

# PRESS RELEASE

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 CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA

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## SL Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) – January 2026

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

**Sri Lanka Purchasing Managers' Index for Manufacturing (PMI – Manufacturing) recorded an index value of 56.1 in January 2026.** This reflects a month-on-month expansion in manufacturing activities at a slower rate compared to the seasonal peak in December 2025. All the sub-indices remained above the neutral threshold during the month.

The New Orders and Production remained expanded in January. Further, Employment also expanded, while the stock of Purchases registered a month-on-month increase, mainly due to inventory buildup ahead of the Chinese New Year holidays. Meanwhile, the Suppliers' Delivery Time remained lengthened during the month.

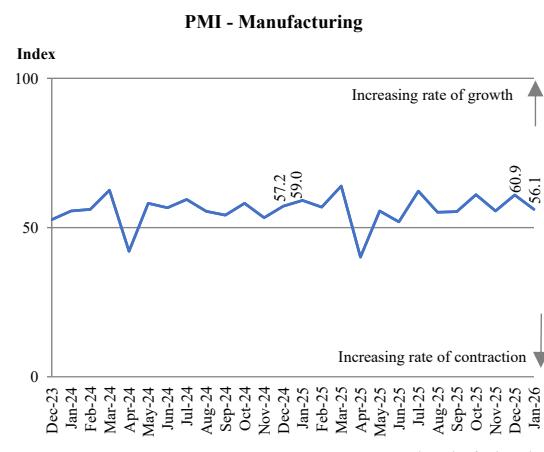
### Summary of the PMI - Manufacturing Survey

Variable	2025 Dec.	2026 Jan.	+/-	Direction
PMI - Manufacturing	60.9	56.1	-	Rising, Slower Rate
New Orders	63.8	58.5	-	Rising, Slower Rate
Production	61.2	57.5	-	Rising, Slower Rate
Employment	58.5	51.5	-	Rising, Slower Rate
Stock of Purchases	53.7	56.0	+	Rising, Higher Rate
Suppliers' Delivery Time	62.5	55.0	-	Lengthening, Slower Rate

Source: Central Bank of Sri Lanka

Expectations for manufacturing activities over the next three months indicate an improvement.

**PMI  
Manufacturing  
January 2026** **56.1**



Source: Central Bank of Sri Lanka

### The World Outlook Summary of PMI Manufacturing

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

Source: S&P Global<sup>1</sup> as of 16 February 2026 (PMI Releases (spglobal.com))

<sup>1</sup>S&P Global compiles PMIs for over 40 economies worldwide.

**Sri Lanka Purchasing Managers' Index for Services (PMI – Services) recorded an index value of 64.5 in January 2026, indicating a slower expansion in services activities compared to the previous month.**

The expansion in Business Activities was driven by the improvements observed across most of the sectors. The growth was driven by strong performance in wholesale and retail trade, and accommodation, food and beverage service activities. In addition, business activities related to financial services also continued to improve, underpinned by increased lending activity.

New Businesses increased in January 2026, underpinned by increased demand for financial services, as well as improved activity in education, and transportation of goods and passengers, including warehousing.

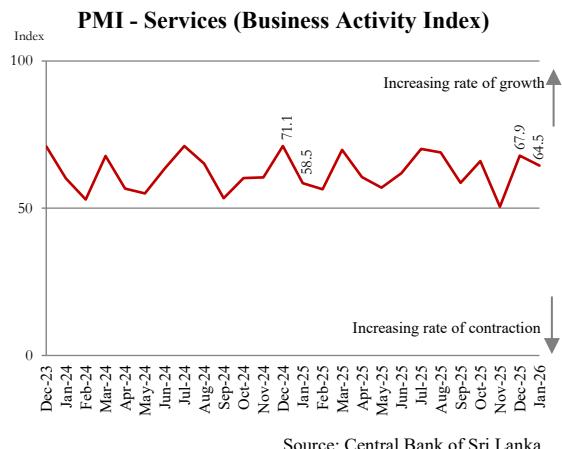
Employment continued to rise in January 2026, reflecting workforce expansion by firms to meet increased demand. Meanwhile, Backlogs of Work declined on a month-on-month basis, following the increase recorded in the previous month.

#### Summary of the PMI - Services Survey

Variable	2025 Dec.	2026 Jan.	+/-	Direction
<b>PMI - Services (Business Activity Index)</b>	<b>67.9</b>	<b>64.5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Rising, Slower Rate</b>
New Businesses	64.6	60.8	-	Rising, Slower Rate
Employment	52.6	59.2	+	Rising, Higher Rate
Backlogs of Work	53.8	48.9	-	Falling from Rising

Source: Central Bank of Sri Lanka

The Expectations for Business Activity over the next quarter improved further, supported by favourable macroeconomic conditions, expected seasonal demand, and the continued normalisation of operations following weather-related disruptions.



#### The World Outlook Summary of PMI Services

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

Source: S&P Global<sup>1</sup> as of 16 February 2026  
([PMI Releases \(spglobal.com\)](http://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