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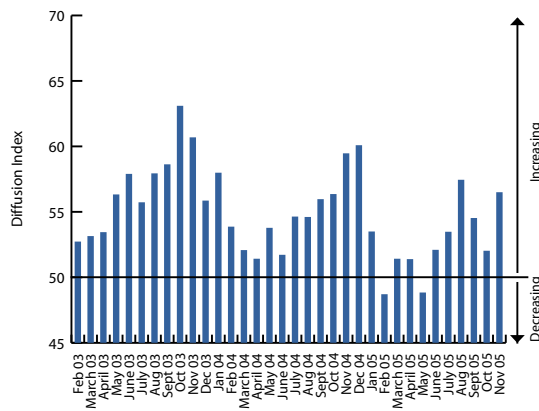
PERFORMANCE OF SERVICES INDEX®

NOVEMBER 2005

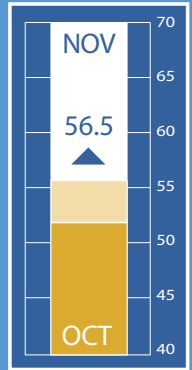
BUSINESS DEMAND LIFTS AMID SOFTER CONSUMER SERVICES

KEY FINDINGS

- Services activity regained momentum in November, as stronger growth in business-related sectors offset renewed weakness in consumer demand.
- The seasonally adjusted Australian Industry Group – Commonwealth Bank Performance of Services Index (Australian PSI®) rose 4.5 points to 56.5. However, it was the lowest November reading in three years.
- Sales, new orders, employment and deliveries grew strongly, although largely confined to business-related sectors. Inventories grew at a stronger pace, partly reflecting a seasonal build-up in demand.
- Input cost increases were largely unchanged, as fuel prices moderated.
- The communication, wholesale trade and finance & insurance sectors recorded the strongest gains over the month.
- By contrast, the consumer-discretionary sectors of retail trade and personal & recreational services both contracted.

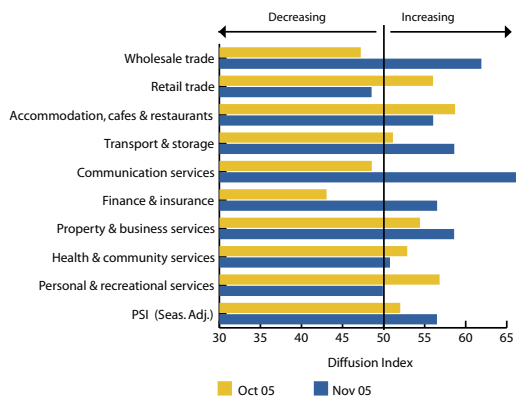


AUSTRALIAN PSI®

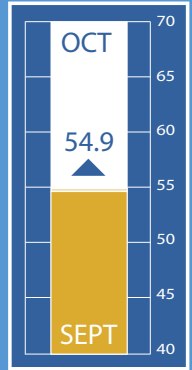


SECTORS

- On an unadjusted basis, activity expanded in seven of nine sectors in November (up from six the previous month).
- The strongest gains were in three business related sectors: communication services; wholesale trade; and finance & insurance.
- Moreover, transport & storage and property & business services also recorded strong growth.
- The largest falls were in the consumer-discretionary sectors of retail trade and personal & recreational services, which both dipped below an index reading of 50.0 (and despite a typical strengthening in seasonal demand).
- Accommodation, cafes & restaurants also experienced slower growth reflecting the weakness in consumer demand.

