

Empire State Manufacturing Survey

Note: Survey responses were collected between April 4 and April 11.

Business activity picked up markedly in New York State, according to firms responding to the April 2022 *Empire State Manufacturing Survey*. The headline general business conditions index surged thirty-six points to 24.6. New orders and shipments grew strongly, and unfilled orders increased. Delivery times lengthened, though at a slower pace than in recent months, and inventories rose. Labor market indicators pointed to a small increase in employment and the average workweek. The prices paid index hit a record high, and the prices received index remained elevated. Plans for capital and technology spending were solid. Looking ahead, firms were significantly less optimistic about the six-month outlook than in recent months.

Activity Bounces Back

After three months of sluggishness,

manufacturing activity picked up significantly in New York State, according to the April survey. The general business conditions index shot up thirty-six points to 24.6. Forty percent of respondents reported that conditions had improved over the month, while fifteen percent reported that conditions had worsened. The new orders index climbed thirty-six points to 25.1, and the shipments index rose forty-two points to 34.5, pointing to a strong rebound in orders and shipments after both declined last month. The unfilled orders index came in at 17.3. The delivery times index moved down eleven points to 21.8, pointing to ongoing increases in delivery times, and inventories grew modestly.

Input Price Increases Hit Fresh Record

The index for number of employees posted a second monthly decline,

dropping seven points to 7.3, and the average workweek index came in at 10.0, pointing to a small increase in employment levels and the average workweek. The prices paid index climbed thirteen points to 86.4, a record high, and the prices received index retreated seven points from last month's record high, signaling ongoing substantial increases in both input prices and selling prices.

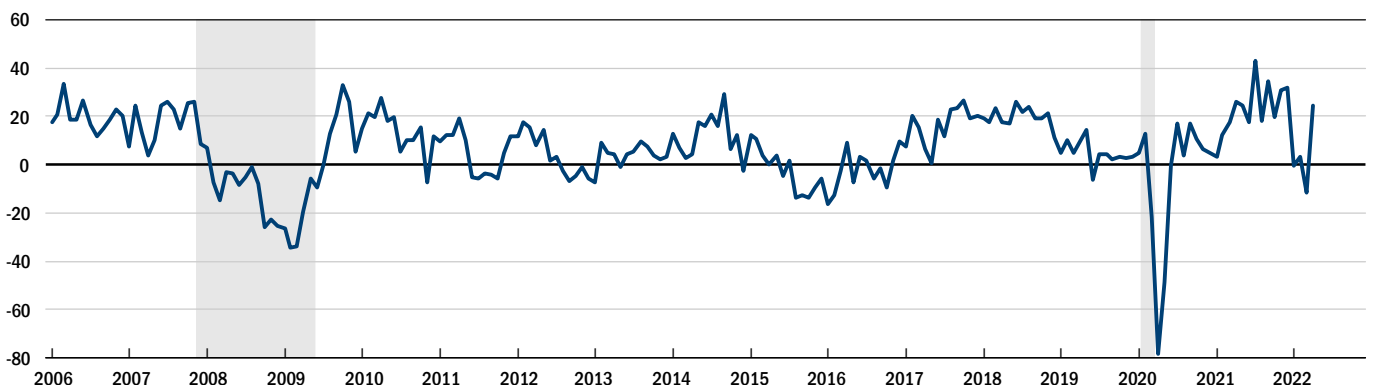
Optimism Wanes

Optimism about the six-month outlook declined noticeably. The index for future business conditions fell twenty-one points to 15.2, its lowest level since early in the pandemic. Longer delivery times, higher prices, and increases in employment are all expected in the months ahead, and capital spending plans remained firm. ■

General Business Conditions

Seasonally Adjusted

Diffusion Index

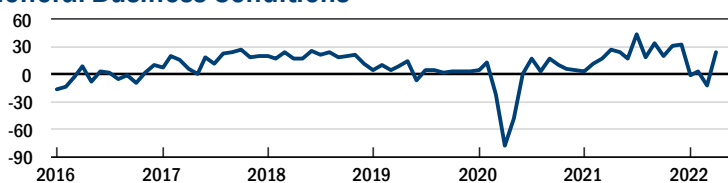


Note: The shaded areas indicate periods designated as recessions by the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Current Indicators

