

Over the top... for now

13 Nov, 2026

54.9	-1.4	Expanding
October	Monthly Change	Slower Rate

According to the latest BNZ - BusinessNZ Performance of Manufacturing Index (PMI), New Zealand's manufacturing sector continued to expand in October, though at a slower rate than the previous month.

The seasonally adjusted PMI for October was 54.9 (where a reading above 50.0 indicates that the manufacturing sector as a whole is expanding, and a reading below 50.0 indicates a contraction). This was down 1.4 points from 56.3 in September and continues the 16 month streak in expansion.

BusinessNZ's Director of Advocacy, Catherine Beard said: "It's pleasing to see manufacturing continue to expand for well over a year now, even as the pace eases back from September's strong result. The softening in New Orders and Production is worth keeping an eye on, but the Christmas build-up and steady infrastructure work suggest manufacturers are heading into the end of the year on a solid footing, even with input prices and the cost of living still weighing on many."

Sentiment softened slighting this month, with 56.4% of comments being negative, up from 53% in September. Respondents pointed to fuel prices, cost of living and election uncertainty, though a good number cited the Christmas build-up and steady orders as a more positive note.

Employment was the weakest sub-index at 51.9, though still in expansion, while *Deliveries* (61.4) and *Finished Stocks* (58.0) led the pack. *New Orders* (54.3) and *Production* (53.9) eased from last month but remained comfortably in expansion.

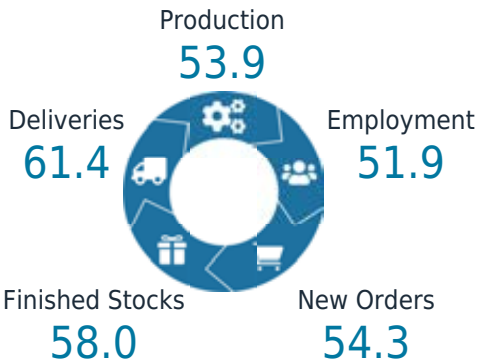
BNZ Senior Economist, Doug Steel, said "Although the PMI can be volatile month to month, the broader message is clear: momentum in manufacturing is firmly positive."

VIEW THE TIME SERIES DATA

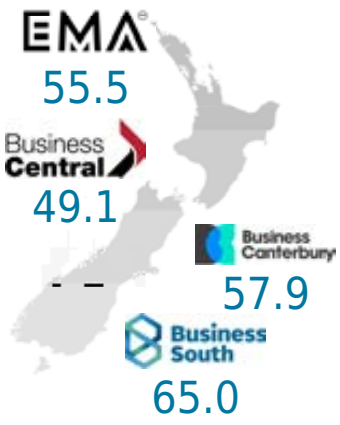


Catherine Beard
Director, Advocacy
BusinessNZ

Main Indices



Regional Results



Manufacturing Snapshot



Doug Steel
Senior Economist, BNZ

Manufacturing finding its stride

Improved activity in the manufacturing sector is becoming increasingly well established, as indicated by the Performance of Manufacturing Index (PMI).

Read more

Activity broadening

All subindustries expanded in October, extending the broadening momentum of recent months. Notably, the textile, clothing and footwear industry sustained its recent modest improvement.

Read more

Uncertainties stay unresolved

General Election uncertainty remained a drag for many manufactures in October. Unfortunately, this is set to linger as we await the final results and the outcome of coalition talks.

Read more

Supporting growth

Overall, October's PMI points to sustained improvement in the manufacturing sector. This result supports our forecast of moderate growth in manufacturing through Q4, contributing to annual GDP growth of around 2% over 2026.

