October 2026

SL Purchasing Managers' Index

Manufacturing and Services

STATISTICS DEPARTMENT
CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA

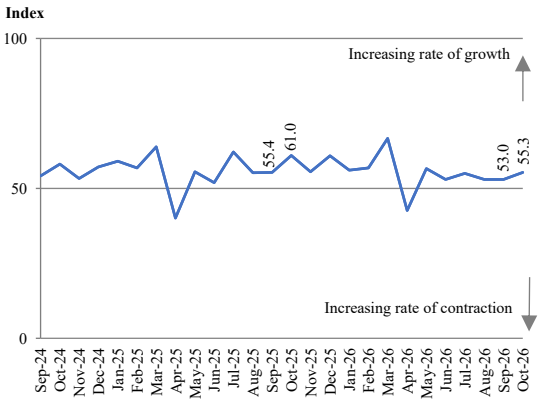
Purchasing Managers' Indices indicate expansions in both Manufacturing and Services activities in October 2026

The Sri Lanka Purchasing Managers' Index for Manufacturing (PMI – Manufacturing) recorded 55.3 in October 2026, indicating an expansion in manufacturing activities. This expansion was broad-based, with all sub-indices remaining above the neutral threshold.

The notable increase in the New Orders sub-index was driven by the manufacture of textiles and wearing apparel and the food and beverages sectors, reflecting seasonal demand. Moreover, the Production sub-index increased in October, driven by seasonal demand in the textiles and wearing apparel sector. In addition, the Employment and Stock of Purchases sub-indices expanded, in line with the growth in New Orders and Production. Meanwhile, Suppliers' Delivery Time further lengthened during the period, reflecting increased demand for inputs.

PMI Manufacturing October 2026 **55.3**

PMI - Manufacturing



Source: Central Bank of Sri Lanka

Summary of the PMI - Manufacturing Survey

Variable	2026 Sep.	2026 Oct.	+/-	Direction
PMI - Manufacturing	**53.0**	**55.3**	**+**	**Rising, Higher Rate**
New Orders	51.0	55.0	+	Rising, Higher Rate
Production	51.0	52.2	+	Rising, Higher Rate
Employment	52.6	51.1	-	Rising, Slower Rate
Stock of Purchases	50.0	56.1	+	Rising from Neutral
Suppliers' Delivery Time	63.0	66.1	+	Rising, Higher Rate

Source: Central Bank of Sri Lanka

The outlook for manufacturing activities over the next three months is favourable, underpinned by anticipated demand during the upcoming festive season.

The World Outlook
Summary of PMI Manufacturing

Country/Territory	Direction
Global	Rising, Slower Rate
India	Rising, Slower Rate
China	Rising, Slower Rate
US	Rising, Slower Rate
UK	Rising, Higher Rate
Eurozone	Rising, Slower Rate

Source: S&P Global[1] as of 16 November 2026 (PMI Releases (spglobal.com))

[1]S&P Global compiles PMIs for over 40 economies worldwide.

Sri Lanka Purchasing Managers' Index for Services (PMI – Services) recorded an index value of 62.5 in October 2026, indicating an expansion in services activities at a higher rate compared to the previous month.

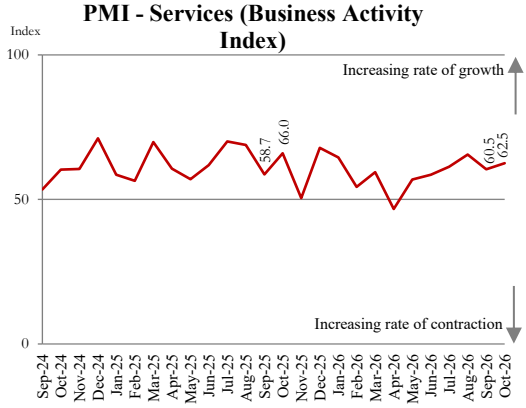
PMI
Services Business Activity Index
October 2026
62.5

Business Activity expanded, driven primarily by improvements in other personal services, with notable contributions from financial services and goods transportation.

New Businesses grew, mainly reflecting an expansions in financial services and other personal services, alongside positive contributions from accommodation, food and beverage services, and transportation of goods.

Employment increased, supported by recruitment across several sub-sectors to meet rising operational requirements. Meanwhile, Backlogs of Work decline, at a higher rate compared to the previous month.

PMI - Services (Business Activity Index)



Source: Central Bank of Sri Lanka

Summary of the PMI - Services Survey

Variable	2026 Sep.	2026 Oct.	+/-	Direction
PMI - Services (Business Activity Index)	**60.5**	**62.5**	**+**	**Rising, Higher Rate**
New Businesses	60.9	59.8	-	Rising, Slower Rate
Employment	54.0	56.1	+	Rising, Higher Rate
Backlogs of Work	49.4	48.1	-	Falling, Higher Rate
Expectations for Activity	76.2	74.7	-	Rising, Slower Rate

Source: Central Bank of Sri Lanka

Expectations for Business Activity over the next three months remained positive, supported by favourable macroeconomic conditions, anticipated increases in tourist arrivals, and the upcoming festive season. However, prevailing global uncertainties continue to pose downside risks to the outlook.

The World Outlook
Summary of PMI Services

Country/Territory	Direction
Global	Rising, Slower Rate
India	Rising, Higher Rate
China	Rising, Slower Rate
US	Rising, Slower Rate
UK	Rising, Higher Rate
Eurozone	Rising, Slower Rate

Source: S&P Global [1] as of 16 November 2026 (PMI Releases (spglobal.com))

Technical Note

Methodology

Questionnaires are completed in the first half of the succeeding month. For each variable, respondents are asked to report an increase, decrease or no change compared with the previous month, and to provide reasons for any changes. The index compilation and interpretation of indices follow the survey methodology of S&P Global.

PMI – Manufacturing, which is considered as the headline index for Manufacturing, is a weighted average of New Orders, Output, Employment, Suppliers' Delivery Time and Stocks of Purchases.

The Services Business Activity Index is the headline index for Services, which is referred to as the **PMI – Services**, as per the international best practices. The Services Business Activity Index is comparable to the Manufacturing Production Index.

The Index

PMI is calculated as a 'Diffusion Index', where it takes values between 0 and 100.
PMI=50 - sector remained neutral on a month-on-month basis
PMI>50 - sector is generally expanding on a month-on-month basis
PMI<50 - sector is generally declining on a month-on-month basis

Sample

The sampling frame was based on a list of large companies located in the Western province obtained from the EPF Department. Samples for Manufacturing and Services activities were selected based on the GDP sectoral share, with a target of 100 responses for each.

Definitions of Variables

Employment : Number of staff working for the organization
Stock of Purchases : Raw materials purchased and kept in a warehouse to be used for production
Supplier Delivery Time : Time lag between order placement and delivery by the supplier
Backlogs of Work : Uncompleted orders
Other variables are self-explanatory.