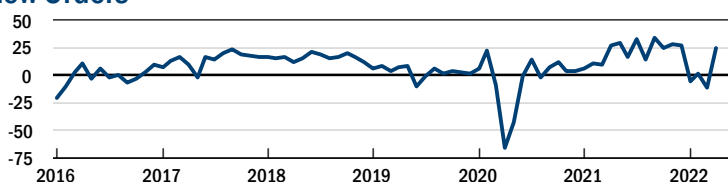
Change from Preceding Month

General Business Conditions



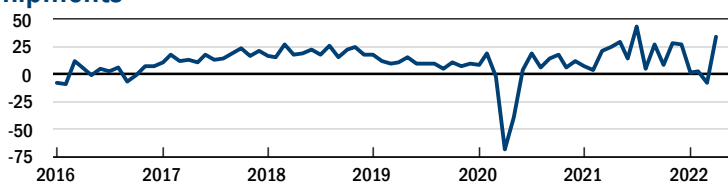
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	23.6	35.4	-11.8
Apr	39.6	15.0	24.6
Change			36.4

New Orders



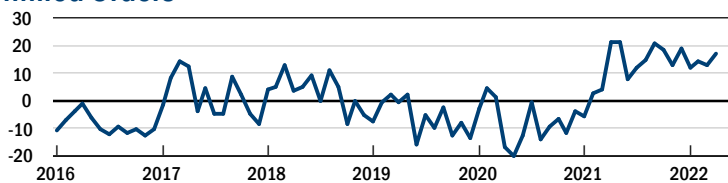
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	23.9	35.1	-11.2
Apr	43.3	18.2	25.1
Change			36.3

Shipments



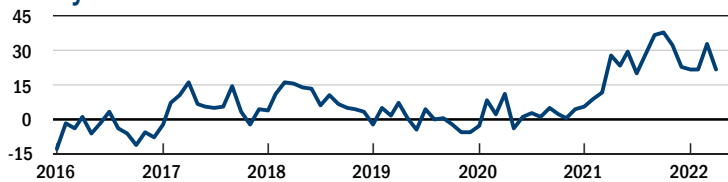
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	26.2	33.6	-7.4
Apr	45.4	10.9	34.5
Change			41.9

Unfilled Orders



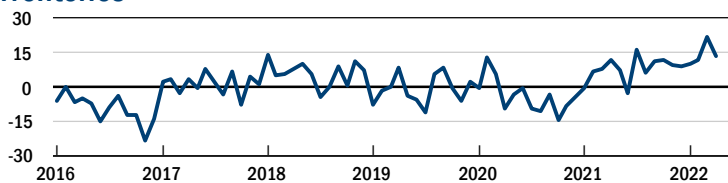
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	28.0	15.0	13.1
Apr	30.9	13.6	17.3
Change			4.2

Delivery Time



	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	38.3	5.6	32.7
Apr	31.8	10.0	21.8
Change			-10.9

Inventories

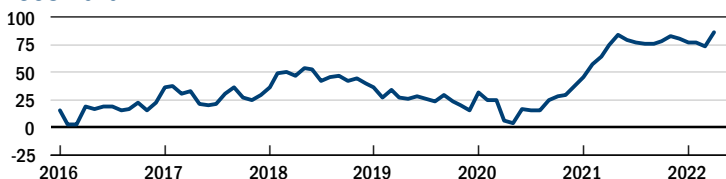


	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	31.8	10.3	21.5
Apr	31.8	18.2	13.6
Change			-7.9

