

# Empire State Manufacturing Survey

Business activity was little changed in New York State, according to firms responding to the November 2019 *Empire State Manufacturing Survey*. The headline general business conditions index came in at 2.9, roughly in line with its level in October. New orders increased slightly, and shipments grew modestly. Delivery times were somewhat shorter and inventories declined. Employment continued to expand, and the average workweek was slightly longer. Input price increases continued to slow, while selling prices increased modestly. Optimism about the six-month outlook remained subdued, while capital spending plans picked up markedly.

## Growth Remains Sluggish

Manufacturing firms in New York State reported that business activity was little

changed from last month. The general business conditions index was sluggish for the sixth consecutive month, coming in at 2.9 in November. Twenty-eight percent of respondents reported that conditions had improved over the month, while 26 percent reported that conditions had worsened. The new orders index edged up two points to 5.5, pointing to a small increase in orders. The shipments index fell four points to 8.8, a level indicating that shipments grew more modestly than last month. The unfilled orders index remained negative for a sixth consecutive month, indicating that unfilled orders continued to decline. Delivery times shortened and inventories were modestly lower.

## Ongoing Employment Growth

The index for number of employees edged up to 10.4, indicating that

employment expanded for the third consecutive month. The average workweek index came in at 2.3, indicating a slightly longer workweek. Input price increases continued to decelerate, with the prices paid index moving down three points to 20.5. The prices received index held steady at 6.2.

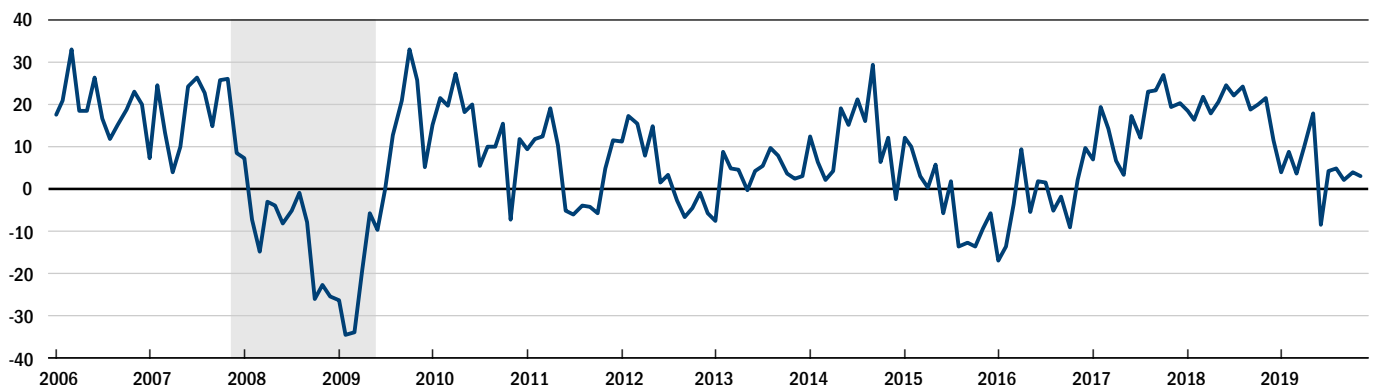
## Optimism Restrained

Indexes assessing the six-month outlook suggested that optimism about future conditions remained subdued. The index for future business conditions came in at 19.4. The index for future unfilled orders turned positive for the first time in several months, and inventories were expected to increase. The capital expenditures index jumped ten points to 19.2, and the technology spending index increased to 15.1. ■

## General Business Conditions

Seasonally Adjusted

Diffusion Index

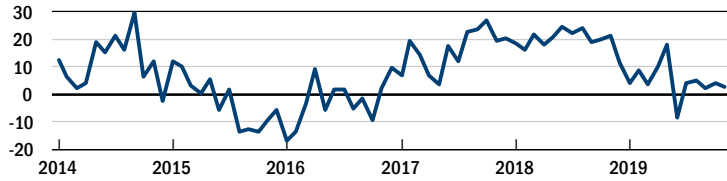


Note: The shaded area indicates a period designated a recession by the National Bureau of Economic Research.

