

Global Sector PMI[™]

Metals & mining at foot of growth rankings in March

- Output growth slows to marginal pace
- Basic materials is weakest group in March, despite strength in forestry & paper products
- Input and output prices at metals & mining firms fall sharply

Markit's latest global sector PMI[™] data indicated weakening output growth in the global basic materials industry in March. This reflected slowdowns in both **metals & mining** and **chemicals**. In contrast, **forestry & paper products** was at the top of the detailed sector rankings during the month.

Metals & mining posted a lower Output Index reading than any other sector in March. At 50.5, the latest data still indicated expansion, but at a marginal rate. Over the first quarter as a whole, the sector was the second-lowest ranked sector behind **media**, falling nine places in the rankings since the fourth quarter of 2013.

Looking at the metals & mining data in more detail, output increased for the seventh month running in March, but at the weakest rate over this sequence. Furthermore, new orders fell for the first time in eight months and backlogs also declined, signalling a possible contraction in output in April.

Average input prices in the metals & mining sector declined for the second month running in March, and at the fastest rate in the four-and-a-half year global series history. Similarly, prices charged for finished or semi-finished metal goods declined for the third month running, and at the sharpest pace since April 2013.

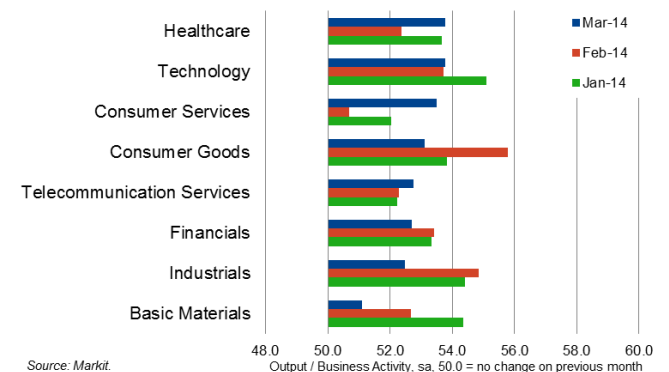
The two other basic materials sectors moved in opposite directions in March. Chemicals dropped 16 places in the table to 20th overall, while forestry & paper products climbed 13 places to first place. Chemicals was still the third-best sector over the first quarter as a whole, however, behind **general industrials** and **software & services**.

Detailed global sector rankings

	March 2014		Q1 2014	
	Output Index	Change vs February	Output Index	Change vs Q4
Forestry & Paper Products	1	13	12	-4
General Industrials	2	6	1	11
Beverages	3	19	8	-5
Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology	4	14	7	12
Software & Services	5	2	2	9
Tourism & Recreation	6	15	17	-1
Food	7	-4	4	14
Household & Personal Use Products	8	-6	6	9
Other Financials	9	10	18	-8
Healthcare Services	10	5	16	1
Technology Equipment	11	5	14	-7
Transportation	12	-1	13	8
Machinery & Equipment	13	-7	10	-6
Telecommunication Services	14	3	20	2
Real Estate	15	-3	11	9
Banks	16	-6	21	2
Insurance	17	-12	5	1
Construction Materials	18	-17	9	5
Commercial & Professional Services	19	-6	19	-14
Chemicals	20	-16	3	-2
Automobiles & Auto Parts	21	-12	15	-13
Media	22	1	23	-14
Metals & Mining	23	-3	22	-9

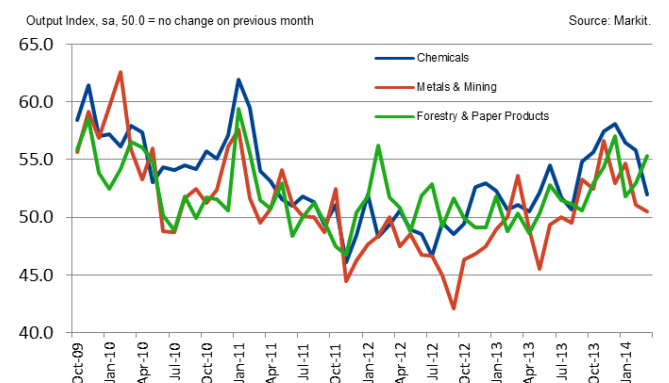
Source: Markit

Broad global sectors



Source: Markit.

Global Basic Materials PMI



Source: Markit.

Forthcoming sector commentary

- 8 April: Technology
- 9 April: Media

Notes on data

Markit Global Sector PMI data are derived from surveys of over 20,000 companies operating in 28 countries. The data are typically released on the fifth working day (UK) of each month at 0930 UK time.

The Global Sector PMI data provide corporate planners and decision makers, economic analysts, policy makers and investors with a powerful and unique database with which to monitor business cycles by industry. Sector trends over time can be tracked as well as relative performance between sectors, allowing identification of key growth industries and the drivers within them.

The data create powerful insights into sector profitability and provide tools for investment strategy and asset allocation. Corporate users are able to examine trends within industry sectors, to help industry forecasting and inventory planning.

The dataset provides monthly indicators of business trends across variables such as output, order books, prices, inventories and employment for eight major groups including: basic materials, consumer goods, consumer services, financials, healthcare, industrials, technology and telecommunication services; and a further 26 sectors and subsectors of those groups.

Detailed historical global sector data are available via a subscription from Markit, and datasets are also available for Europe. For further information please contact economics@markit.com.

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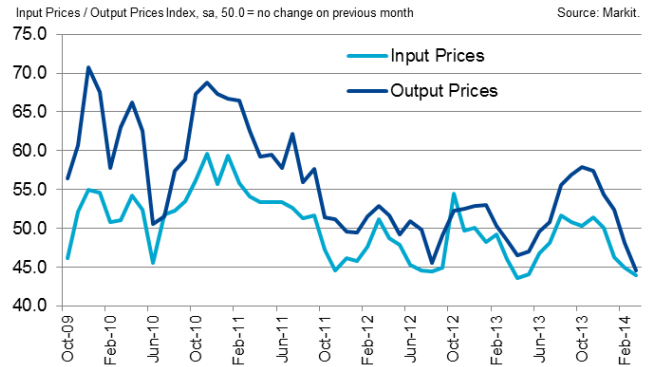
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Metals & Mining PMI Prices Indices



Metals & Mining vs Total Manufacturing

