

BNZ – BUSINESSNZ PERFORMANCE OF MANUFACTURING INDEX

Manufacturing in 'poll' position

16 Oct, 2026

56.5

September

+3.2

Monthly Change

Expanding

Faster Rate

According to the latest BNZ - BusinessNZ Performance of Manufacturing Index (PMI), New Zealand's manufacturing sector expanded at a notably stronger rate in September.

The seasonally adjusted PMI for September was 56.5 (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 up 3.2 points from 53.3 in August, comfortably above the survey's long-term average of 52.5 and the 15th consecutive month in expansion!

BusinessNZ's Director of Advocacy, Catherine Beard said: "It's great to see manufacturing expand at a much stronger rate in September. Employment also picked up, now back in expansion at 51.8, which is an encouraging sign that firms are perhaps starting to feel more confident about adding staff. Respondents are still weighing up cost of living pressures, but the strength across New Orders, Production and Finished Stocks suggests there's real momentum building heading into the final quarter of the year."

Sentiment remained mixed despite the stronger result, with 53% of comments being negative. Respondents continued to point to fuel prices and uncertainty ahead of the election, though a solid number cited seasonal upticks, pre-Christmas orders and improving demand as a more positive note.

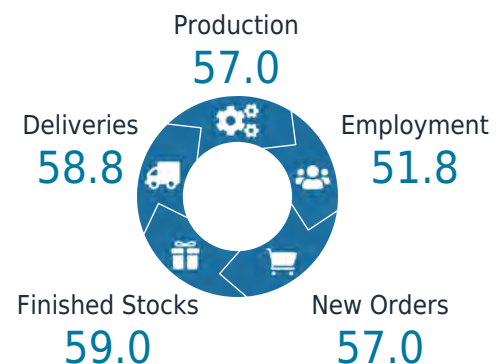
Employment was the weakest sub-index at 51.8, though still comfortably in expansion and up from 50.0 in August, while *Finished Stocks* (59.0) and *Deliveries* (58.8) led the pack. *Production* (57.0) and *New Orders* (57.0) also lifted strongly from last month.

BNZ Senior Economist, Doug Steel, said "putting June's exceptional 60.1 figure to one side, September's read is the highest print since 2021. An impressive result considering the vast number of domestic and international headwinds currently at play."

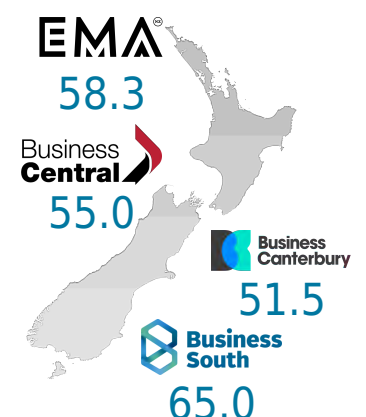


Catherine Beard
Director, Advocacy
BusinessNZ

Main Indices



Regional Results



[VIEW THE TIME SERIES DATA](#)



Manufacturing Snapshot

Expansion continues...

Confidence that New Zealand's manufacturing sector is growing has been further solidified. The Performance of Manufacturing Index (PMI) jumped to 56.5 in September, up from 53.3 in August.

[Read more](#)

... across the board

All subindices lifted and are above the breakeven 50 mark. Last month we noted a potential concern for high stock levels relative to other indicators. September's results have gone a long way to allaying these concerns.

[Read more](#)

But good news doesn't come without caution

Respondents again highlighted particular concern for fuel prices and associated cost increases, uncertainty surrounding the general election and the prospect of further increases to interest rates.

[Read more](#)

A positive story for growth

Overall, September's PMI result is further evidence of moderate GDP growth in the second half of 2026 and supports our view that the manufacturing sector will be a positive contributor.

