
Ulster Bank Northern Ireland Purchasing Managers Index (PMI)

*Includes analysis of Global, Eurozone, UK, UK Regions, NI &
Republic of Ireland economic performance by sector*

April 2014 Survey Update

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Richard Ramsey
Chief Economist Northern Ireland

richard.ramsey@ulsterbankcm.com
Twitter @UB_Economics

PMI Surveys

Purchasing Managers' Indexes (PMIs) are monthly surveys of private sector companies which provide an advance indication of what is happening in the private sector economy by tracking variables such as output, new orders, employment and prices across different sectors.

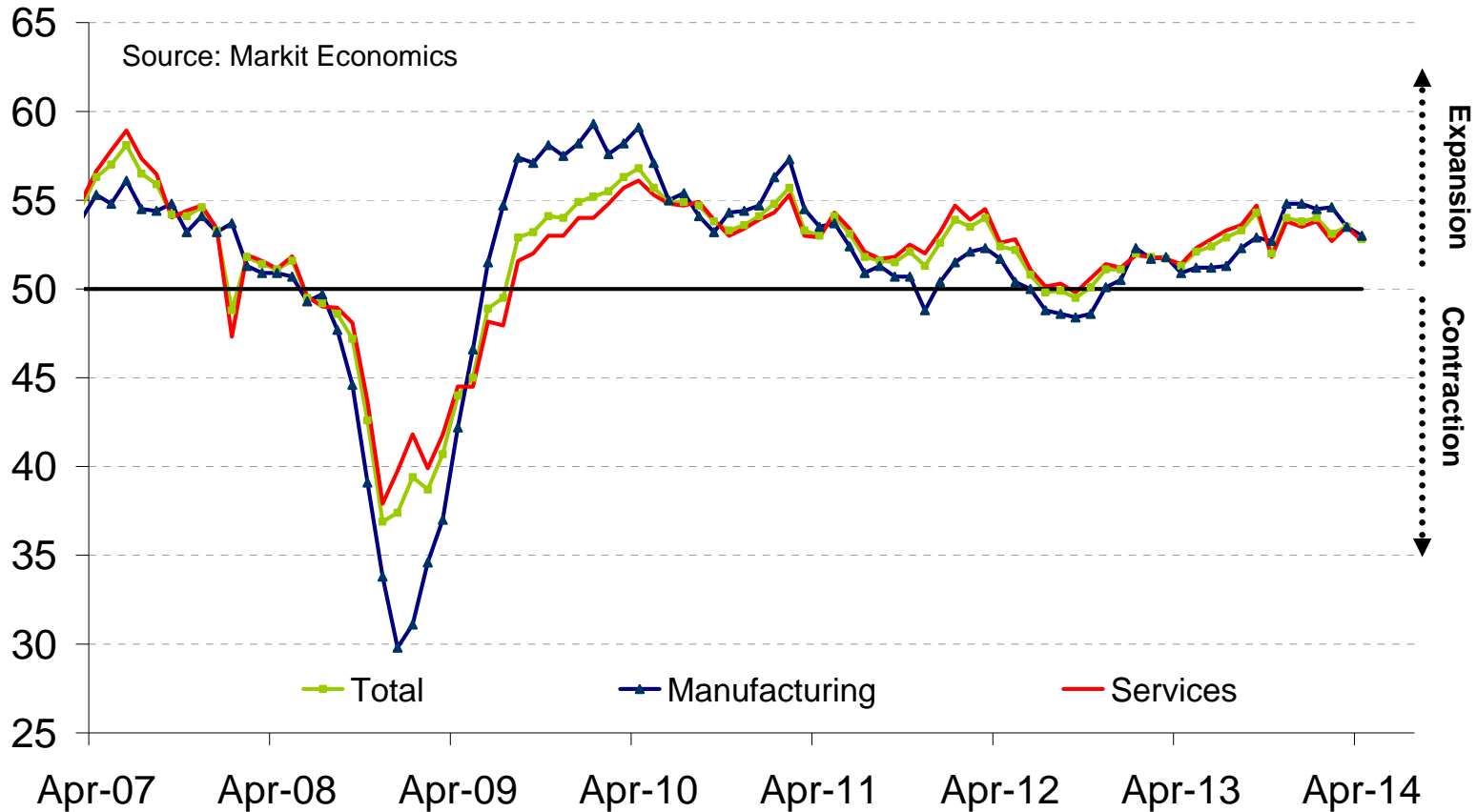
Index numbers are calculated from the percentages of respondents reporting an improvement, no change or decline on the previous month. These indices vary from 0 to 100 with readings of 50.0 signalling no change on the previous month. Readings above 50.0 signal an increase or improvement; readings below 50.0 signal a decline or deterioration. The greater the divergence from 50.0 the greater the rate of change (expansion or contraction). The indices are seasonally adjusted to take into consideration expected variations for the time of year, such as summer shutdowns or holidays.

< 50.0 = Contraction 50.0 = No Change > 50.0 = Expansion

*Data at a sector level are more volatile and **3-month moving averages** have been used to more accurately identify the broad trends.*

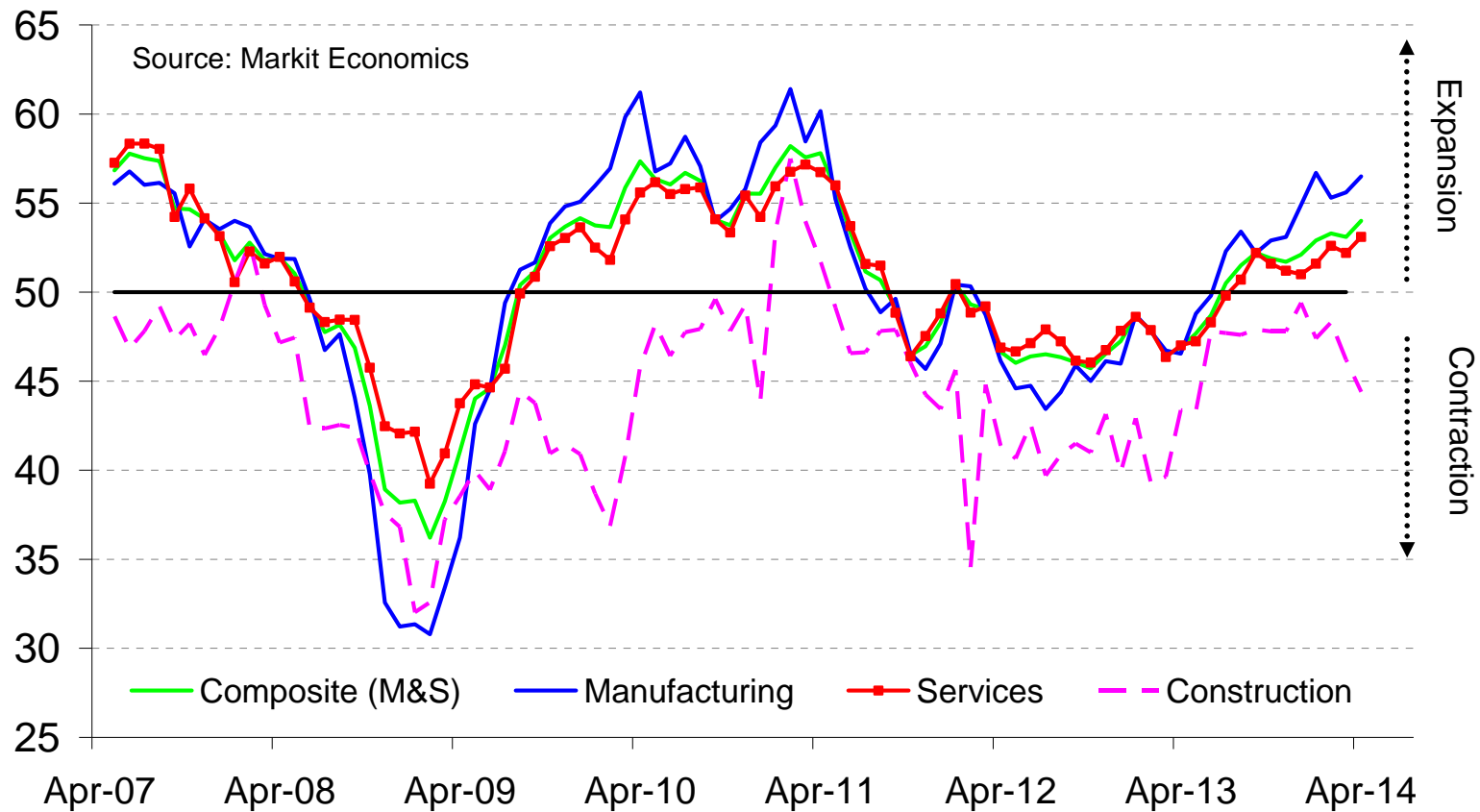
Global manufacturing & services output growth eases in April with manufacturing output at a six-month low

Global Output - PMI



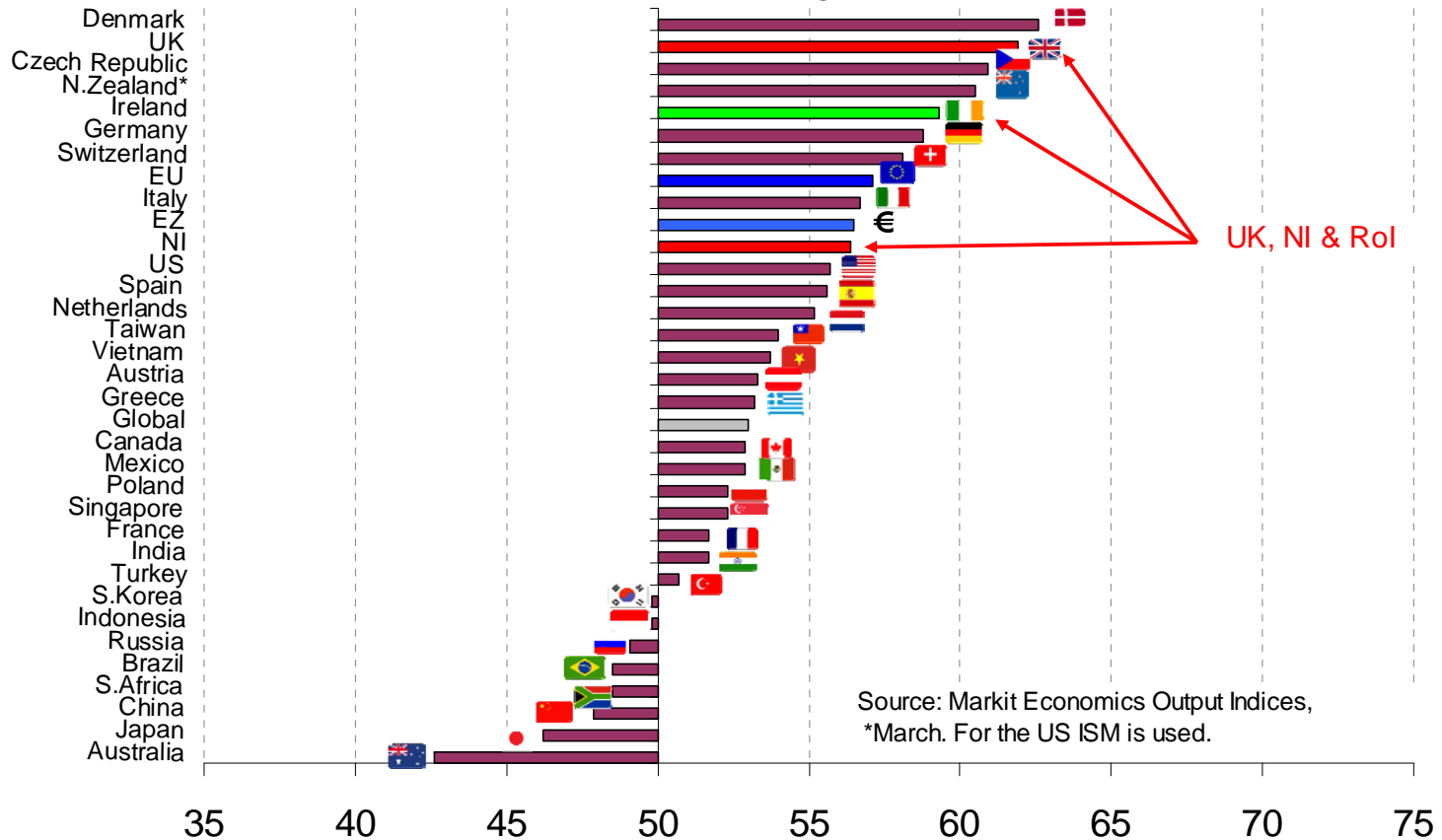
The Eurozone's recovery is gathering momentum. However, the downturn under construction continues

