

Empire State Manufacturing Survey

Note: Survey responses were collected between March 2 and March 9.

Business activity was little changed in New York State in March, according to firms responding to the *Empire State Manufacturing Survey*. The headline general business conditions index fell seven points to -0.2. New orders increased modestly, while shipments declined. Unfilled orders rose, delivery times lengthened, and supply availability was slightly worse. Inventories increased. Employment rose modestly and the average workweek edged up. The pace of input price increases declined significantly, but remained elevated, while the pace of selling price increases was little changed. Firms remained optimistic that conditions would improve in the months ahead, and capital spending plans strengthened.

Activity Remains Relatively Unchanged

Manufacturing activity held steady in New York State, according to the March survey. The general business conditions index fell seven points to -0.2, with just over 30 percent of firms reporting an increase in activity and the same percentage reporting a decrease. The new orders index was little changed at 6.4, pointing to a small increase

ECONOMIST COMMENTARY

“Manufacturing activity held steady in New York State in March. Delivery times lengthened and supply availability worsened slightly. Firms remained optimistic about the outlook.”

~Richard Deitz, Economic Research Advisor at the New York Fed

in orders, while the shipments index fell six points to -6.9, indicating that shipments declined. The unfilled orders index rose two points to 10.8. The delivery times index rose ten points to 13.7, indicating that delivery times lengthened. Inventories moved higher. The supply availability index dipped three points to -3.9, suggesting that supply availability was slightly worse than last month.

Input Price Increases Slow

The index for number of employees rose two points to 5.8 and the average workweek index was little changed at 1.9, suggesting a modest increase in employment levels and a slight increase in hours worked. The

prices paid index fell thirteen points to 36.6, and the prices received index was little changed at 21.4, indicating that input price increases moderated while selling price increases held steady.

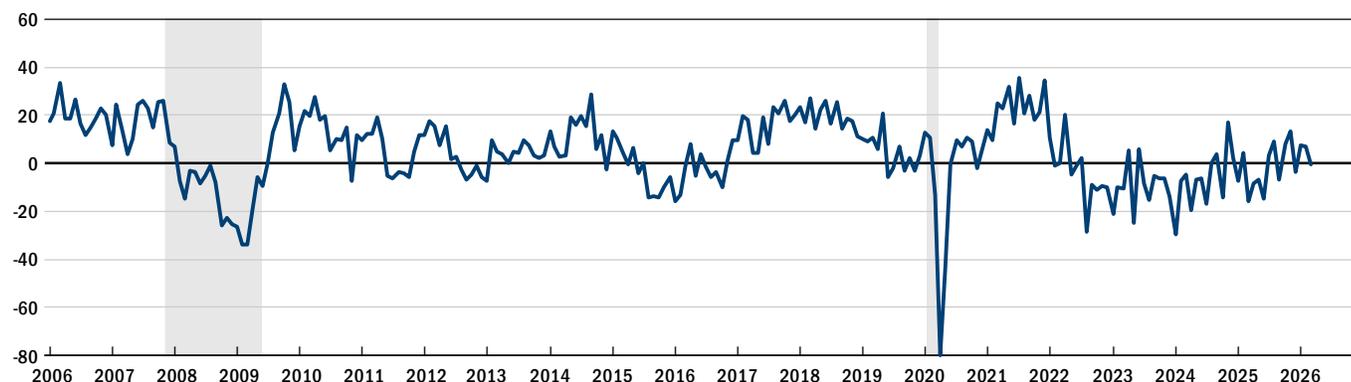
Firms Remain Optimistic

The index for future business conditions came in at 31.0, suggesting that firms continued to be optimistic about the outlook. New orders and shipments are expected to increase, and employment is expected to grow in the months ahead. The capital expenditures index rose three points to 21.6, a multi-year high, indicating that capital spending plans strengthened. ■

General Business Conditions

Seasonally Adjusted

Diffusion Index

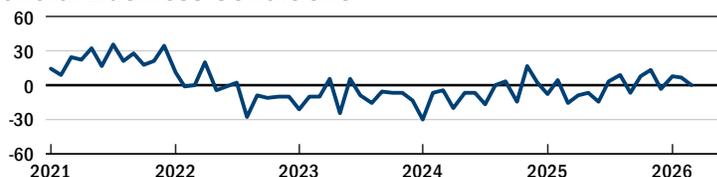


Note: The shaded areas indicate periods designated as recessions by the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Current Indicators