[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

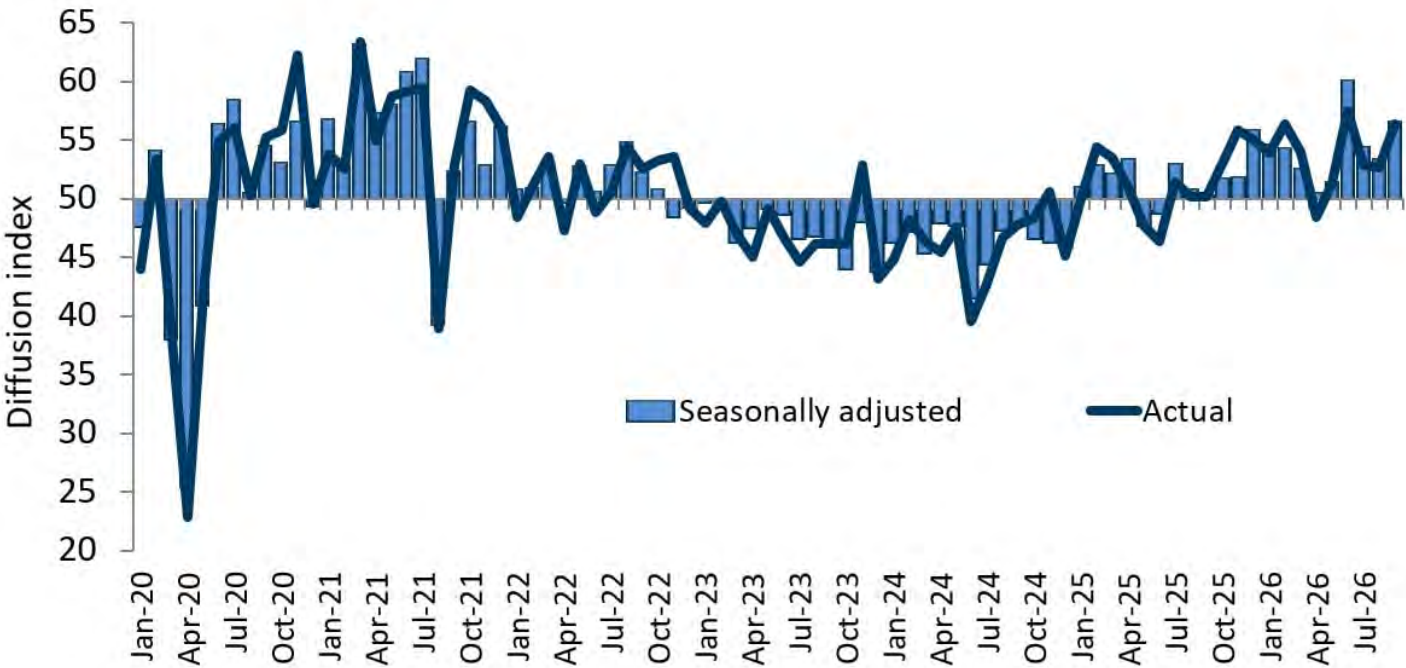
The results are seasonally adjusted.

National Indices	Sep 2025	May 2026	Jun 2026	Jul 2026	Aug 2026	Sep 2026
BNZ - BusinessNZ PMI	50.3	51.4	60.1	54.4	53.3	56.5
Production	51.1	51.0	59.3	57.1	54.2	57.0
Employment	48.2	50.9	55.7	52.1	50.0	51.8
New Orders	50.4	52.9	64.2	53.7	55.2	57.0
Finished Stocks	50.5	54.3	56.9	53.6	56.6	59.0
Deliveries	51.2	52.8	57.4	55.6	52.8	58.8

