

Empire State Manufacturing Survey

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

Business activity held steady in New York State, according to firms responding to the September 2022 *Empire State Manufacturing Survey*. The headline general business conditions index climbed thirty points to -1.5. New orders edged higher, and shipments increased sharply. Delivery times held steady, and inventories expanded. Labor market indicators pointed to a modest increase in employment and no change in the average workweek. Price indexes moved notably lower, pointing to a deceleration in price increases. Looking ahead, firms were not very optimistic that business conditions would improve over the next six months.

Activity Levels Off after a Sharp Decline

Manufacturing activity held steady in New York State on the heels of a sharp decline last month, according to the September survey. The general business conditions

index climbed thirty points to -1.5. Thirty percent of respondents reported that conditions had improved over the month, and thirty-two percent reported that conditions had worsened. The new orders index climbed thirty-three points to 3.7, indicating a slight increase in orders, while the shipments index surged forty-four points to 19.6, pointing to a rebound in shipments after they declined significantly last month. The unfilled orders index came in at -7.5, indicating that unfilled orders shrank for a fourth consecutive month. The delivery times index hovered near zero for a second consecutive month, indicating that delivery times held steady. The inventories index edged up to 9.4, a sign that inventories increased modestly.

Price Increases Slow

The index for number of employees was little changed at 9.7, pointing to a modest increase in employment levels,

and the average workweek index climbed to around zero, indicating no change in hours worked. The prices paid index fell sixteen points to 39.6; this index has fallen a cumulative thirty-nine points over the past three months, pointing to a significant and ongoing deceleration in price increases. The prices received index fell nine points to 23.6, its lowest level since early 2021.

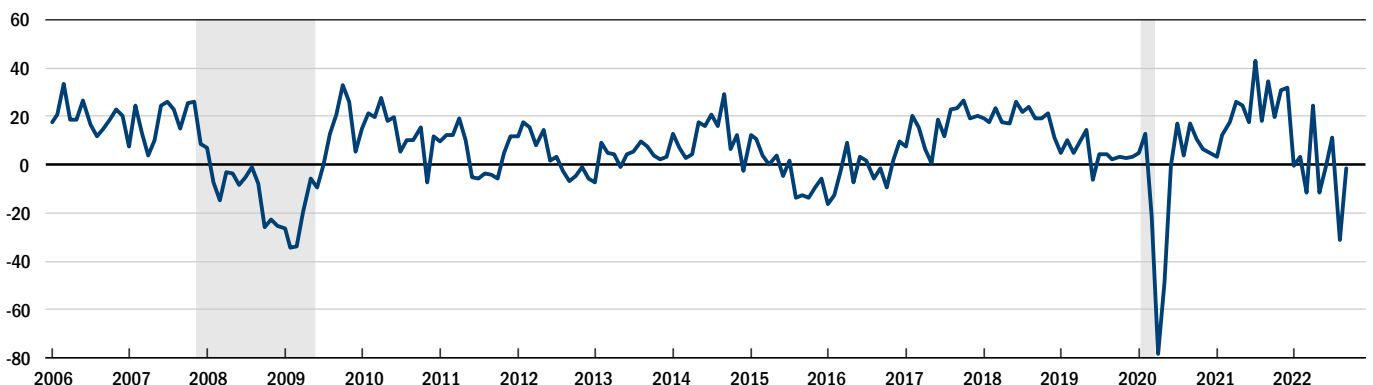
Firms Expect Little Improvement

The index for future business conditions rose six points to 8.2, suggesting little optimism about the six-month outlook. The index for future new orders remained depressed, though employment is expected to pick up. Delivery times are expected to shorten. Moderate increases in capital and technology spending are planned for the months ahead. ■

General Business Conditions

Seasonally Adjusted

Diffusion Index

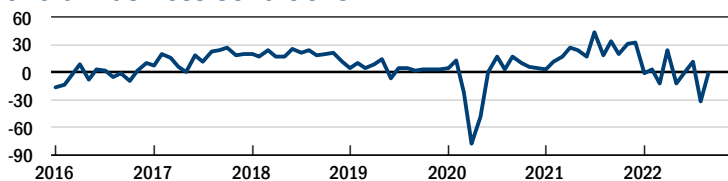


Note: The shaded areas indicate periods designated as recessions by the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Current Indicators