Read more

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

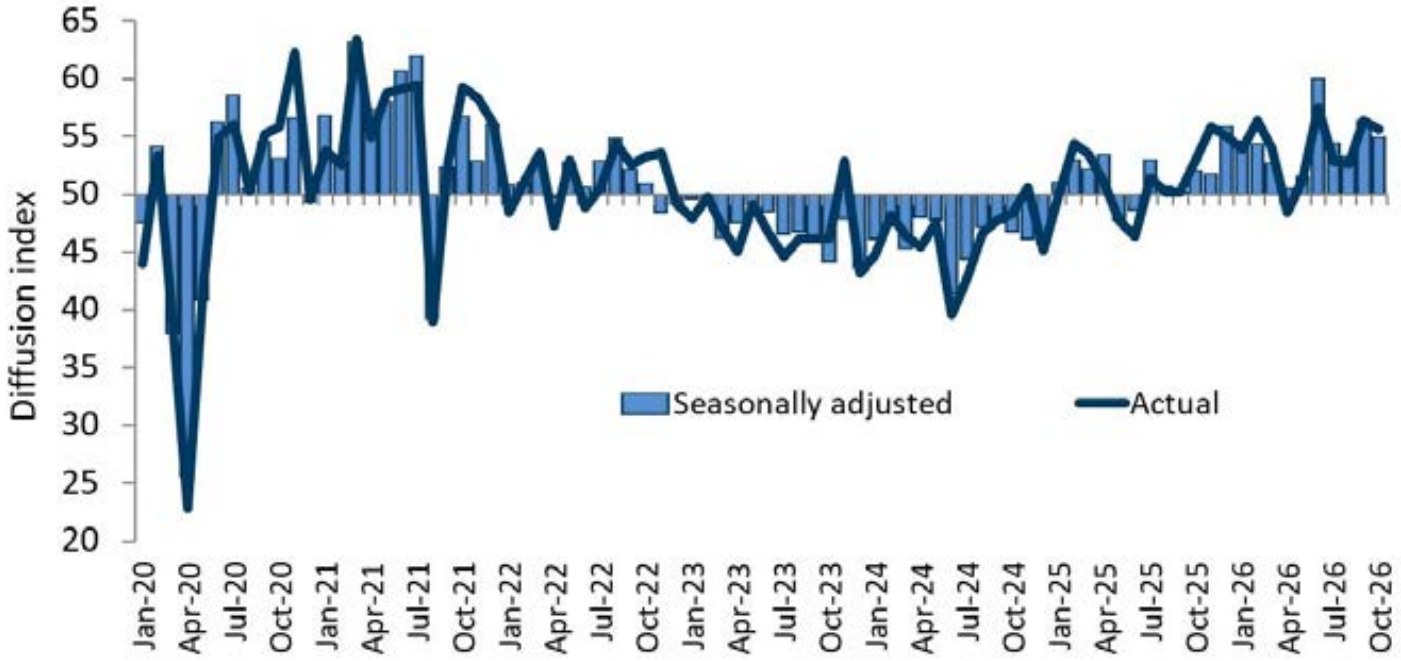
The results are seasonally adjusted.

National Indicies	Oct 2025	Jun 2026	Jul 2026	Aug 2026	Sep 2026	Oct 2026
BNZ – BusinessNZ PMI	52.0	60.0	54.4	53.2	56.3	54.9
Production	53.5	59.2	57.1	54.0	56.6	53.9
Employment	48.7	55.8	52.0	50.0	51.8	51.9
New Orders	55.1	64.3	53.7	55.1	56.8	54.3
Finished Stocks	51.4	56.9	53.6	56.6	59.0	58.0
Deliveries	50.7	57.3	55.7	52.2	59.1	61.4

