

# Empire State Manufacturing Survey

The April 2014 *Empire State Manufacturing Survey* indicates that business activity was flat for New York manufacturers. The headline general business conditions index slipped four points to 1.3. The new orders index fell below zero to -2.8, pointing to a slight decline in orders, and the shipments index was little changed at 3.2. The unfilled orders index remained negative at -13.3, and the inventories index dropped ten points to -3.1. The prices paid index held steady at 22.5, indicating continued moderate input price increases, and the prices received index rose to 10.2, pointing to a pickup in selling price increases. Employment indexes showed a modest rise in employment levels and a slight increase in the average workweek. Indexes for the six-month outlook continued to convey a good deal of optimism about future conditions, and

the capital expenditures index climbed seven points to 23.5, its highest level in several months.

## Business Activity Flat

Business activity was flat for New York manufacturers, according to the April 2014 survey. The general business conditions index slipped four points to 1.3, with 26 percent of respondents reporting that conditions had improved over the month and 24 percent reporting that conditions had worsened. The new orders index dipped into negative territory, falling six points to -2.8—a sign that orders were slightly lower over the month. The shipments index was little changed at 3.2, pointing to a small increase in shipments, and the unfilled orders index remained negative at -13.3. The delivery time index fell six points to -9.2, indicating that delivery

times quickened. The inventories index fell ten points to -3.1, suggesting a slight decline in inventory levels.

## Selling Price Increases Pick Up

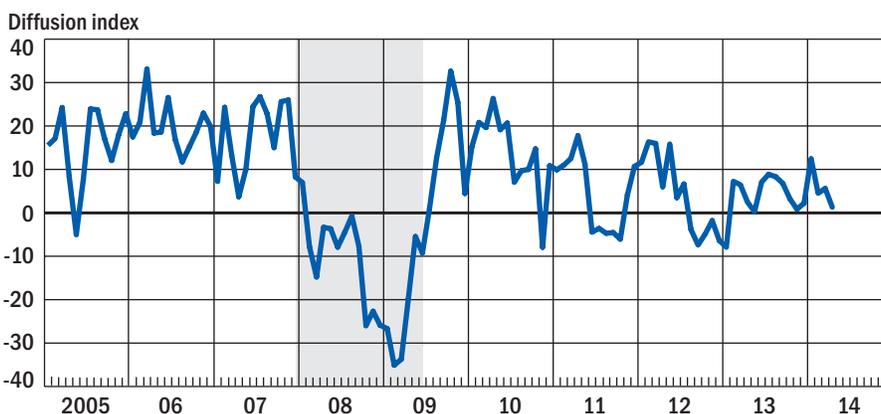
The prices paid index was little changed, and at 22.5, pointed to continued moderate input price increases. The prices received index climbed eight points to 10.2—evidence of a pickup in the pace of selling price increases. Employment indexes suggested modest improvement in labor market conditions. The index for number of employees inched up to 8.2, indicating a small increase in employment levels, and the average workweek index fell three points to 2.0, pointing to a slight increase in hours worked.

## Six-Month Outlook Remains Optimistic

Indexes for the six-month outlook continued to convey a fair amount of optimism about future business conditions. The index for expected general business conditions advanced five points to 38.2. The index for future new orders fell for a second consecutive month, though it remained at a fairly high level of 32.7. The index for future prices paid fell ten points to 33.7, and the index for future prices received posted a similar decline, falling twelve points to 14.3. The index for expected number of employees climbed five points to 22.5, while the index for the expected average workweek fell to 1.0. The capital expenditures index rose seven points to 23.5, its highest level in several months, and the technology spending index moved up seven points to 14.3. ■

## General Business Conditions

Seasonally adjusted



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

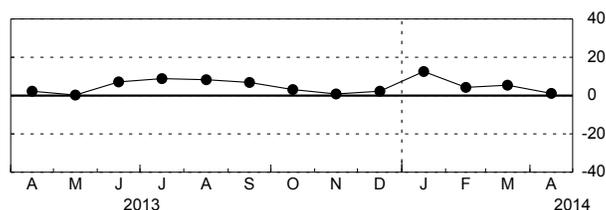
# Current Indicators

Change from Preceding Month

## General Business Conditions

	<u>Higher</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Lower</u>	<u>Index</u>
Mar	30.26	45.08	24.65	5.61
Apr	25.67	49.95	24.38	1.29

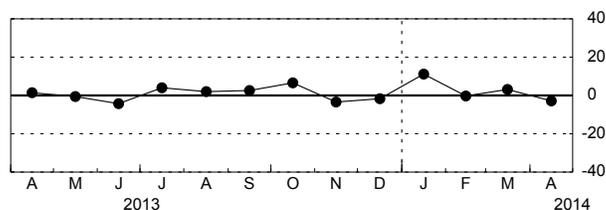
General Business Conditions - Diffusion Index



