

Empire State Manufacturing Survey

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

Business activity continued to decline in New York State, according to firms responding to the April 2024 *Empire State Manufacturing Survey*. The headline general business conditions index rose seven points but remained below zero at -14.3. New orders and shipments both declined significantly, and unfilled orders continued to shrink. Delivery times shortened, and inventories edged higher. Labor market conditions remained weak, with employment and hours worked moving lower. The pace of input price increases picked up somewhat, while the pace of selling price increases held steady. Though firms expect conditions to improve over the next six months, optimism remained subdued.

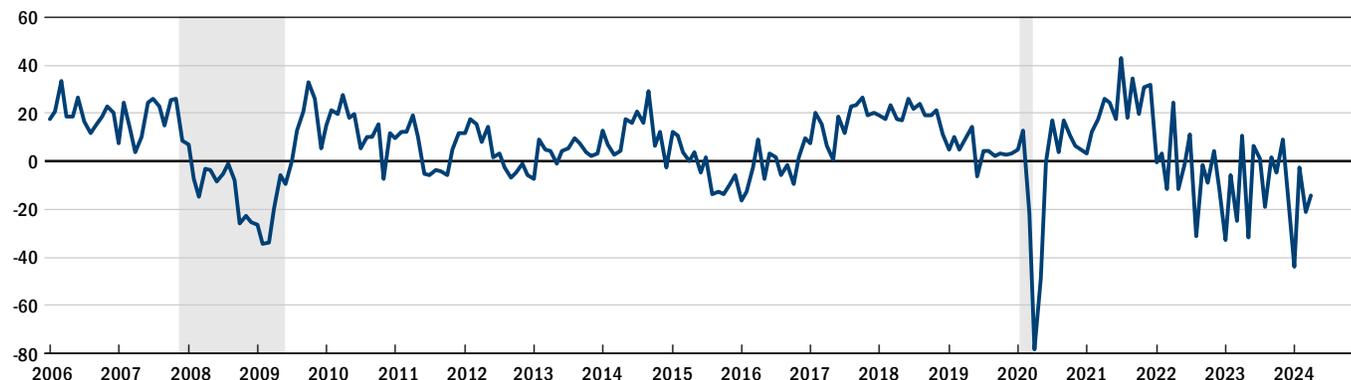
Activity Continues to Shrink

Manufacturing activity continued to contract in New York State, according to the April survey. The general business conditions index rose seven points but remained well below zero at -14.3. The new orders index was little changed at -16.2, and the shipments

General Business Conditions

Seasonally Adjusted

Diffusion Index



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

ECONOMIST COMMENTARY

“Manufacturing activity continued to contract in New York State in April, and employment continued to decline. Optimism about the outlook for future business conditions remained subdued.”

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

index fell eight points to -14.4, pointing to an ongoing decline in both orders and shipments. The unfilled orders index held steady at -10.1, a sign that unfilled orders continued to fall. The inventories index moved up sixteen points to 3.4, indicating that inventories edged higher for the first time in several months, and the delivery times index fell to -7.9, suggesting that delivery times shortened.

Labor Market Indicators Weaken

The index for number of employees came in at -5.1, and the average workweek index was little changed at -10.6, pointing to an ongoing decline in employment levels and hours worked.

The prices paid index moved up five points to 33.7, indicating that input price increases picked up slightly, and the prices received index held steady at 16.9.

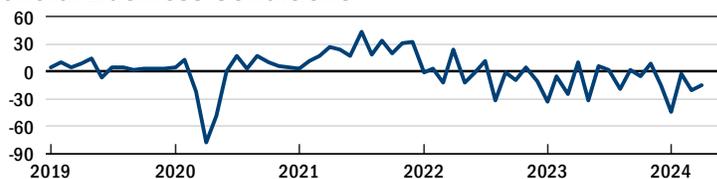
A Minority of Firms Expect Conditions to Improve

Optimism about the outlook remained subdued. The index for future business conditions dipped five points to 16.7, with only 37 percent of respondents expecting conditions to improve in the next six months. The outlook for employment growth weakened noticeably. The capital spending index fell to 6.7, suggesting that capital spending plans remained soft. ■

