



# NEWS RELEASE

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**Tenth District Manufacturing Declined Modestly in April**  
***Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City Releases April Manufacturing Survey***

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City released the April Manufacturing Survey today. According to Megan Williams, associate economist and survey manager, the survey revealed that Tenth District manufacturing activity declined modestly, and expectations for future activity eased somewhat but remained positive.

“Regional factory activity continued to decrease in April and price levels rose further,” said Williams. “However, expectations for future activity still remained slightly positive.”

The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City serves the Tenth Federal Reserve District, encompassing the western third of Missouri; all of Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Wyoming; and the northern half of New Mexico. As part of the nation’s central bank, the Bank participates in setting national monetary policy, supervising and regulating numerous commercial banks and bank holding companies, and providing financial services to depository institutions. More information is available online at [www.kansascityfed.org](http://www.kansascityfed.org).

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## **TENTH DISTRICT MANUFACTURING SUMMARY**

Tenth District manufacturing activity declined modestly, and expectations for future activity eased somewhat but remained positive (Chart 1, Tables 1 & 2). Prices paid for raw materials remained at high levels this month while finished product prices continued to increase.

### **Factory Activity Declined Modestly**

The month-over-month composite index was -4 in April, down from -2 in March and up from -5 in February (Tables 1 & 2). The composite index is an average of the production, new orders, employment, supplier delivery time, and raw materials inventory indexes. The nondurable manufacturing sector continued to drive the declines, particularly food and print manufacturing. Most month-over-month indexes were negative, but a few improved from last month's readings. The production index ticked down from 1 to -5 while the new orders index was mostly unchanged. Most year-over-year indexes were negative, with the exception of the supplier delivery time and inventory indexes. The capital expenditures index fell into negative territory after increasing slightly last month. The future composite index eased from 10 to 6 in April as expectations for production, shipments, and new orders all decreased.

### **Special Questions**

This month contacts were asked special questions about business uncertainty and demand expectations. Almost half of firms reported much more uncertainty about economic conditions compared to the beginning of this year. Approximately 42% of firms reported that there is more uncertainty, with 11% of firms reporting no change. Around 2% of firms shared that they are less uncertain, with 1% reporting there is much less uncertainty (Chart 2). Firms were also asked how their product demand expectations changed for 2025 compared to a few months ago. 18% of firms reported that their product demand expectations were significantly lower than they were a few months ago, while 35% of firms stated that their expectations were slightly lower. Another 23% of firms reported their expectations for demand were unchanged compared to a few months ago, with approximately 23% anticipating slightly higher demand and only 1% expecting a significant increase (Chart3).

## **Selected Manufacturing Comments**

“We have seen the domestic steel mills increase prices in anticipation of tariffs on imported steel. Increases are greater than 20% so far.”

“We have furloughed employees and reduced production hours to help minimize loss. Significant effort being made to gain business and increase revenue.”

“We will reduce workforce as tariffs take hold. We will also increase prices and pass through to the consumer. It will be a fight to remain open under the present terms and conditions of the current administration.”

“Many suppliers are raising prices and announcing increases in the next 2 months. Proprietary parts and cost for maintenance parts continues to be where we see the highest increases.”

“We have found suppliers are taking advantage of the tariffs to get a higher price increase. This has caused us to move business to other suppliers.”

“Lots of supply chain uncertainty. Placing an order with 2 month lead time means we have no idea what tariffs will be in place when the goods arrive in port. It makes business planning and pricing almost impossible.”

“We believe there is a lot of pent up demand but lack of clarity on interest rates and policy impacts are delaying buyers from acting on growth plans.”

**Table 1. Summary of Tenth District Manufacturing Conditions, April 2025**

Plant Level Indicators	April vs. March (percent)*					April vs. Year Ago (percent)*					Expected in Six Months (percent)*				
	Increase	No Change	Decrease	Diff Index^A	SA Index^AA	Increase	No Change	Decrease	Diff Index^A	Increase	No Change	Decrease	Diff Index^A	SA Index^AA	
Composite Index				-1	-4				-8				4	6	
Production	30	42	28	2	-5	32	23	45	-13	30	42	28	2	4	
Volume of shipments	33	39	28	5	-2	30	22	48	-19	34	38	28	6	9	
Volume of new orders	30	33	37	-7	-11	26	30	44	-19	30	40	30	0	3	
Backlog of orders	17	49	34	-18	-20	18	36	46	-28	13	54	34	-21	-19	
Number of employees	13	62	25	-11	-11	25	36	39	-14	19	59	22	-3	1	
Average employee workweek	13	69	18	-4	-6	15	57	28	-12	8	68	24	-16	-16	
Prices received for finished product	34	66	0	34	29	70	26	4	66	64	34	2	61	59	
Prices paid for raw materials	55	44	1	54	42	82	11	6	76	74	24	2	72	71	
Capital expenditures						25	48	27	-2	20	47	33	-13	-10	
New orders for exports	7	76	17	-11	-10	7	70	24	-17	11	64	25	-14	-13	
Supplier delivery time	18	80	2	15	13	22	62	16	5	24	65	11	12	8	
Inventories: Materials	20	58	23	-3	-5	33	37	30	3	32	46	22	10	12	
Inventories: Finished goods	18	65	18	0	5	24	50	26	-2	21	60	19	2	0	

