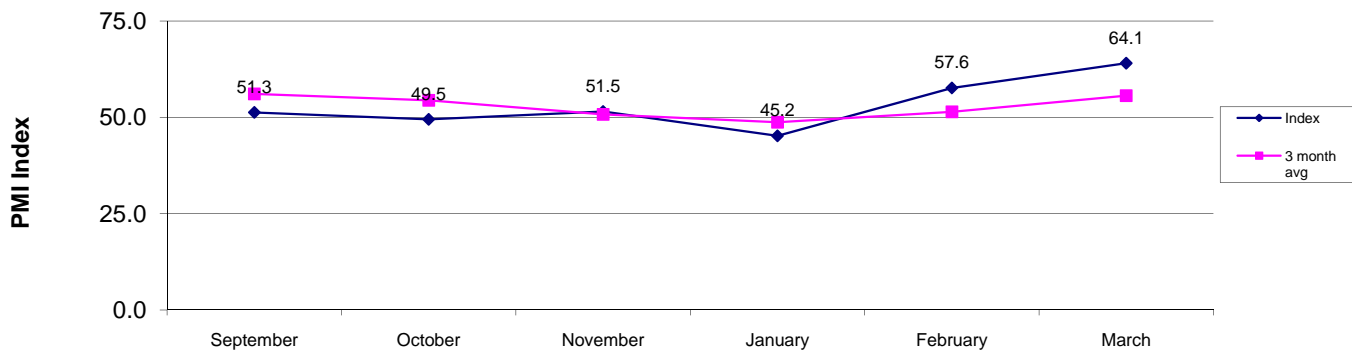
**Employment:** Employment remains strong, with a score of 58.6.

**Commodity Prices:** Upward pressure on commodity prices increased, coming in at 70.7.

**Items up or down in price:** Specific commodities that showed upward pressure in the March reports include steel, aluminum, copper, zinc, plastic resins, caustic soda, sulphuric acid, crude oil, diesel fuel, corrugate, paper, pressure sensitive papers, and films. The March reports also indicated that natural gas was down in price.

**Economic Issues:** Results of the March Southeast Michigan Purchasing Managers report are decidedly favorable to the Southeast Michigan Economy. The overall Purchasing Managers Index is up to 64.1 an improvement from February's score of 57.6; in parallel, the national PMI index rose from 56.5 in February to 59.6 in March as well. Other indicators within the Southeast Michigan PMI are also pointing upwards, with New Orders and Production being smartly up, and Employment falling a little. Raw material and finished goods inventories were up as well, and commodity prices continued their upward trend. Manufacturing activity seems to be leading the U.S. economy out of its worst recession, since the Great Depression. Economies are improving around the world as well. Manufacturing activity in China, the United Kingdom, and the Euro-Zone are powering the recovery, as measured by all their PMI's coming in over 55. All this economic activity is gradually leading to employment levels stabilizing or new jobs finally being created. Nationally, the U.S. Economy finally gained more jobs in March of 2010, than any other month in the last three years. According to the Department of Labor, the economy gained 162,000 jobs in March with the unemployment rate staying at 9.7% in February. In comparison, Michigan's unemployment rate in February stubbornly stayed the highest of all states at 14.1%. Almost 90% of the survey respondents believe that the regional economy will maintain or improve its current status going forward in the next six months indicating increasing optimism for the Michigan region. Comments by members reflect "We see very slow stabilization taking place in the automotive industry. Although painfully slow sometimes, the slow growth will be safer and not push us back into a deeper recession"; "Still very unstable. QUotes are not coming in as in the past"; "Air travel appears to have stabilized"; "General health of the economy will be a factor. Consumer confidence increase will directly impact our business. Creation of new jobs is paramount"; "Health care reform. This will not be good for business going forward".