## New Orders

	<u>Higher</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Lower</u>	<u>Index</u>
Mar	30.39	42.34	27.27	3.13
Apr	23.08	51.07	25.85	-2.77

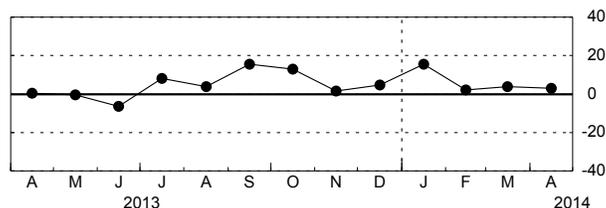
New Orders - Diffusion Index



## Shipments

	<u>Higher</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Lower</u>	<u>Index</u>
Mar	34.65	34.66	30.69	3.97
Apr	27.32	48.51	24.17	3.15

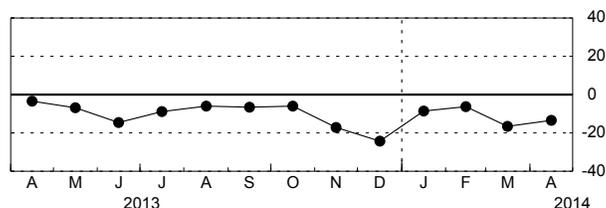
Shipments - Diffusion Index



## Unfilled Orders

	<u>Higher</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Lower</u>	<u>Index</u>
Mar	12.94	57.65	29.41	-16.47
Apr	12.24	62.24	25.51	-13.27

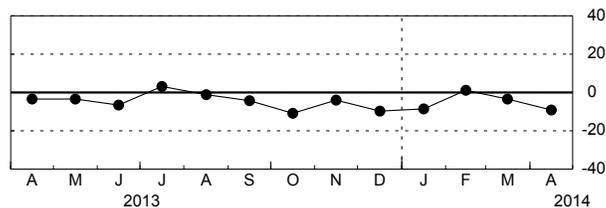
Unfilled Orders - Diffusion Index



## Delivery Time

	<u>Higher</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Lower</u>	<u>Index</u>
Mar	9.41	77.65	12.94	-3.53
Apr	5.10	80.61	14.29	-9.18

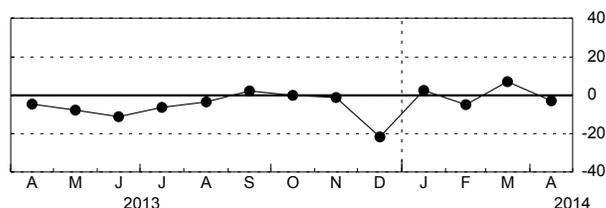
Delivery Time - Diffusion Index



## Inventories

	<u>Higher</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Lower</u>	<u>Index</u>
Mar	24.71	57.65	17.65	7.06
Apr	13.27	70.41	16.33	-3.06

Inventories - Diffusion Index



## Current Indicators, *continued*

### Change from Preceding Month

#### Prices Paid

	<u>Higher</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Lower</u>	<u>Index</u>
Mar	23.53	74.12	2.35	21.18
Apr	27.55	67.35	5.10	22.45

#### Prices Received

	<u>Higher</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Lower</u>	<u>Index</u>
Mar	11.76	78.82	9.41	2.35
Apr	16.33	77.55	6.12	10.20

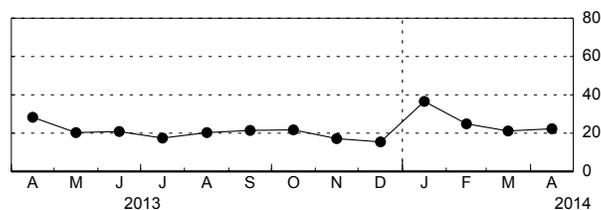
#### Number of Employees

	<u>Higher</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Lower</u>	<u>Index</u>
Mar	18.82	68.24	12.94	5.88
Apr	18.37	71.43	10.20	8.16

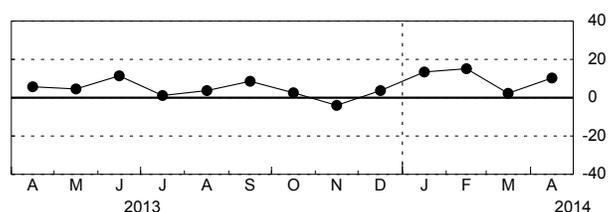
#### Average Employee Workweek

	<u>Higher</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Lower</u>	<u>Index</u>
Mar	14.12	76.47	9.41	4.71
Apr	12.24	77.55	10.20	2.04

