

PRESS RELEASE

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இலங்கை மத்திய வங்கி
CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA

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SL Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) – September 2026

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

Sri Lanka Purchasing Managers' Index for Manufacturing (PMI – Manufacturing) recorded an index value of 53.0 in September 2026, remaining unchanged compared to the previous month. This indicates that manufacturing activities continued to expand at a similar pace during the month.

The expansion in New Orders and Production was largely attributed to positive developments in both the food and beverages and textiles and wearing apparel manufacturing sectors. Meanwhile, Employment continued to expand, albeit at a slower pace, in September. However, the Stock of Purchases moderated towards the neutral threshold, indicating broadly unchanged inventory levels during the month. Further, Suppliers' Delivery Time remained lengthened during the month.

Summary of the PMI - Manufacturing Survey

Variable	2026 Aug.	2026 Sep.	+/-	Direction
PMI - Manufacturing	53.0	53.0	=	Rising, Same Rate
New Orders	50.0	51.0	+	Rising, Higher Rate
Production	48.4	51.0	+	Rising from Falling
Employment	54.8	52.6	-	Rising, Slower Rate
Stock of Purchases	54.8	50.0	-	Neutral from Rising
Suppliers' Delivery Time	63.0	63.0	=	Rising, Same Rate

Source: Central Bank of Sri Lanka

The outlook for manufacturing activities over the next three months remains positive, driven largely by optimism on year-end seasonal demand.

PMI
Manufacturing
September 2026
53.0



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	Rising, Higher Rate

Source: S&P Global¹ as of 15 October 2026 (PMI Releases ([spglobal.com](https://www.spglobal.com)))

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

Sri Lanka Purchasing Managers' Index for Services (PMI – Services) recorded an index value of 60.5 in September 2026, indicating an expansion in services activities at a slower rate compared to the previous month.

Business Activity increased in September 2026, reflecting improvements across several sub-sectors, led by financial services, with notable contributions from education and professional services.

New Businesses increased in September 2026, primarily driven by the expansion in the financial services, with positive contributions from the insurance, education, professional, and other personal services sub-sectors.

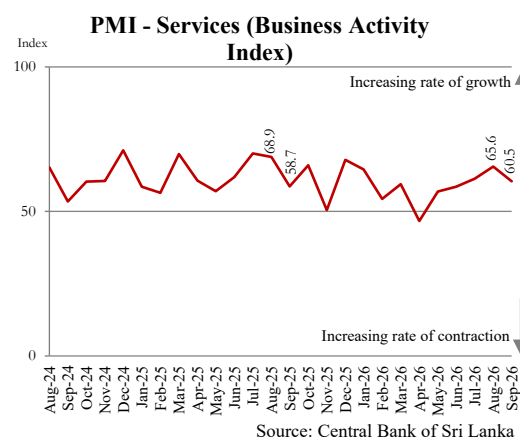
Employment increased in September 2026, as firms across several sectors increased recruitment to meet operational needs and support business expansion. Meanwhile, Backlogs of Work decline, although at a slower rate compared to the previous month.

Summary of the PMI - Services Survey

Variable	2026 Aug.	2026 Sep.	+/-	Direction
PMI - Services (Business Activity Index)	65.6	60.5	-	Rising, Slower Rate
New Businesses	60.0	60.9	+	Rising, Higher Rate
Employment	53.3	54.0	+	Rising, Higher Rate
Backlogs of Work	48.3	49.4	+	Falling, Slower Rate
Expectations for Activity	71.7	76.2	+	Rising, Higher Rate

Source: Central Bank of Sri Lanka

Expectations for Business Activity over the next three months continued to improve, supported by favourable macroeconomic conditions, increased tourist arrivals, and the upcoming festive season. However, broader global uncertainties continued to pose 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, Slower Rate
Eurozone	Rising, Higher Rate

Source: S&P Global ¹ as of 15 October 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.	