

S&P Global Spain Services PMI®

Service sector stabilises in May with sales returning to growth

May 2026

Fractional rise in activity; new business improves

Cost pressures remain acute

Solid employment growth despite uncertain outlook

Having contracted in April for the first time since August 2023, latest PMI data from S&P Global pointed to a more stable performance of Spain's service sector in May.

Activity rose fractionally, supported by a marginal increase in new business. Confidence in the outlook also improved since April, whilst solid employment growth was sustained, helping firms to comfortably keep on top of workloads.

However, cost pressures remained acute in May. Input prices rose considerably since April, driven mainly by increased fuel and energy costs. Output charges rose in response to higher operating expenses, although competitive pressures placed some restriction on corporate pricing power.

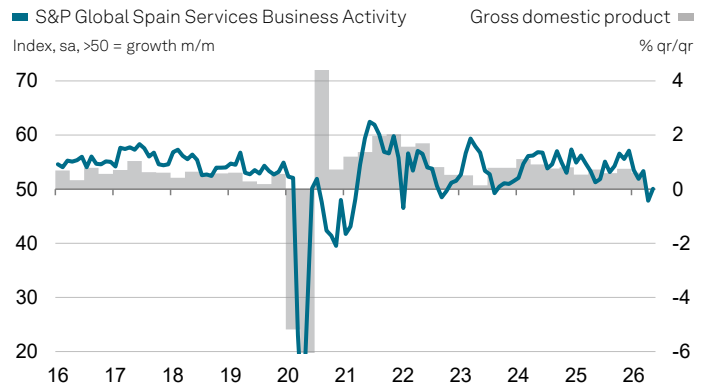
The headline S&P Global Services PMI® Business Activity Index registered 50.1 in May. That compared to 47.9 in April and pointed to a stabilisation of activity following the previous month's decline.

Supporting the fractional rise in activity was a return to growth of new business volumes. This improvement was linked by firms to an uplift in demand, although some respondents noted instability in market conditions due to ongoing uncertainty related to the conflict in the Middle East. This meant that new business growth overall was weak, with firms also noting ongoing declines in new export work (the fifth in successive months).

High prices were also reported to have led to some fragility in demand and companies continued to report noticeable inflationary pressures. Input prices rose again at an extremely elevated pace, with energy and fuel the primary drivers of higher operating expenses. Firms continued to report that supplier prices and labour costs had also increased.

Service providers subsequently sought to raise their own selling prices. May's survey data indicated that output charge inflation remained above trend, and indicative of a marked increase in prices charged. That said, inflation eased to a three-month low amid some reports that competitive pressures were placing a restriction on pricing power.

The outlook remained unusually uncertain during May.



Data were collected 12-26 May 2026.

Sources: S&P Global PMI, INE via S&P Global Market Intelligence.

© 2026 S&P Global

Comment

Paul Smith, Economics Associate Director at S&P Global Market Intelligence:

“Some stability in demand and activity following April’s contractions were a welcome development in May and provides hope that the economic downturn in Spain will be relatively shallow.

“Despite the relative improvement in May, underlying performance remains weak, and the private service sector is still on course for its worst calendar quarter in over five years. Firms continue to report a high degree of market instability, characterised by uncertainty and the squeezing of budgets following the energy and supply shock caused by the war in the Middle East.

“With a resolution to the conflict still not reached (at the time of writing), the outlook understandably remains especially uncertain, and sentiment subsequently is still subdued by historical standards – and indicative of sub-par economic performance in the near-term at the very least, with activity likely to remain weak and inflation well above trend.”

Despite improving to a three-month high, confidence regarding future activity was well below average. Whereas some firms expect to benefit from past investment in commercial activities and a renewed stability in demand over the coming 12 months, uncertainty related to the Middle East conflict weighed on sentiment.

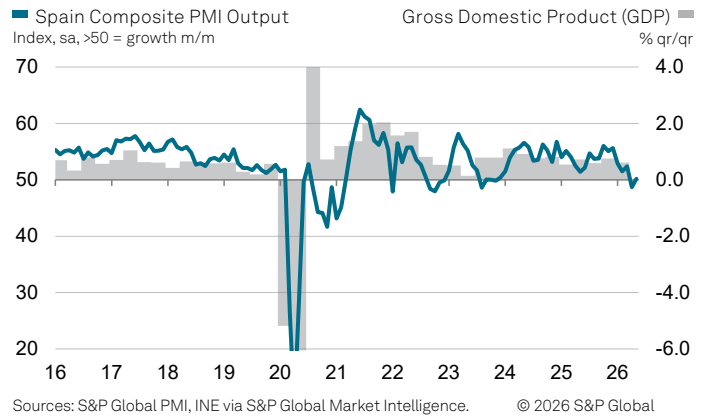
Nonetheless, firms took on additional staff during May. Growth of employment was solid and an improvement on April's reading. Firms noted that higher staff reflected a mixture of temporary and permanent contracts being offered to new recruits. Additional capacity and the recent weakness in underlying sales meant firms could clear backlogs of work for the first time in three months. The rate of contraction was also the steepest since August 2023.

S&P Global Spain Composite PMI®

The S&P Global Spain Composite PMI® posted 50.2 in May. That compared to 48.7 in the previous month and signalled a marginal increase in output compared to April.

A stagnation of new orders was meanwhile recorded, although firms still added to their staffing levels at a solid rate. Confidence in the outlook improved to a three-month high though remained below trend.

Finally, input prices rose to their fastest degree since November 2022. In contrast, output price inflation fell to a three-month low, though remained above its historical trend.



Contact

Paul Smith
Economics Director
S&P Global Market Intelligence
T: +44-1491-461-038
paul.smith2@spglobal.com

Hannah Brook
EMEA Communications Manager
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

The S&P Global Spain Services PMI® is compiled by S&P Global from responses to questionnaires sent to a panel of around 350 service sector companies.

The sectors covered include consumer (excluding retail), transport, information, communication, finance, insurance, real estate and business services. The panel is stratified by detailed sector and company workforce size, based on contributions to GDP. Data collection began in August 1999.

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 Services Business Activity Index. This is a diffusion index calculated from a question that asks for changes in the volume of business activity compared with one month previously. The Services 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 figure.

The Composite Output Index is a weighted average of the Manufacturing Output Index and the Services Business Activity Index. The weights reflect the relative size of the manufacturing and service sectors according to official GDP data. The Composite Output Index may be referred to as the 'Composite PMI' but is not comparable with the headline manufacturing PMI figure.

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@spglobal.com.

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.

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

AERCE

AERCE is the Spanish Association of Purchasing and Supply Management. Founded in 1981 has 1,000 members, representing more than 10,000 related professionals, which include the most important companies in the country, institutions and professionals belonging to various industrial sectors, services and the public sector.

AERCE is a member of the International Federation of Purchasing and Supply Management (IFPSM).trends. www.aerce.org

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/marketintelligence/en/mi/products/pmi