



مركز قطر للمال
Qatar Financial Centre

PMI[®]
by **S&P Global**

News Release

Purchasing Managers' Index™
MARKET SENSITIVE INFORMATION
Embargoed until: 12:00 Doha (09:00 UTC) 5 November 2023

Qatar Financial Centre PMI[®]

Overall business conditions continue to improve in October

- Activity and new business both rise for ninth straight month
- Employment expands further as outlook remains positive
- Input prices fall for first time in ten months

Data were collected 12-24 October 2023

Doha, Qatar: 5 November 2023 – Qatar's non-energy private sector continued to experience improving business conditions at the start of the final quarter of 2023, according to the latest Purchasing Managers' Index™ (PMI[®]) survey data from Qatar Financial Centre (QFC). Output, new orders and employment all expanded in October, and the 12-month outlook remained upbeat. Moreover, profitability improved as firms raised their prices for goods and services at the fastest rate since February while average input prices fell for the first time in the year so far.

The Qatar PMI indices are compiled from survey responses from a panel of around 450 private sector companies. The panel covers the manufacturing, construction, wholesale, retail, and services sectors, and reflects the structure of the non-energy economy according to official national accounts data.

The headline Qatar Financial Centre PMI is a composite single-figure indicator of non-energy private sector performance. It is derived from indicators for new orders, output, employment, suppliers' delivery times and stocks of purchases.

The PMI posted 50.8 in October, from 53.7 in September, but the overall growth has been maintained since February, although the headline figure dipped below its long-run average (52.3, since 2017) in the latest period.

Total business activity among Qatari non-energy private sector firms rose further in October, with firms often reporting higher customer numbers. Output has risen every month since July 2020, except for a brief correction

in January following the conclusion of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™. The overall rate of expansion was the softest in 2023 so far, but construction continued to post a solid rebound in activity.

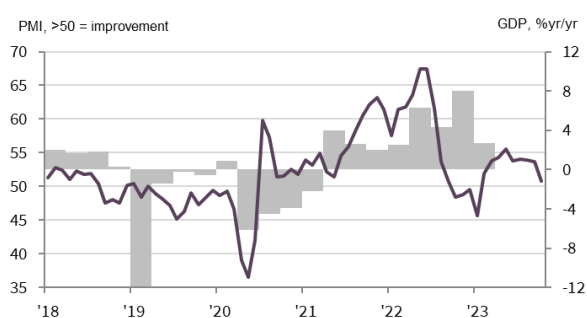
New business increased for the ninth successive month in October, with strong demand at wholesalers and retailers in particular. The overall rate of expansion eased since September, however.

Non-oil private sector employment expanded for the eighth month running in October. Recruitment was driven by construction firms and manufacturers, who also held the strongest 12-month outlooks for activity in October.

Supply chains continued to improve in October, as lead times for inputs shortened for the eighteenth consecutive month. Purchasing of inputs expanded for the eighth straight month, but only fractionally, as firms aimed to stabilise their inventory levels. Input stocks were unchanged since September.

October data indicated improving profitability for Qatari non-energy private sector companies. Prices charged for goods and services increased at the fastest rate in six months, while input prices fell for the first time in 2023 so far. Wages and salaries were only fractionally up since the previous month.

QFC Qatar PMI vs. GDP



Sources: QFC, S&P Global PMI, Qatar's Planning & Statistics Authority.



Financial Services

Sharp growth in activity sustained in October

- Total workloads rise markedly at financial services firms
- Slowest increase in new business in 2023 to date
- Financial services firms raise charges at fastest rate in six months

Qatari financial services companies recorded another marked increase in total business activity in October. The seasonally adjusted Financial Services Business Activity Index posted 58.3, well above the overall private sector figure of 51.4 and a slight improvement on September.

Growth of total activity remained marked despite the slowest increase in new business in 2023 so far. That said, demand was still strong overall and more robust than the non-energy sector average. Meanwhile, employment at financial services firms rose for the seventh month running.

Latest data suggested improving profitability in financial services, with prices charged rising more quickly but average input costs up only marginally since September.