Current Indicators

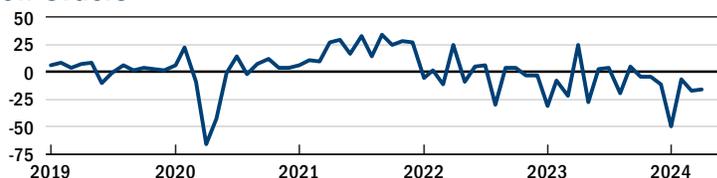
Change from Preceding Month

General Business Conditions



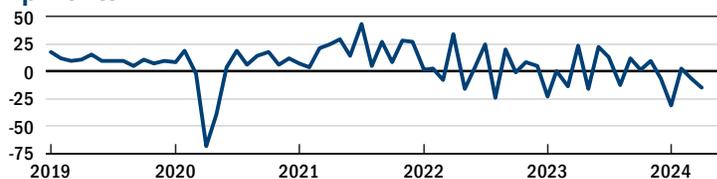
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	25.1	46.0	-20.9
Apr	23.8	38.1	-14.3
Change			6.6

New Orders



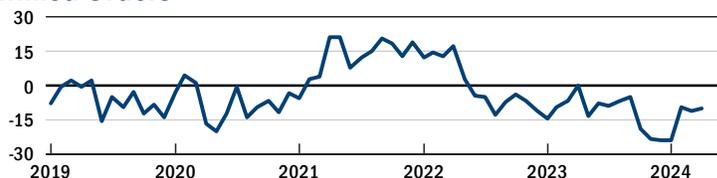
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	23.2	40.4	-17.2
Apr	24.3	40.5	-16.2
Change			1.0

Shipments



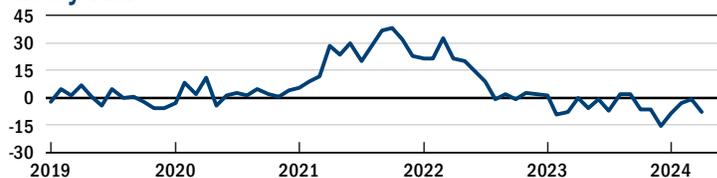
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	27.1	34.1	-6.9
Apr	21.6	36.0	-14.4
Change			-7.5

Unfilled Orders



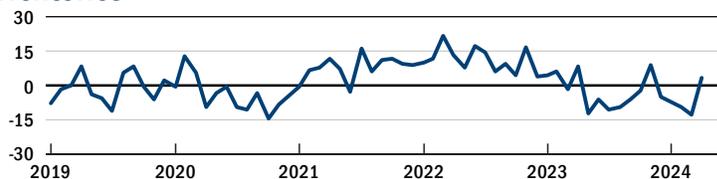
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	8.9	19.8	-10.9
Apr	14.6	24.7	-10.1
Change			0.8

Delivery Time



	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	11.9	12.9	-1.0
Apr	9.0	16.9	-7.9
Change			-6.9

Inventories

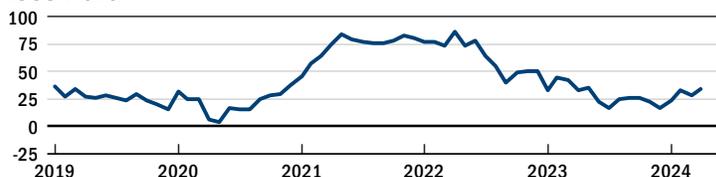


	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	14.9	27.7	-12.9
Apr	20.2	16.9	3.4
Change			16.3

Current Indicators, *continued*

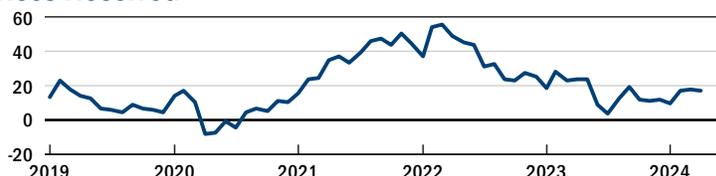
Change from Preceding Month

Prices Paid



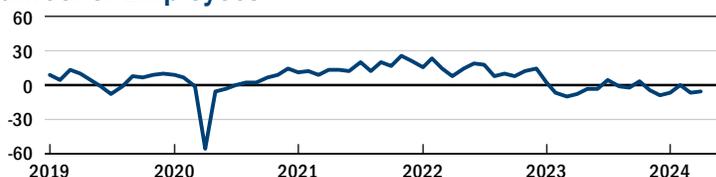
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	33.7	5.0	28.7
Apr	36.0	2.2	33.7
Change			5.0