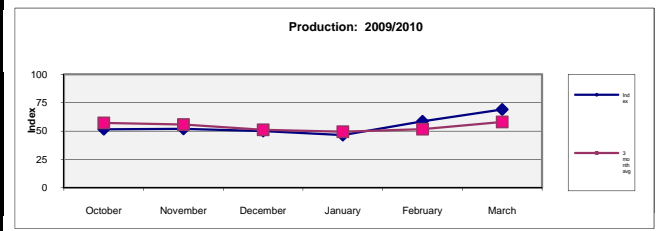
**Southeast Michigan Index: 2009/2010**



ISM-SEM Index		2009 / 2010					
		September	October	November	January	February	March
Index		51.3	49.5	51.5	45.2	57.6	64.1
Index	3 month average	56.1	54.4	50.8	48.7	51.4	55.6

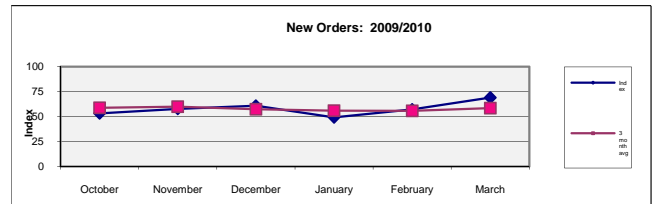
Production		2009 / 2010					
		October	November	December	January	February	March
	Higher	35.5	38.5	21.7	35.7	34.3	55.2
	Same	32.3	26.9	56.5	21.4	48.6	27.6
	Lower	32.3	34.6	21.7	42.9	17.1	17.2
Index		51.6	51.9	50.0	46.4	58.6	69.0
Index	3 month average	57.1	55.8	51.2	49.5	51.7	58.0

Production continues upward trend.



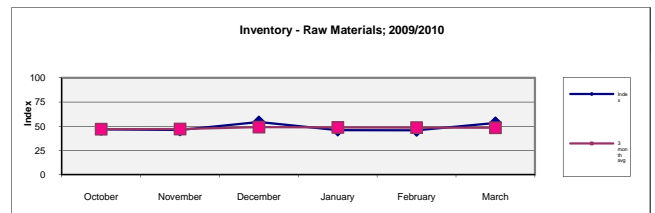
New Orders		2009 / 2010					
		October	November	December	January	February	March
	Higher	41.9	46.2	39.1	42.6	31.4	48.3
	Same	22.6	23.1	43.5	13.1	51.4	41.4
	Lower	35.5	30.8	17.4	44.3	17.1	10.3
Index		53.2	57.7	60.9	49.2	57.1	69.0
Index	3 month average	58.7	60.0	57.3	55.9	55.7	58.4

New orders continue upward trend.



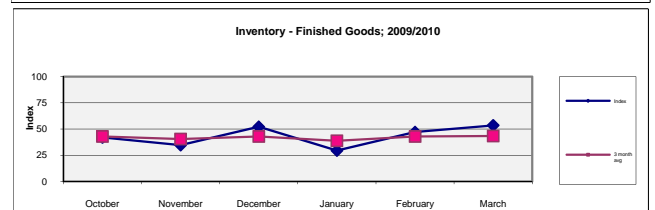
Inventory - Raw Materials		2009 / 2010					
		October	November	December	January	February	March
	Higher	16.1	26.9	26.1	28.6	17.1	24.1
	Same	61.3	38.5	56.5	34.7	57.1	58.6
	Lower	22.6	34.6	17.4	36.7	25.7	17.2
Index		46.8	46.2	54.3	45.9	45.7	53.4
Index	3 month average	47.0	47.1	49.1	48.8	48.7	48.4

Raw materials inventories increased from prior two months.