Eurozone PMIs: Output



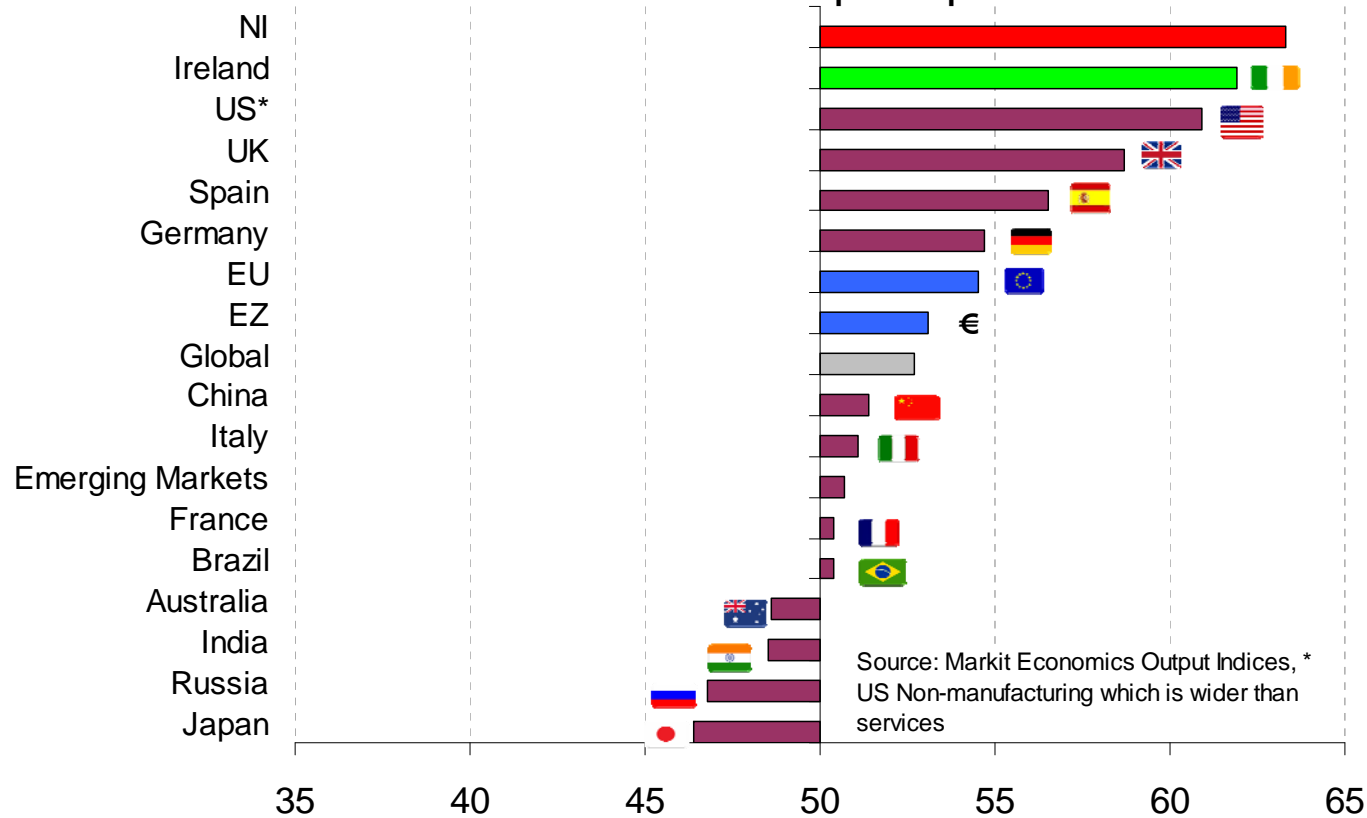
Most economies post manufacturing output growth in April

PMIs: Manufacturing Output April 2014

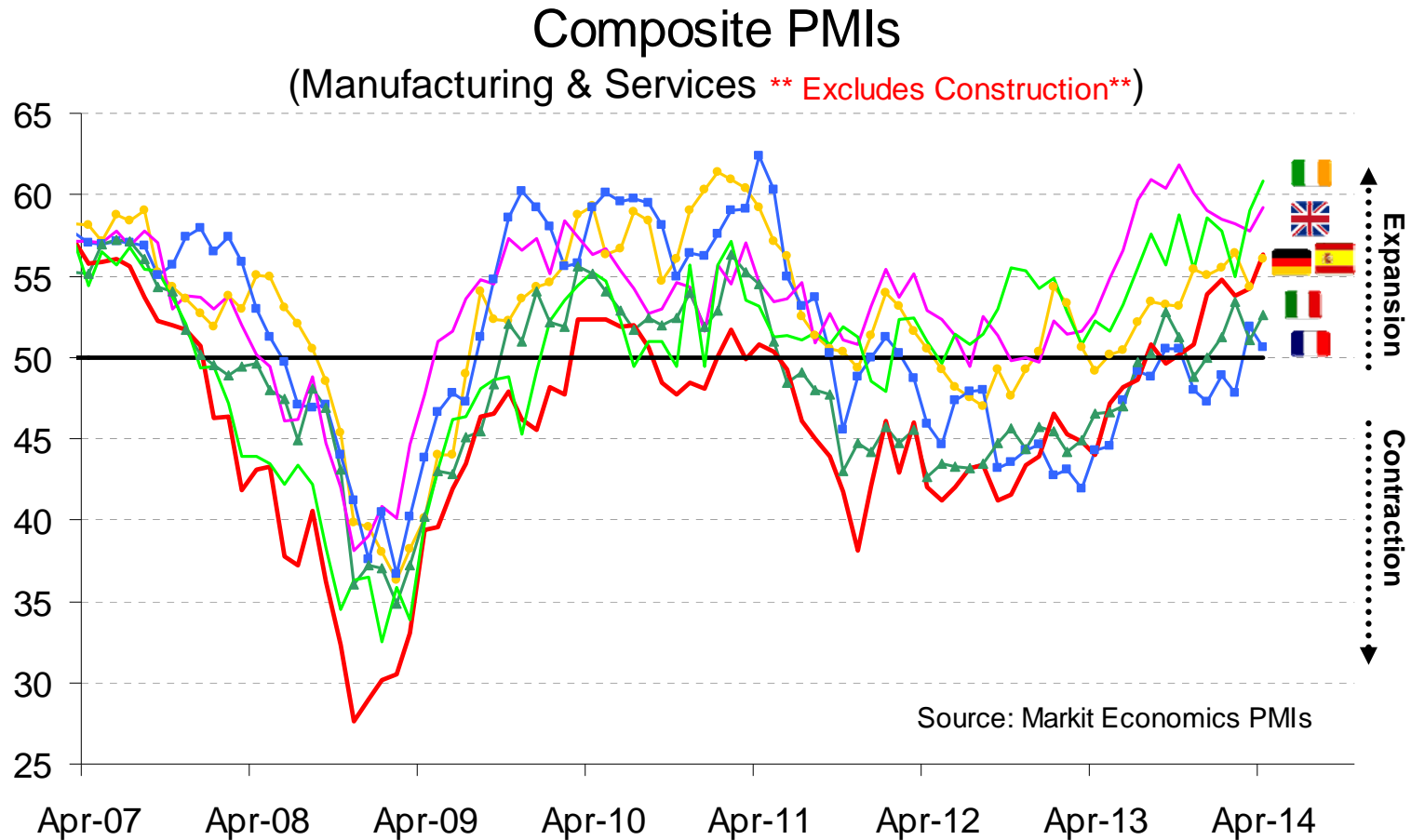


The Republic of Ireland & Northern Ireland posted the fastest rates of service sector output growth in April

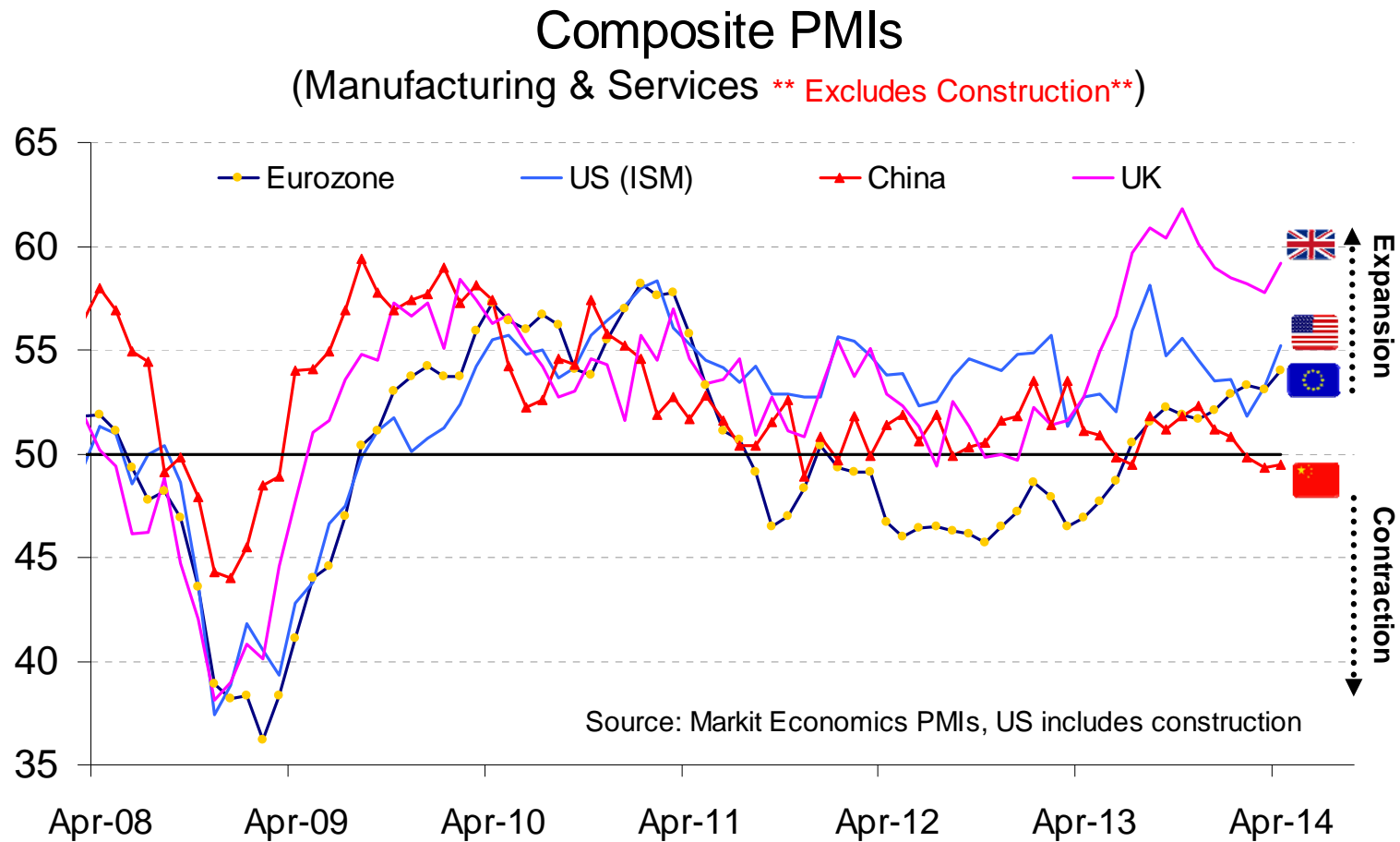
PMIs: Services Output April 2014



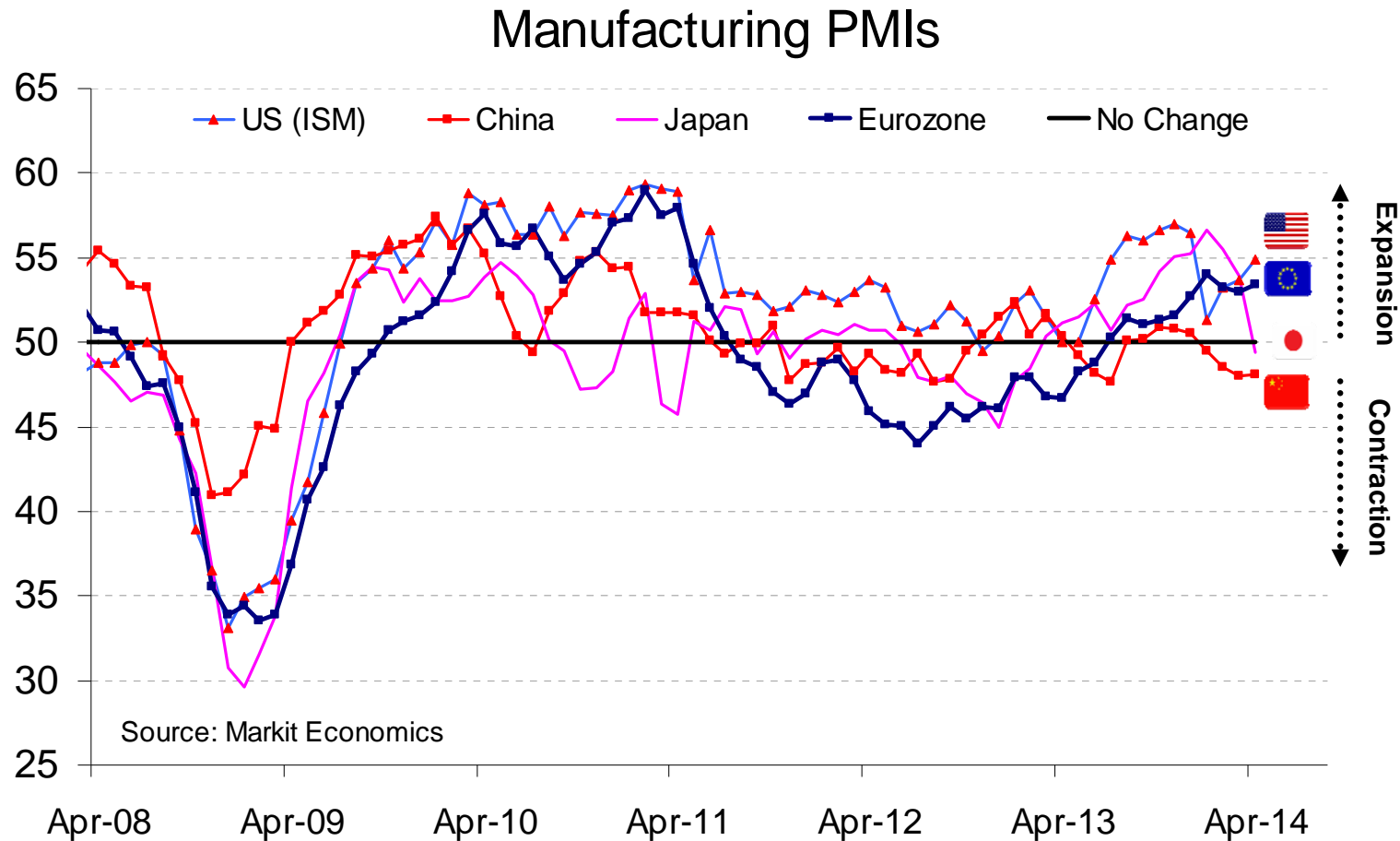
The French Composite PMI bucks the wider trend of improvement amongst other economies in April