Current Indicators, *continued*

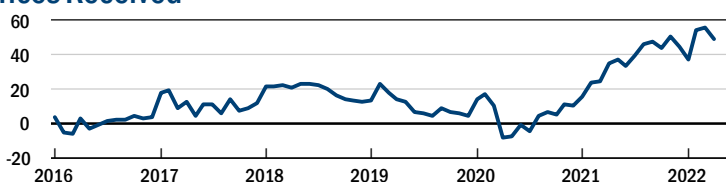
Change from Preceding Month

Prices Paid



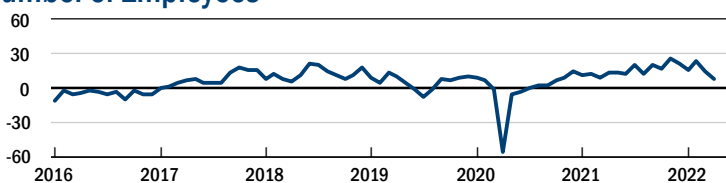
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	74.8	0.9	73.8
Apr	86.4	0.0	86.4
Change			12.6

Prices Received



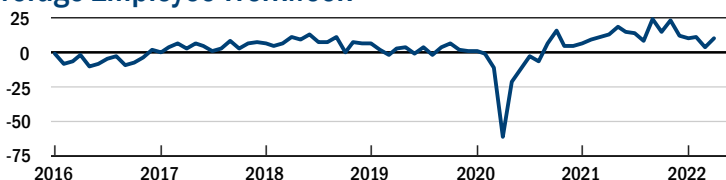
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	57.0	0.9	56.1
Apr	49.1	0.0	49.1
Change			-7.0

Number of Employees



	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	20.7	6.2	14.5
Apr	15.2	7.9	7.3
Change			-7.2

Average Employee Workweek



	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	11.7	8.3	3.5
Apr	12.3	2.2	10.0
Change			6.5

Note: Data are seasonally adjusted.

Forward-Looking Indicators

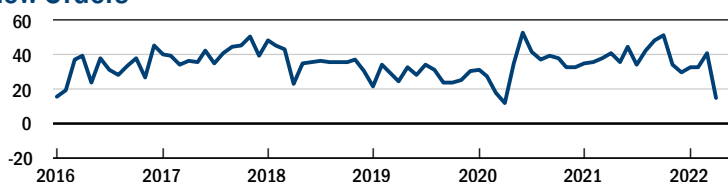
Expectations Six Months Ahead

General Business Conditions



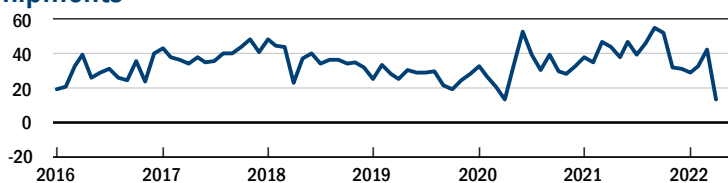
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	50.7	14.2	36.6
Apr	38.9	23.7	15.2
Change			-21.4

New Orders



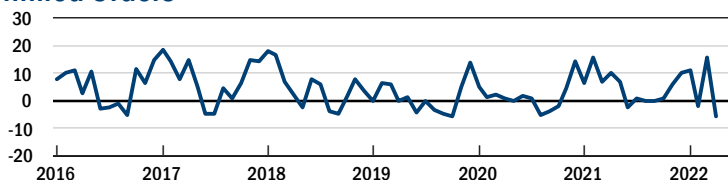
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	54.1	13.0	41.1
Apr	38.0	23.0	15.0
Change			-26.1

Shipments



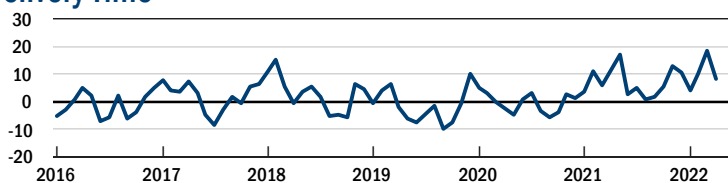
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	53.8	11.5	42.3
Apr	38.4	25.0	13.4
Change			-28.9

Unfilled Orders



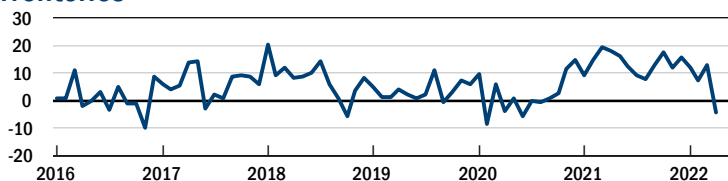
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	28.0	12.1	15.9
Apr	15.5	20.9	-5.5
Change			-21.4

