

# News Release

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## S&P Global Aluminium Users PMI™

### Upturn in global aluminium-using industry reflects strong growth in Asia

#### Key findings

Marked increases in output and new orders in Asia

Sharpest rise in jobs at global aluminium users in five years

Suppliers' delivery times improve the most since 2009

The Global Aluminium Users PMI™ for February signalled a resurgence in business conditions owing largely to the situation in Asia, and more specifically the reopening of the Chinese economy. Strong increases in output and new orders at the global level were driven by marked rebounds in Asia, slightly offset by further contractions in the US. In Europe, output rose slightly but new orders fell further. The labour market also improved with the strongest global upturn in employment in five years. February data also signalled improving supply chains, with average lead times for aluminium users quickening to the greatest extent since May 2009. Input price inflation remained below the long-run series average.

The seasonally adjusted Global Aluminium Users Purchasing Managers Index™ (PMI)—a composite indicator designed to give an accurate overview of operating conditions at manufacturers identified as heavy users of aluminium—rose from 48.8 in January to 53.1 in February, signalling a strong improvement in operating conditions following a six-month contraction. The month-on-month rise in the headline figure was the second-largest ever recorded, behind the 5.7-point boost seen in April 2009. Asia posted a notable improvement in conditions with a surge in its PMI as China reopened. Conditions in the US improved only marginally in comparison, while a slight decline was seen in Europe.

Output rose at the fastest rate since last June, and for the first time in seven months. Asia registered a rapid increase, the second-fastest since December 2010. Production at aluminium users in Europe rose marginally for the second month running while the US posted a ninth

S&P Global Aluminium Users PMI  
sa, >50 = improvement since previous month



Source: S&P Global.

successive decline.

Global aluminium-using firms registered higher new orders for first time in seven months in February, and the rate of expansion was the strongest since July 2021. This wholly reflected marked growth in Asia, as both Europe and the US posted further declines.

The level of employment in the global aluminium-using sector rose for the second month running, and at the fastest rate in five years. Jobs growth was registered in all three regions for the first time since October 2021, with Asia posting the fastest increase in six years.

The volume of outstanding business rose for the fourth time in five months in February, albeit at a weaker rate. Higher backlogs in Asia were again offset by strong falls in the US and Europe.

Purchasing activity rose for only the second time in seven months, and at the fastest rate since last June. The global increase wholly reflected a sharp rise in Asia, with both Europe and the US registering further declines. Stocks of inputs rose for the first time in seven months. Meanwhile, suppliers' delivery times improved for the first time since December 2019, and to the greatest extent since May 2009.

Input price inflation at aluminium users eased in February, and remained below the long-run trend. The moderation in cost pressures was reflected in the US and Europe, with the slowest inflation in Asia and the fastest in the US. Output price inflation picked up to an eight-month high, despite a slower rise in Europe.

PMI™

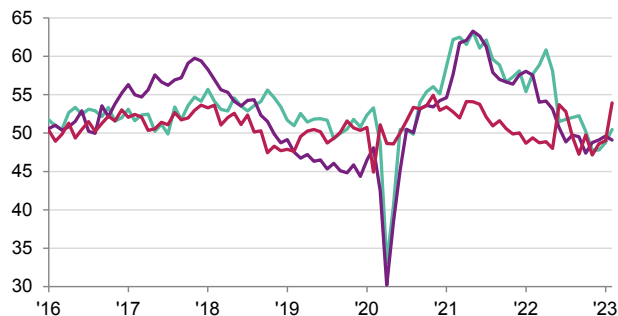
by S&P Global

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Aluminium Users PMI by region

Europe USA Asia

sa, >50 = improvement since previous month



Source: S&P Global.

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Survey methodology

The Global Aluminium Users PMI™ is compiled by S&P Global from responses to questionnaires sent to purchasing managers in manufacturers identified as heavy users of aluminium. The sample is selected from S&P Global's worldwide PMI survey panels, covering over 40 countries.

Survey responses are weighted by country, based on national aluminium consumption figures sourced from S&P Global's Pricing & Purchasing Service. Survey responses are collected in the second half of each month and indicate the direction of change compared to the previous month. A diffusion index is calculated for each survey variable. The index is the sum of the percentage of 'higher' responses and half the percentage of 'unchanged' responses. The indices vary between 0 and 100, with a reading above 50 indicating an overall increase compared to the previous month, and below 50 an overall decrease. The indices are then seasonally adjusted.

The headline figure is the Purchasing Managers' Index™ (PMI). The PMI is a weighted average of the following five indices: New Orders (30%), Output (25%), Employment (20%), Suppliers' Delivery Times (15%) and Stocks of Purchases (10%). For the PMI calculation the Suppliers' Delivery Times Index is inverted so that it moves in a comparable direction to the other indices.

Underlying survey data are not revised after publication, but seasonal adjustment factors may be revised from time to time as appropriate which will affect the seasonally adjusted data series.

For further information on the PMI survey methodology, please contact [economics@ihsmarkit.com](mailto:economics@ihsmarkit.com).

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About PMI

Purchasing Managers' Index™ (PMI™) surveys are now available for over 40 countries and also for key regions including the eurozone. They are the most closely watched business surveys in the world, favoured by central banks, financial markets and business decision makers for their ability to provide up-to-date, accurate and often unique monthly indicators of economic trends. [ihsmarkit.com/products/pmi.html](https://ihsmarkit.com/products/pmi.html).