The US, EZ & the UK Composite PMIs improve in April

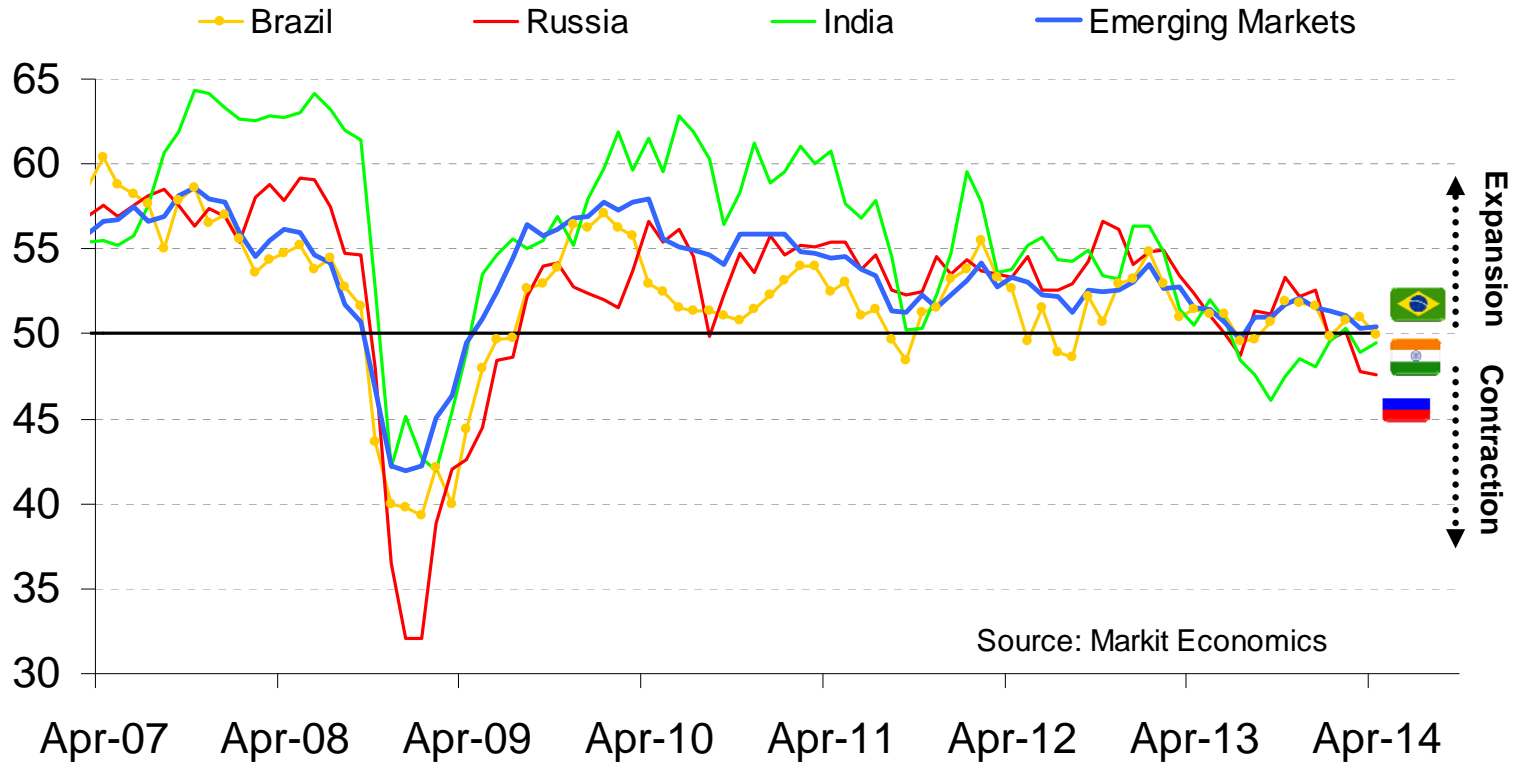


The US recovery, following adverse weather conditions, continues while Japan dips below the 50 threshold



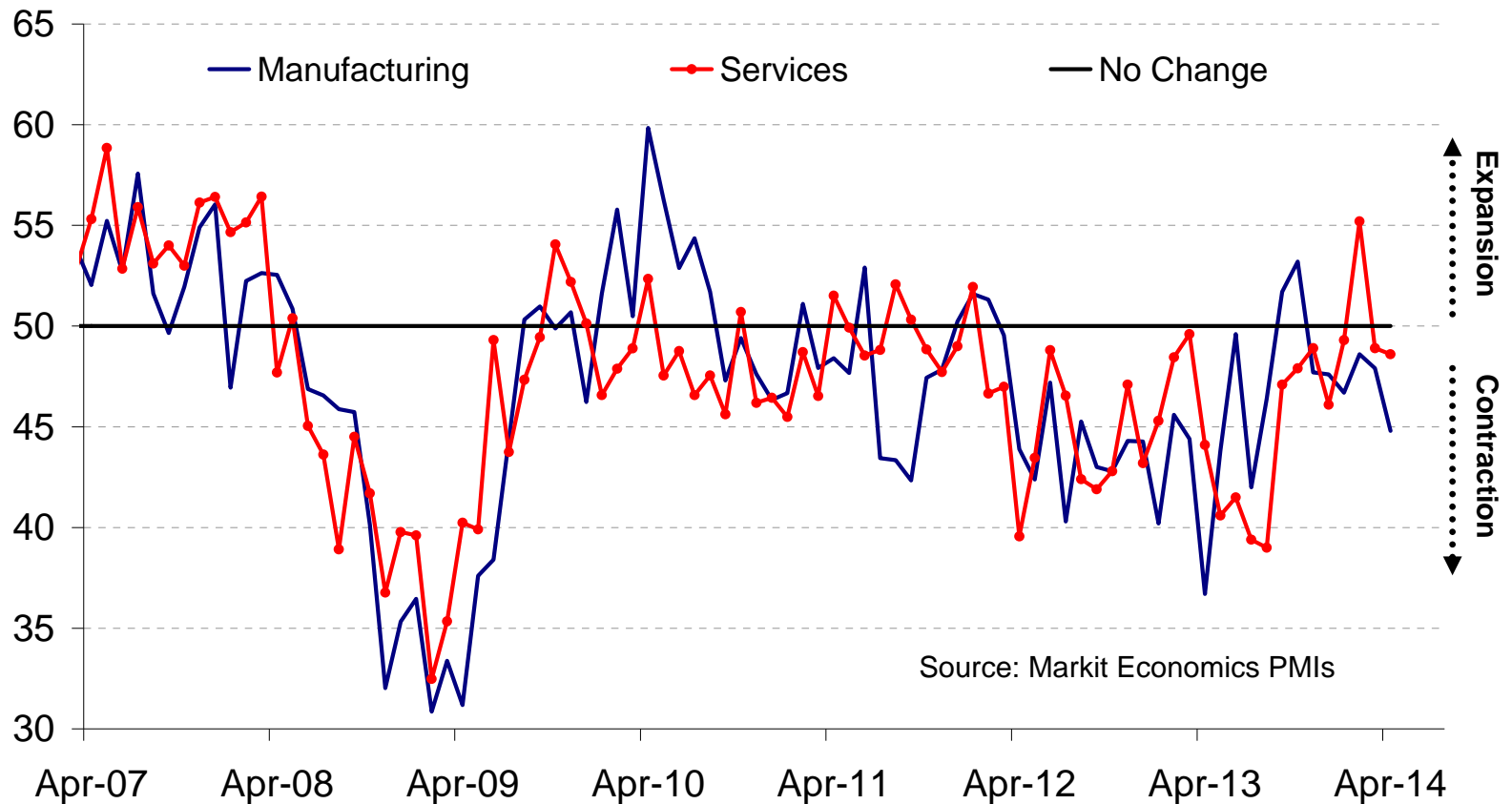
Emerging markets growth remains subdued. Russian PMI is contracting at its fastest rate since May 2009

Composite PMIs
(Manufacturing & Services ** Excludes Construction**)



Australia's services & manufacturing sectors remain 'Down Under' the 50 threshold in April

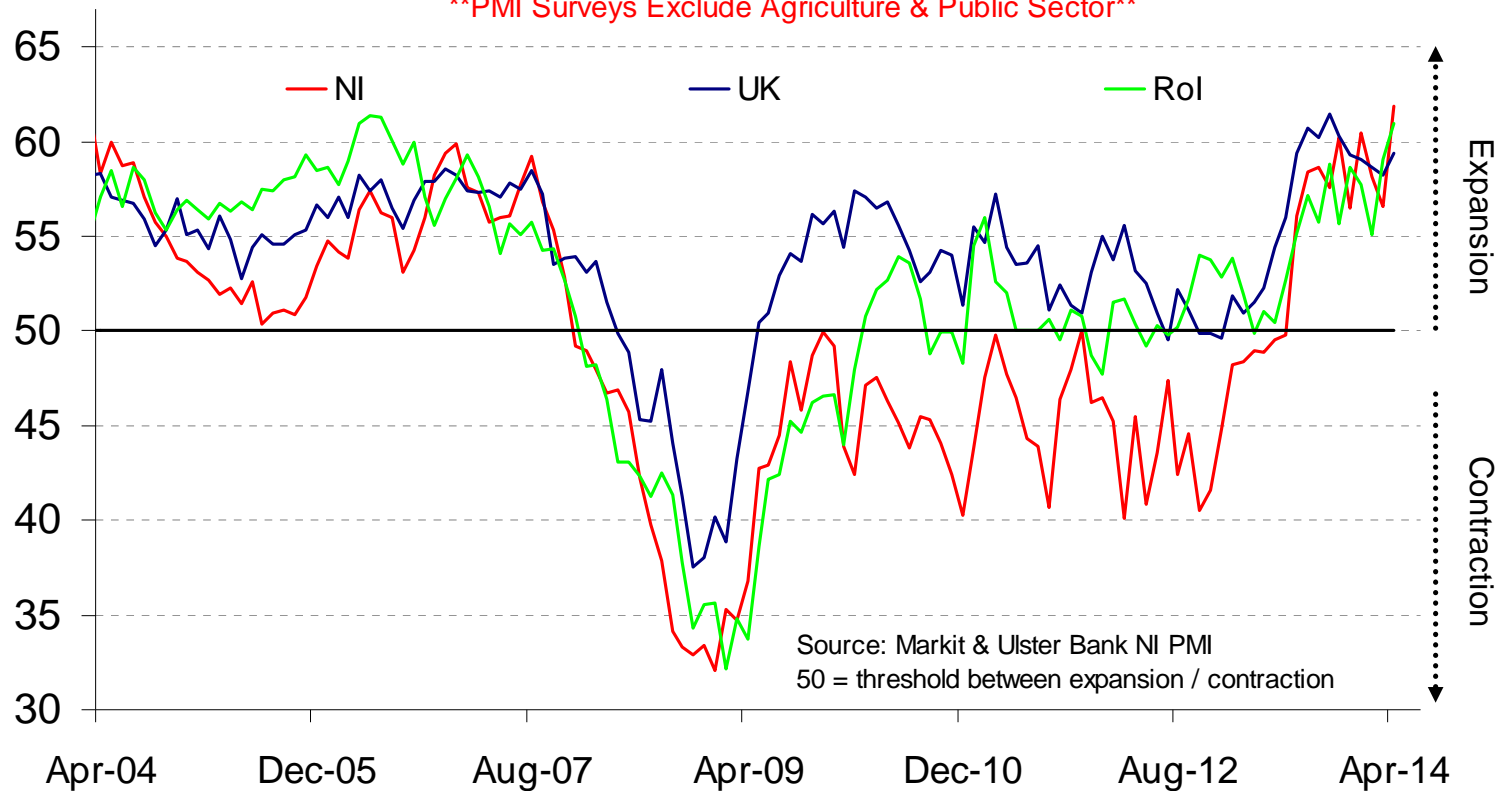
Australia - PMI



The UK, NI & the RoI all see their business activity growth rates accelerate in April with NI's at a record rate

