

BNZ – BUSINESSNZ PERFORMANCE OF MANUFACTURING INDEX

Consistent Performer

13 Mar, 2026

55.0

February

-0.1

Monthly Change

Expanding

Slower Rate

New Zealand's manufacturing sector showed a consistent level of expansion during February, according to the latest BNZ – BusinessNZ Performance of Manufacturing Index (PMI).

The seasonally adjusted PMI for February was 55.0 (a PMI reading above 50.0 indicates that manufacturing is generally expanding; below 50.0 that it is declining). This was almost identical to the January result of 55.1, and above the average of 52.5 since the survey began.

BusinessNZ's Director of Advocacy, Catherine Beard, said the February result marked the first time since mid-2021 that activity had recorded three consecutive months at 55.0 or higher.

"All five sub-index values were again in expansion during February. This was led by the two key indices of *New Orders* (57.6) and *Production* (56.7), followed by *Deliveries* (51.0). *Employment* (50.4) dipped from January, but still remained in slight expansion.

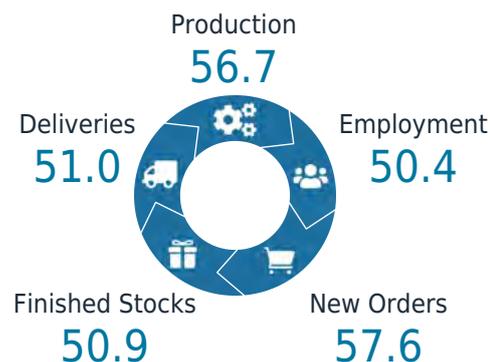
The proportion of positive comments from respondents stood at 55.5% in February, up from 47.7% in January but down from 57.1% in December. Manufacturers reported more orders, enquiries, and sales, supported by stronger export demand and improving conditions in certain sectors. Some also noted a growing pipeline of work and a gradual improvement in business confidence.

BNZ's Senior Economist Doug Steel said that "recent economic data have taken a backseat relative to the conflict in Middle East. While it is too early for the PMI to capture any of these impacts, the February outturn well above the breakeven 50 mark is a useful starting point".

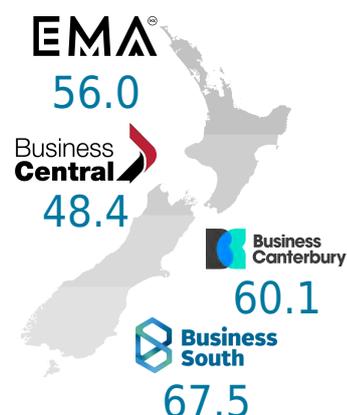


Catherine Beard
Director, Advocacy
BusinessNZ

Main Indices



Regional Results



[VIEW THE TIME SERIES DATA](#)



Manufacturing Snapshot

Firm February

The Performance of Manufacturing Index (PMI) was essentially unchanged at 55.0 in February. It has hovered around this level since December and suggests activity in the sector is growing at a decent clip.

[Read more](#)

Improved demand

Looking under the hood, the PMI subcomponents provide further evidence that the manufacturing sector started 2026 well. The new orders and production indices, at 57.6 and 56.7 respectively, are meaningfully above their long run-averages.

[Read more](#)

Energy prices jump up

As for the conflict in the Middle East, it is impossible to know how it will all end up. So, it is challenging to assess impacts on the New Zealand economy.

[Read more](#)

Uncertainty too

The associated economic uncertainty is also not helpful. Chaos in the Middle East is happening at a time when domestic activity was starting to pick up, but is both fragile and vulnerable, and inflation is already above 3%.

[Read more](#)



Doug Steel
Senior Economist, BNZ

[VIEW FULL BNZ MANUFACTURING SNAPSHOT](#)

Sponsor Statement

BNZ is delighted to be associated with the Performance of Manufacturing Index (PMI) and BusinessNZ. This association brings together the significant experience of leading business advocacy body BusinessNZ, and business finance specialist BNZ. We look forward to continuing our association with BusinessNZ and associated regional organisations, and to playing our part in the ongoing development of the New Zealand manufacturing sector.

