

Empire State Manufacturing Survey

Note: Survey responses were collected between September 2 and September 10.

Business activity grew at a swift pace in New York State, according to firms responding to the September 2021 *Empire State Manufacturing Survey*. The headline general business conditions index climbed sixteen points to 34.3. New orders, shipments, and unfilled orders all increased substantially. The delivery times index reached a record high. Labor market indicators pointed to strong growth in employment and the average workweek. Both the prices paid and prices received indexes were at or near record highs. Looking ahead, firms remained very optimistic that conditions would improve over the next six months, and capital spending and technology spending plans increased markedly.

Growth Picks Up

Manufacturing activity grew swiftly in New York State, according to the

September survey. The general business conditions index climbed sixteen points to 34.3. Forty-six percent of respondents reported that conditions had improved over the month, while 12 percent reported that conditions had worsened. The new orders index rose nineteen points to 33.7, and the shipments index shot up twenty-three points to 26.9, indicating strong growth in both orders and shipments. The unfilled orders index rose to 20.9. The delivery times index moved up to a record high of 36.5, indicating significantly longer delivery times. Inventories increased modestly.

Selling Price Increases Continue to Set Records

The index for number of employees rose eight points to 20.5, and the average workweek index increased

fifteen points to 24.3, pointing to strong gains in employment and hours worked. The prices paid index held steady at 75.7, and the prices received index edged up two points to 47.8, marking its third consecutive record high.

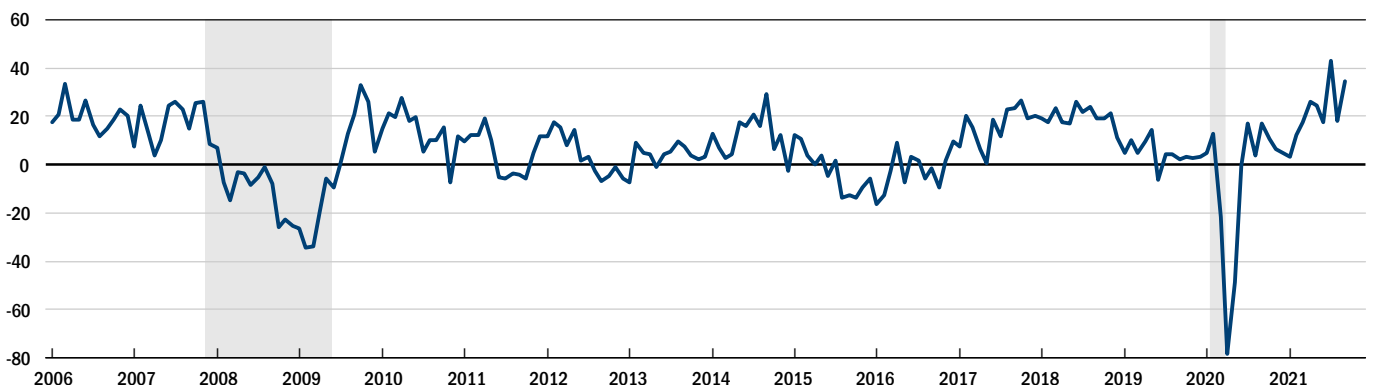
Outlook Remains Very Positive

The index for future business conditions was little changed at 48.4, pointing to ongoing optimism about the six-month outlook. The indexes for future new orders and shipments rose to similar levels. Substantial increases in employment and prices are expected in the months ahead. The capital expenditures index climbed eleven points to 33.9, a multi-year high, and the technology spending index rose eighteen points to 33.0, a record high. ■

General Business Conditions

Seasonally Adjusted

Diffusion Index

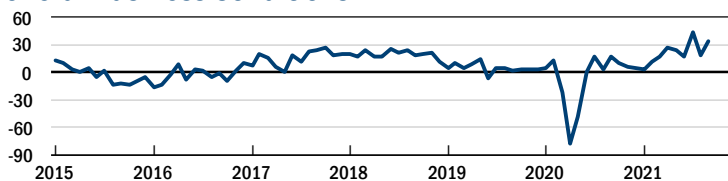


Note: The shaded areas indicate a period designated a recession by the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Current Indicators