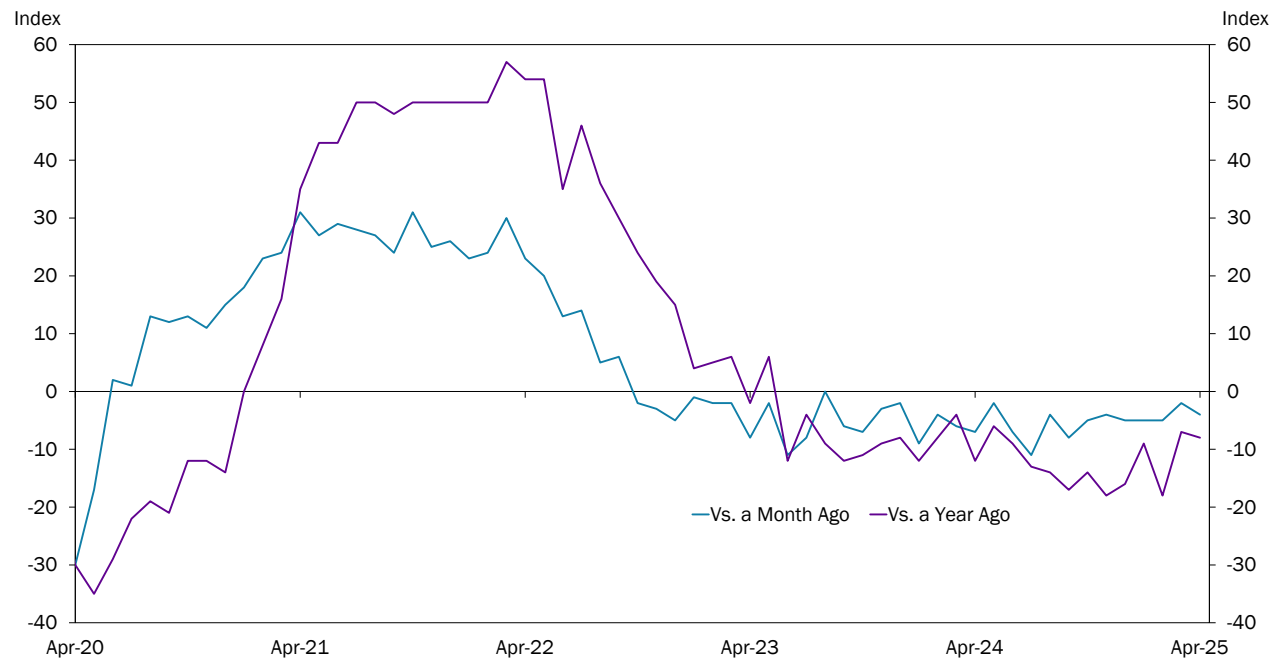
\*Percentage may not add to 100 due to rounding.

<sup>^</sup>Diffusion Index. The diffusion index is calculated as the percentage of total respondents reporting increases minus the percentage reporting declines.

