



April - 2011 (FOR RELEASE: May 2, 2011 - 6 am EST)

The ISM - Southeast Michigan Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) at 67.9 ↓

ISM-SEM Index: In April the PMI dipped slightly, from 71.8 to 67.9, which is still quite strong. The Index has exceeded 50.0 for the past fifteen months, and the 3 Month average increased from 63.6 to 67.7.

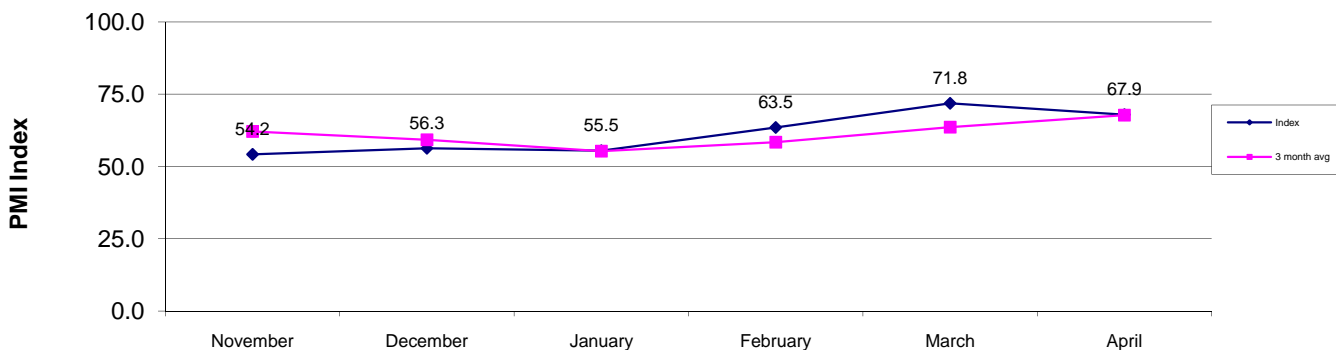
Employment: Employment also dipped, from 70.0 in March to a still healthy 66.7 in April. The 3 Month average is at a strong level of 65.8, signaling steady employment growth of Southeast Michigan businesses.

Commodity Prices: Commodity Prices continue to increase. The commodity price index value for April is 86.7, indicating that the vast majority of purchasing managers in SE Michigan are seeing increases in prices.

Items up or down in price: April shows that items up in price include petroleum products and fuel; also cotton products; metals such as steel and copper; and freight (transportation). No items were listed as down in price.

Economic Issues: The April survey of Southeast Michigan Purchasing Managers indicates an expanding economy for the fifteenth consecutive month -- a strong positive indicator for the Southeast Michigan economy. The index value is 67.9, which is down from the March index value of 71.8, but still signals a strengthening economy. Index values above 50 generally represent an expanding economy, while values below 50 suggest a weakening economy. Specific index values that comprise the Purchasing Managers Index remain strong. The Production Index value is down slightly from the March Index value of 80.0, but is still quite strong. The Production Index value is 78.7, which is the fifteenth consecutive month that the index value has exceeded 50. Similarly, the New Orders Index is down from March, from 78.3 to 68.3, but it is still well above the benchmark value of 50.0. Raw materials inventory improved to 55.0 from the March index value of 53.3, and Finished Goods Inventory increased sharply in April to 60.0, from the March Index value of 48.3. Commodity prices continue to rise, and the April Index value increased to 86.3 from the March Index value of 78.3. Over 70% of the Purchasing Manager Index Respondents indicated that commodity prices were higher in April than in March, and none indicated that prices were lower. Specific items that Purchasing Managers noted as increasing in price were petroleum products and fuel; cotton products; metals such as steel and copper, and freight costs. Purchasing Managers indicated that employment at their firms is growing, but not as fast as in March. The Employment Index value was 66.7, down slightly from 70.0 in March, but still signals strength since the value exceeds 50. Overall, purchasing managers are optimistic about the near future, with over 26% of respondents indicating that the economy will become more stable while 60% anticipate that it will remain about the same. Concerns about the future hinge upon gas prices, Mideast unrest, and the Japan earthquake disaster and its impact upon the supply chain.