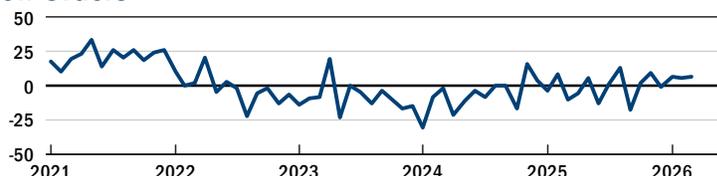
Change from Preceding Month

General Business Conditions



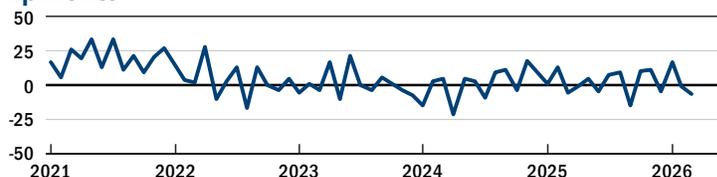
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Feb	36.0	28.9	7.1
Mar	31.5	31.7	-0.2
Change			-7.3

New Orders



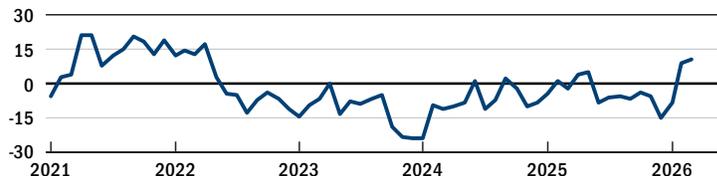
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Feb	34.7	28.9	5.8
Mar	34.2	27.8	6.4
Change			0.6

Shipments



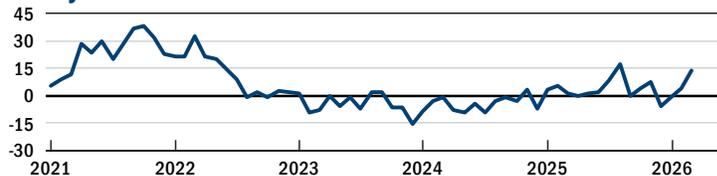
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Feb	27.1	28.2	-1.0
Mar	24.5	31.4	-6.9
Change			-5.9

Unfilled Orders



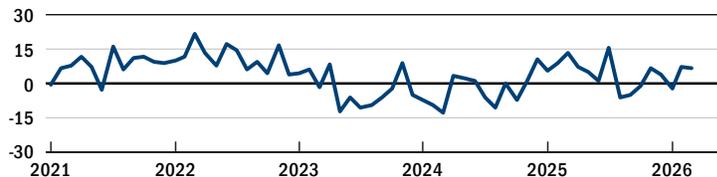
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Feb	20.2	11.1	9.1
Mar	20.6	9.8	10.8
Change			1.7

Delivery Time



	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Feb	17.2	13.1	4.0
Mar	17.6	3.9	13.7
Change			9.7

Inventories

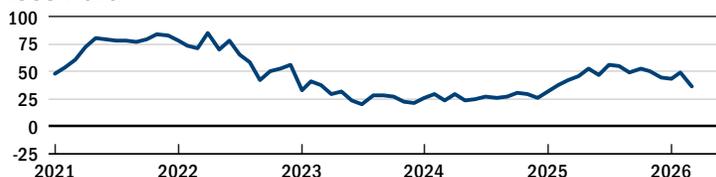


	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Feb	23.2	16.2	7.1
Mar	25.5	18.6	6.9
Change			-0.2

Current Indicators, *continued*

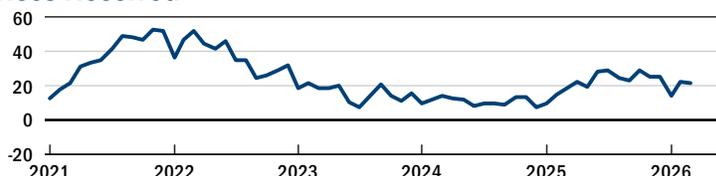
Change from Preceding Month

Prices Paid



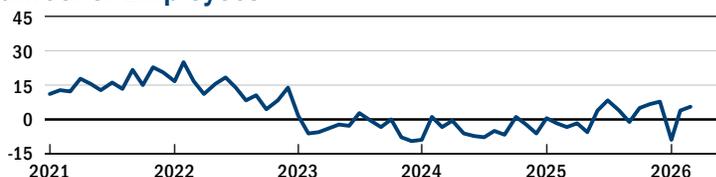
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Feb	50.3	1.2	49.1
Mar	40.0	3.4	36.6
Change			-12.5