Prices Received



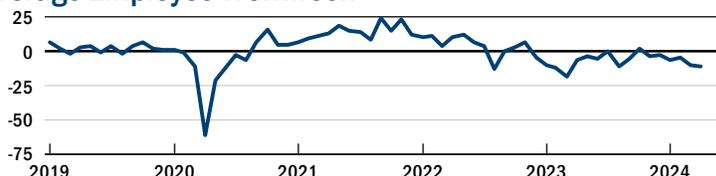
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	24.8	6.9	17.8
Apr	20.2	3.4	16.9
Change			-0.9

Number of Employees



	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	9.5	16.5	-7.1
Apr	12.7	17.7	-5.1
Change			2.0

Average Employee Workweek



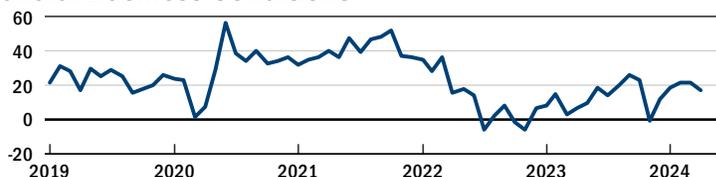
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	9.3	19.6	-10.4
Apr	5.4	16.0	-10.6
Change			-0.2

Note: Data are seasonally adjusted.

Forward-Looking Indicators

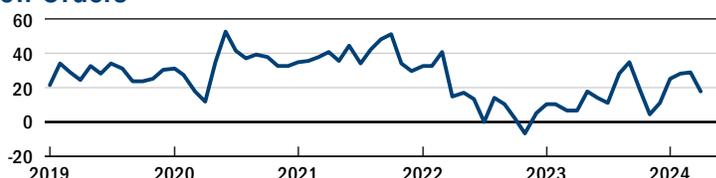
Expectations Six Months Ahead

General Business Conditions



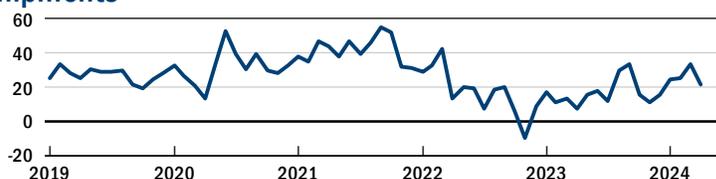
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	42.1	20.5	21.6
Apr	37.4	20.7	16.7
Change			-4.9

New Orders



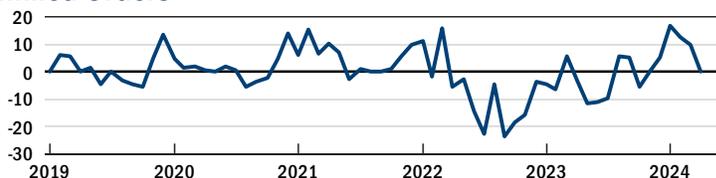
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	49.5	20.2	29.3
Apr	39.3	21.4	17.9
Change			-11.4

Shipments



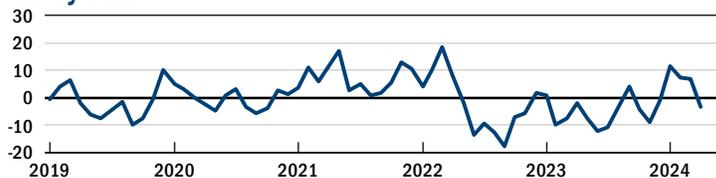
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	48.2	14.6	33.7
Apr	39.0	17.2	21.8
Change			-11.9