[View Website](#)

PMI Time Series Table

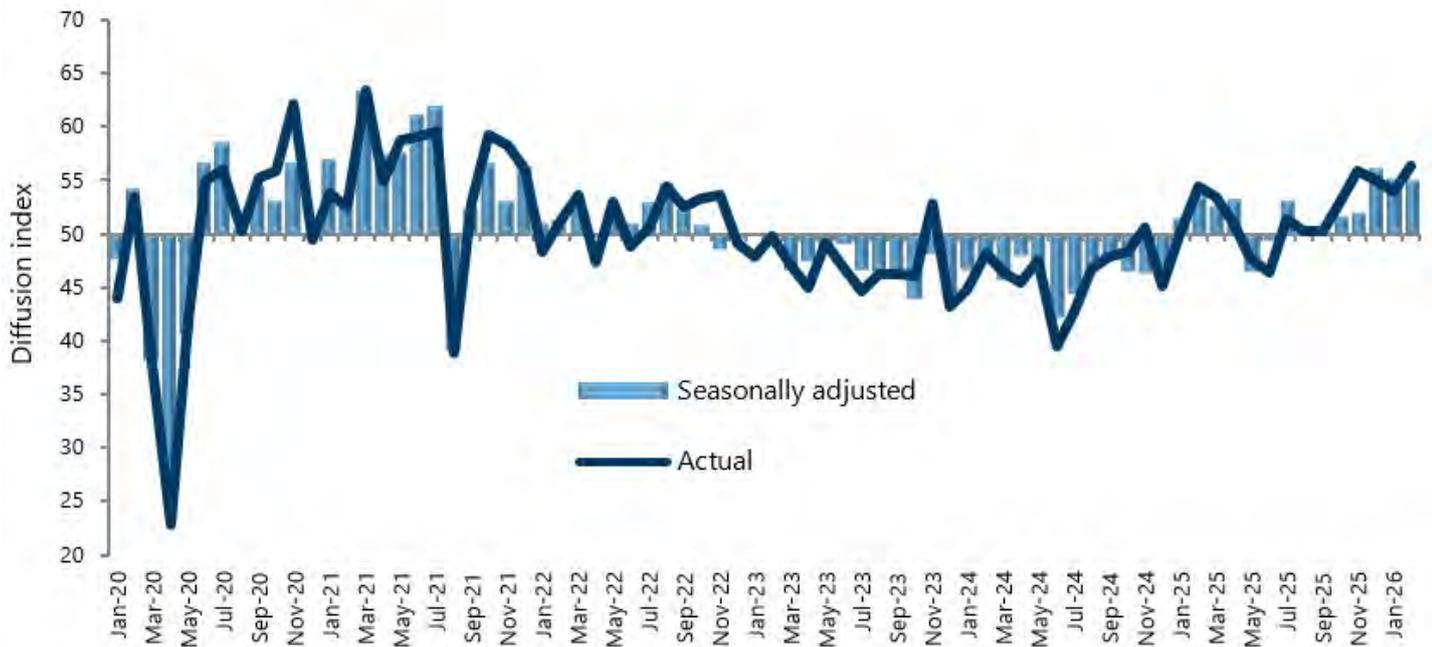
The results are seasonally adjusted.

National Indicies	Feb 2025	Oct 2025	Nov 2025	Dec 2025	Jan 2026	Feb 2026
BNZ - BusinessNZ PMI	53.5	51.5	51.8	56.0	55.1	55.0
Production	51.5	52.4	53.3	57.4	56.5	56.7
Employment	53.8	48.5	52.5	53.6	52.6	50.4
New Orders	51.2	54.9	52.6	60.0	56.6	57.6
Finished Stocks	53.9	50.9	50.5	50.8	50.8	50.9
Deliveries	55.1	50.7	49.4	56.0	53.1	51.0

[VIEW THE TIME SERIES DATA](#)