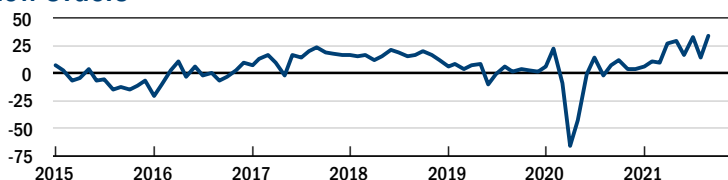
Change from Preceding Month

General Business Conditions



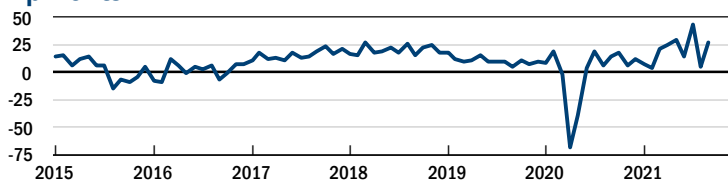
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	34.5	16.3	18.3
Sep	45.9	11.6	34.3
Change			16.0

New Orders



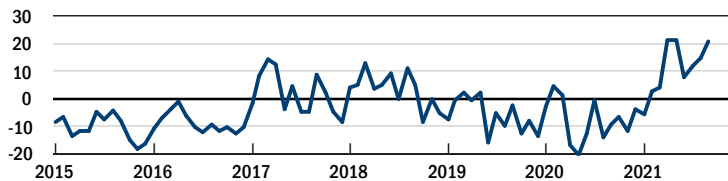
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	35.6	20.8	14.8
Sep	46.5	12.9	33.7
Change			18.9

Shipments



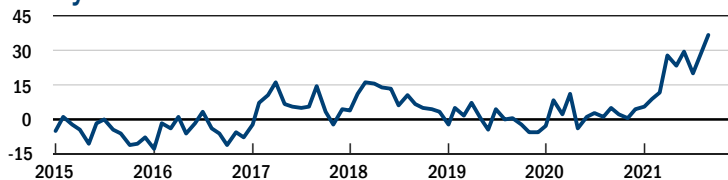
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	28.6	24.2	4.4
Sep	42.0	15.2	26.9
Change			22.5

Unfilled Orders



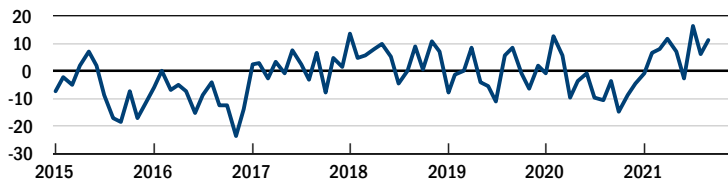
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	28.3	13.3	15.0
Sep	38.3	17.4	20.9
Change			5.9

Delivery Time



	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	36.3	8.0	28.3
Sep	43.5	7.0	36.5
Change			8.2

Inventories

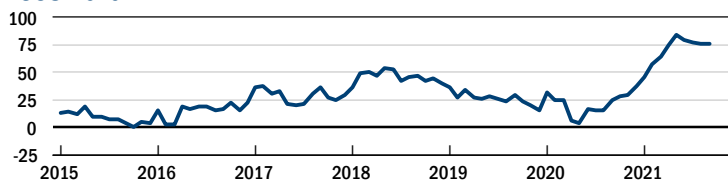


	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	23.9	17.7	6.2
Sep	29.6	18.3	11.3
Change			5.1