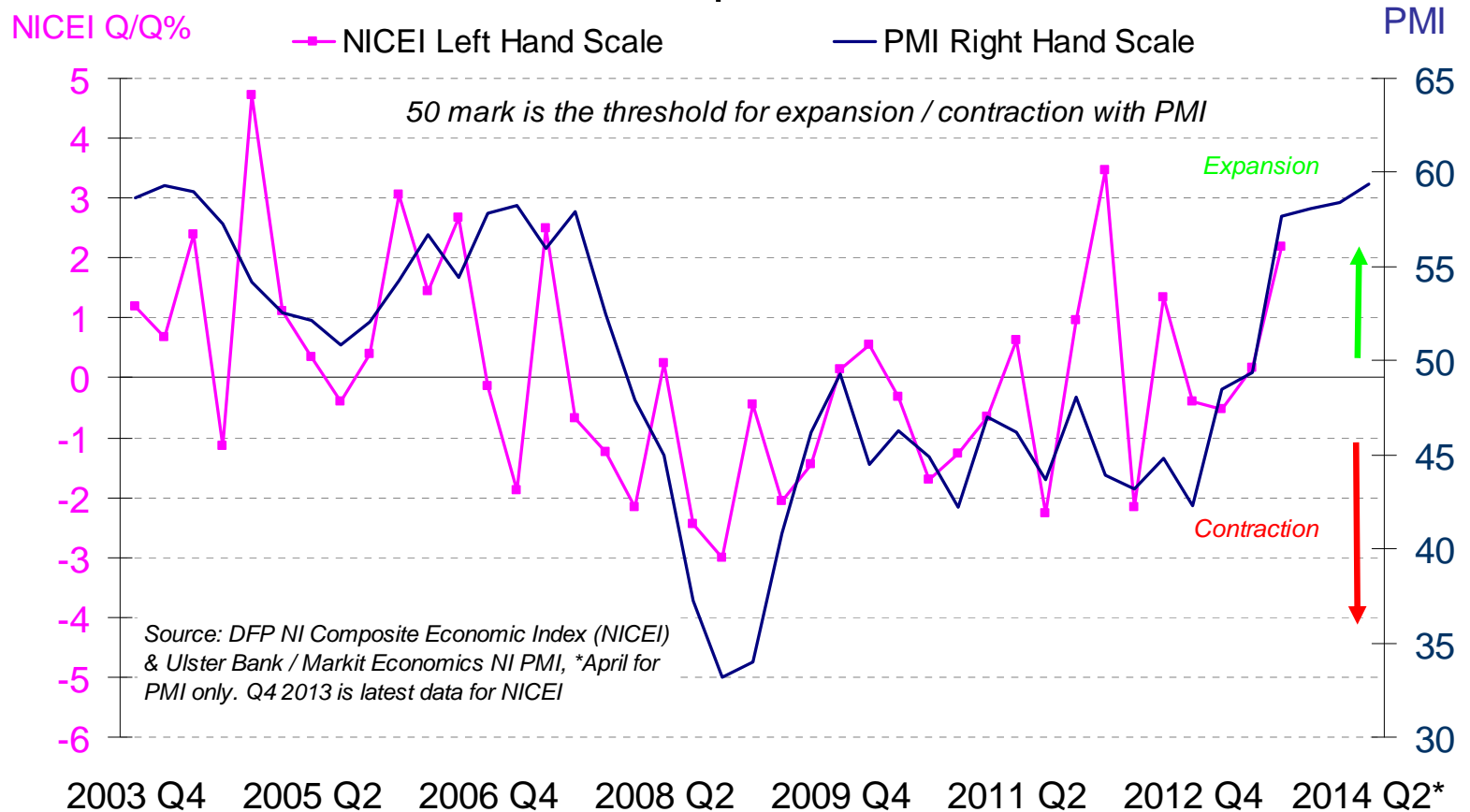
Private Sector Business Activity - PMIs

****PMI Surveys Exclude Agriculture & Public Sector****



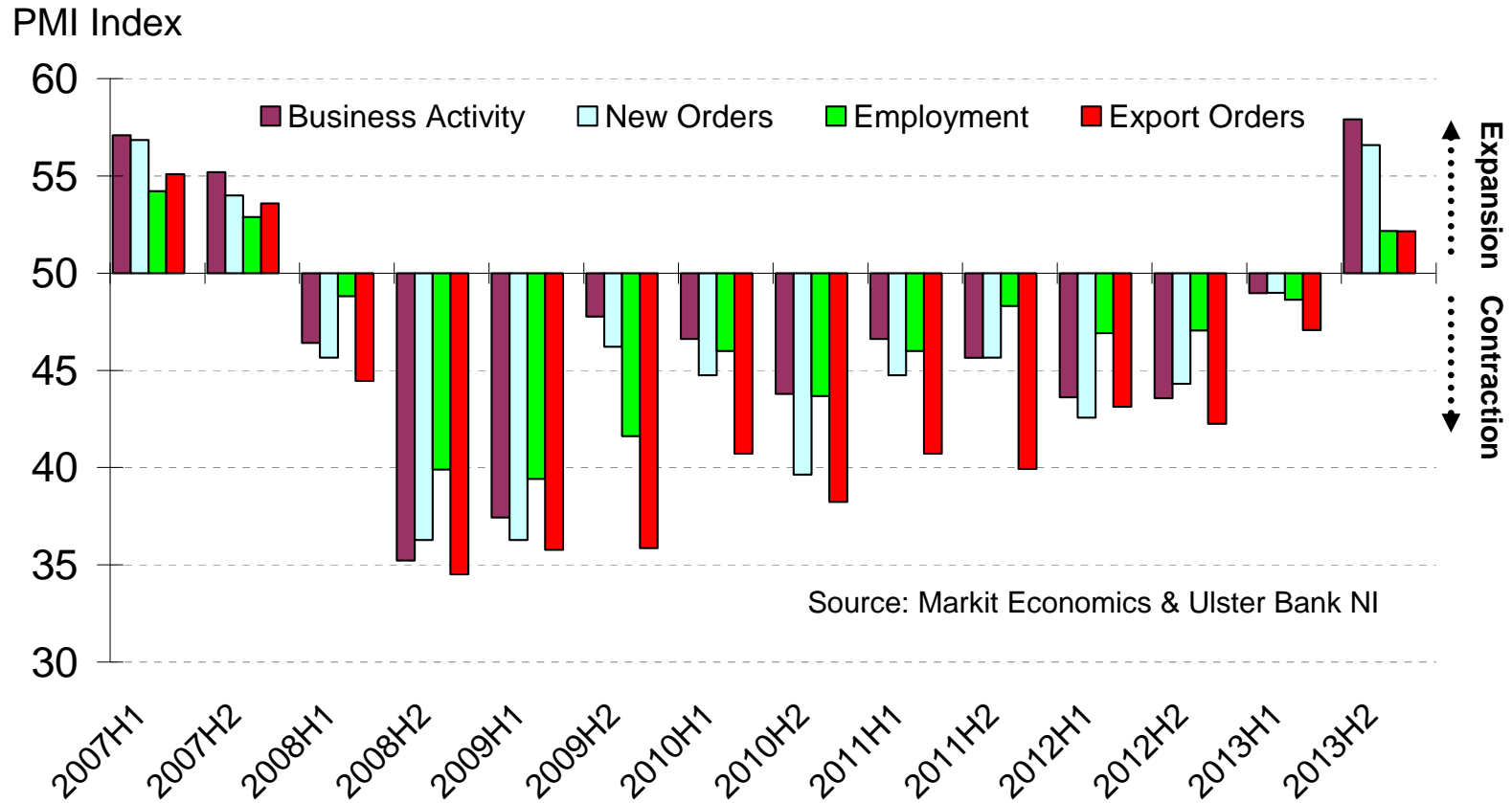
PMI suggests growth in DFP's new private sector composite index (combines indices for construction, services, agriculture & industrial production) in Q4 & Q1-14

NI Private Sector Output Index Versus NI PMI



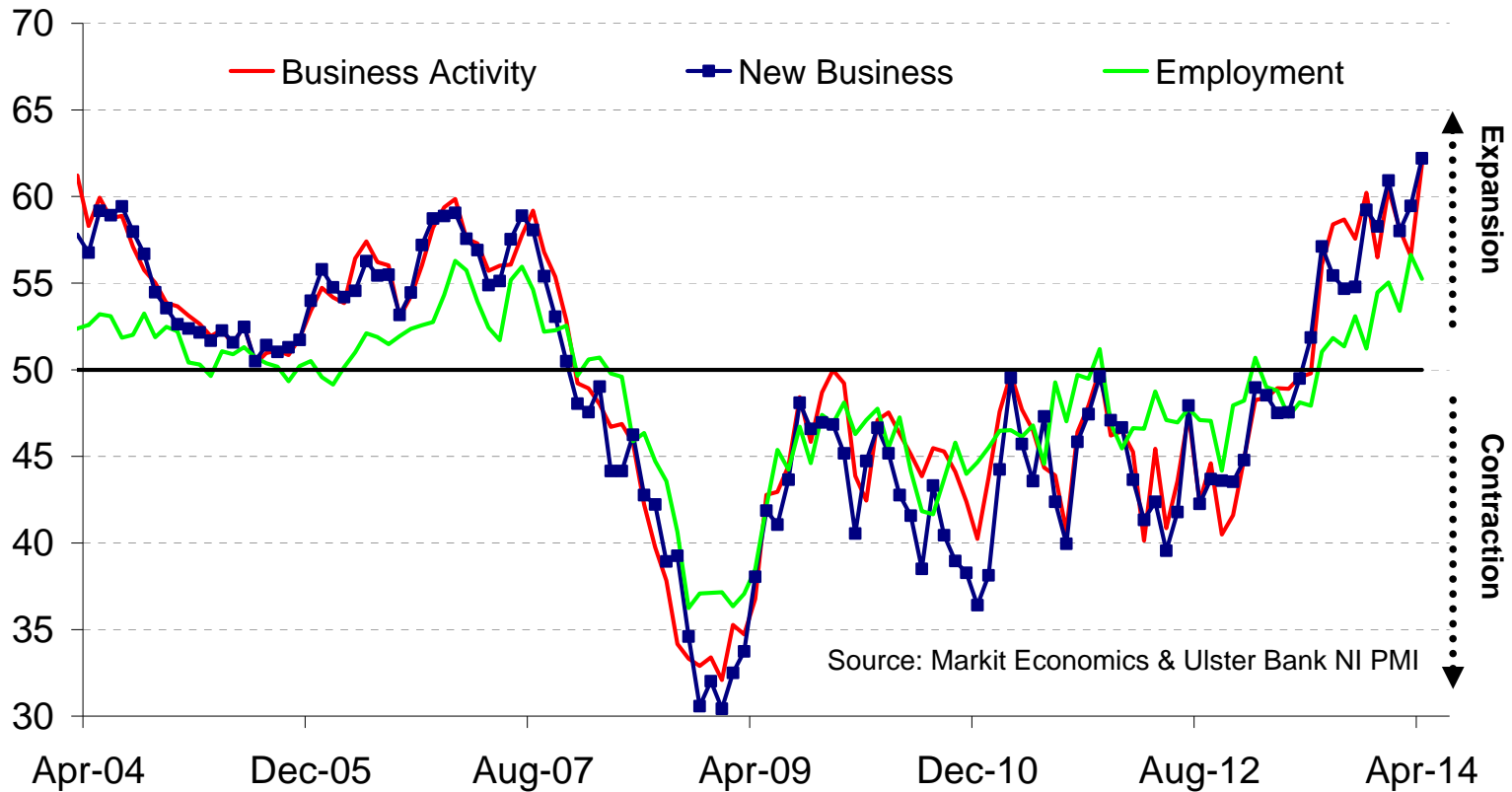
NI's recovery took hold in the second half (H2) of 2013

NI Private Sector Performance (PMI)



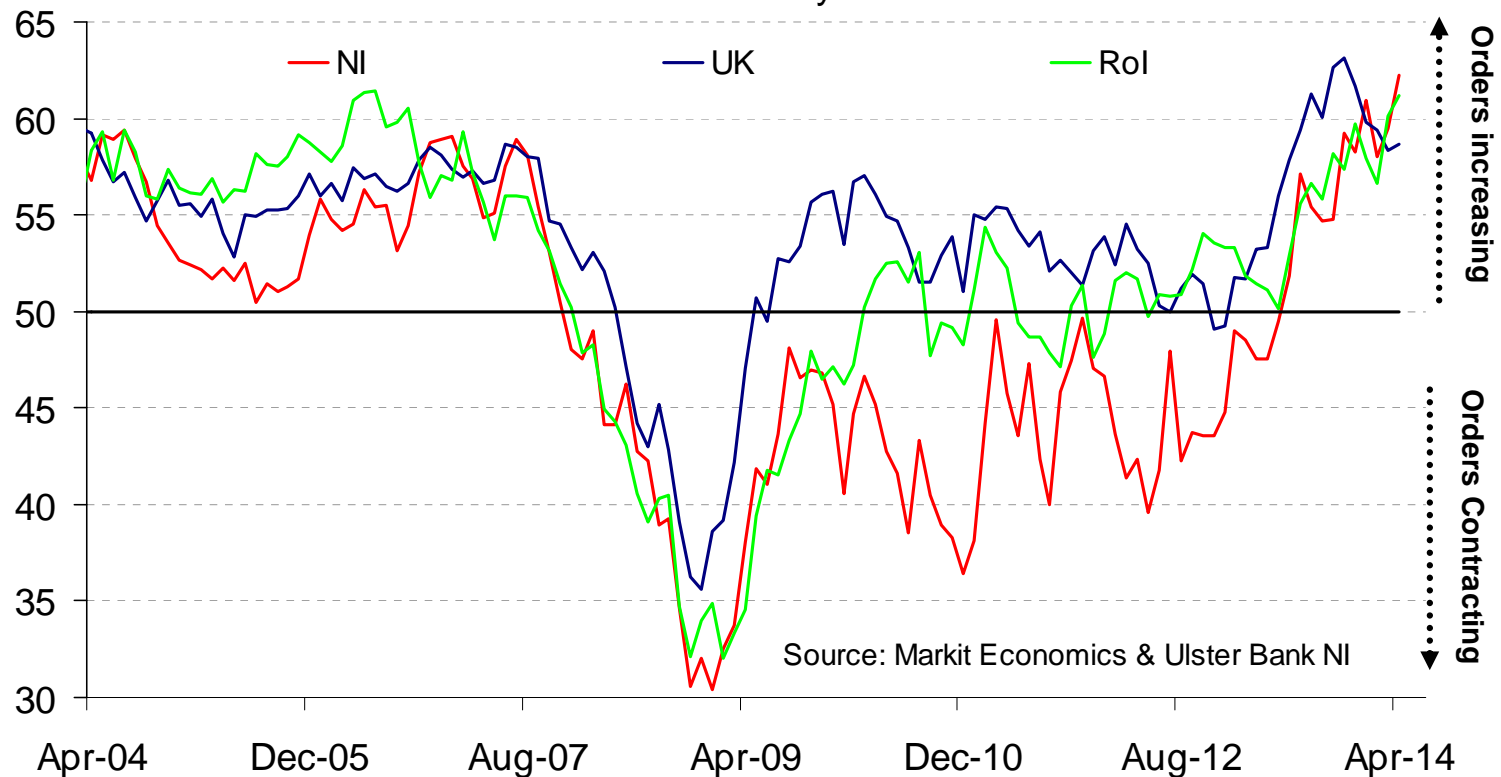
NI firms report record rates of growth in business activity and new orders growth in April