Prices Received



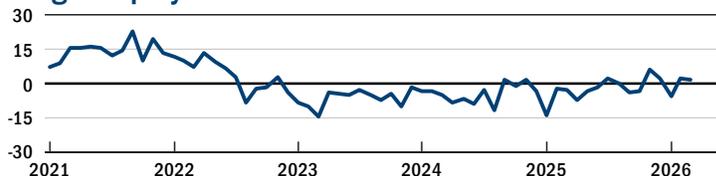
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Feb	28.3	6.1	22.2
Mar	24.3	2.9	21.4
Change			-0.8

Number of Employees



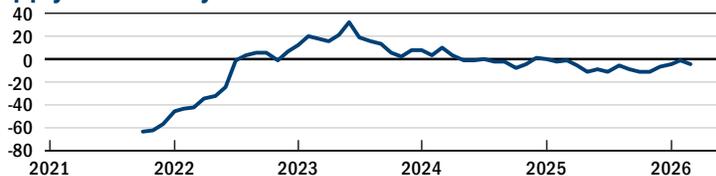
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Feb	15.8	11.8	4.0
Mar	13.2	7.4	5.8
Change			1.8

Average Employee Workweek



	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Feb	13.0	10.9	2.1
Mar	13.4	11.5	1.9
Change			-0.2

Supply Availability



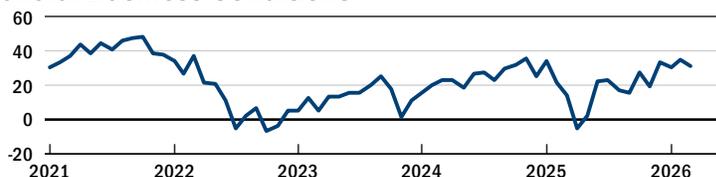
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Feb	4.0	5.1	-1.0
Mar	5.9	9.8	-3.9
Change			-2.9

Note: Data are seasonally adjusted. The current supply availability index was added to the report in June 2024 and included a history of data points going back to 2021.

Forward-Looking Indicators

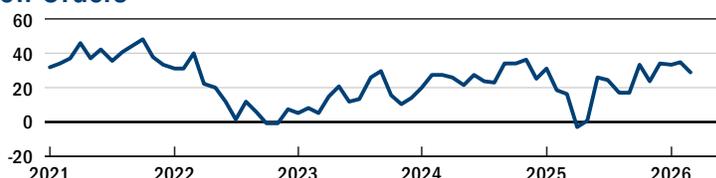
Expectations Six Months Ahead

General Business Conditions



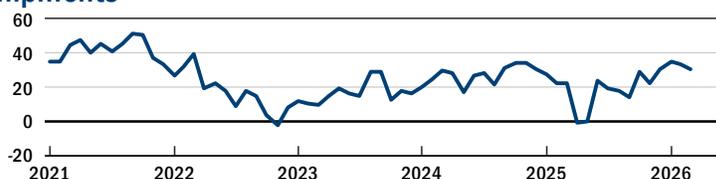
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Feb	43.1	8.4	34.7
Mar	47.4	16.4	31.0
Change			-3.7

New Orders



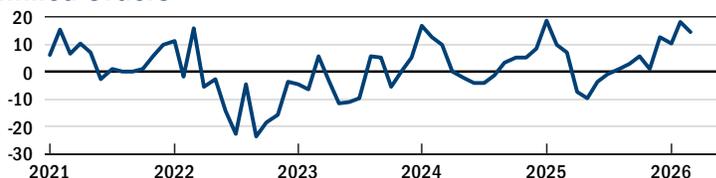
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Feb	48.3	13.3	34.9
Mar	47.7	18.6	29.1
Change			-5.8

Shipments



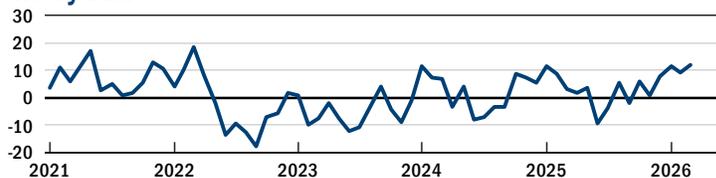
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Feb	44.5	11.2	33.4
Mar	46.2	16.0	30.2
Change			-3.2