Current Indicators, *continued*

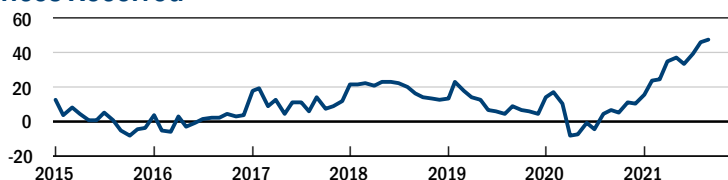
Change from Preceding Month

Prices Paid



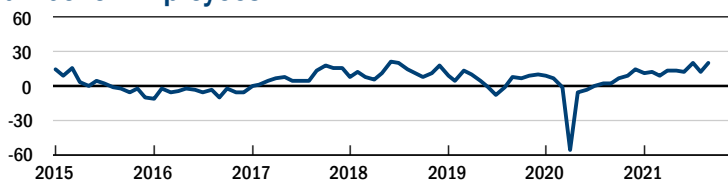
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	77.0	0.9	76.1
Sep	76.5	0.9	75.7
Change			-0.4

Prices Received



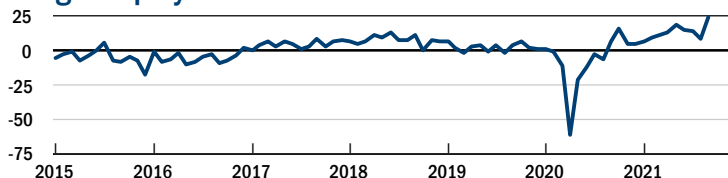
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	47.8	1.8	46.0
Sep	50.4	2.6	47.8
Change			1.8

Number of Employees



	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	23.1	10.4	12.8
Sep	26.1	5.5	20.5
Change			7.7

Average Employee Workweek



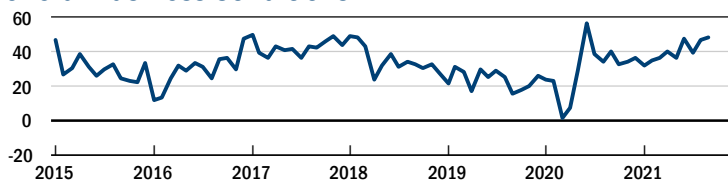
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	17.8	9.0	8.9
Sep	24.9	0.7	24.3
Change			15.4

Note: Data are seasonally adjusted.

Forward-Looking Indicators

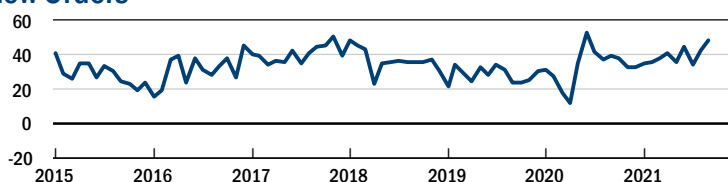
Expectations Six Months Ahead

General Business Conditions



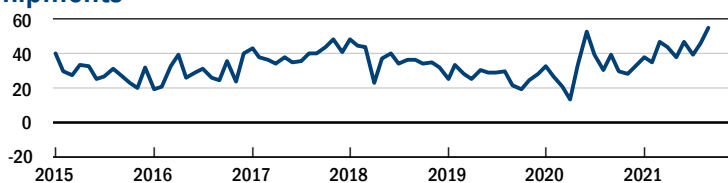
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	58.9	12.4	46.5
Sep	59.8	11.4	48.4
Change			1.9

New Orders



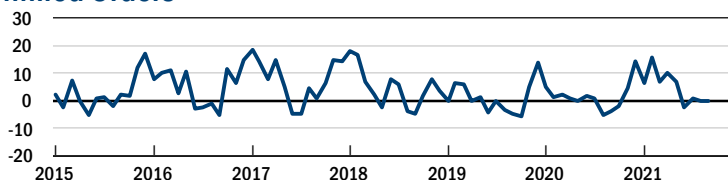
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	55.6	12.9	42.7
Sep	60.3	11.9	48.4
Change			5.7

Shipments



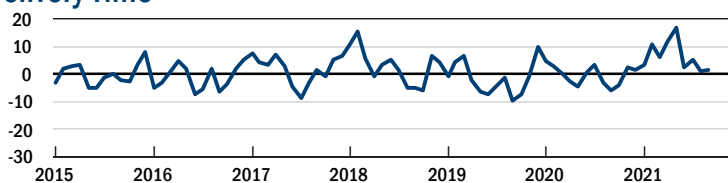
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	56.3	10.4	45.9
Sep	64.3	9.6	54.7
Change			8.8