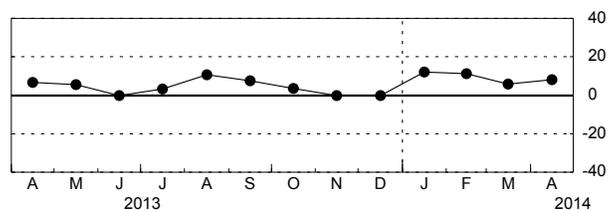
Prices Paid - Diffusion Index



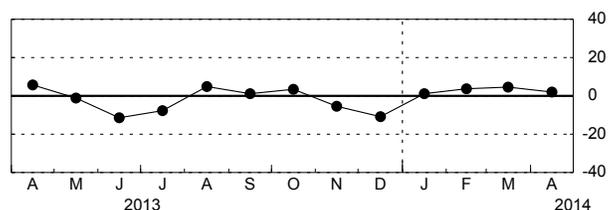
Prices Received - Diffusion Index



Number of Employees - Diffusion Index



Average Employee Workweek - Diffusion Index



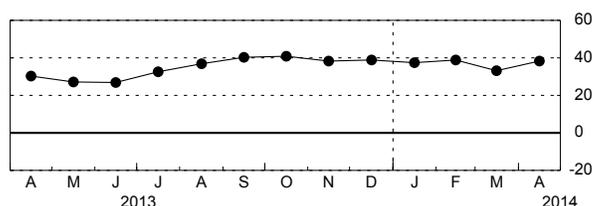
# Forward-Looking Indicators

Expectations Six Months Ahead

## General Business Conditions

	<u>Higher</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Lower</u>	<u>Index</u>
Mar	47.75	37.71	14.54	33.21
Apr	47.54	43.14	9.31	38.23

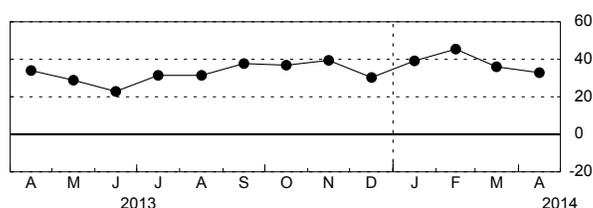
General Business Conditions - Diffusion Index



## New Orders

	<u>Higher</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Lower</u>	<u>Index</u>
Mar	47.73	40.56	11.71	36.02
Apr	44.16	44.37	11.47	32.69

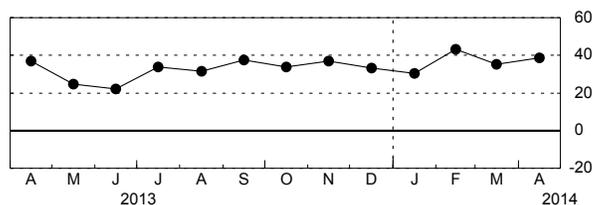
New Orders - Diffusion Index



## Shipments

	<u>Higher</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Lower</u>	<u>Index</u>
Mar	48.03	39.10	12.87	35.17
Apr	47.40	44.03	8.57	38.83

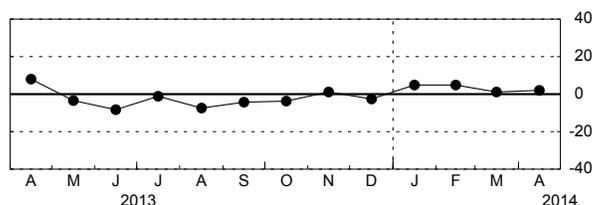
Shipments - Diffusion Index



## Unfilled Orders

	<u>Higher</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Lower</u>	<u>Index</u>
Mar	16.47	68.24	15.29	1.18
Apr	13.27	75.51	11.22	2.04

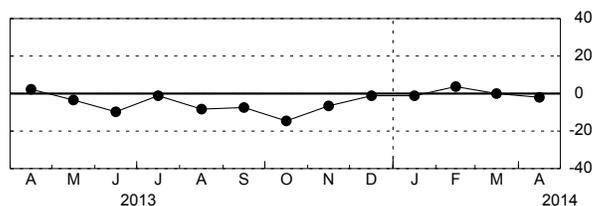
Unfilled Orders - Diffusion Index



## Delivery Time

	<u>Higher</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Lower</u>	<u>Index</u>
Mar	11.76	76.47	11.76	0.00
Apr	10.20	77.55	12.24	-2.04

