

S&P Global Flash UK PMI[®]

Private sector output expands at slowest pace since May

September 2025

Flash UK PMI Composite Output Index: 51.0
(Aug: 53.5). 4-month low.

Flash UK Services PMI Business Activity Index: 51.9 (Aug: 54.2). 2-month low.

Flash UK Manufacturing Output Index: 45.4
(Aug: 49.3). 6-month low.

Flash UK Manufacturing PMI: 46.2
(Aug: 47.0). 5-month low.

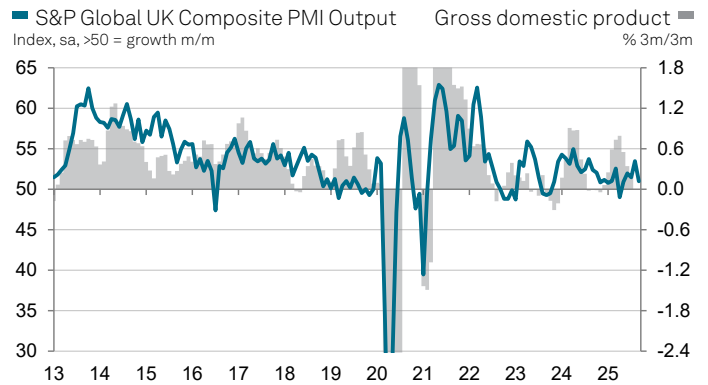
UK private sector output expanded for the fifth month running in September, but the rate of growth was only modest and eased to its lowest since May, according to the latest S&P Global Flash UK PMI[®] survey data.

Subdued demand and pressure on margins from sharply rising input costs contributed to another reduction in private sector employment numbers. Moreover, business activity expectations for the year ahead eased to a three-month low in September, with survey respondents widely commenting on weak client confidence alongside heightened political and economic uncertainty.

At 51.0 in September, the headline seasonally adjusted S&P Global Flash UK PMI Composite Output Index eased markedly from August's 12-month high of 53.5. The headline index has posted above the crucial 50.0 no-change value in each month since May. Higher levels of service sector activity once again contrasted with cutbacks to manufacturing production.

Service providers typically noted rising business and consumer spending, albeit with growth constrained by lacklustre UK economic conditions and elevated geopolitical uncertainty. The latest decline in manufacturing output was the fastest since March, with survey respondents mostly citing weak order books from both domestic and export markets. There were also some specific mentions of lower manufacturing output across the automotive supply chain as a result of plant stoppages at Jaguar Land Rover.

New work received by UK private sector firms increased only marginally, as the rate of expansion moderated since August amid weaker growth across the service economy. Export sales remained particularly subdued, with total new orders from abroad falling to the greatest extent since April. Survey respondents commented on risk aversion and



Data were collected 11-19 September 2025.

Sources: S&P Global PMI, ONS via S&P Global Market Intelligence. ©2025 S&P Global.

Comment

Chris Williamson, Chief Business Economist at S&P Global Market Intelligence:

"September's flash UK PMI survey brought a litany of worrying news including weakening growth, slumping overseas trade, worsening business confidence and further steep job losses.

"The only good news is perhaps that, just as the Bank of England grows increasingly worried about persistently elevated inflation, the PMI indicated that price pressures have moderated in September. Companies reported one of the smallest increases in prices charged for goods and services seen since the pandemic.

"With the weakening of business activity growth to a rate consistent with the economy almost stalling, and around 50,000 job losses being signalled by the PMI again in the three months to September, alarm bells should be ringing that the economy is faltering, which could help shift the policy debate at the Bank of England back towards a more dovish stance.

"However, amid talk of further tax rises being needed in the Budget later this year, it's not surprising to see that business expectations have worsened again in September, and in the absence of an improvement in confidence, it's unlikely that the economy will make any strong gains in the months ahead irrespective of the outlook for interest rates."

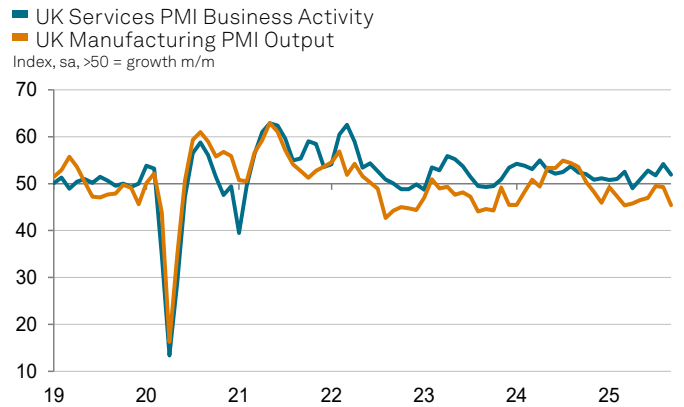
a lack of willingness-to-spend among clients. A number of firms reported falling sales to the US and Europe, but some exporters noted improved demand in emerging markets.