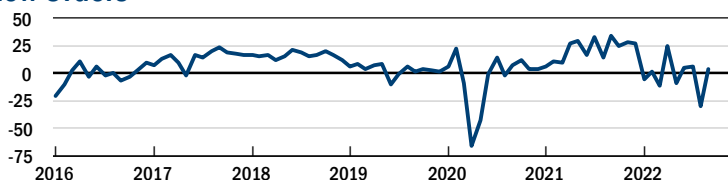
Change from Preceding Month

General Business Conditions



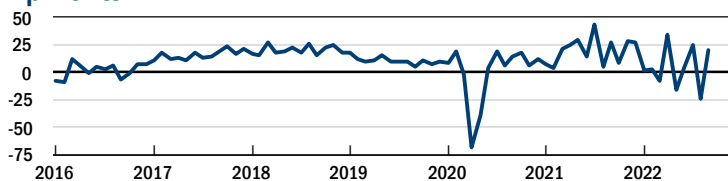
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	12.2	43.6	-31.3
Sep	30.4	31.8	-1.5
Change			29.8

New Orders



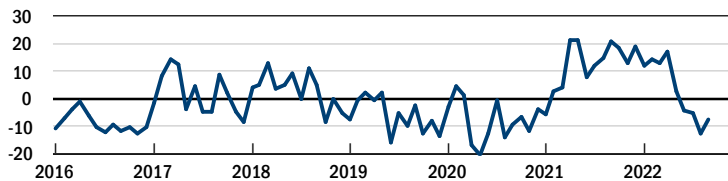
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	16.5	46.1	-29.6
Sep	35.5	31.7	3.7
Change			33.3

Shipments



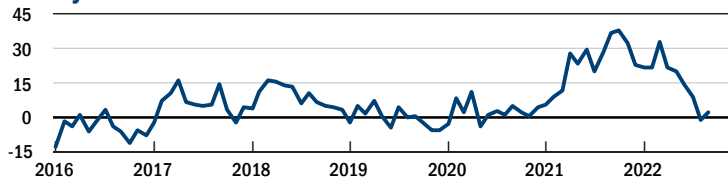
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	15.4	39.5	-24.1
Sep	43.8	24.1	19.6
Change			43.7

Unfilled Orders



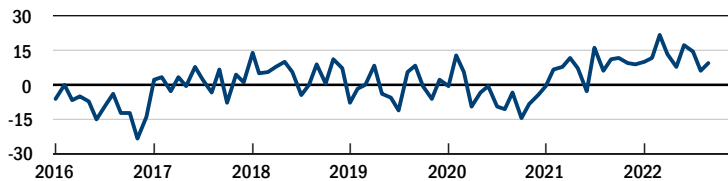
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	14.5	27.3	-12.7
Sep	17.9	25.5	-7.5
Change			5.2

Delivery Time



	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	18.2	19.1	-0.9
Sep	13.2	11.3	1.9
Change			2.8

Inventories

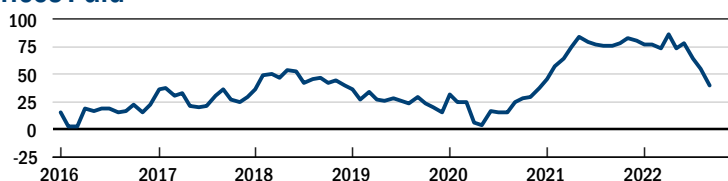


	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	29.1	22.7	6.4
Sep	24.5	15.1	9.4
Change			3.0

Current Indicators, *continued*

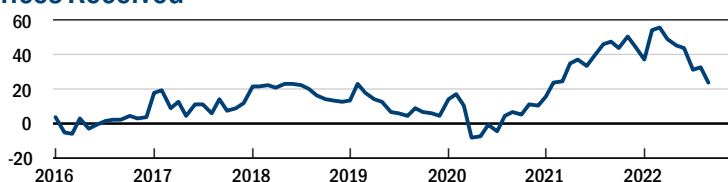
Change from Preceding Month

Prices Paid



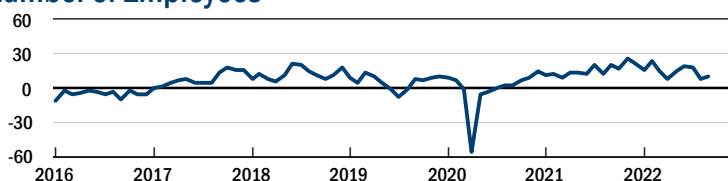
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	60.9	5.5	55.5
Sep	48.1	8.5	39.6
Change			-15.9