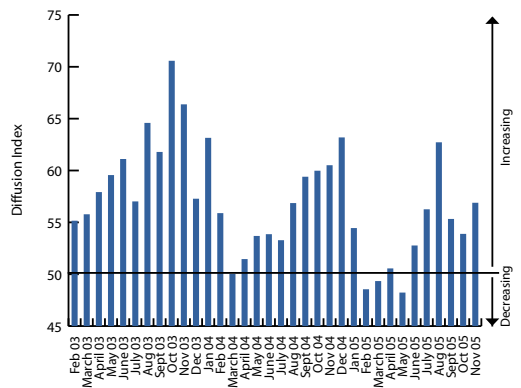


EUROZONE SERVICES INDEX

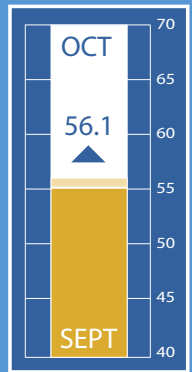


SALES

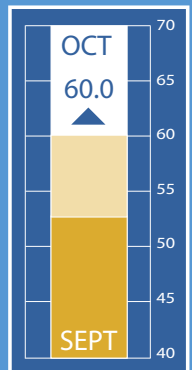
- Seasonally adjusted, sales rose 3.0 points in November to 56.9. Though sales growth improved, activity was below any level recorded for this month in previous years, reflecting the underlying weakness in consumer demand.
- Unadjusted, sales rose in six sectors (the same number as in October). In addition, health & community services was unchanged.
- Communication services, wholesale trade and finance & insurance were the strongest sectors, all reporting a significant turnaround from the previous month.
- The transport & storage and property & business sectors also expanded strongly.
- Sales contracted sharply in personal & recreational services. The previously strong retail trade sector also moved into decline.
- Growth also eased in the accommodation, cafes & restaurants sector.



UK SERVICE S INDEX

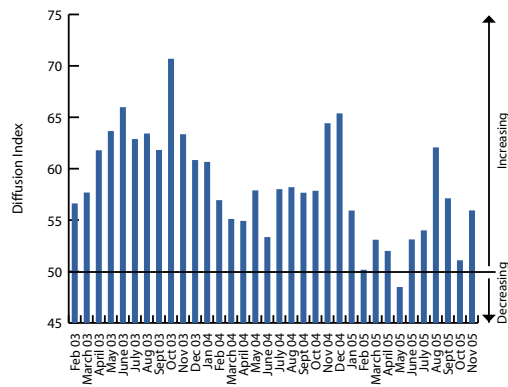


USA SERVICES INDEX



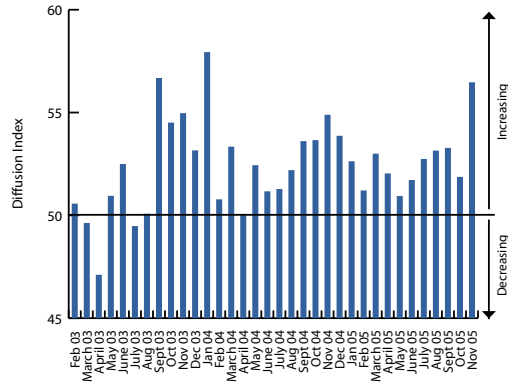
NEW ORDERS

- On a seasonally adjusted basis, new orders rose 4.8 points in November to 55.9. Like sales, this was an improved rate of growth though slower than previous November readings.
- Unadjusted, new orders expanded in five sectors (unchanged from October). The health & community and finance & insurance sectors were also at the point separating expansion and contraction.
- Following a decline the previous month, wholesale trade recorded the strongest growth in new orders. The property & business sector also grew strongly.
- Orders also expanded in the communication and transport & storage sectors following declines in October.
- In contrast, retail trade and personal & recreational services reported declines in new orders.



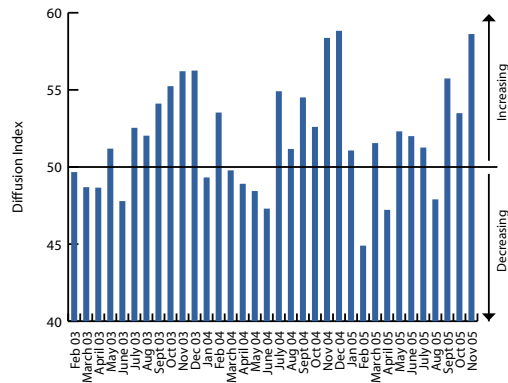
EMPLOYMENT

- Seasonally adjusted, the employment index rose 4.6 points in November to 56.5.
- In unadjusted terms, employment increased in six sectors (the same number as October). Employment declined in two sectors, with accommodation, cafes & restaurants unchanged.
- The communication, finance & insurance and personal & recreational sectors enjoyed the strongest employment growth.
- Property & business, transport & storage and health & community services also made small gains.
- Both retail trade and wholesale trade recorded modest declines in employment.