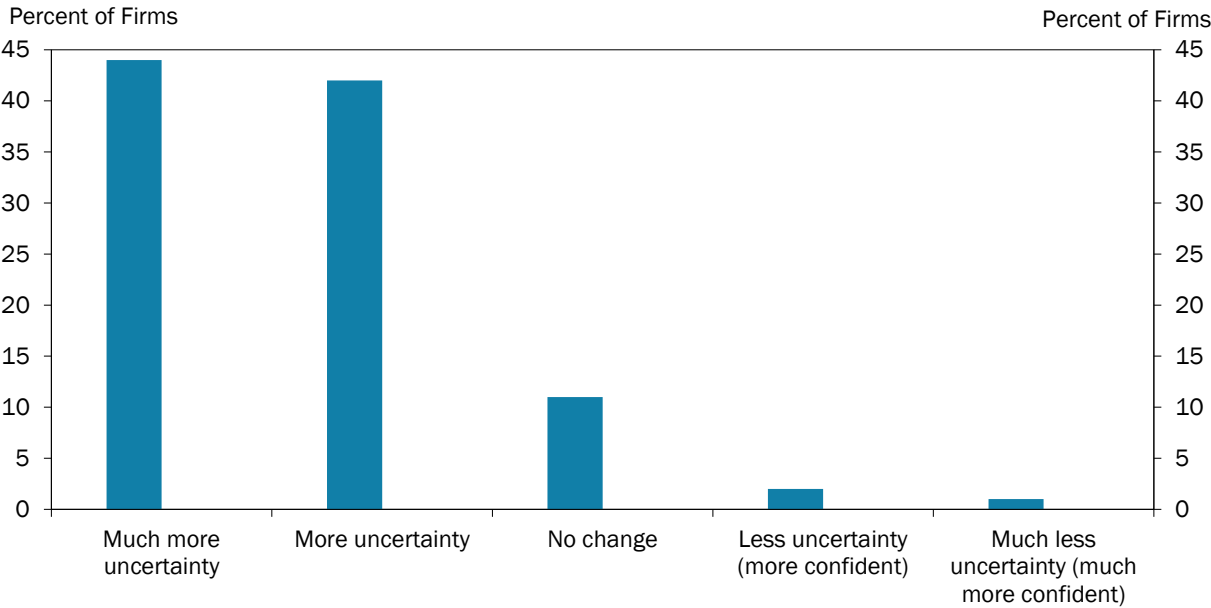
<sup>^^</sup>Seasonally Adjusted Diffusion Index. The month vs. month and expected-in-six-months diffusion indexes are seasonally adjusted using Census X-13.

Note: The April survey was open for a six-day period from April 16-21, 2025 and included 97 responses from plants in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Wyoming, northern New Mexico, and western Missouri.

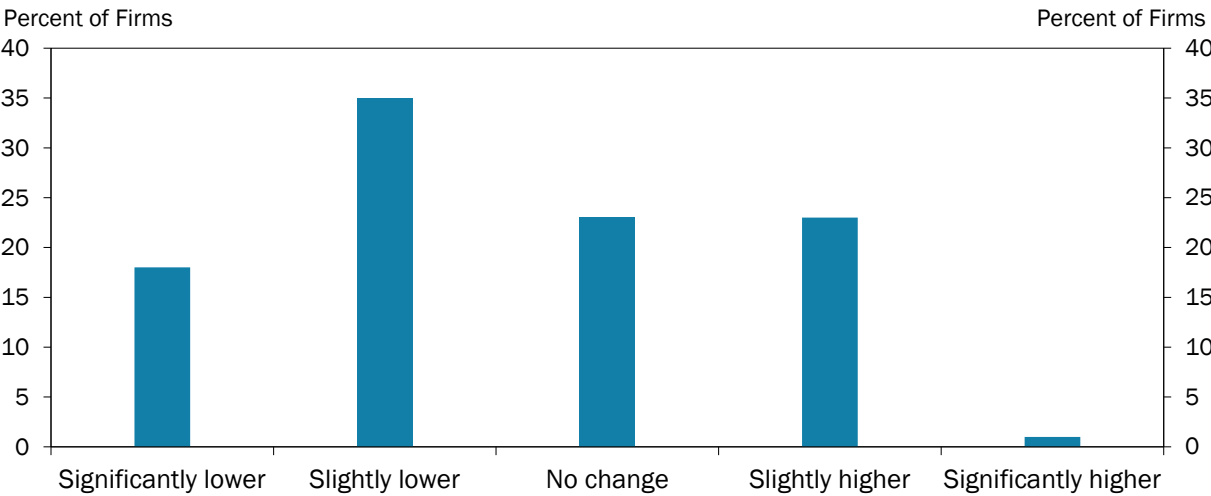
**Chart 1. Manufacturing Composite Indexes**



**Chart 2. Special Question: How has your uncertainty about economic conditions for your business changed since the beginning of the year?**



**Chart 3. Special Question: What are your expectations for demand for your firm's products in 2025 compared to a few months ago?**