Comment

Yousuf Mohamed Al-Jaida, Chief Executive Officer, QFC Authority:

"Business conditions in Qatar's non-energy private sector economy continued to improve moving into the final quarter of 2023, albeit at a slightly reduced tempo. The three main indicators for output, new orders and employment all registered further expansions in October and companies remained optimistic about the 12-month outlook."

"While business volumes increased at a slower pace, the latest data suggested that firms' profits improved as the input and output price sub-indices moved in opposite directions. Charges rose for the second month running and at the fastest rate in six months, while input prices fell for the first time this year."

"Data on financial services suggested the sector continued to outperform the wider economy in October. There was further strong growth in activity and new contracts with the respective indices posting 58.3 and 55.0."

– ENDS –



ABOUT THE QATAR FINANCIAL CENTRE

The Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) is an onshore business and financial centre located in Doha, providing an excellent platform for firms to do business in Qatar and the region. The QFC offers its own legal, regulatory, tax and business environment, which allows up to 100% foreign ownership, 100% repatriation of profits, and charges a competitive rate of 10% corporate tax on locally sourced profits.

The QFC welcomes a broad range of financial and non-financial services firms.

For more information about the permitted activities and the benefits of setting up in the QFC, please visit qfc.qa

@QFCAuthority | #QFCMeansBusiness@QFCAuthority | #QFCMeansBusiness

MEDIA CONTACTS

QFC: Rasha Kamaledine, Marketing & Corporate Communications Department, r.kamaledine@qfc.qa

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE REPORT

QFC: qatarpmi@qfc.qa

ABOUT S&P GLOBAL

S&P Global (NYSE: SPGI) S&P Global provides essential intelligence. We enable governments, businesses and individuals with the right data, expertise, and connected technology so that they can make decisions with conviction. From helping our customers assess new investments to guiding them through ESG and energy transition across supply chains, we unlock new opportunities, solve challenges, and accelerate progress for the world.

We are widely sought after by many of the world's leading organizations to provide credit ratings, benchmarks, analytics and workflow solutions in the global capital, commodity, and automotive markets. With every one of our offerings, we help the world's leading organizations plan for tomorrow, today. www.spglobal.com.

ABOUT PMI

Purchasing Managers' Index™ (PMI®) surveys are now available for over 40 countries and for key regions including the Eurozone. They are the most closely watched business surveys in the world, favoured by central banks, financial markets and business decision makers for their ability to provide up-to-date, accurate and often unique monthly indicators of economic trends.

www.spglobal.com/marketintelligence/en/mi/products/pmi.html



METHODOLOGY

The Qatar Financial Centre PMI® is compiled by S&P Global from responses to questionnaires sent to purchasing managers in a panel of around 450 private sector companies. The panel is stratified by detailed sector and company workforce size, based on contributions to GDP. The sectors covered by the survey include manufacturing, construction, wholesale, retail, and services.

Survey responses are collected in the second half of each month and indicate the direction of change compared to the previous month. A diffusion index is calculated for each survey variable. The index is the sum of the percentage of 'higher' responses and half the percentage of 'unchanged' responses. The indices vary between 0 and 100, with a reading above 50 indicating an overall increase compared to the previous month, and below 50 an overall decrease. The indices are then seasonally adjusted.

The headline figure is the Purchasing Managers' Index™ (PMI). The PMI is a weighted average of the following five indices: New Orders (30%), Output (25%), Employment (20%), Suppliers' Delivery Times (15%) and Stocks of Purchases (10%). For the PMI calculation the Suppliers' Delivery Times Index is inverted so that it moves in a comparable direction to the other indices.

Underlying survey data are not revised after publication, but seasonal adjustment factors may be revised from time to time as appropriate which will affect the seasonally adjusted data series.

Data were collected 12-24 October 2023.

For further information on the PMI survey methodology, please contact economics@spglobal.com.

CONTACT

S&P Global: Sabrina Mayeen | T. +44 (0) 7967 447030 | E. Sabrina.mayeen@spglobal.com