VIEW THE TIME SERIES DATA

BNZ - BusinessNZ PMI Time Series

January 2020 - September 2026

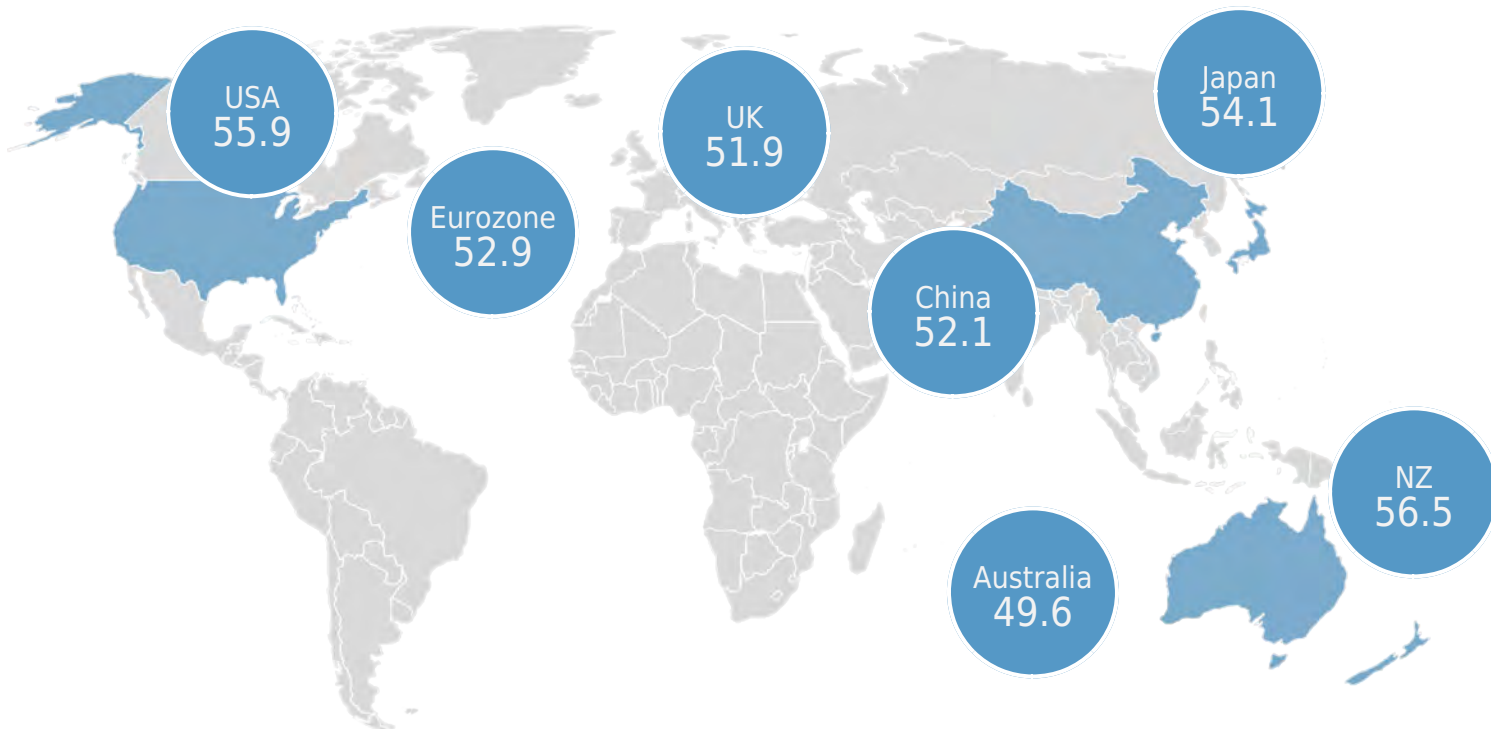


International Results

J.P. Morgan Global Manufacturing PMI™

01 Oct 2026

53.0



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

16 October 2026

Expansion continues...

Confidence that New Zealand's manufacturing sector is growing has been further solidified. The Performance of Manufacturing Index (PMI) jumped to 56.5 in September, up from 53.3 in August. Putting June's exceptional 60.1 figure to one side, September's read is the highest print since 2021. An impressive result considering the vast number of domestic and international headwinds currently at play.

... across the board

All subindices lifted and are above the breakeven 50 mark. Last month we noted a potential concern for high stock levels relative to other indicators. September's results have gone a long way to allaying these concerns. Production, new orders and deliveries have all improved greatly over the last month giving confidence that stocks of finished products are moving and demand is buoyant.

Employment expanded after a flat result in August. Growing employment is another indicator that manufacturers are becoming confident in the future. This is consistent with other recent surveys which have revealed improved business activity and confidence. It is important to note, however, that the PMI surveys outcomes rather than expectations and its positivity indicates actual growth rather than expected growth.

