PRESS RELEASE

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இலங்கை மத்திய வங்கி
CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA

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SL Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) – August 2026

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

Sri Lanka Purchasing Managers' Index for Manufacturing (PMI – Manufacturing) recorded an index value of 53.0 in August 2026. This indicates an expansion in manufacturing activities, albeit at a slower rate compared to the previous month. All the sub-indices, except for Production, remained above the neutral threshold in August.

The New Orders sub-index remained at the neutral threshold in August, indicating broadly unchanged levels of new business activities. Meanwhile, the moderation in the Production sub-index was driven by the manufacture of textiles and wearing apparel sector. Both the Employment and Quantity of Purchases sub-indices increased in August, reflecting continued hiring and a gradual build-up of inventories in preparation for year-end seasonal production. Meanwhile, Suppliers' Delivery Times sub-index lengthened further in August, reflecting persistent supply disruptions.

Summary of the PMI - Manufacturing Survey

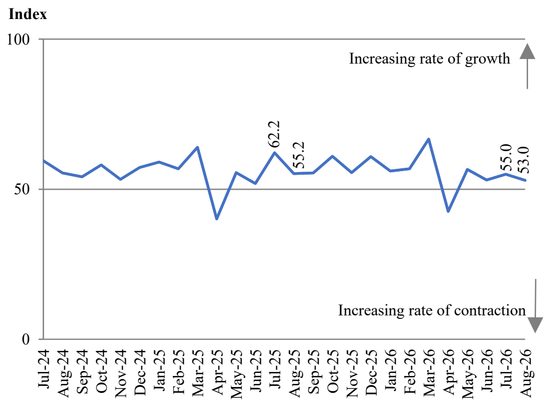
Variable	2026 Jul.	2026 Aug.	+/-	Direction
PMI - Manufacturing	**55.0**	**53.0**	**-**	**Rising, Slower Rate**
New Orders	55.9	50.0	-	Neutral from Rising
Production	54.5	48.4	-	Falling from Rising
Employment	51.0	54.8	+	Rising, Higher Rate
Stock of Purchases	51.5	54.8	+	Rising, Higher Rate
Suppliers' Delivery Time	61.5	63.0	+	Lengthening, Higher Rate

Source: Central Bank of Sri Lanka

The outlook remains positive, albeit moderated by near-term challenges, mainly due to the expected year-end seasonal upturn.

PMI Manufacturing August 2026 **53.0**

PMI - Manufacturing



Source: Central Bank of Sri Lanka

The World Outlook
Summary of PMI Manufacturing

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

Source: S&P Global[1] as of 15 September 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 65.6 in August 2026, indicating an accelerated expansion in services activities compared to the previous month.

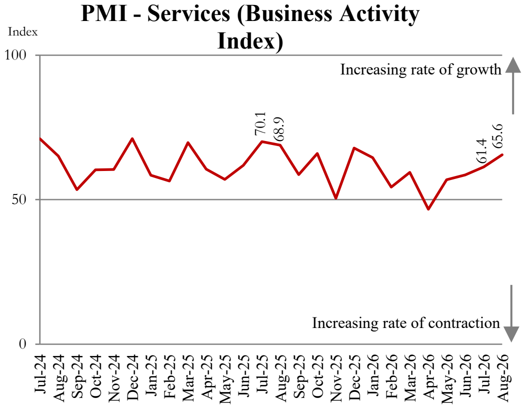
PMI
Services
Business Activity Index **65.6**
August 2026

Business activity grew at a faster pace in August 2026, supported by the improvements observed across many sectors. This growth was primarily driven by the strong performance in transportation, wholesale and retail trade, and professional services sub-sectors, while financial and other personal services sub-sectors also contributed notably.

New businesses increased in August 2026, primarily due to the expansions observed in wholesale and retail trade, financial and other personal services sub-sectors. The professional services sub-sector also contributed positively to this increase.

Employment increased in August 2026, supported by new recruitments. Meanwhile, Backlogs of Work declined in August 2026, reversing the increase recorded in the previous month.

PMI - Services (Business Activity Index)



Source: Central Bank of Sri Lanka

Summary of the PMI - Services Survey

Variable	2026 Jul.	2026 Aug.	+/-	Direction
PMI - Services (Business Activity Index)	**61.4**	**65.6**	**+**	**Rising, Higher Rate**
New Businesses	60.2	60.0	-	Rising, Slower Rate
Employment	52.9	53.3	+	Rising, Higher Rate
Backlogs of Work	51.2	48.3	-	Falling from Rising
Expectations for Activity	75.0	71.7	-	Rising, Slower Rate

Source: Central Bank of Sri Lanka

Expectations for Business Activity for the upcoming quarter remained positive in August 2026, supported by anticipated economic improvements and expected growth in tourist arrivals. However, broader global economic uncertainties continued to pose downside risks to the outlook.

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 [1] as of 15 September 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.