**Table 2**  
**Historical Manufacturing Survey Indexes**

	Apr'24	May'24	Jun'24	Jul'24	Aug'24	Sep'24	Oct'24	Nov'24	Dec'24	Jan'25	Feb'25	Mar'25	Apr'25
Versus a Month Ago (seasonally adjusted)													
Composite Index	-7	-2	-7	-11	-4	-8	-5	-4	-5	-5	-5	-2	-4
Production	-10	-2	-10	-10	2	-14	-2	-5	-6	-9	-13	1	-5
Volume of shipments	-9	5	-3	-13	-3	-10	5	-2	-12	-6	-11	-4	-2
Volume of new orders	-7	-12	-13	-18	-12	-14	-9	-10	-16	-6	-7	-12	-11
Backlog of orders	-19	-20	-21	-23	-20	-30	-15	-16	-22	-19	-12	-6	-20
Number of employees	-2	9	-9	-10	-6	-9	-2	0	1	1	-14	-4	-11
Average employee workweek	-5	-6	-11	-14	-9	-13	-8	-9	-10	1	-9	6	-6
Prices received for finished product	2	6	3	2	6	-5	9	6	8	14	17	15	29
Prices paid for raw materials	17	19	13	17	17	14	16	8	18	18	38	42	42
Capital expenditures	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
New orders for exports	0	5	-2	-4	2	-2	-1	-6	-6	-3	-6	-9	-10
Supplier delivery time	-5	-4	0	-3	-2	-3	-1	1	-3	-1	5	-1	13
Inventories: Materials	-12	-3	-4	-17	-1	2	-10	-4	0	-11	2	4	-5
Inventories: Finished goods	-2	2	1	0	4	5	-2	6	5	2	2	-8	5
Versus a Year Ago (not seasonally adjusted)													
Composite Index	-12	-6	-9	-13	-14	-17	-14	-18	-16	-9	-18	-7	-8
Production	-8	-7	-13	-12	-18	-24	-14	-14	-21	-9	-28	-9	-13
Volume of shipments	-5	-5	-15	-12	-18	-22	-6	-10	-24	-9	-22	-18	-19
Volume of new orders	-12	-7	-21	-24	-21	-30	-18	-10	-30	-15	-22	-12	-19
Backlog of orders	-13	-14	-22	-29	-29	-36	-32	-27	-29	-19	-30	-24	-28
Number of employees	-7	9	6	-2	-9	-7	-5	-12	-1	-6	-18	-9	-14
Average employee workweek	-12	-8	-10	-8	-16	-17	-17	-16	-18	-23	-27	-10	-12
Prices received for finished product	45	34	33	31	34	30	37	44	37	41	46	46	66
Prices paid for raw materials	46	37	32	35	37	41	30	27	41	34	52	67	76
Capital expenditures	-6	-1	-3	5	1	-1	1	7	5	1	-1	3	-2
New orders for exports	-4	0	1	-3	-6	-8	-8	-9	-3	-1	-7	-17	-17
Supplier delivery time	-24	-24	-15	-10	-13	-13	-16	-30	-17	-6	-6	-2	5
Inventories: Materials	-12	1	-3	-14	-9	-10	-17	-24	-13	-9	-16	-3	3
Inventories: Finished goods	-4	2	-2	-6	-1	-5	-2	-8	0	-11	-3	-5	-2
Expected in Six Months (seasonally adjusted)													
Composite Index	3	6	7	5	8	8	6	10	17	15	14	10	6
Production	17	21	19	16	20	20	25	22	40	28	30	24	4
Volume of shipments	7	16	14	16	13	13	20	22	31	23	28	20	9
Volume of new orders	3	17	9	8	12	12	13	16	35	30	27	20	3
Backlog of orders	-10	-3	-3	-8	-6	-9	-7	2	2	-5	-2	-7	-19
Number of employees	9	15	16	13	16	17	14	14	19	10	12	0	1
Average employee workweek	0	2	5	1	4	-3	0	-2	7	11	2	-3	-16
Prices received for finished product	26	27	23	25	24	32	33	30	32	30	47	39	59
Prices paid for raw materials	33	40	38	36	38	33	37	33	35	48	60	57	71
Capital expenditures	5	15	5	9	-5	10	3	15	8	20	9	13	-10
New orders for exports	5	5	7	5	0	4	6	-7	0	0	-5	-5	-13
Supplier delivery time	-3	-7	-3	-5	-3	-2	-6	-1	-4	4	6	7	8
Inventories: Materials	-13	-14	-6	-6	-4	-5	-14	-3	-4	2	-5	0	12
Inventories: Finished goods	0	-10	-6	-6	-1	-8	-5	-6	8	-2	-6	-9	0