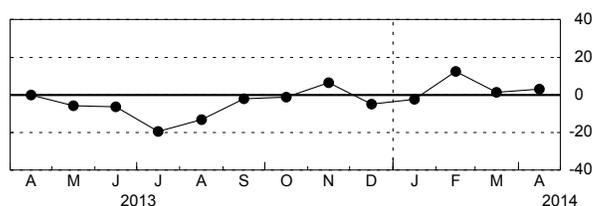
Delivery Time - Diffusion Index



## Inventories

	<u>Higher</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Lower</u>	<u>Index</u>
Mar	22.35	56.47	21.18	1.18
Apr	17.35	68.37	14.29	3.06

Inventories - Diffusion Index



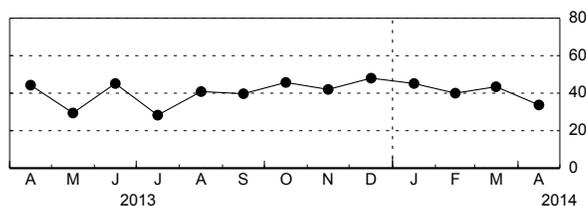
## Forward-Looking Indicators, *continued*

### Expectations Six Months Ahead

#### Prices Paid

	<u>Higher</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Lower</u>	<u>Index</u>
Mar	48.24	47.06	4.71	43.53
Apr	37.76	58.16	4.08	33.67

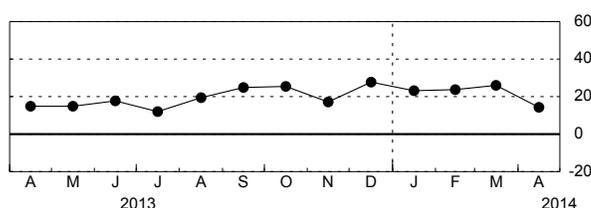
Prices Paid - Diffusion Index



#### Prices Received

	<u>Higher</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Lower</u>	<u>Index</u>
Mar	31.76	62.35	5.88	25.88
Apr	23.47	67.35	9.18	14.29

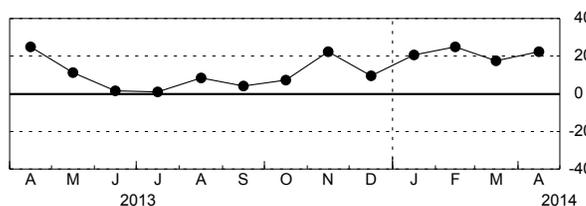
Prices Received - Diffusion Index



#### Number of Employees

	<u>Higher</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Lower</u>	<u>Index</u>
Mar	28.24	61.18	10.59	17.65
Apr	28.57	65.31	6.12	22.45

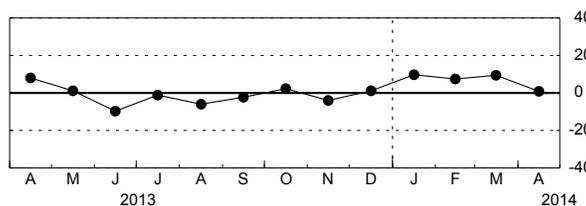
Number of Employees - Diffusion Index



#### Average Employee Workweek

	<u>Higher</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Lower</u>	<u>Index</u>
Mar	18.82	71.76	9.41	9.41
Apr	11.22	78.57	10.20	1.02

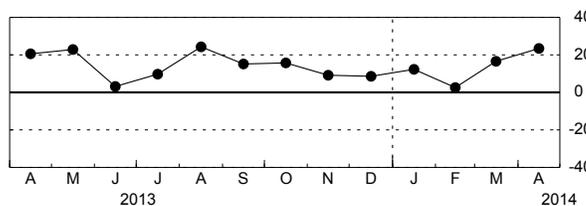
Average Employee Workweek - Diffusion Index



#### Capital Expenditures

	<u>Higher</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Lower</u>	<u>Index</u>
Mar	31.76	52.94	15.29	16.47
Apr	31.63	60.20	8.16	23.47

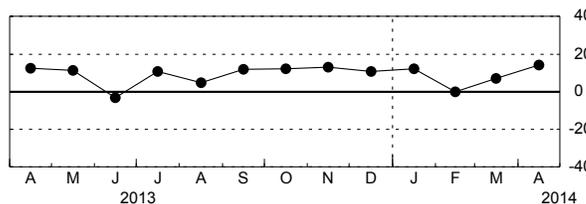
Capital Expenditures - Diffusion Index



#### Technology Spending

	<u>Higher</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Lower</u>	<u>Index</u>
Mar	22.35	62.35	15.29	7.06
Apr	23.47	67.35	9.18	14.29

Technology Spending - Diffusion Index



Note: All data are seasonally adjusted.