NI Private Sector Activity Monthly



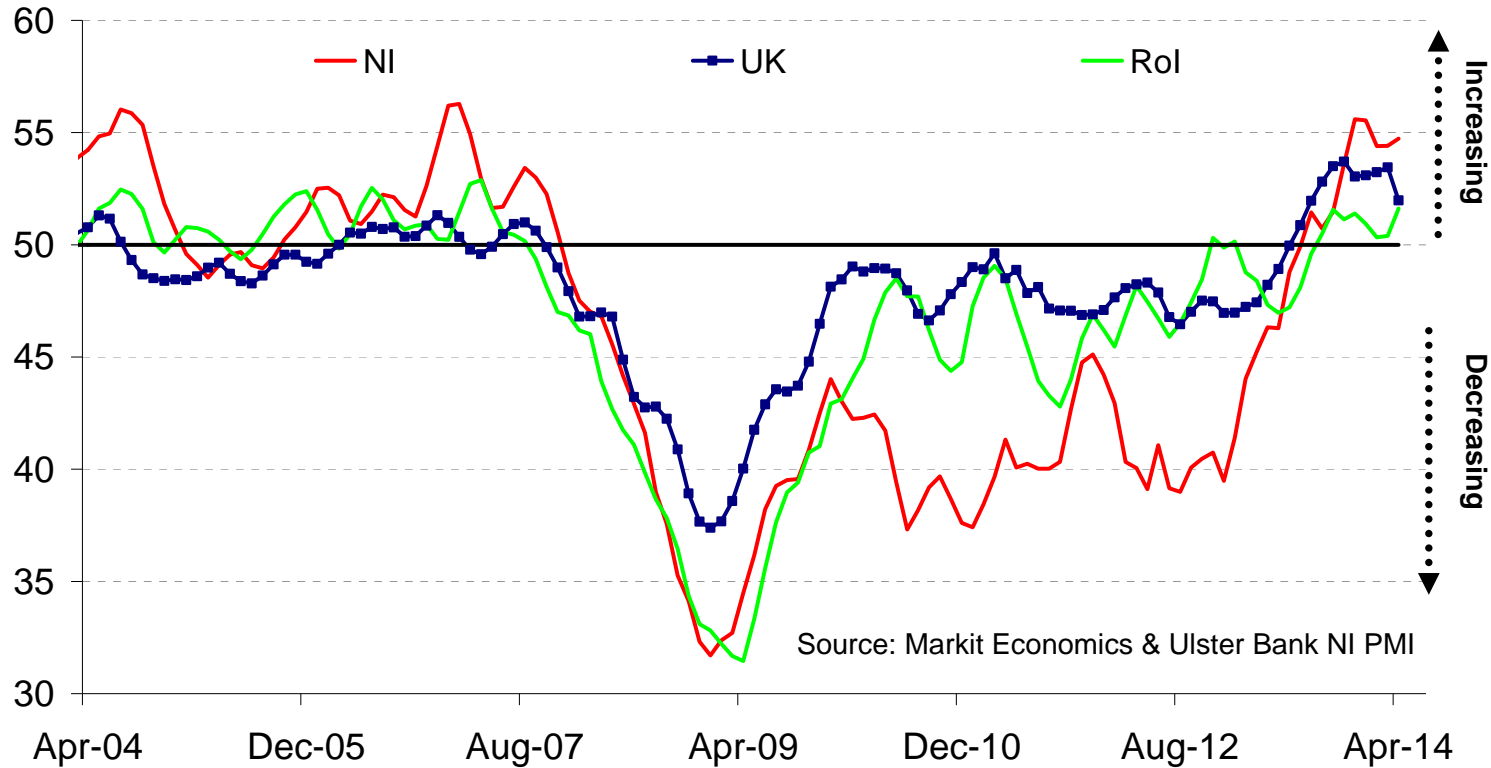
NI order books growing at a record rate in April which suggests more growth in the months ahead

Private Sector New Orders Monthly



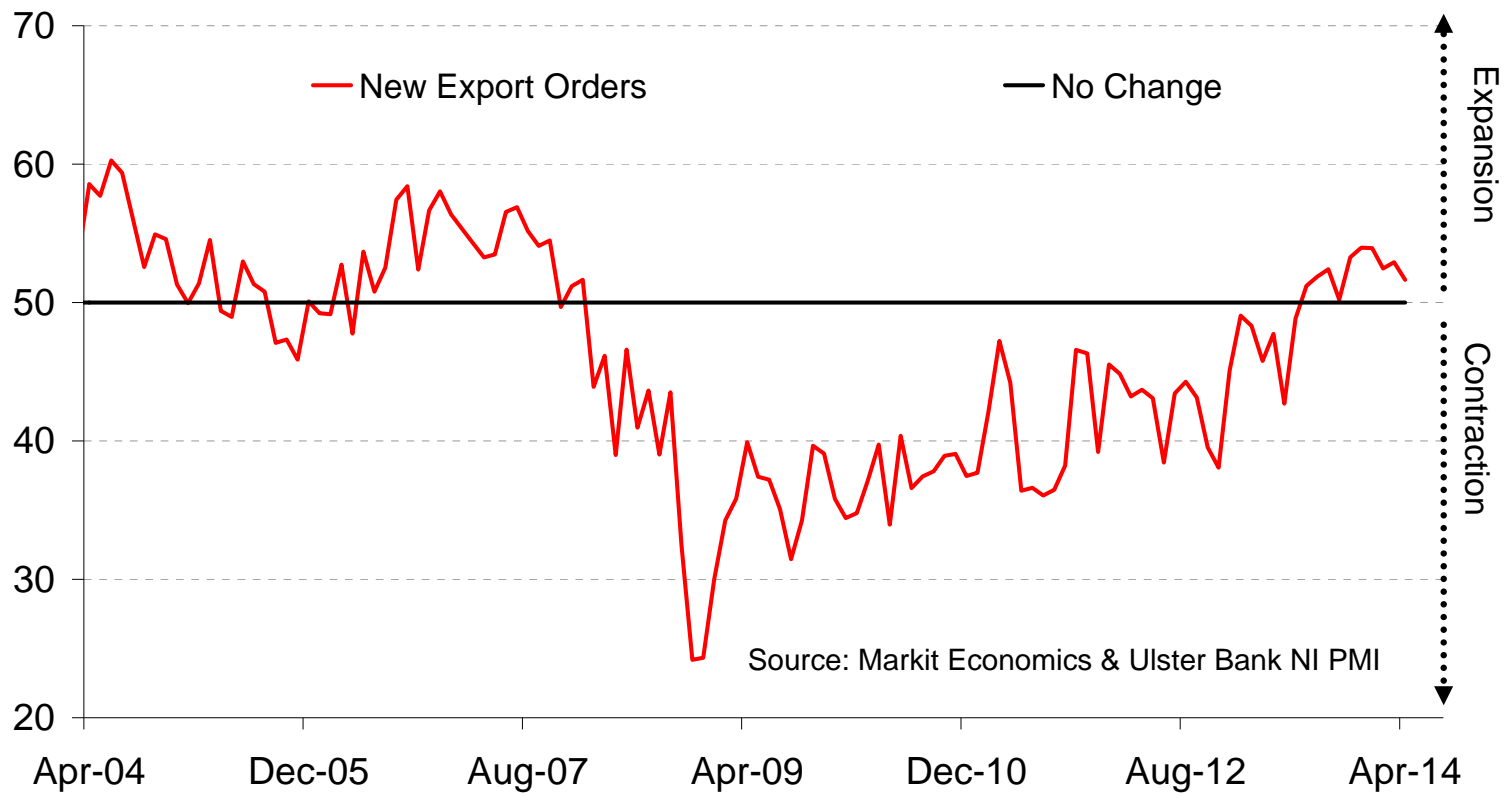
Surge in demand has led to backlogs of work particularly within NI

Private Sector Backlogs
3 month moving average

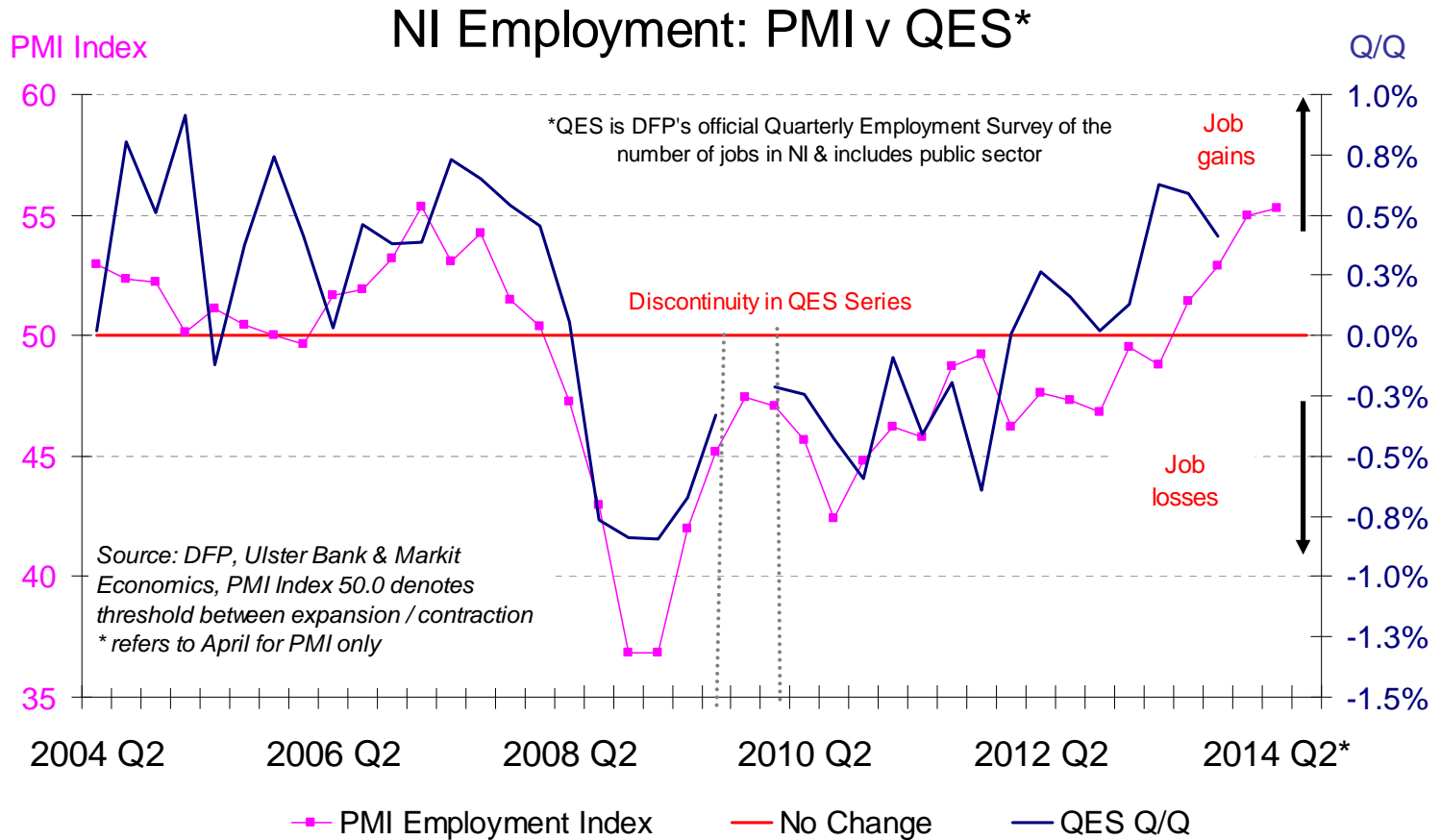


NI firms post their 10th successive rise in export orders

NI New Export Business

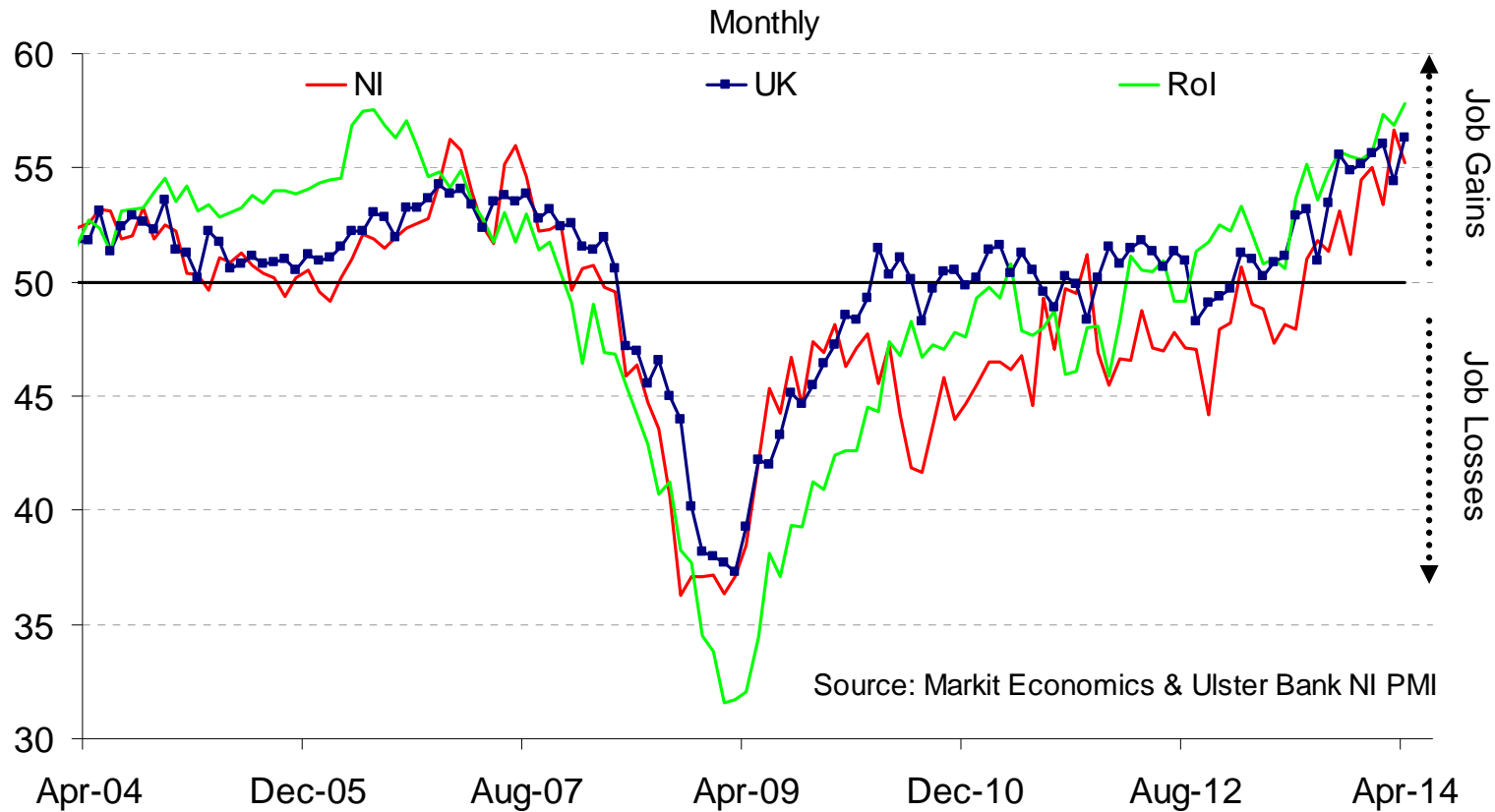


PMI for Q1 signals fastest rate of jobs growth in 7 years with strong growth at the start of Q2