BNZ - BusinessNZ PMI Time Series

January 2020 - February 2026

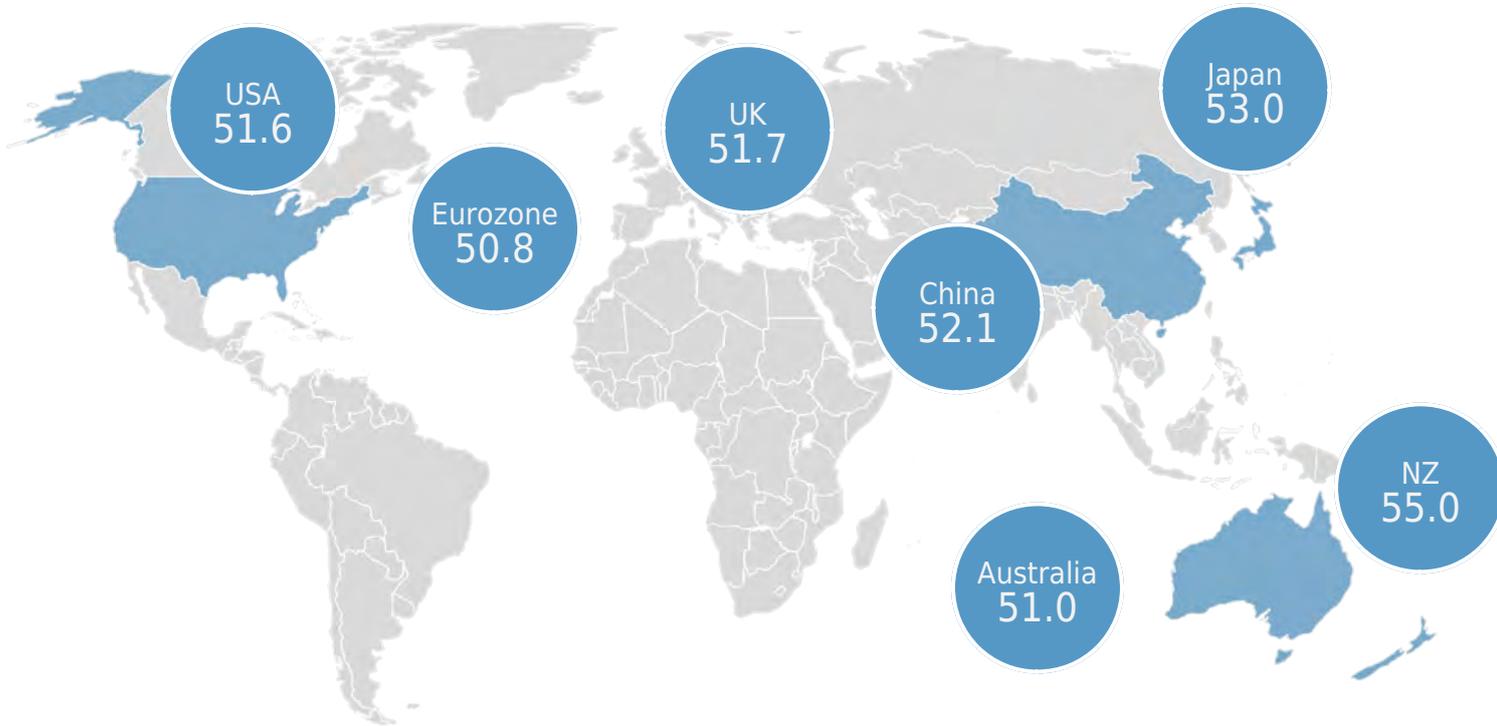


International Results

J.P. Morgan Global Manufacturing PMI™

04 Mar 2026

51.9



About the PMI

The BNZ - BusinessNZ Performance of Manufacturing Index is a monthly survey of the manufacturing sector providing an early indicator of activity levels. A PMI reading above 50 points indicates manufacturing activity is expanding; below 50 indicates it is contracting. The main PMI and sub-index results are seasonally adjusted.