Delivery Time



	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	29.0	10.3	18.7
Apr	20.9	12.7	8.2
Change			-10.5

Inventories

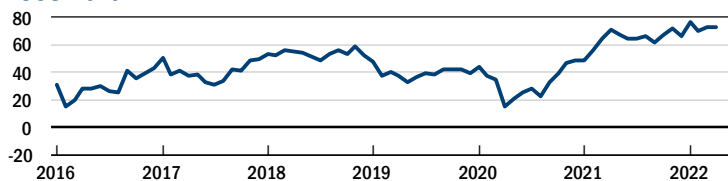


	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	33.6	20.6	13.1
Apr	19.1	23.6	-4.5
Change			-17.6

Forward-Looking Indicators, *continued*

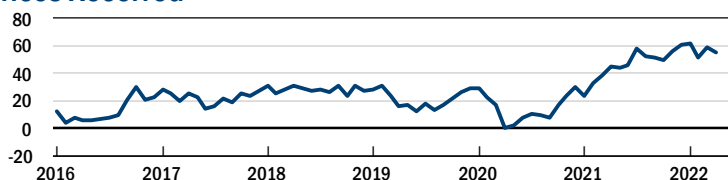
Expectations Six Months Ahead

Prices Paid



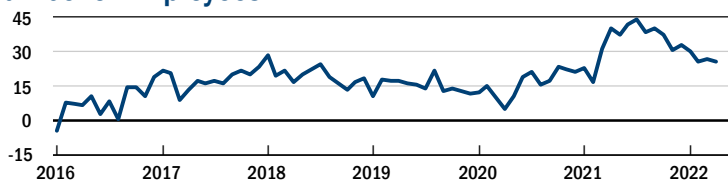
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	78.5	5.6	72.9
Apr	75.5	2.7	72.7
Change			-0.2

Prices Received



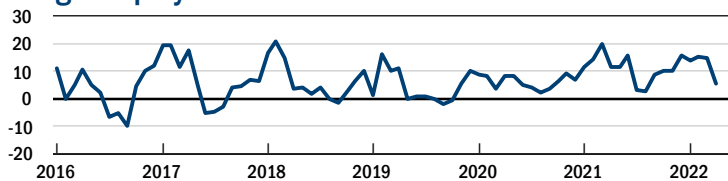
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	63.6	4.7	58.9
Apr	58.2	2.7	55.5
Change			-3.4

Number of Employees



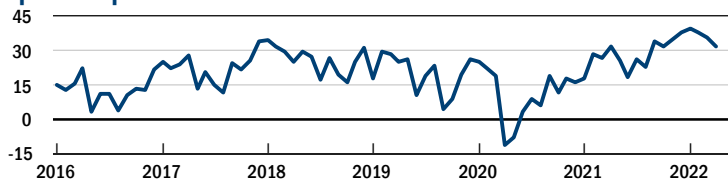
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	31.0	4.0	27.0
Apr	33.7	7.9	25.8
Change			-1.2

Average Employee Workweek



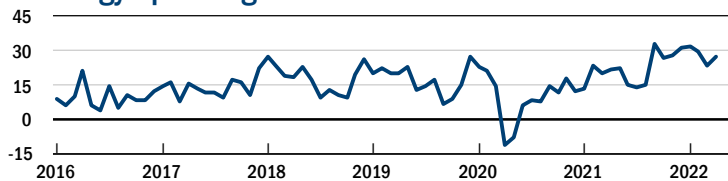
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	20.6	5.6	15.0
Apr	14.5	9.1	5.5
Change			-9.5

Capital Expenditures



	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	40.2	4.7	35.5
Apr	38.2	6.4	31.8
Change			-3.7

Technology Spending



	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	29.0	5.6	23.4
Apr	32.7	5.5	27.3
Change			3.9

Note: Data are seasonally adjusted.