UK & RoI firms report an acceleration in job creation with the RoI posting its fastest rate of growth since 2000

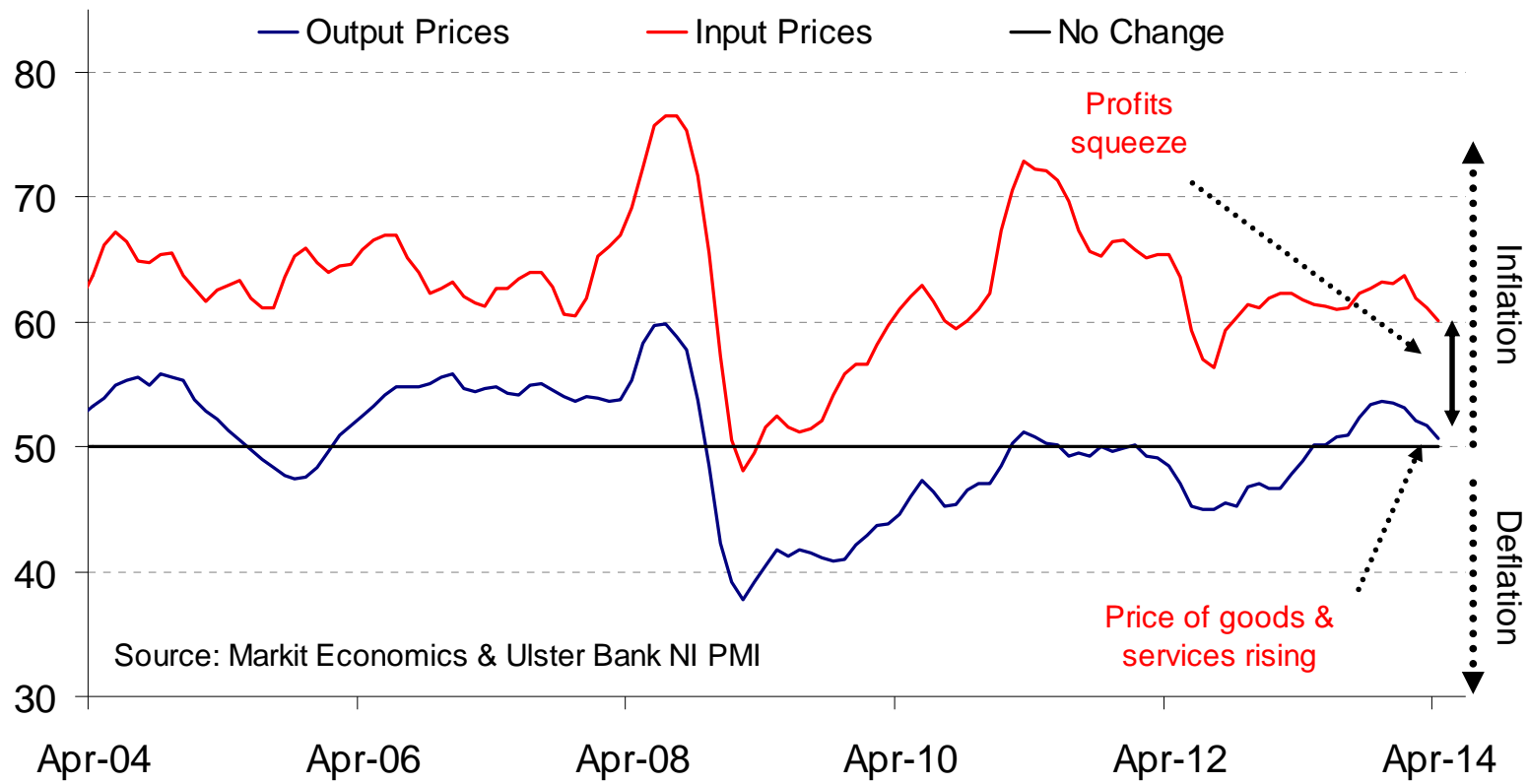
Private Sector Employment Levels



Input & output cost inflation continues to ease

NI Private Sector Profit Squeeze

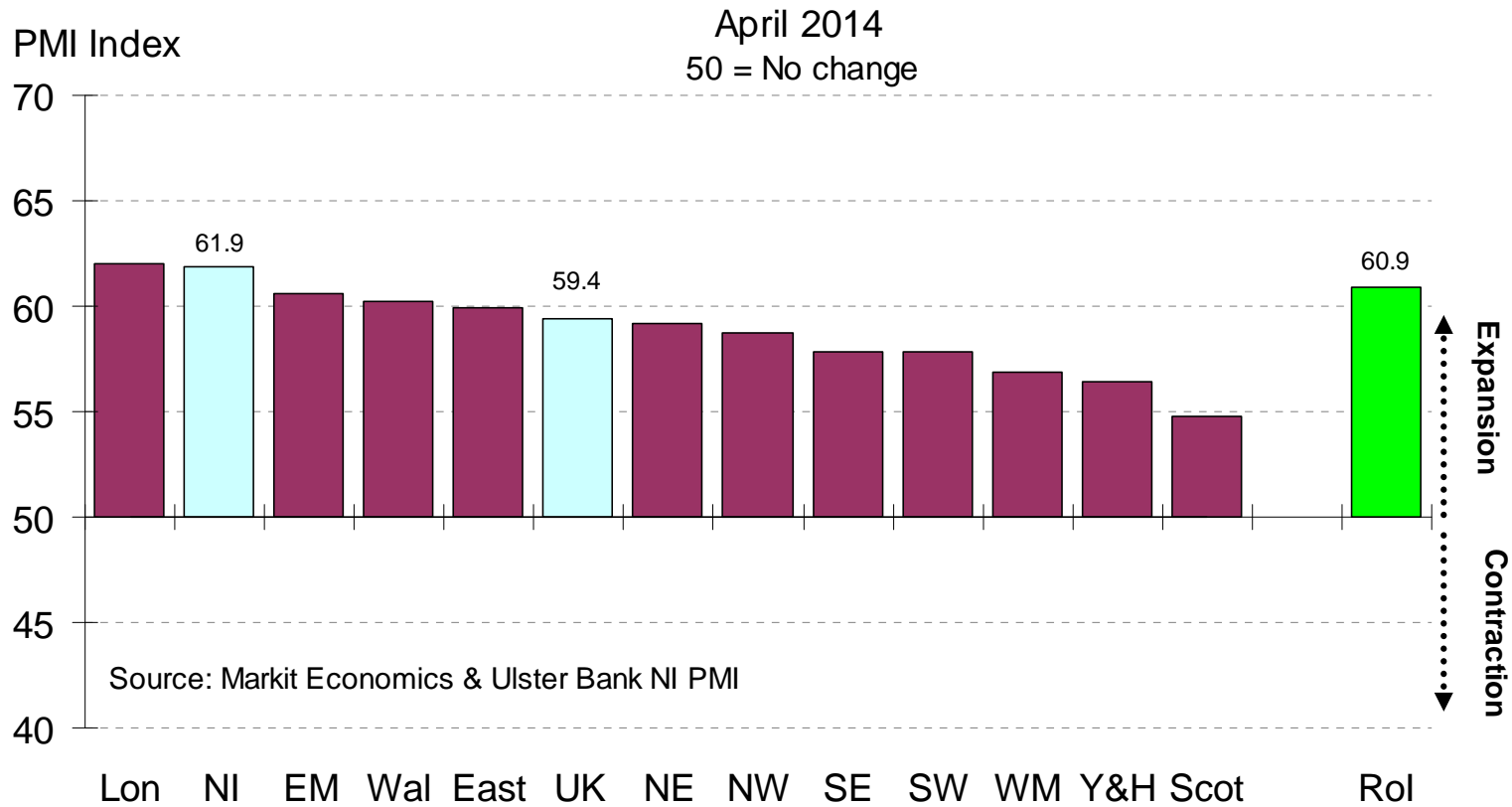
3 Month Moving Average



*Regional
Comparisons*

Strong growth across all UK regions & the RoI in April

Output / Business Activity



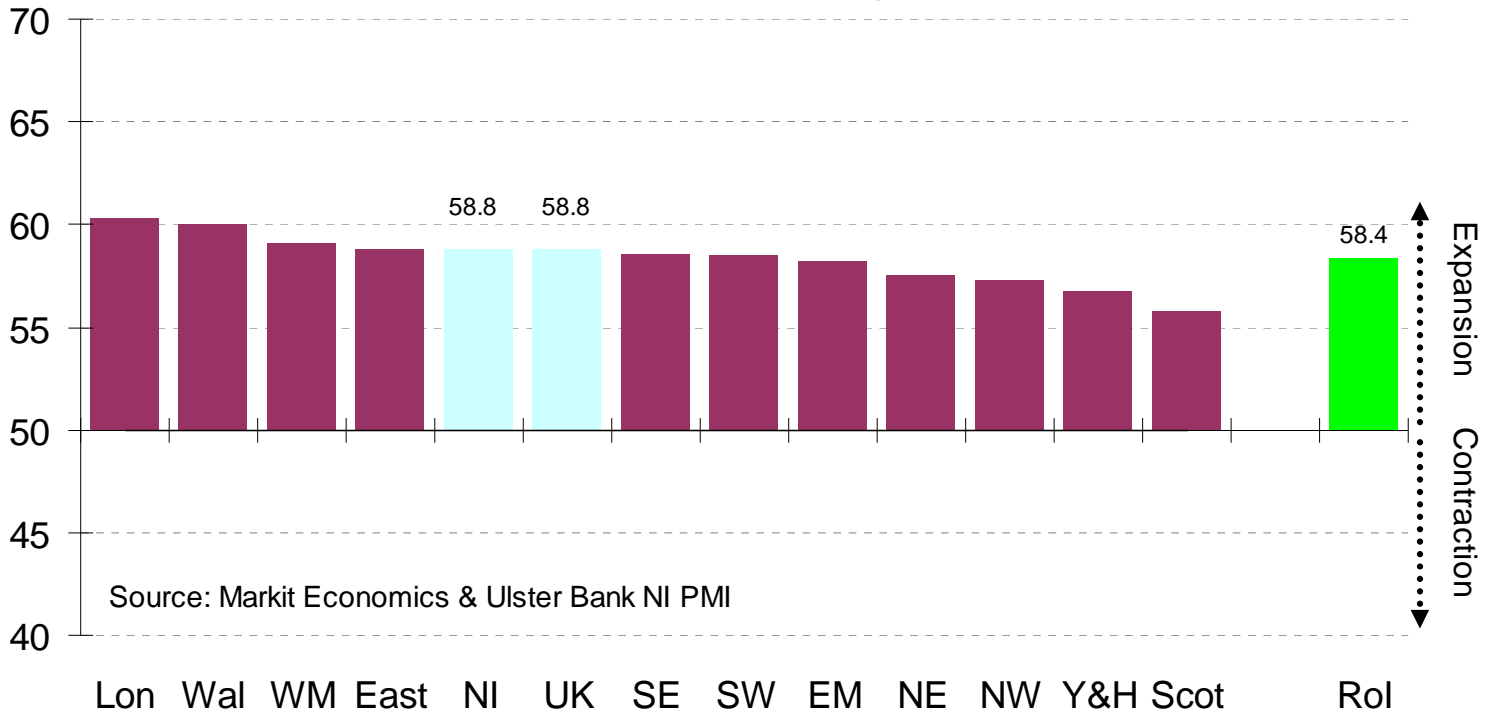
...all the UK regions & the RoI post strong rates of growth over the last 3 months...