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The BNZ - BusinessNZ PMI contains data obtained through BusinessNZ's regional organisations



Manufacturing Snapshot

13 March 2026

Firm February

The Performance of Manufacturing Index (PMI) was essentially unchanged at 55.0 in February. It has hovered around this level since December and suggests activity in the sector is growing at a decent clip. Recent economic data have taken a backseat relative to the conflict in Middle East. While it is too early for the PMI to capture any of these impacts, the February outturn well above the breakeven 50 mark is a useful starting point.

Improved demand

Looking under the hood, the PMI subcomponents provide further evidence that the manufacturing sector started 2026 well. The new orders and production indices, at 57.6 and 56.7 respectively, are meaningfully above their long run-averages. The stocks of finished products index is sitting at a relatively more modest 50.9 but it implies the growth in output is being met by improved demand, rather than feeding into inventory. It is not surprising to see the employment index lagging behind at 50.4, which we would expect at this stage of the recovery.

Energy prices jump up

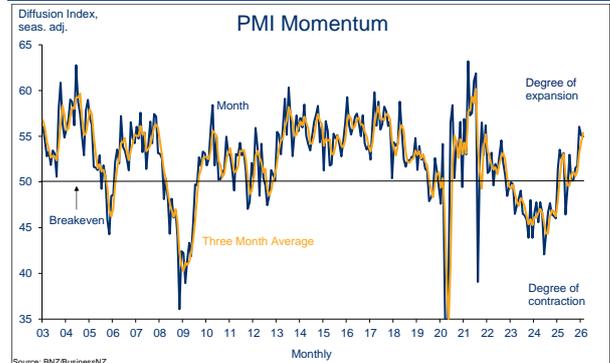
As for the conflict in the Middle East, it is impossible to know how it will all end up. So, it is challenging to assess impacts on the New Zealand economy. All else equal, energy prices will rise, general inflation will rise, and growth will be lower than what it would have otherwise been. We are monitoring the movements in oil and gas prices closely. Facing higher costs, companies will have little choice but to try and pass them on or cut back on production. Oil and gas prices have been extremely volatile and remain significantly above pre-conflict levels.

Uncertainty too

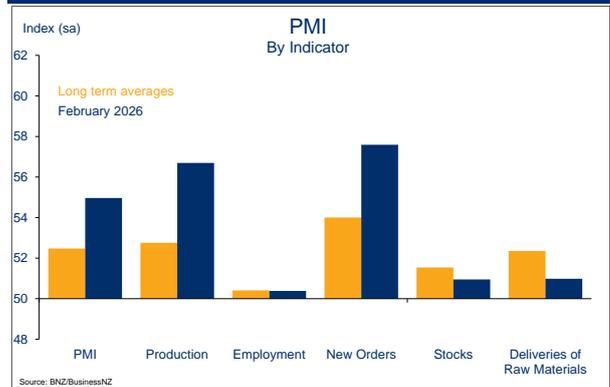
The associated economic uncertainty is also not helpful. Chaos in the Middle East is happening at a time when domestic activity was starting to pick up, but is both fragile and vulnerable, and inflation is already above 3%. Not only does this generate domestic dislocation but we need to keep a close eye on growth forecasts in our key trading partners too. For the manufacturing sector, a significant portion of output is exported directly, with more exported indirectly as an input into production in other sectors. As if this wasn't bad enough, news this week that Heinz Wattie's is closing three manufacturing facilities will create more unease.

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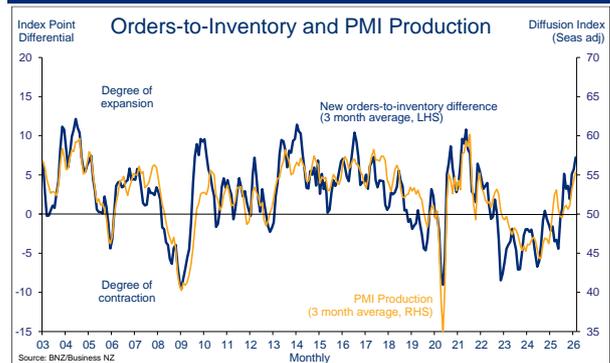
Expanding



All above 50



Moving higher



Volatile



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