Chicago Business Barometer™ – Dipped to 55.3 in October

October 2026 Chicago Report™

- The Chicago Business Barometer™, produced with MNI, dipped 3.5 points to 55.3 in October. The Barometer remained in expansion, above the neutral 50 mark, for a second month.
- The decline was driven by decreases in Supplier Deliveries, Production, Order Backlogs and New Orders, partially offset by an increase in Employment.
- Supplier Deliveries fell 10.3 points to their lowest level since February, but remained in expansionary territory for the twenty-first consecutive month. The index mostly reversed the previous month's increase. Respondents reported mixed conditions: some noted that deliveries remained slow despite the shortening in delivery times, while others cited persistent delays out of Asia.
- Production declined 5.2 points, remaining in expansion for a second consecutive month.
- Order Backlogs decreased 4.4 points, remaining in contractionary territory for the fourth consecutive month, but still above August's low.
- New Orders edged down 0.6 points, remaining firmly in expansionary territory for a second consecutive month.
- Employment rose 10.3 points to its highest level since April 2021, returning to expansionary territory after one month in contraction. The increase reflected a higher proportion of respondents reporting increased employment and a lower proportion reporting decreased employment.
- Prices Paid accelerated 8.9 points, reaching their highest level since December 2021. Respondents cited cost pressures from chemical- and petroleum-based inputs, as well as fuel surcharges and freight costs. For the eighth consecutive month, no respondents reported lower prices paid than the previous month.
- Inventories edged up 4.0 points, but remained in contractionary territory for the third consecutive month.
- The survey ran from October 1 to October 13.

For more details on the Chicago Business Barometer™, including the subindices and historical data, please contact sales@marketnews.com

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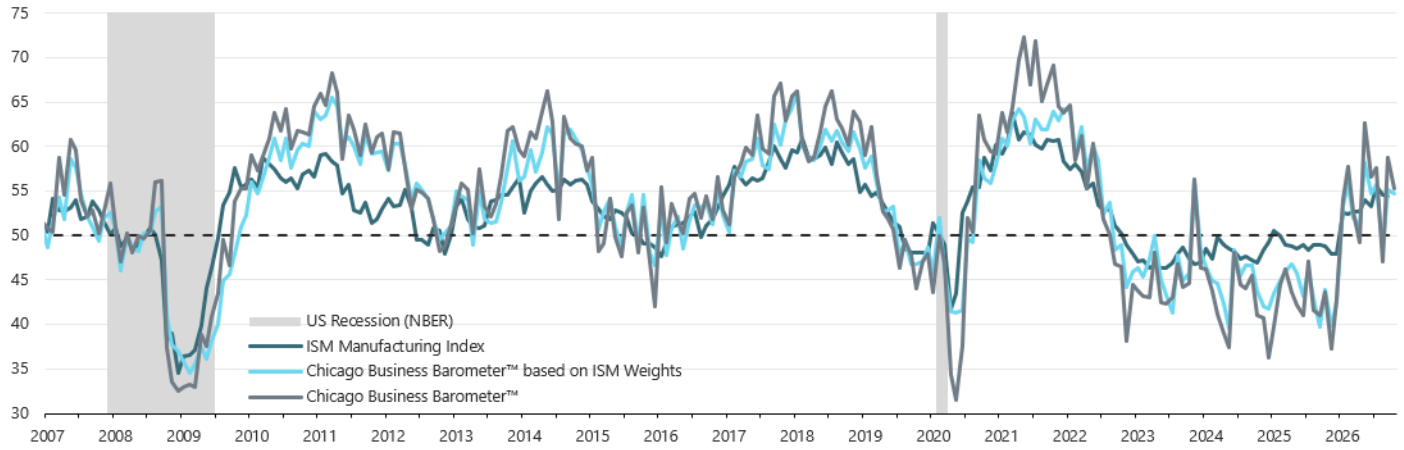
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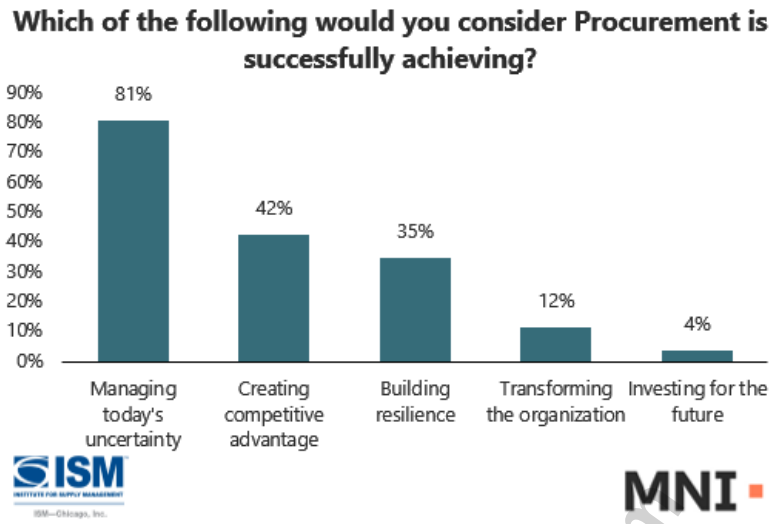
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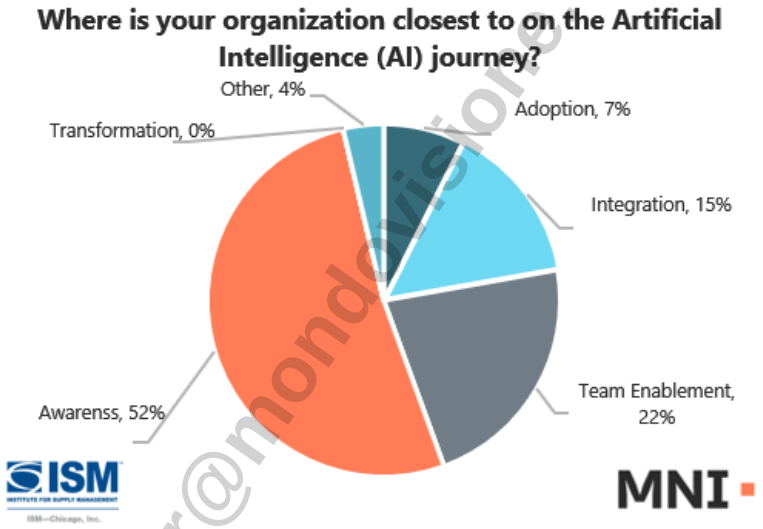
Chicago Business Barometer™ and ISM Manufacturing Index