The broad expansion across industries also pushed forward with all industries except textiles and footwear expanding in September. Textiles and footwear printed at exactly 50, indicating neither expansion nor contraction. On balance this is a fair result given this industry's tight link to consumer spending which has been materially squeezed by higher fuel prices of late.

But good news doesn't come without caution

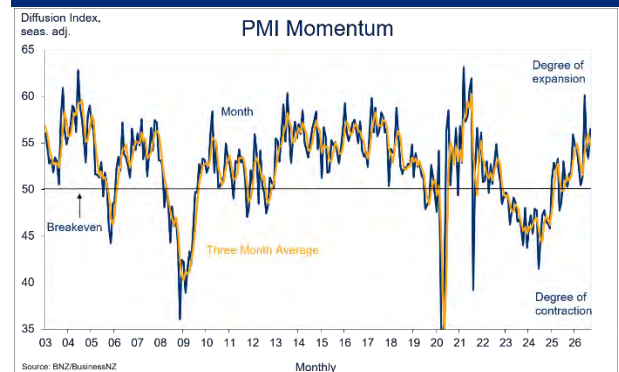
While the manufacturing industry is showing sustained improvement, uncertainty remains. Respondents again highlighted particular concern for fuel prices and associated cost increases, uncertainty surrounding the general election and the prospect of further increases to interest rates.

A positive story for growth

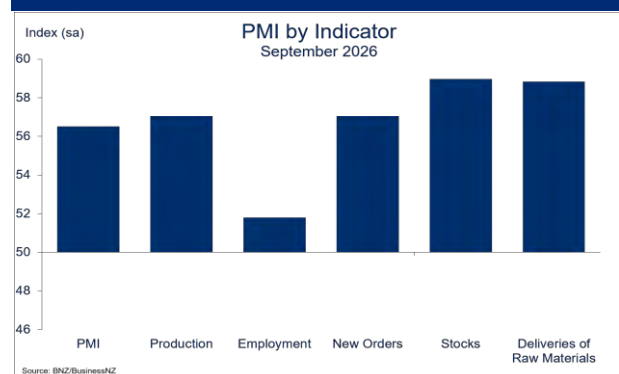
Overall, September's PMI result is further evidence of moderate GDP growth in the second half of 2026 and supports our view that the manufacturing sector will be a positive contributor.

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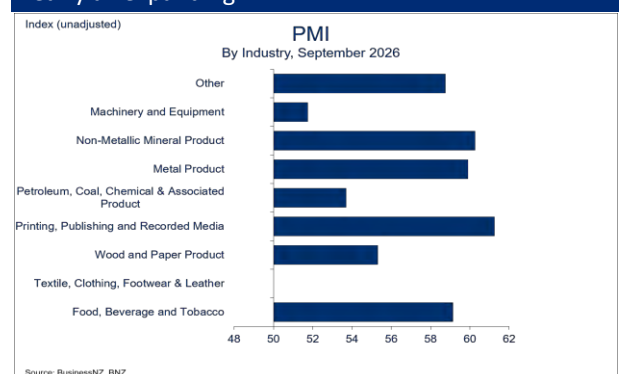
Expanding at a faster rate



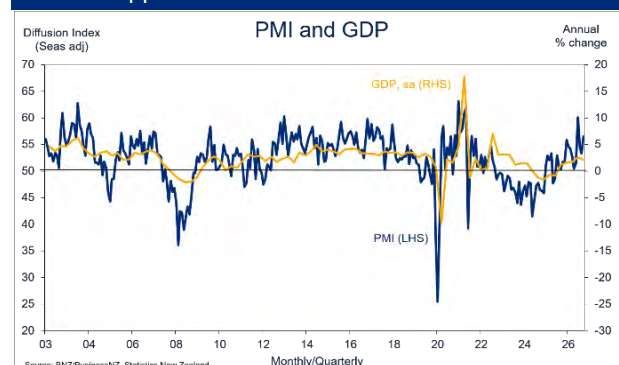
Good news all round



Nearly all expanding



Growth supportive



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