Output / Business Activity

3 months to April 2014

50 = No change

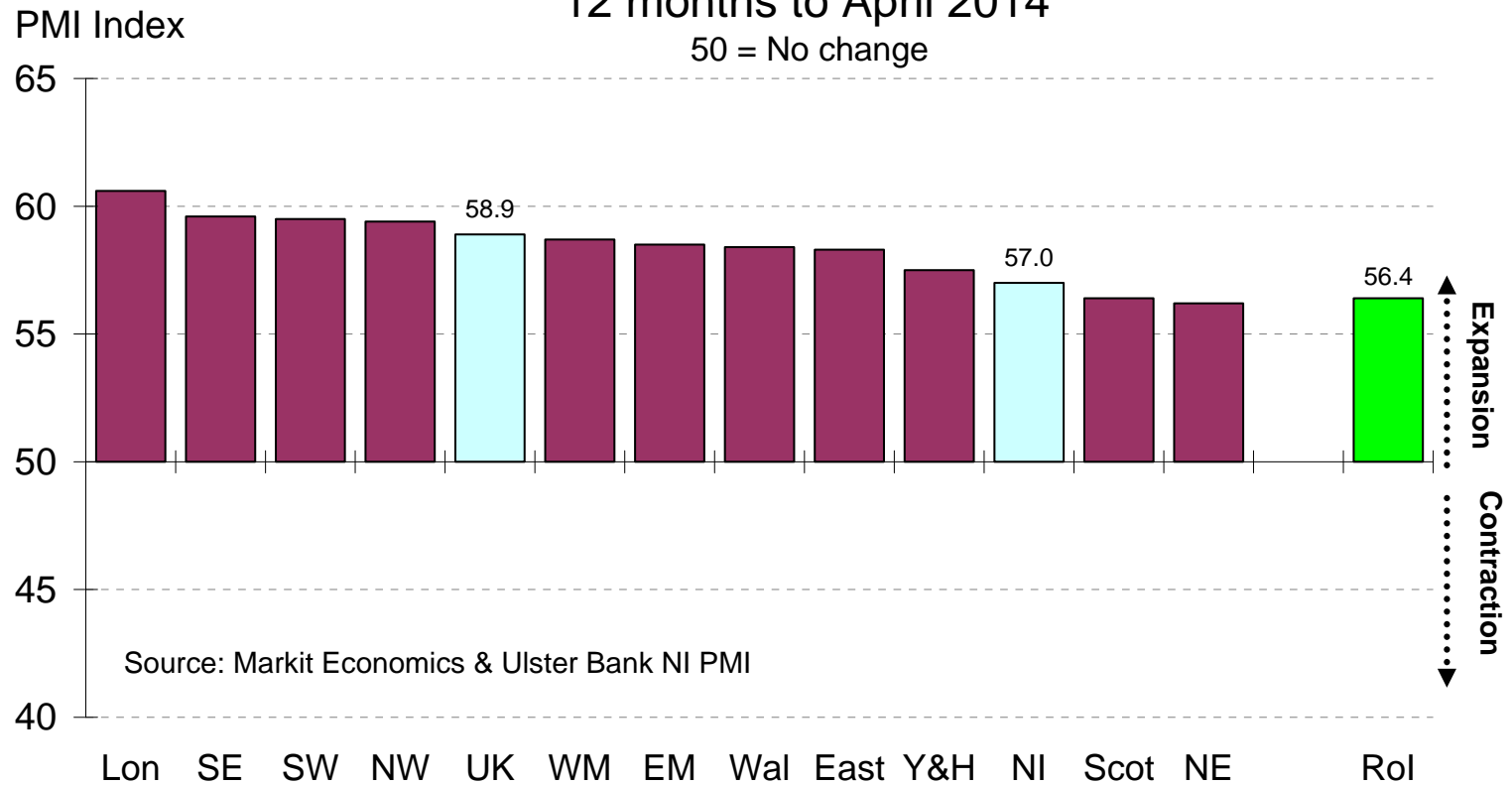
PMI Index



... and over the last 12 months

Output / Business Activity 12 months to April 2014

50 = No change

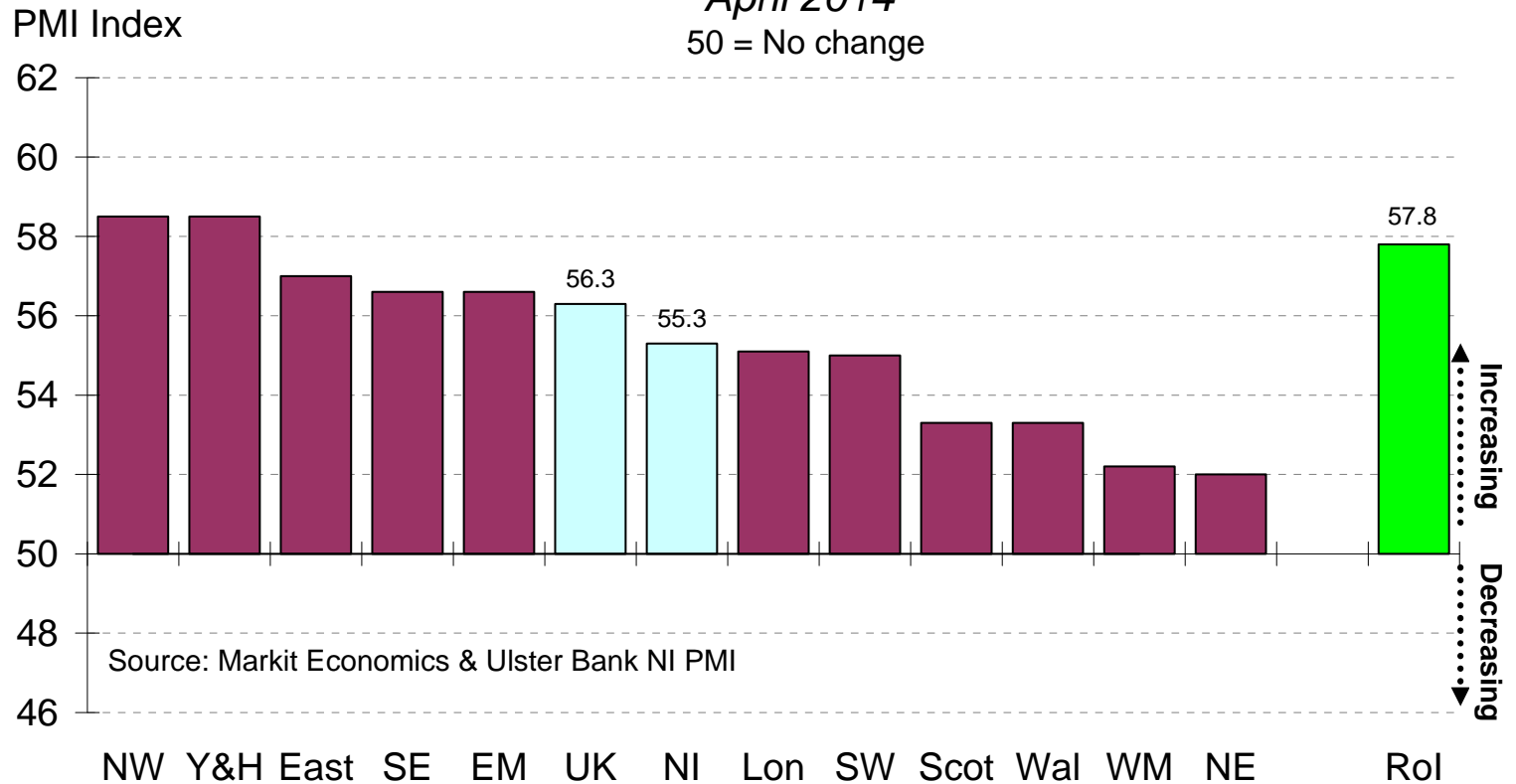


The Rol posts the fastest rate of employment growth relative to the UK and NI in April

Employment Levels

April 2014

50 = No change

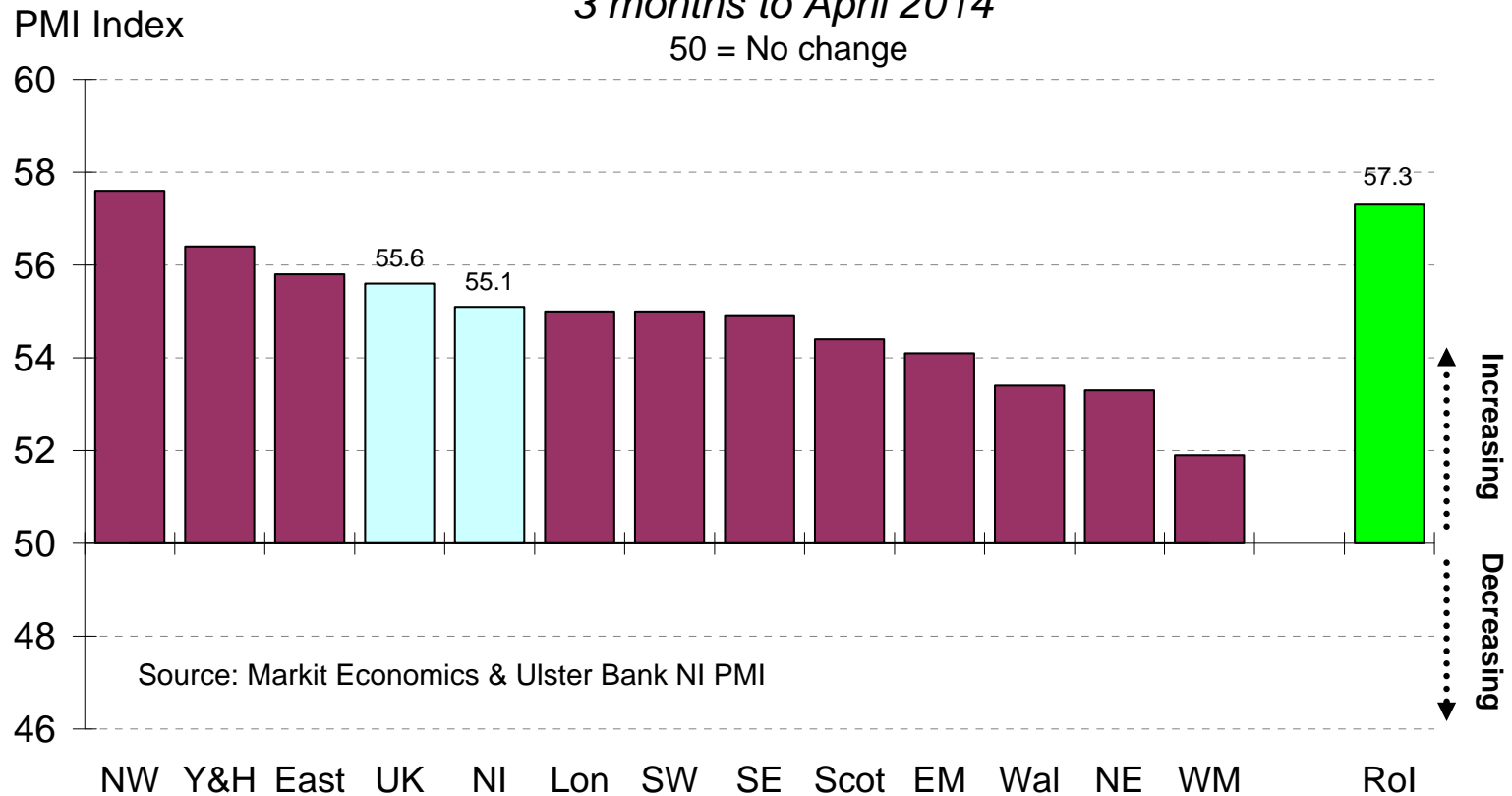


All UK regions and the RoI post employment growth over the last 3 months

Employment Levels

3 months to April 2014

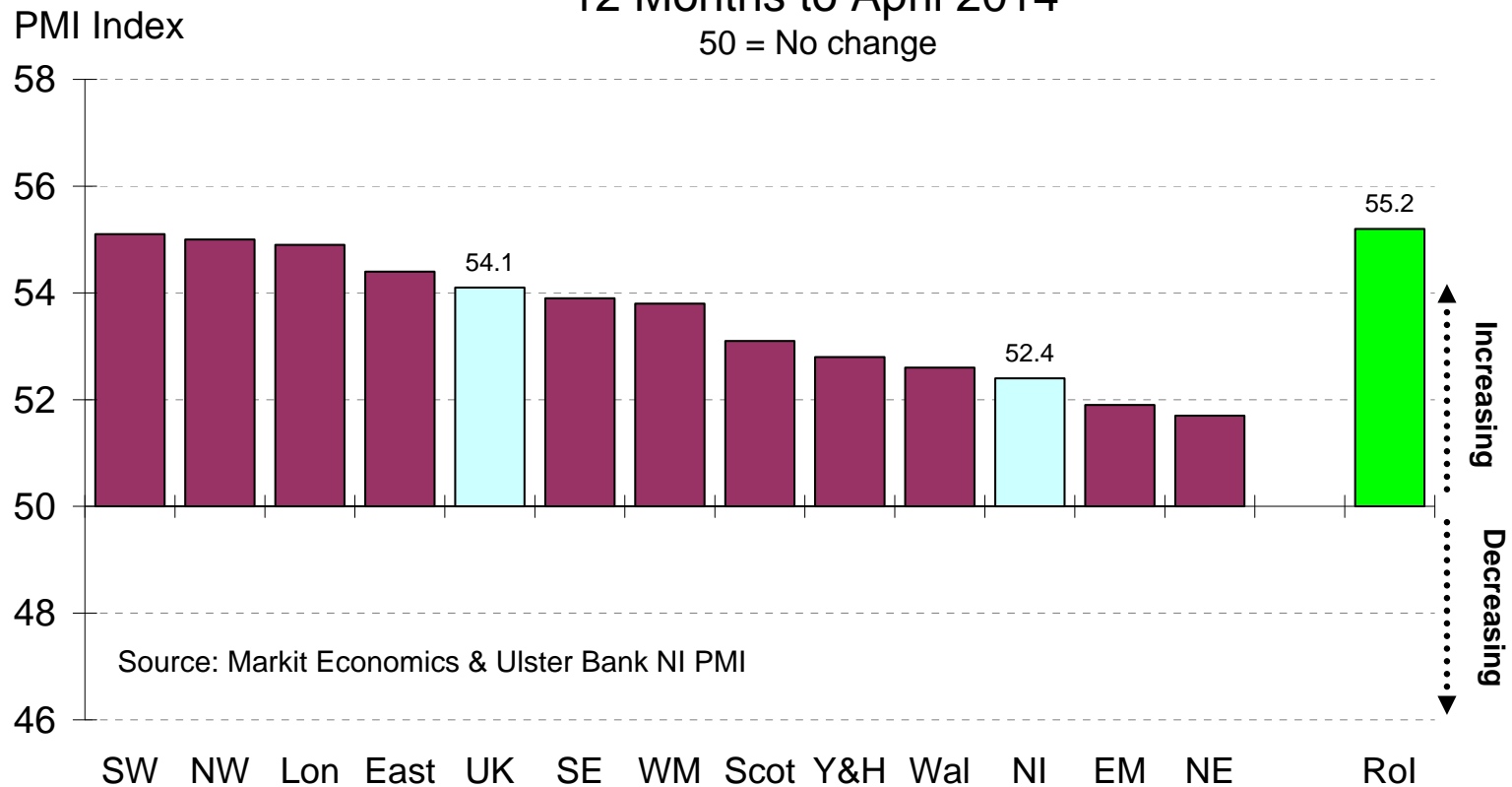
50 = No change



In 2013 NI posted its 1st annual increase in private sector employment since 2007 with that trend continuing in 2014