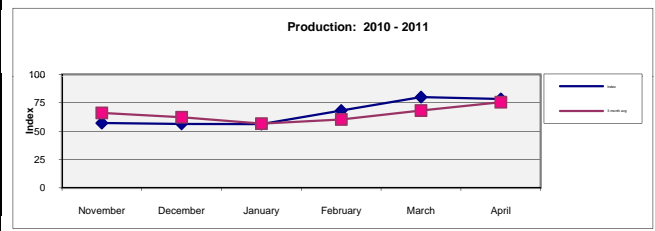
Southeast Michigan Index: 2010 - 2011



ISM-SEM Index		2010 - 2011					
		November	December	January	February	March	April
Index		54.2	56.3	55.5	63.5	71.8	67.9
Index	3 month average	62.1	59.2	55.3	58.4	63.6	67.7

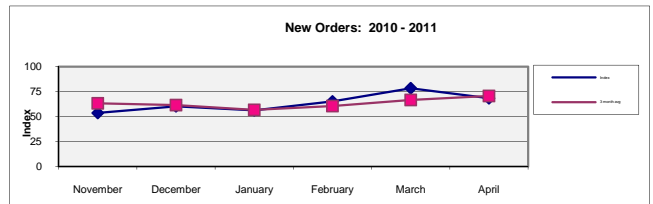
Production		2010 - 2011					
		November	December	January	February	March	April
	Higher	25.0	30.8	34.4	42.4	63.3	66.7
	Same	64.3	51.3	43.8	51.5	33.3	23.3
	Lower	10.7	17.9	21.9	6.1	3.3	10.0
Index		57.1	56.4	56.3	68.2	80.0	78.3
Index	3 month average	66.0	62.2	56.6	60.3	68.1	75.5

Production continues to increase for the 15th consecutive month.



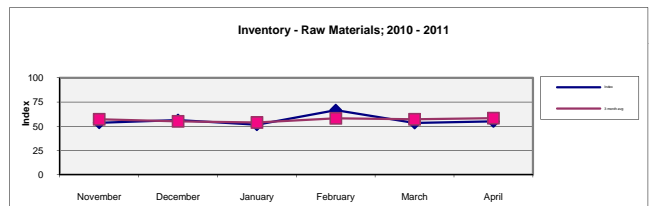
New Orders		2010 - 2011					
		November	December	January	February	March	April
	Higher	25.0	33.3	31.3	48.5	60.0	53.3
	Same	57.1	53.8	50.0	33.3	36.7	30.0
	Lower	17.9	12.8	18.8	18.2	3.3	16.7
Index		53.6	60.3	56.3	65.2	78.3	68.3
Index	3 month average	63.2	61.4	56.7	60.6	66.6	70.6

New orders declined slightly from March, but still is increasing.



Inventory - Raw Materials		2010 - 2011					
		November	December	January	February	March	April
	Higher	17.9	20.5	25.0	45.5	16.7	36.7
	Same	71.4	71.8	53.1	42.4	73.3	36.7
	Lower	10.7	7.7	21.9	12.1	10.0	26.7
Index		53.6	56.4	51.6	66.7	53.3	55.0
Index	3 month average	57.3	55.0	53.8	58.2	57.2	58.3

Raw materials inventories increased slightly to 55.0.