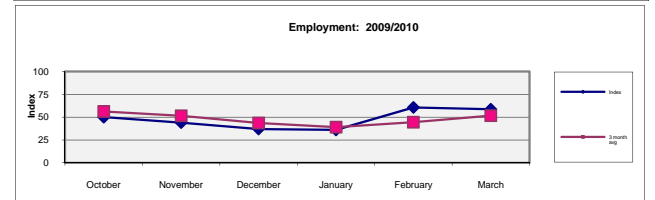
Inventory - Finished Goods		2009 / 2010					
		October	November	December	January	February	March
	Higher	6.5	3.8	21.7	11.8	17.1	17.2
	Same	71.0	61.5	60.9	35.3	60.0	72.4
	Lower	22.6	34.6	17.4	52.9	22.9	10.3
Index		41.9	34.6	52.2	29.4	47.1	53.4
Index	3 month average	42.9	40.5	42.9	38.7	42.9	43.3

Finished goods inventories sharply increased from prior two months.



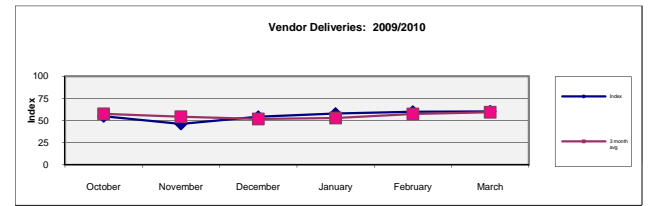
Employment		2009 / 2010					
		October	November	December	January	February	March
	Higher	20.0	20.0	8.7	20.0	30.3	31.0
	Same	60.0	48.0	56.5	32.0	60.6	55.2
	Lower	20.0	32.0	34.8	48.0	9.1	13.8
Index		50.0	44.0	37.0	36.0	60.6	58.6
Index	3 month average	56.2	51.4	43.7	39.0	44.5	51.7

Employment weakened slightly.



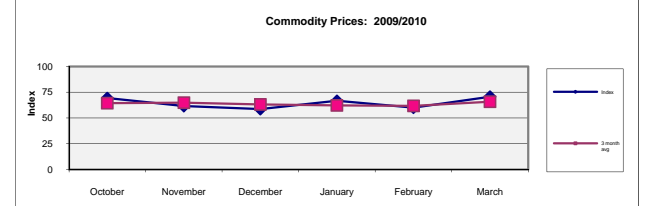
Vendor Deliveries		2009 / 2010					
		October	November	December	January	February	March
	Faster	6.5	11.5	8.7	18.2	11.4	3.4
	Same	77.4	84.6	73.9	47.7	57.1	72.4
	Slower	16.1	3.8	17.4	34.1	31.4	24.1
Index		54.8	46.2	54.3	58.0	60.0	60.3
Index	3 month average	57.6	54.4	51.8	52.8	57.4	59.4

Deliveries have remained above 50 for four months in a row.



Commodity Prices		2009 / 2010					
		October	November	December	January	February	March
	Higher	41.9	26.9	21.7	33.3	28.6	48.3
	Same	54.8	69.2	73.9	66.7	62.9	44.8
	Lower	3.225806452	3.8	4.3	0.0	8.6	6.9
Index		69.4	61.5	58.7	66.7	60.0	70.7
Index	3 month average	64.4	64.9	63.2	62.3	61.8	65.8

Commodity prices continue upward trend.



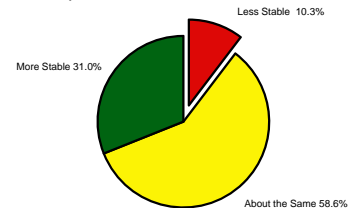
#### Expectations of Business Environment

6 months into the future:

Less Stable	10.3	percent
About the same	58.6	percent
More Stable	31.0	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: 2010



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Survey Results Production by: Kenneth Doherty & Steve Welsh of ISM.

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For more information, contact  
ISM - Southeast Michigan

Email: [businessmanager@ism-sem.org](mailto:businessmanager@ism-sem.org)

Tel: 313-881-0800

OR

Wayne State University

Timothy Butler  
[timothy.butler@wayne.edu](mailto:timothy.butler@wayne.edu)

Tel: 313-577-9810

OR

Nitin Paranjpe

[ai8668@wayne.edu](mailto:ai8668@wayne.edu)

Tel: 248-292-0208