Unfilled Orders



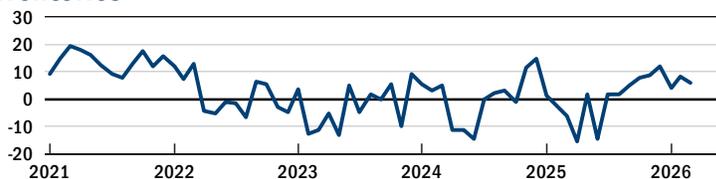
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Feb	24.2	6.1	18.2
Mar	22.5	7.8	14.7
Change			-3.5

Delivery Time



	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Feb	16.2	7.1	9.1
Mar	16.7	4.9	11.8
Change			2.7

Inventories

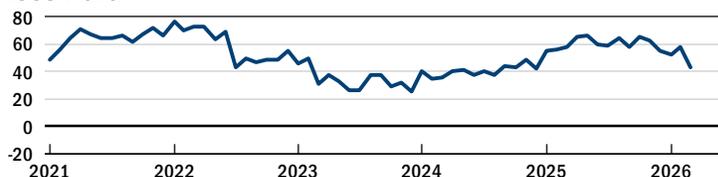


	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Feb	26.3	18.2	8.1
Mar	24.5	18.6	5.9
Change			-2.2

Forward-Looking Indicators, *continued*

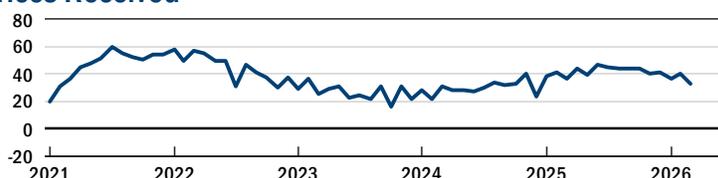
Expectations Six Months Ahead

Prices Paid



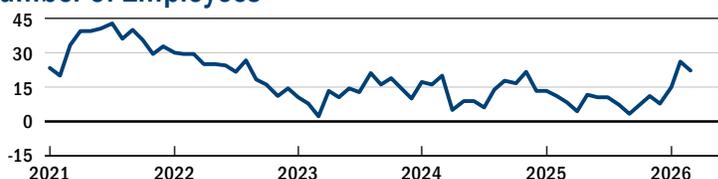
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Feb	58.6	1.0	57.6
Mar	47.1	3.9	43.1
Change			-14.5

Prices Received



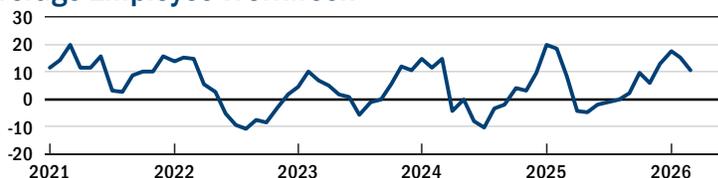
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Feb	42.4	2.1	40.3
Mar	32.4	0.0	32.4
Change			-7.9

Number of Employees



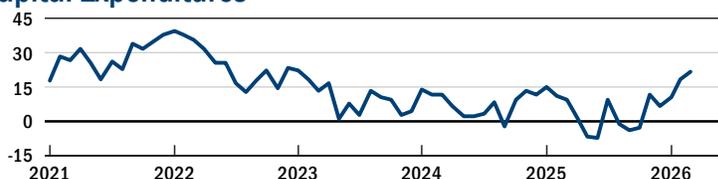
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Feb	30.6	4.4	26.1
Mar	32.9	10.7	22.2
Change			-3.9

Average Employee Workweek



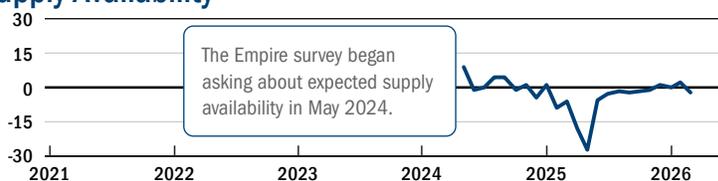
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Feb	22.2	7.1	15.2
Mar	16.7	5.9	10.8
Change			-4.4

Capital Expenditures



	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Feb	30.3	12.1	18.2
Mar	33.3	11.8	21.6
Change			3.4

Supply Availability



	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Feb	8.1	6.1	2.0
Mar	3.9	5.9	-2.0
Change			-4.0

Note: Data are seasonally adjusted. The expected supply availability index was added to the report in June 2024 and included one additional data point from May 2024. The technology spending index was discontinued at this time.