Unfilled Orders



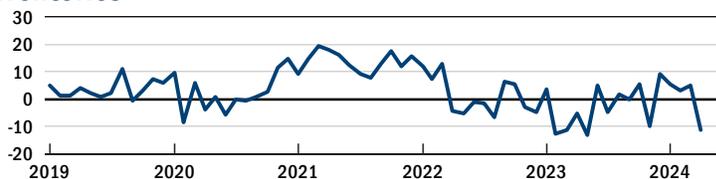
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	21.8	11.9	9.9
Apr	13.5	13.5	0.0
Change			-9.9

Delivery Time



	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	17.8	10.9	6.9
Apr	10.1	13.5	-3.4
Change			-10.3

Inventories

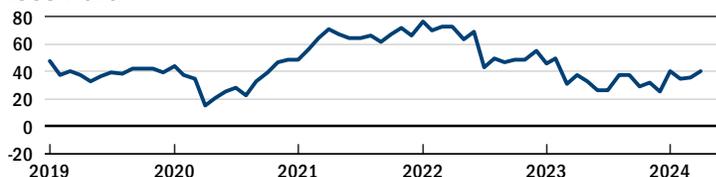


	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	22.8	17.8	5.0
Apr	12.4	23.6	-11.2
Change			-16.2

Forward-Looking Indicators, *continued*

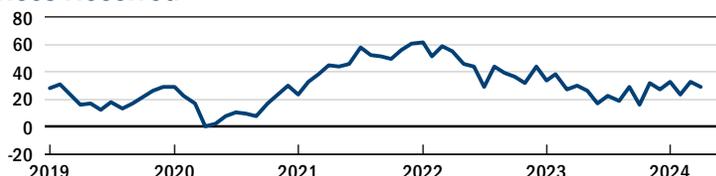
Expectations Six Months Ahead

Prices Paid



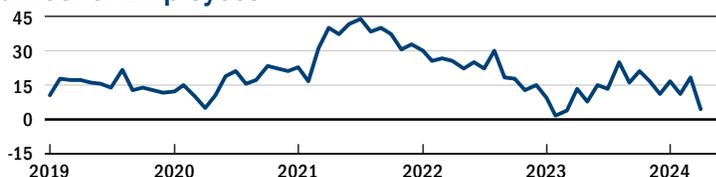
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	39.6	4.0	35.6
Apr	43.8	3.4	40.4
Change			4.8

Prices Received



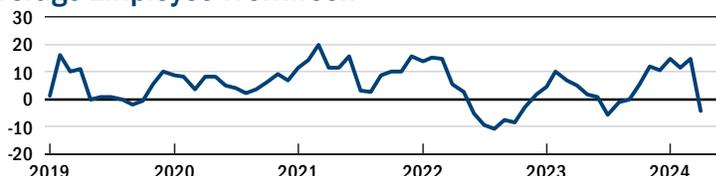
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	36.6	4.0	32.7
Apr	34.8	5.6	29.2
Change			-3.5

Number of Employees



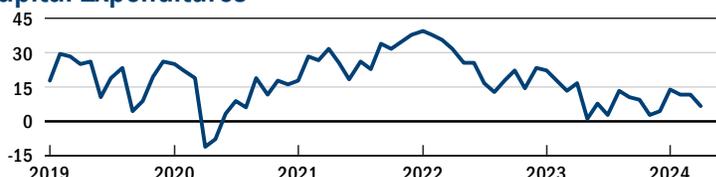
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	25.8	7.5	18.3
Apr	17.8	13.4	4.5
Change			-13.8

Average Employee Workweek



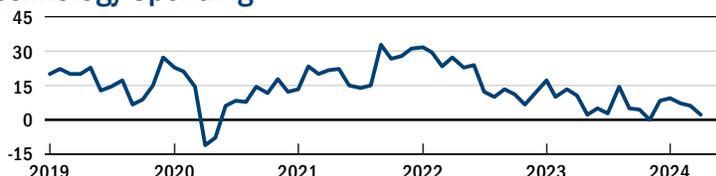
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	19.8	5.0	14.9
Apr	10.1	14.6	-4.5
Change			-19.4

Capital Expenditures



	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	25.7	13.9	11.9
Apr	21.3	14.6	6.7
Change			-5.2

Technology Spending



	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Mar	18.8	12.9	5.9
Apr	16.9	14.6	2.2
Change			-3.7

Note: Data are seasonally adjusted.