Unfinished work was depleted in both the manufacturing and service sectors during September, which extended the current period of falling backlogs to 29 months. This was mainly attributed to a prolonged period of subdued demand and subsequent excess capacity. Latest data also indicated a decrease in private sector employment, as has been the case in each month since October 2024. Many firms noted hiring freezes and the non-replacement of voluntary leavers in response to strong cost pressures and reduced workloads.

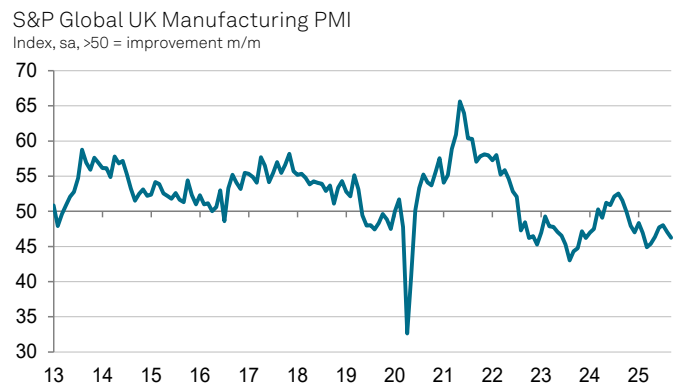
September data indicated another sharp increase in average cost burdens across the private sector economy. The rate of input price inflation edged down from August's three-month high, but remained well above the pre-pandemic average. Service providers again recorded a particularly steep rise in their operating expenses, which was attributed to elevated wage pressures and efforts by suppliers to pass on higher payroll costs. There were also reports of rising energy bills, food prices and technology costs.

Service sector firms recorded a solid rise in their prices charged in September, with the rate of inflation only slightly lower than seen on average in the year-to-date. In contrast, manufacturers recorded a marked slowdown in factory gate price inflation to its softest since December 2024, which survey respondents linked to intense competitive pressures.

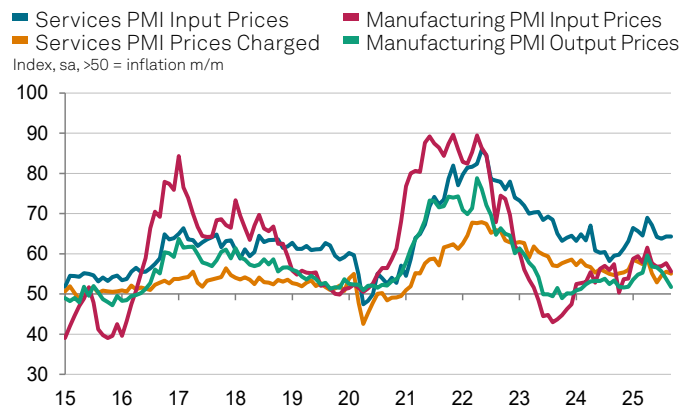
Looking ahead, private sector firms remain upbeat overall about their growth prospects during the next 12 months. The degree of confidence slipped to its lowest since June, reflecting falling optimism across the service economy. Service providers noted challenging economic conditions, squeezed budgets among clients and heightened business uncertainty. However, manufacturers were the most upbeat since February. Anecdotal evidence cited greater business investment and hopes of a general rebound in order books, while some also noted favourable projections for sales pipelines linked to major technology projects (particularly data centres).



Source: S&P Global PMI. ©2025 S&P Global.



Source: S&P Global PMI. ©2025 S&P Global.



Source: S&P Global PMI. ©2025 S&P Global.

Contact

Tim Moore
Economics Director
S&P Global Market Intelligence
T: +44 1491 461067
tim.moore@spglobal.com

Hannah Brook
EMEA Corporate Communications
S&P Global Market Intelligence
T: +44-7483-439-812
hannah.brook@spglobal.com
press.mi@spglobal.com

If you prefer not to receive news releases from S&P Global, please email press.mi@spglobal.com. To read our privacy policy, click [here](#).