# Current Indicators

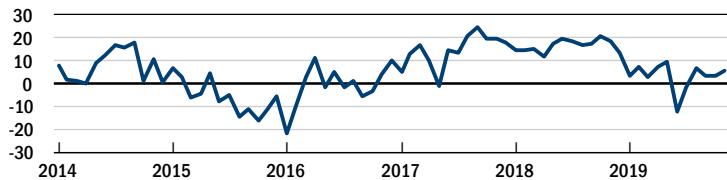
Change from Preceding Month

## General Business Conditions



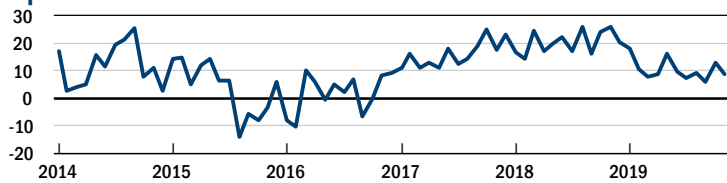
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Oct	30.2	26.1	4.0
Nov	28.4	25.5	2.9
Change			-1.1

## New Orders



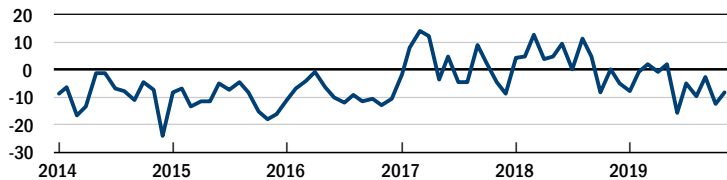
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Oct	34.3	30.8	3.5
Nov	32.9	27.5	5.5
Change			2.0

## Shipments



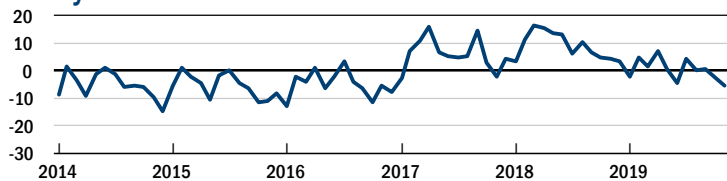
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Oct	37.0	24.0	13.0
Nov	34.6	25.8	8.8
Change			-4.2

## Unfilled Orders



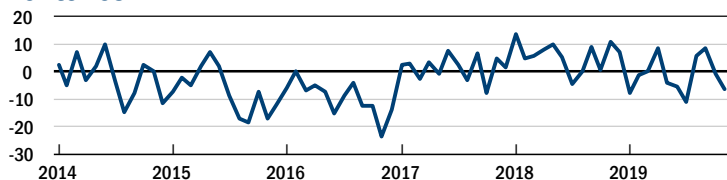
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Oct	13.8	26.3	-12.5
Nov	12.3	20.5	-8.2
Change			4.3

## Delivery Time



	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Oct	13.1	15.6	-2.5
Nov	11.0	16.4	-5.5
Change			-3.0

## Inventories

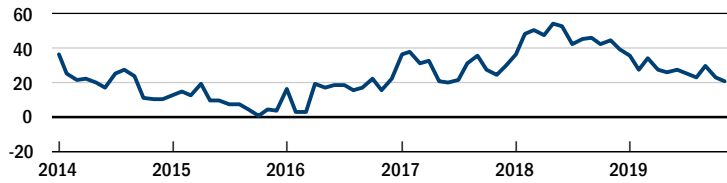


	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Oct	23.8	24.4	-0.6
Nov	21.2	27.4	-6.2
Change			-5.6