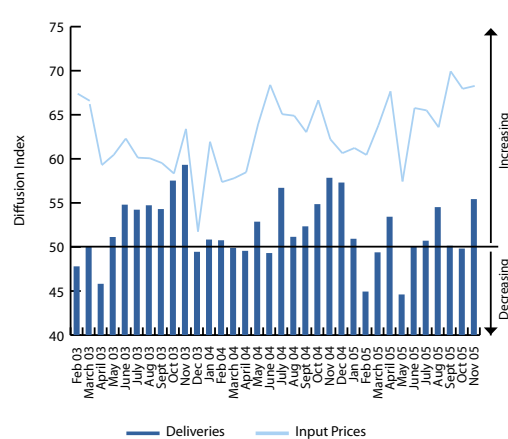
STOCKS

- Inventories of finished goods rose in November, the unadjusted stocks index jumping 5.1 points to 58.6.
- Stocks expanded in eight sectors (up from six in October), with the health & community sector unchanged.
- Strong inventory growth was recorded in the key distribution sectors of retail and wholesale trade, although largely related to the seasonal strengthening in consumer spending growth.
- Transport & storage, finance & insurance and personal & recreational services recorded the largest gains over the month.
- Stock levels in the communication sector also grew strongly.
- Growth was weaker in the property & business and accommodation, cafes & restaurants sectors.



DELIVERIES AND INPUT COSTS

- Growth in supplier deliveries strengthened in November, the seasonally adjusted index rising 5.6 points to 55.4. In unadjusted terms, six sectors reported increased deliveries (from three previously), two were unchanged and one reported a decline.
- The rate of increase in input costs was largely unchanged in November, remaining at the high levels of previous months. Despite lower fuel prices, the seasonally adjusted input cost index rose 0.3 points to 68.8.
- Unadjusted, costs increased at a faster pace relative to the previous month in five sectors (the same number as in October).
- Personal & recreational services recorded the largest rise in the price of purchased supplies. A moderate rise also occurred in the health & community sector.
- In contrast, costs increased at a much slower pace in accommodation, cafes & restaurants. Less moderate increases were also reported in the finance & insurance and property & business sectors.



NATIONAL INDEXES

	Nov 05	Nov 04	Oct 05	Sept 05	Aug 05	Jul 05	June 05	May 05	Apr 05	Mar 05	Feb 05
AUSTRALIAN PSI®	56.5	59.5	52.0	54.3	57.5	53.5	52.1	48.8	51.4	51.4	48.7
SALES	56.9	60.5	53.9	55.3	62.7	56.3	52.8	48.2	50.6	49.3	48.6
NEW ORDERS	55.9	64.4	51.1	57.1	62.1	54.0	53.1	48.5	52.0	53.1	50.2
EMPLOYMENT	56.5	54.9	51.9	53.3	53.2	52.7	51.7	50.9	52.0	53.0	51.2
INVENTORIES	58.6	58.4	53.5	55.7	47.9	51.3	52.0	52.3	47.2	51.6	44.9
DELIVERIES	55.4	57.9	49.8	50.1	54.5	50.7	50.0	44.6	53.4	49.4	44.9
INPUT PRICES	68.8	63.6	68.5	70.2	64.8	66.4	66.7	59.5	68.3	65.0	62.1

Results are based on a sample of 200 companies.

WHAT IS THE AUSTRALIAN PSI®?

The Australian Performance of Services Index (Australian PSI®) is a composite index based on the diffusion indexes for sales, new orders, employment, inventories and deliveries all with varying weights.

An Australian PSI® reading above 50 points indicates that the service industry is generally expanding, below 50 that it is declining. The distance from 50 is indicative of the strength of the expansion or decline.

More information can be obtained from the Ai Group web site www.aigroup.asn.au

SPONSOR STATEMENT

Commonwealth Bank is delighted to be the sponsor of the Australian PSI® and is pleased to be able to provide the expertise of our Chief Economist Michael Blythe as the key spokesperson for the Performance of Services Index. The Commonwealth Bank is one of Australia's premier services organisation and with the majority of the Australian economy services based we believe this important piece of research will add real value to the industry. It will provide insights and information that have not previously been available. We look forward to continuing to work with the Australian Industry Group to enhance and develop the Australian PSI®.

Commonwealth Bank

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