Methodology

Final September data are published on 1 October for manufacturing and 3 October for services and composite indicators.

The S&P Global Flash UK Composite PMI® is compiled by S&P Global from responses to questionnaires sent to survey panels of around 650 manufacturers and 650 service providers. The panels are each stratified by detailed sector and company workforce size, based on contributions to GDP. The services sector is defined as consumer (excluding retail), transport, information, communication, finance, insurance, real estate and business services.

Survey responses are collected in the second half of each month and indicate the direction of change compared to the previous month. The following variables are monitored:

Manufacturing: Output, new orders, new export orders, backlogs of work, stocks of finished goods, employment, quantity of purchases, suppliers' delivery times, stocks of purchases, input prices, output prices, future output.

Services: Business activity, new business, new export business, outstanding business, employment, input prices, prices charged, future activity.

A diffusion index is calculated for each manufacturing and services 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.

Composite indices for are calculated by weighting together comparable manufacturing and services indices using official manufacturing and services annual value added.

The headline figure is the Composite Output Index. This is a weighted average of the Manufacturing Output Index and the Services Business Activity Index. It may be referred to as the 'Composite PMI' but is not comparable with the headline Manufacturing PMI, which is a weighted average of five manufacturing indices (including the Manufacturing Output Index).

The headline manufacturing figure is the Manufacturing 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.

The headline services figure is the Services Business Activity Index. This is a diffusion index calculated from a single question that asks for changes in the volume of business activity compared with one month previously. The Business Activity Index is comparable to the Manufacturing Output Index. It may be referred to as the 'Services PMI' but is not comparable with the headline Manufacturing PMI.

Disclaimer

The intellectual property rights to the data provided herein are owned by or licensed to S&P Global and/or its affiliates. Any unauthorised use, including but not limited to copying, distributing, transmitting or otherwise of any data appearing is not permitted without S&P Global's prior consent. S&P Global shall not have any liability, duty or obligation for or relating to the content or information ("Data") contained herein, any errors, inaccuracies, omissions or delays in the Data, or for any actions taken in reliance thereon. In no event shall S&P Global be liable for any special, incidental, or consequential damages, arising out of the use of the Data. Purchasing Managers' Index™ and PMI® are either trade marks or registered trade marks of S&P Global Inc or licensed to S&P Global Inc and/or its affiliates.

This Content was published by S&P Global Market Intelligence and not by S&P Global Ratings, which is a separately managed division of S&P Global. Reproduction of any information, data or material, including ratings ("Content") in any form is prohibited except with the prior written permission of the relevant party. Such party, its affiliates and suppliers ("Content Providers") do not guarantee the accuracy, adequacy, completeness, timeliness or availability of any Content and are not responsible for any errors or omissions (negligent or otherwise), regardless of the cause, or for the results obtained from the use of such Content. In no event shall Content Providers be liable for any damages, costs, expenses, legal fees, or losses (including lost income or lost profit and opportunity costs) in connection with any use of the Content.

Flash data are calculated from around 80-90% of total responses and are intended to provide an accurate early indication of the final data. Since flash data were first processed, the average differences between final and flash index values for the headline indices are:

Composite Output Index = 0.2 (absolute difference 0.6)

Services Business Activity Index = 0.2 (absolute difference 0.7)

Manufacturing PMI = 0.1 (absolute difference 0.4)

S&P Global do not revise underlying survey data after first publication, but seasonal adjustment factors may be revised from time to time as appropriate which will affect the seasonally adjusted data series. Historical data relating to the underlying (unadjusted) numbers, first published seasonally adjusted series and subsequently revised data are available to subscribers from S&P Global.

For further information on the PMI survey methodology, please contact economics@spglobal.com.

S&P Global

S&P Global (NYSE: SPGI) provides essential intelligence. We enable governments, businesses and individuals with the right data, expertise and connected technology so that they can make decisions with conviction. From helping our customers assess new investments to guiding them through ESG and energy transition across supply chains, we unlock new opportunities, solve challenges and accelerate progress for the world.

We are widely sought after by many of the world's leading organizations to provide credit ratings, benchmarks, analytics and workflow solutions in the global capital, commodity and automotive markets. With every one of our offerings, we help the world's leading organizations plan for tomorrow, today. www.spglobal.com/marketintelligence/en/mi/products/pmi

PMI by S&P Global

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. www.spglobal.com