# Current Indicators, *continued*

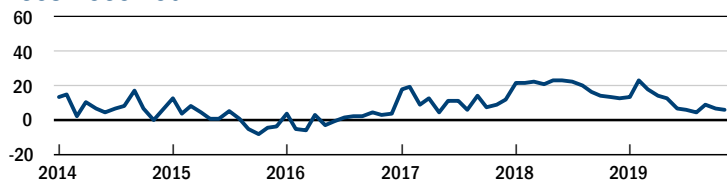
Change from Preceding Month

## Prices Paid



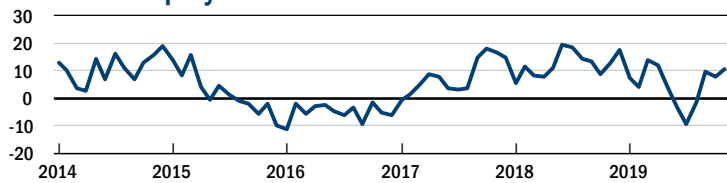
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Oct	28.8	5.6	23.1
Nov	24.7	4.1	20.5
Change			-2.6

## Prices Received



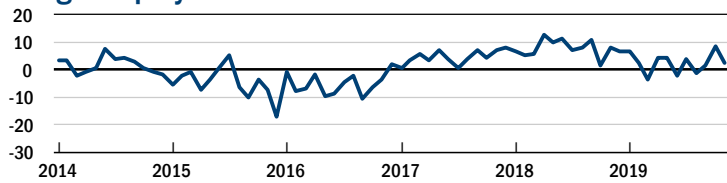
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Oct	14.4	8.1	6.3
Nov	11.6	5.5	6.2
Change			-0.1

## Number of Employees



	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Oct	17.3	9.7	7.6
Nov	22.0	11.6	10.4
Change			2.8

## Average Employee Workweek



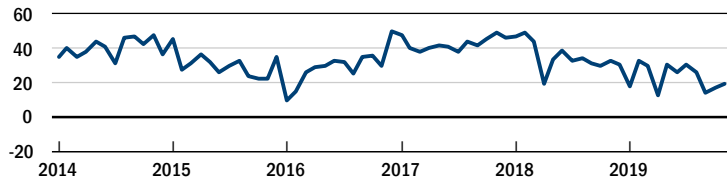
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Oct	18.2	9.9	8.3
Nov	14.5	12.2	2.3
Change			-6.0

Note: Data are seasonally adjusted.

# Forward-Looking Indicators

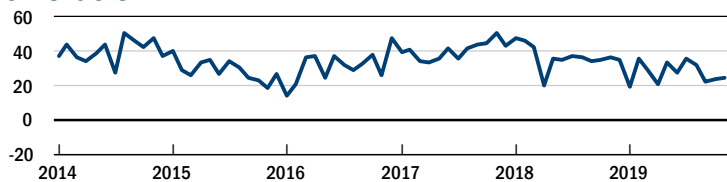
Expectations Six Months Ahead

## General Business Conditions



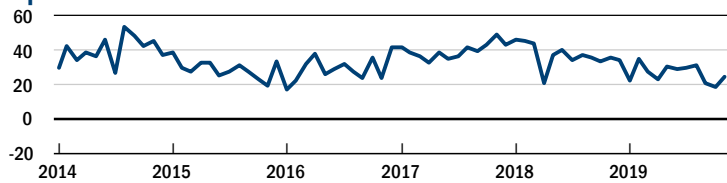
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Oct	36.9	19.9	17.1
Nov	43.2	23.8	19.4
Change			2.3

## New Orders



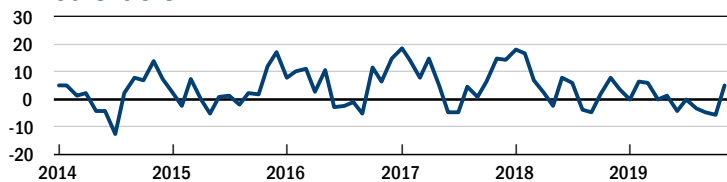
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Oct	41.4	17.9	23.5
Nov	44.7	20.5	24.2
Change			0.7

## Shipments



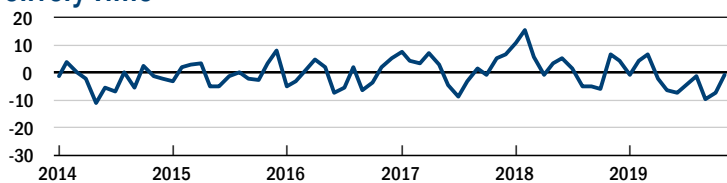
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Oct	38.8	19.9	18.9
Nov	44.6	20.2	24.4
Change			5.5

