



April - 2013 (FOR RELEASE: May 1, 2013 - 6 am EST)

**The ISM - Southeast Michigan Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) at 55.3 --**

**ISM-SEM Index:** In April, the PMI remained relatively constant, adjusting from 55.7 to 55.3. Three of the last 4 months were above 50, and the three month average is at 54.2. The three month average has now remained between 50 and 55 for nine consecutive reports.

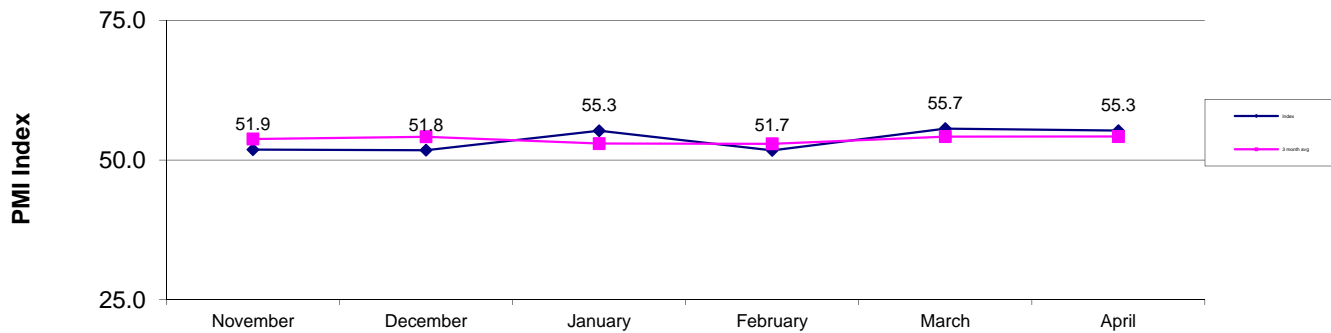
**Employment:** The Employment index dropped by just over a point, from 60.6 in March to 59.4 in April. The three month average continues to rise, and is now at 58.0.

**Commodity Prices:** Surprisingly, the commodity price index dropped to 50.00. This represents a sixteen point drop in the last two months, from February's 66.7. The three month average is at 58.5, propped up by the two preceding months.

**Items up or down in price:** April shows pharmaceuticals, aluminum, crude oil based commodities, butadiene are up in price. Propylene based resins, copper, Polypropylene; Polyester Fibers are down.

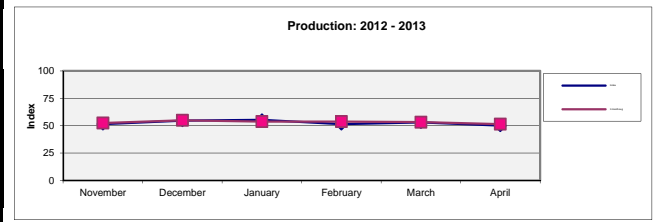
**Economic Issues:** The April survey shows that the Southeast Michigan Economy continues to strengthen at a modest pace. The April Index declined slightly from 55.7 to 55.3, but continues to show that the region's economy is improving. The Southeast Michigan Purchasing Managers Index has maintained a value of over 50 for 37 of the past 38 months- a very encouraging sign. A PMI value over 50 typically indicates an expanding economy. The New Orders Index, which is a component of the PMI Index, sharply increased to 60.6 from 55.9. Other economic factors contributing to the strong PMI value includes Employment Index and Vendor Delivery Index, each of which showed values of 59.4 and 54.5, respectively. Economic factors which slowed in April were Finished Goods Inventory and Commodity Prices. Purchasing managers reported that pharmaceuticals, aluminum, crude oil based commodities, and butadiene were up in price, while propylene based resins, copper, and polyester fibers are down in price. Purchasing Managers commented that "recruiting activity is way up from March", and "We are dependent on the global economy and consumer confidence. Consumer activity must remain positive." More pessimistic comments include: "right now we're doing government work and that has been cut back. Bidding other automotive segments with no positive results yet", and "Government needs to quit playing games and recognize that people are getting tired of the politics that are causing cutbacks in business because of their failures to establish a long term strategy of spending". The survey indicated that about 73% of respondents anticipate that the economy will remain about the same. About 12% see the economy becoming more stable and 15% anticipating that the economy will become less stable.

**Southeast Michigan Index: 2012 - 2013**



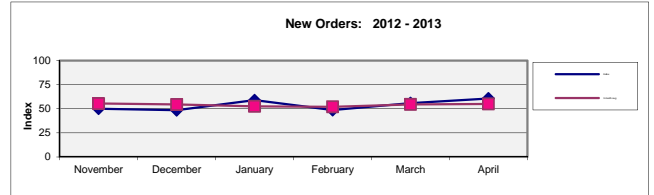
ISM-SEM Index		2012 - 2013					
		November	December	January	February	March	April
Index		51.9	51.8	55.3	51.7	55.7	55.3
Index	3 month average	53.8	54.2	53.0	52.9	54.2	54.2
Production		2012 - 2013					
		November	December	January	February	March	April
	Higher	24.3	36.4	25.0	25.0	29.4	18.2
	Same	54.1	36.4	60.7	52.8	47.1	63.6
	Lower	21.6	27.3	14.3	22.2	23.5	18.2
Index		51.4	54.5	55.4	51.4	52.9	50.0
Index	3 month average	52.4	54.9	53.8	53.8	53.2	51.4

Production dropped to 50.