Prices Received



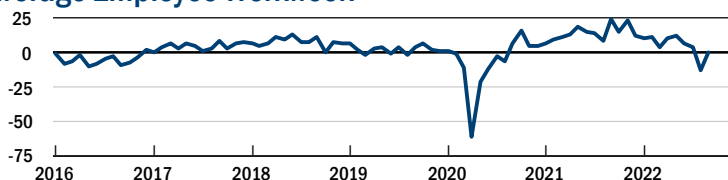
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	36.4	3.6	32.7
Sep	28.3	4.7	23.6
Change			-9.1

Number of Employees



	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	22.9	15.4	7.4
Sep	17.3	7.5	9.7
Change			2.3

Average Employee Workweek



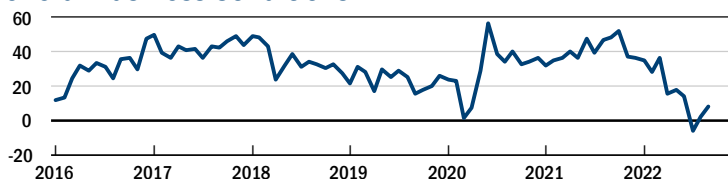
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	5.9	19.0	-13.1
Sep	9.1	9.3	-0.1
Change			13.0

Note: Data are seasonally adjusted.

Forward-Looking Indicators

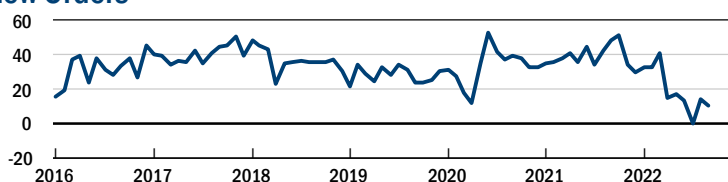
Expectations Six Months Ahead

General Business Conditions



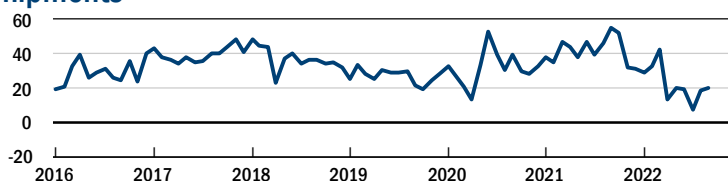
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	31.2	29.1	2.1
Sep	40.4	32.2	8.2
Change			6.1

New Orders



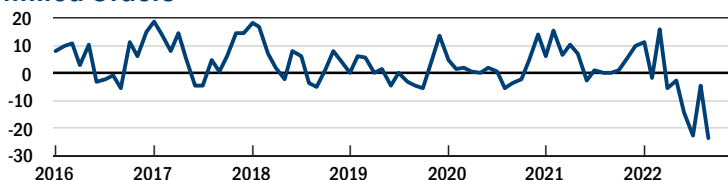
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	41.0	27.0	14.0
Sep	40.9	30.2	10.7
Change			-3.3

Shipments



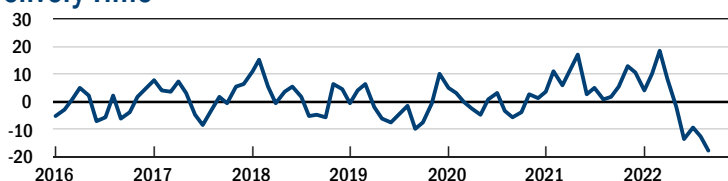
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	41.0	22.4	18.7
Sep	48.3	28.3	20.1
Change			1.4