## Unfilled Orders



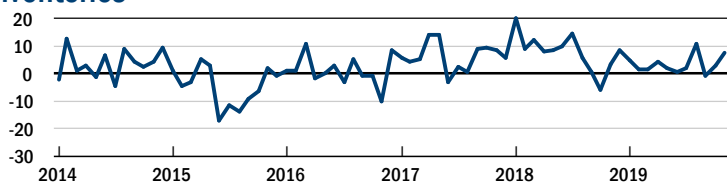
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Oct	12.5	18.1	-5.6
Nov	17.8	13.0	4.8
Change			10.4

## Delivery Time



	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Oct	8.8	16.3	-7.5
Nov	10.3	11.0	-0.7
Change			6.8

## Inventories

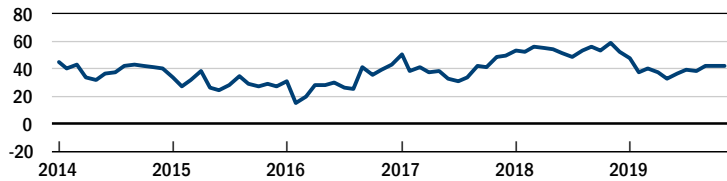


	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Oct	23.1	20.0	3.1
Nov	27.4	19.9	7.5
Change			4.4

# Forward-Looking Indicators, *continued*

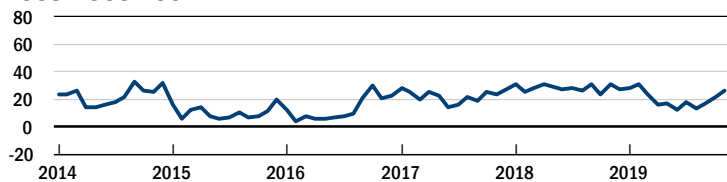
Expectations Six Months Ahead

## Prices Paid



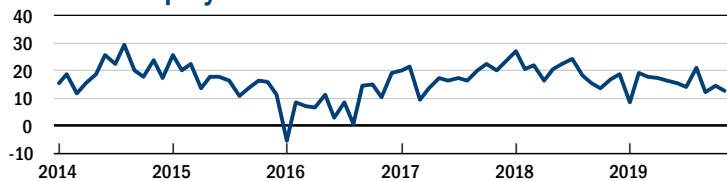
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Oct	47.5	5.0	42.5
Nov	45.2	2.7	42.5
Change			0.0

## Prices Received



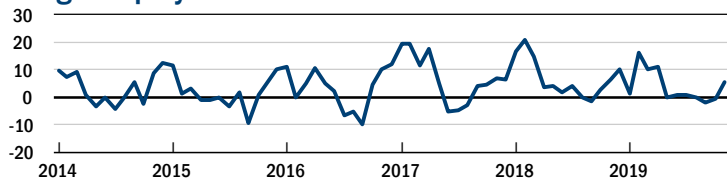
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Oct	30.6	9.4	21.3
Nov	29.5	3.4	26.0
Change			4.7

## Number of Employees



	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Oct	30.7	16.3	14.5
Nov	27.0	14.5	12.5
Change			-2.0

## Average Employee Workweek



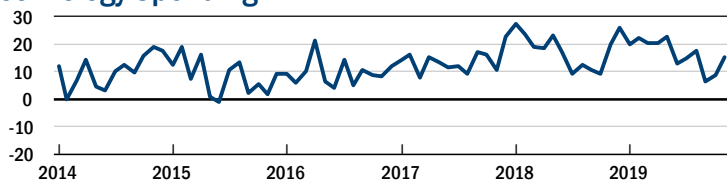
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Oct	13.1	13.8	-0.6
Nov	17.1	11.6	5.5
Change			6.1

## Capital Expenditures



	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Oct	28.1	19.4	8.8
Nov	30.8	11.6	19.2
Change			10.4

## Technology Spending



	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Oct	24.4	15.6	8.8
Nov	25.3	10.3	15.1
Change			6.3

Note: Data are seasonally adjusted.