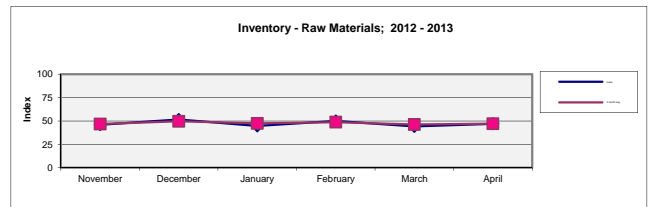
New Orders		2012 - 2013					
		November	December	January	February	March	April
	Higher	24.3	27.3	32.1	25.0	32.4	42.4
	Same	51.4	42.4	53.6	47.2	47.1	36.4
	Lower	24.3	30.3	14.3	27.8	20.6	21.2
<b>Index</b>		50.0	48.5	58.9	48.6	55.9	60.6
<b>Index</b>	3 month average	55.4	54.4	52.5	52.0	54.5	55.0

New orders increased sharply to 60.6.



Inventory - Raw Materials		2012 - 2013					
		November	December	January	February	March	April
	Higher	10.8	21.2	7.1	19.4	11.8	18.2
	Same	70.3	60.6	75.0	61.1	64.7	57.6
	Lower	18.9	18.2	17.9	19.4	23.5	24.2
<b>Index</b>		45.9	51.5	44.6	50.0	44.1	47.0
<b>Index</b>	3 month average	46.7	49.6	47.4	48.7	46.3	47.0

Raw materials inventories increased somewhat.



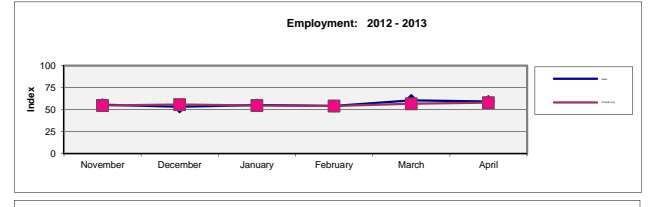
Inventory - Finished Goods		2012 - 2013					
		November	December	January	February	March	April
	Higher	10.8	18.2	14.3	16.7	23.5	15.2
	Same	70.3	63.6	64.3	69.4	55.9	60.6
	Lower	18.9	18.2	21.4	13.9	20.6	24.2
<b>Index</b>		45.9	50.0	46.4	51.4	51.5	45.5
<b>Index</b>	3 month average	48.2	48.2	47.5	49.3	49.8	49.4

Finished goods inventories dropped below 50.



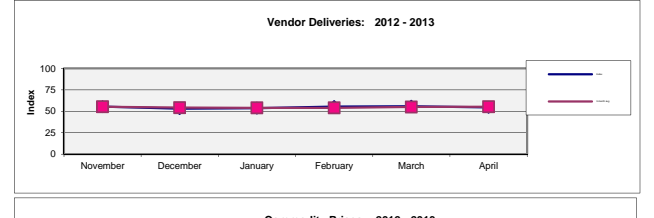
Employment		2012 - 2013					
		November	December	January	February	March	April
	Higher	22.9	19.4	25.0	25.0	33.3	31.3
	Same	65.7	67.7	60.7	58.3	54.5	56.3
	Lower	11.4	12.9	14.3	16.7	12.1	12.5
<b>Index</b>		55.7	53.2	55.4	54.2	60.6	59.4
<b>Index</b>	3 month average	54.8	55.9	54.8	54.2	56.7	58.0

Employment dropped slightly.



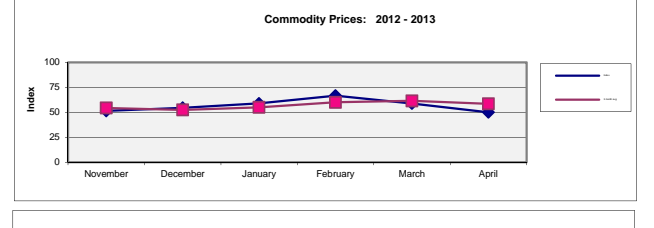
Vendor Deliveries		2012 - 2013					
		November	December	January	February	March	April
	Faster	2.7	9.1	3.6	8.3	2.9	6.1
	Same	83.8	75.8	85.7	72.2	82.4	78.8
	Slower	13.5	15.2	10.7	19.4	14.7	15.2
<b>Index</b>		55.4	53.0	53.6	55.6	55.9	54.5
<b>Index</b>	3 month average	55.2	54.3	54.0	54.1	55.0	55.3

Deliveries dropped slightly.



Commodity Prices		2012 - 2013					
		November	December	January	February	March	April
	Higher	13.5	21.2	21.4	36.1	17.6	18.2
	Same	75.7	66.7	75.0	61.1	82.4	63.6
	Lower	10.8	12.1	3.6	2.8	0.0	18.2
<b>Index</b>		51.4	54.5	58.9	66.7	58.8	50.0
<b>Index</b>	3 month average	54.4	52.5	54.9	60.0	61.5	58.5

Commodity prices dropped sharply to 50.

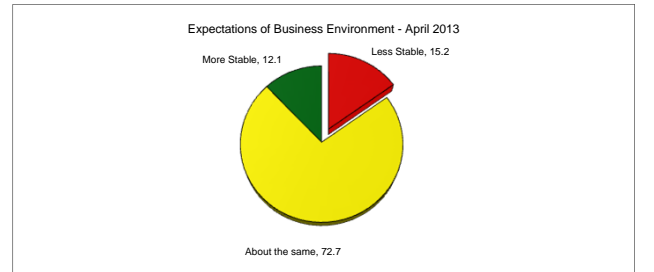


#### Expectations of Business Environment - April 2013

6 months into the future:

Less Stable	15.2	percent
About the same	72.7	percent
More Stable	12.1	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"



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