Unfilled Orders



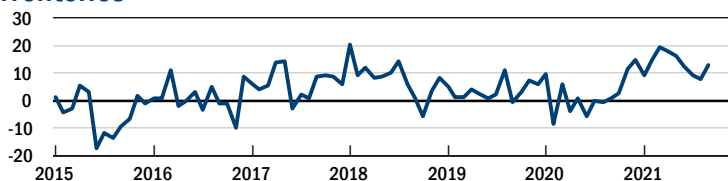
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	15.9	15.9	0.0
Sep	21.7	21.7	0.0
Change			0.0

Delivery Time



	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	19.5	18.6	0.9
Sep	24.3	22.6	1.7
Change			0.8

Inventories

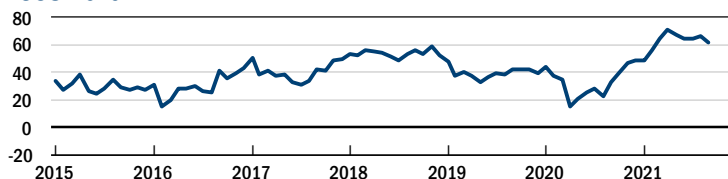


	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	24.8	16.8	8.0
Sep	29.6	16.5	13.0
Change			5.0

Forward-Looking Indicators, *continued*

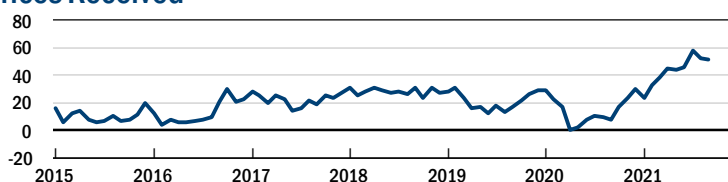
Expectations Six Months Ahead

Prices Paid



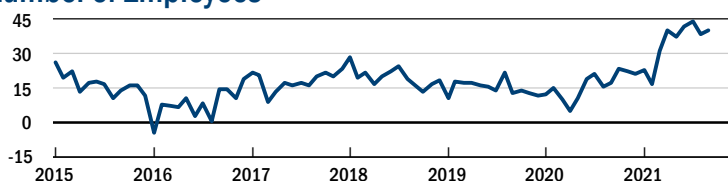
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	69.9	3.5	66.4
Sep	69.6	7.8	61.7
Change			-4.7

Prices Received



	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	56.6	4.4	52.2
Sep	56.5	5.2	51.3
Change			-0.9

Number of Employees



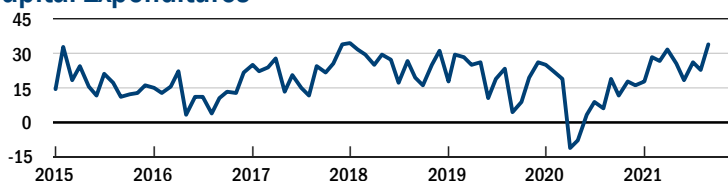
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	44.9	6.4	38.5
Sep	46.1	5.8	40.3
Change			1.8

Average Employee Workweek



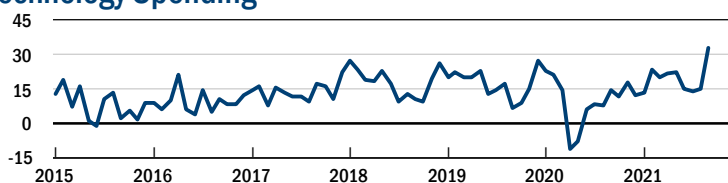
	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	14.2	11.5	2.7
Sep	20.9	12.2	8.7
Change			6.0

Capital Expenditures



	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	34.5	11.5	23.0
Sep	40.9	7.0	33.9
Change			10.9

Technology Spending



	Percent Reporting		Index
	Higher	Lower	
Aug	22.1	7.1	15.0
Sep	36.5	3.5	33.0
Change			18.0

Note: Data are seasonally adjusted.