

## Chicago Business Barometer™

### October 2023 Chicago Report™ Steady at 44.0

- The Chicago Business Barometer™, produced with MNI fell -0.1 points to 44.0 from 44.1 in September. It remains below the 48.7 level seen in August but broadly in line with the 2023 average of 44.2.
- Production was the largest downside driver, while supplier deliveries and order backlogs also contributed. New orders and employment both moved up fairly notably.
- New orders were lifted +4.2 points, partially reversing the significant -17.6 point fall seen in September. The rise was driven largely by an increase in the proportion of respondents reporting an unchanged pipeline (and a slight decline in those reporting new orders).
- Production decreased -4.6 points to 46.5, entering contractionary territory once again after two months of expansion in August and September.
- Order backlogs were -0.3 points lower.
- Employment climbed +5.7 points to 50.2, the first growth into expansionary territory since April 2023. This was driven by increases in employment by some
- respondents to address holiday-season expectations and falls for those affected by labor unrest.
- Supplier deliveries dropped slightly by -0.5 points, showing improvements in logistical plans.
- Prices paid increased +0.6 points to 60.1 and remains below levels seen for the majority of the last three calendar years.
- Inventories gained +0.6 points, the third consecutive monthly increase.
- The survey ran from 1 October to 16 October

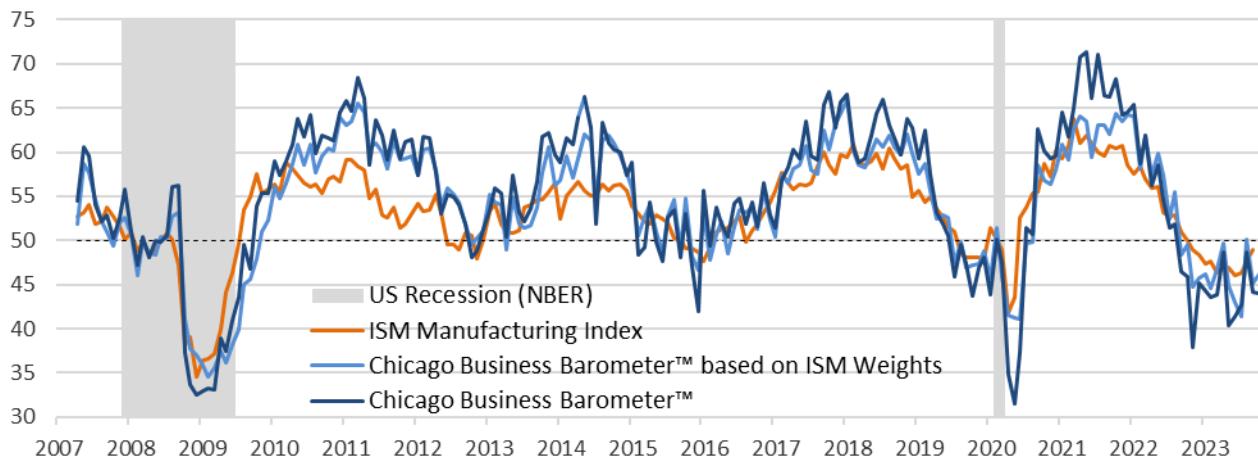
For more details on the Chicago Business Barometer™, including the subindices and historical data, please contact [sales@marketnews.com](mailto:sales@marketnews.com)

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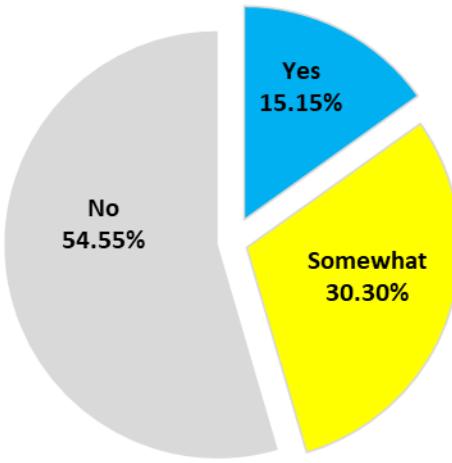
### Chicago Business Barometer™ and ISM Manufacturing Index



Chicago Business Barometer™ Report – October 2023

## Special Questions in October 2023

**As we head into the flu season, are you and your procurement teams concerned about the rise and impact of the most recent Covid variant?**



**ISM**  
INSTITUTE FOR SUPPLY MANAGEMENT  
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**mni**

## About MNI Indicators

MNI Indicators specializes in producing business and consumer surveys designed to present an advance picture of the economic landscape and highlight changing trends in business and consumer activity. MNI Indicators produces the renowned Chicago Business Barometer™, a key leading indicator of the US economy. MNI Indicators is part of Market News International, Inc., a leading provider of news and intelligence.

## Notes to Editors

**Production:** MNI Indicators, part of Market News International Inc.

**Date range:** Monthly since 1946

**Release Date:** Last working day of the month

**Bloomberg ticker:** <CHPMINDX>

**Collection method:** Survey data is collected online each month from manufacturing and non-manufacturing firms in the Chicago area. Respondents are purchasing/supply-chain professionals, primarily drawn from the membership of the ISM-Chicago (Institute for Supply Management – Chicago).

**Calculation method:** Respondents are asked their opinion on whether a particular business activity has increased, decreased or remained the same compared with the previous month. E.g. Is Production Higher/Same/Lower compared with a month ago?

A diffusion indicator is then calculated by adding the percentage share of positive responses to half the percentage of those respondents reporting no change. The three questions related to Buying Policy are measured in days and are not diffusion indicators. The Chicago Business Barometer™ and all sub-indicators are then seasonally adjusted. An indicator reading above 50 shows expansion compared with a month earlier while below 50 indicates contraction. A result of 50 is neutral. The farther an indicator is above or below 50, the greater or smaller the rate of change.

**Headline indicator:** The Chicago Business Barometer™ is a weighted composite indicator made up of five sub-indicators, namely New Orders, Production, Employment, Order Backlogs and Supplier Deliveries. It is designed to predict future changes in U.S. gross domestic product (GDP).

**Other indicators:** The survey also asks companies about changes in their input prices, inventories and lead times to source production materiel, MRO supplies and capital equipment.

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