VIEW THE TIME SERIES DATA

BNZ – BusinessNZ PMI Time Series

January 2020 – October 2026

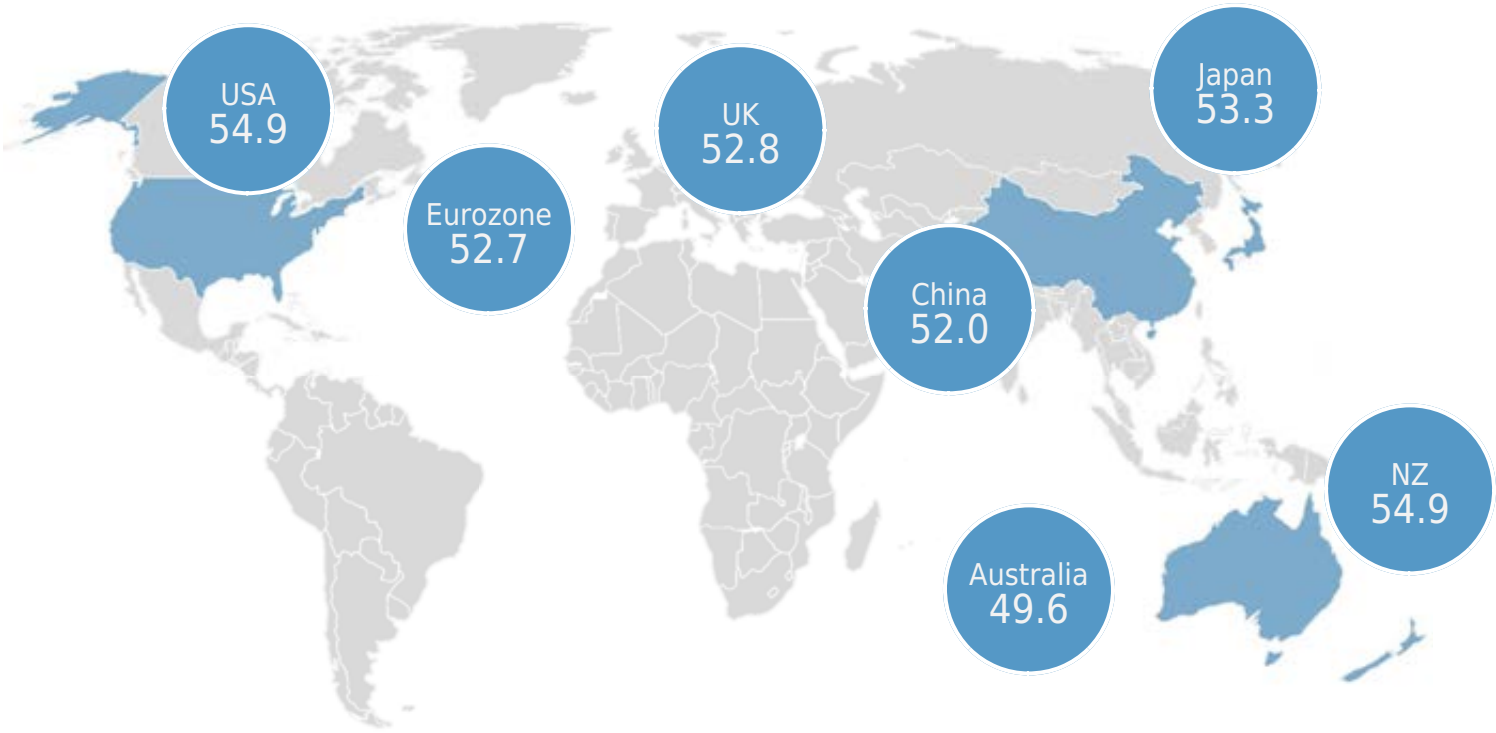


International Results

J.P. Morgan Global Manufacturing PMI™

02 Nov 2026

52.6



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

Research

Manufacturing Snapshot

13 November 2026

Manufacturing finding its stride

Improved activity in the manufacturing sector is becoming increasingly well established, as indicated by the Performance of Manufacturing Index (PMI). The PMI eased to 54.9 in October from 56.3 in September but remained comfortably above the breakeven 50 mark signalling sustained expansion. Although the PMI can be volatile month to month, the broader message is clear: momentum in manufacturing is firmly positive.

Activity broadening

All subindustries expanded in October, extending the broadening momentum of recent months. Notably, the textile, clothing and footwear industry sustained its recent modest improvement, a positive sign given its close links to consumer spending which has been subdued amid the ongoing squeeze on household budgets.

Digging into the detail, the new orders and production indicators softened slightly in October, but both have remained at healthy levels since the start of the year**.** Deliveries of raw materials were the strongest subindex last month, close to its highest level since the PMI began**.** This is noteworthy given the stocks indicator has been elevated for some time, with its 3-month average reaching a fresh high in October. However, last month's QSBO report indicated that relatively few manufacturers considered their stock levels too high, suggesting that the recent increase in the deliveries of raw materials and stocks subindexes may reflect manufacturers rebuilding inventories.

Uncertainties stay unresolved

General Election uncertainty remained a drag for many manufactures in October. Unfortunately, this is set to linger as we await the final results and the outcome of coalition talks. This will resolve in time, but it remains to be seen if the outcome will maintain or add to current momentum. Other headwinds, including elevated fuel and input costs, will take longer to dissipate. While oil prices have retreated in early-November, whether this proves lasting is anybody's guess.

Supporting growth

Overall, October's PMI points to sustained improvement in the manufacturing sector. This result supports our forecast of moderate growth in manufacturing through Q4, contributing to annual GDP growth of around 2% over 2026.

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Holding ground



Expanding across the board



Shooting higher



A support for economic growth



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