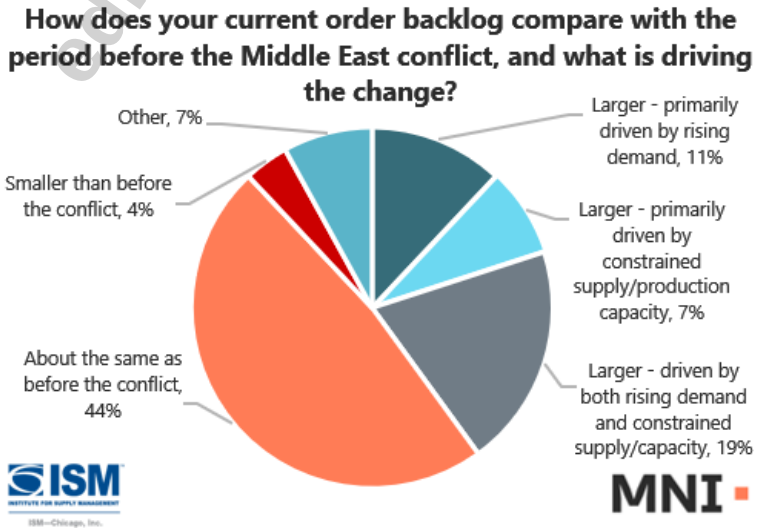


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Special Questions in October 2026







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Chicago Business Barometer™

2026/27 Publication Calendar

Please see below the upcoming release dates for the Chicago Business Barometer™:

Release Dates	
30th November, 2026	09:45 Eastern Time (E.T.)
30th December, 2026	09:45 Eastern Time (E.T.)
29th January, 2027	09:45 Eastern Time (E.T.)
26th February, 2027	09:45 Eastern Time (E.T.)
31st March, 2027	09:45 Eastern Time (E.T.)
30th April, 2027	09:45 Eastern Time (E.T.)
28th May, 2027	09:45 Eastern Time (E.T.)
30th June, 2027	09:45 Eastern Time (E.T.)
30th July, 2027	09:45 Eastern Time (E.T.)
31st August, 2027	09:45 Eastern Time (E.T.)
30th September, 2027	09:45 Eastern Time (E.T.)
29th October, 2027	09:45 Eastern Time (E.T.)
30th November, 2027	09:45 Eastern Time (E.T.)
30th December, 2027	09:45 Eastern Time (E.T.)

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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 BarometerTM 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.

For more information, please contact us at info@mni-indicators.com or visit www.marketnews.com

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