Unfilled Orders



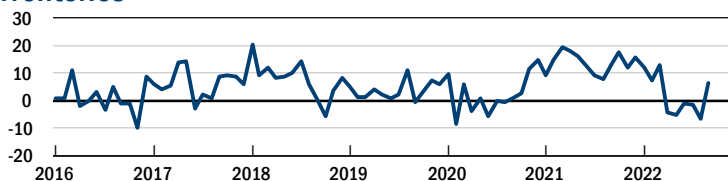
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	19.1	23.6	-4.5
Sep	8.5	32.1	-23.6
Change			-19.1

Delivery Time



	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	11.8	24.5	-12.7
Sep	11.3	29.2	-17.9
Change			-5.2

Inventories

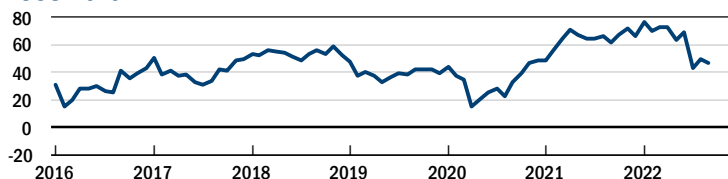


	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	21.8	28.2	-6.4
Sep	27.4	20.8	6.6
Change			13.0

Forward-Looking Indicators, *continued*

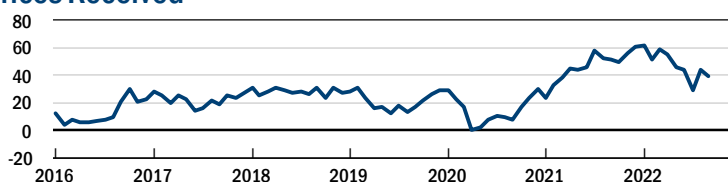
Expectations Six Months Ahead

Prices Paid



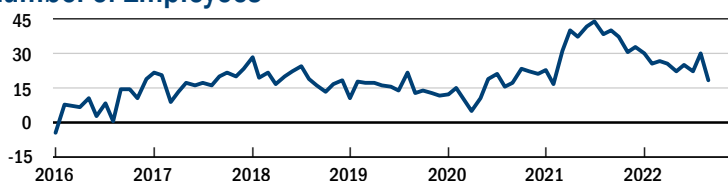
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	58.2	9.1	49.1
Sep	53.8	6.6	47.2
Change			-1.9

Prices Received



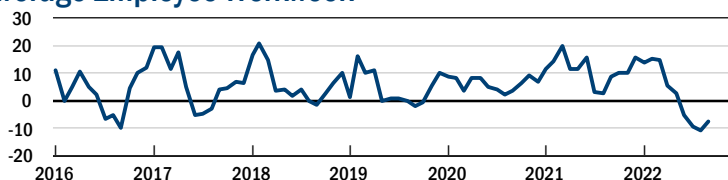
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	51.8	8.2	43.6
Sep	45.3	5.7	39.6
Change			-4.0

Number of Employees



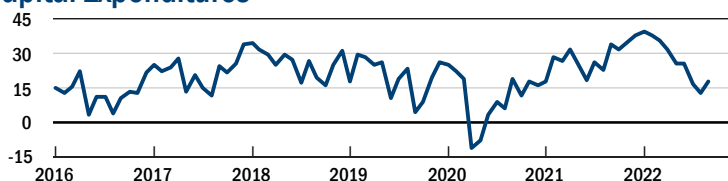
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	38.0	8.0	30.0
Sep	25.9	7.7	18.1
Change			-11.9

Average Employee Workweek



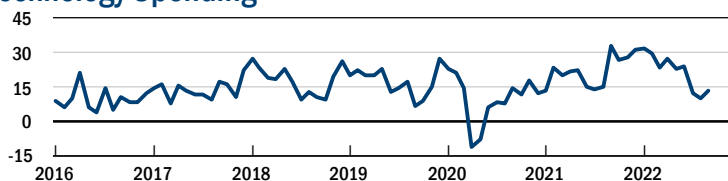
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	8.2	19.1	-10.9
Sep	8.5	16.0	-7.5
Change			3.4

Capital Expenditures



	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	29.1	16.4	12.7
Sep	29.2	11.3	17.9
Change			5.2

Technology Spending



	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	21.8	11.8	10.0
Sep	21.7	8.5	13.2
Change			3.2

Note: Data are seasonally adjusted.