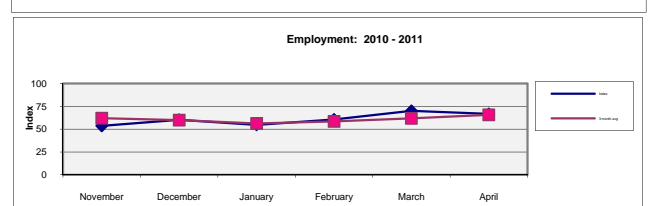
Inventory - Finished Goods		2010 - 2011					
		November	December	January	February	March	April
	Higher	7.1	12.8	25.0	24.2	20.0	40.0
	Same	82.1	69.2	53.1	60.6	56.7	40.0
	Lower	10.7	17.9	21.9	15.2	23.3	20.0
Index		48.2	47.4	51.6	54.5	48.3	60.0
Index	3 month average	51.8	49.0	49.1	51.2	51.5	54.3

Finished goods inventories are increasing in April, with an Index value of 60.0.



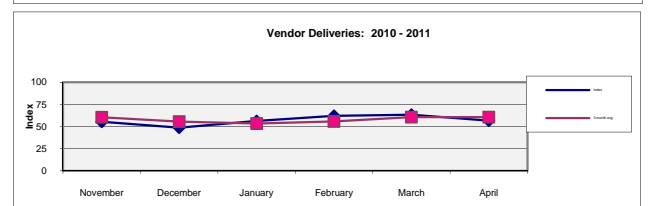
Employment		2010 - 2011					
		November	December	January	February	March	April
	Higher	17.9	33.3	25.0	27.3	46.7	43.3
	Same	71.4	53.8	59.4	66.7	46.7	46.7
	Lower	10.7	12.8	15.6	6.1	6.7	10.0
Index		53.6	60.3	54.7	60.6	70.0	66.7
Index	3 month average	62.0	59.9	56.2	58.5	61.8	65.8

Employment declined slightly from March, but is still improving.



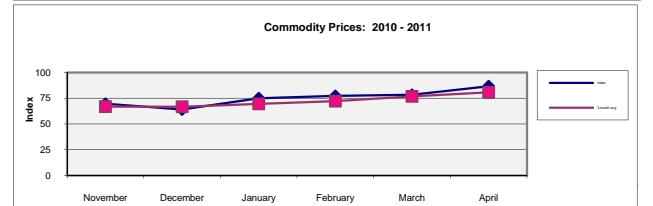
Vendor Deliveries		2010 - 2011					
		November	December	January	February	March	April
	Faster	10.7	15.4	3.1	0.0	3.3	13.3
	Same	67.9	71.8	81.3	75.8	66.7	60.0
	Slower	21.4	12.8	15.6	24.2	30.0	26.7
Index		55.4	48.7	56.3	62.1	63.3	56.7
Index	3 month average	60.4	55.6	53.4	55.7	60.6	60.7

Deliveries Index value declined to 56.7.



Commodity Prices		2010 - 2011					
		November	December	January	February	March	April
	Higher	39.3	28.2	50.0	57.6	56.7	73.3
	Same	60.7	71.8	50.0	39.4	43.3	26.7
	Lower	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	0.0	0.0
Index		69.6	64.1	75.0	77.3	78.3	86.7
Index	3 month average	66.9	66.8	69.6	72.1	76.9	80.8

Commodity prices continue upward march to 86.7.

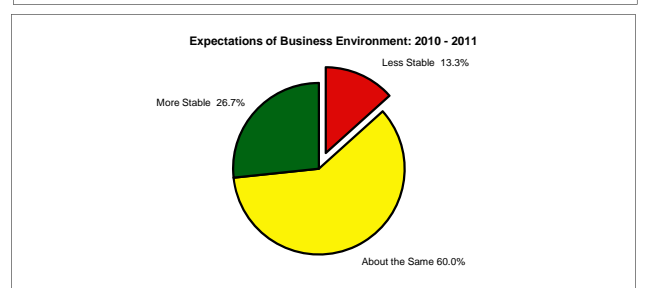


Expectations of Business Environment

6 months into the future:

Less Stable	13.3	percent
About the same	60.0	percent
More Stable	26.7	percent

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



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