Employment Levels 12 Months to April 2014

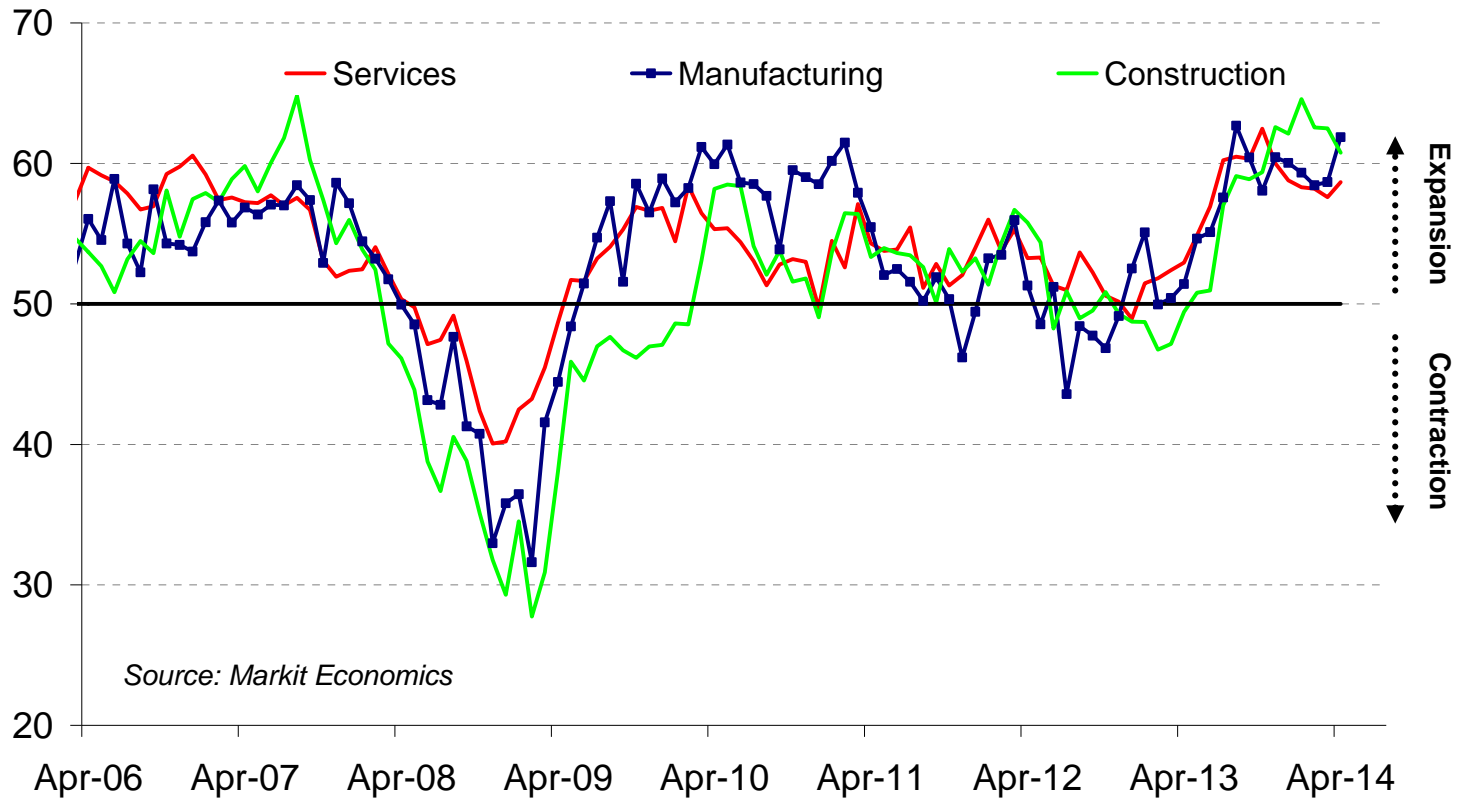
50 = No change



Sectoral Comparisons

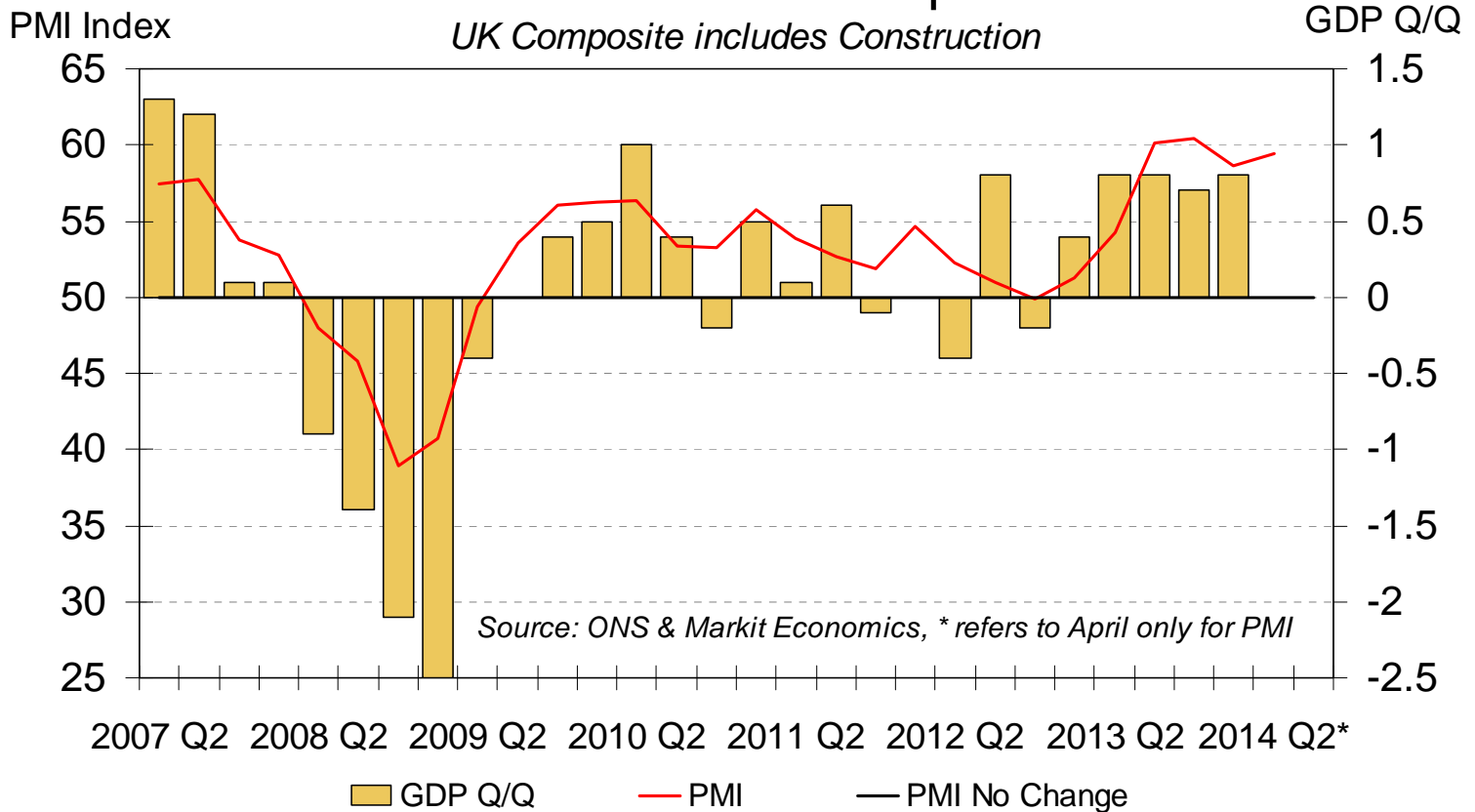
All sectors post strong growth in April with manufacturing seeing its growth rate accelerate

UK Business Activity / Output - PMIs

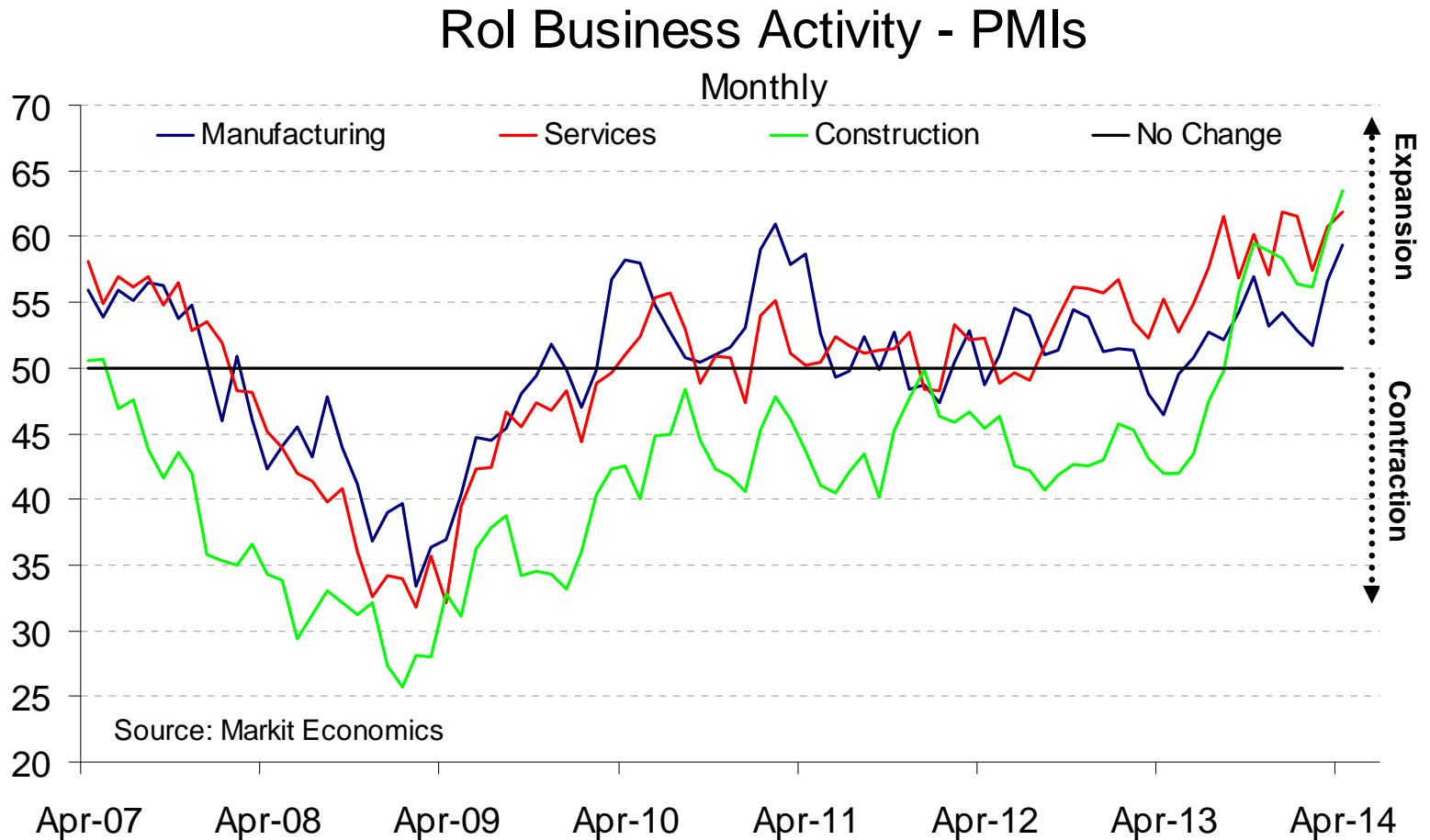


UK posts strong rates of economic growth between Q2 2013 & Q1 2014 with further growth expected in Q2

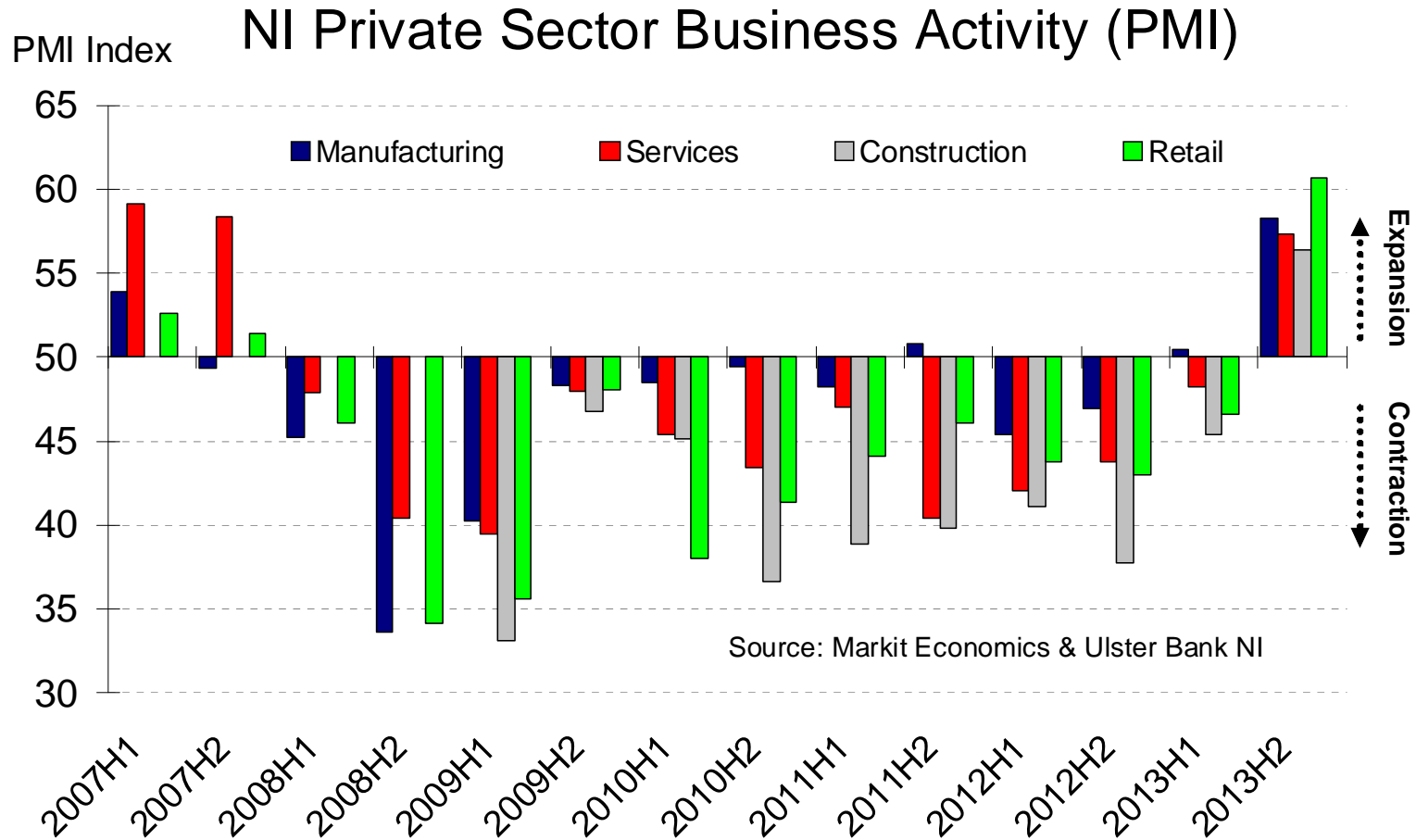
UK GDP versus UK Composite PMI



Rol output growth accelerates across all sectors in April



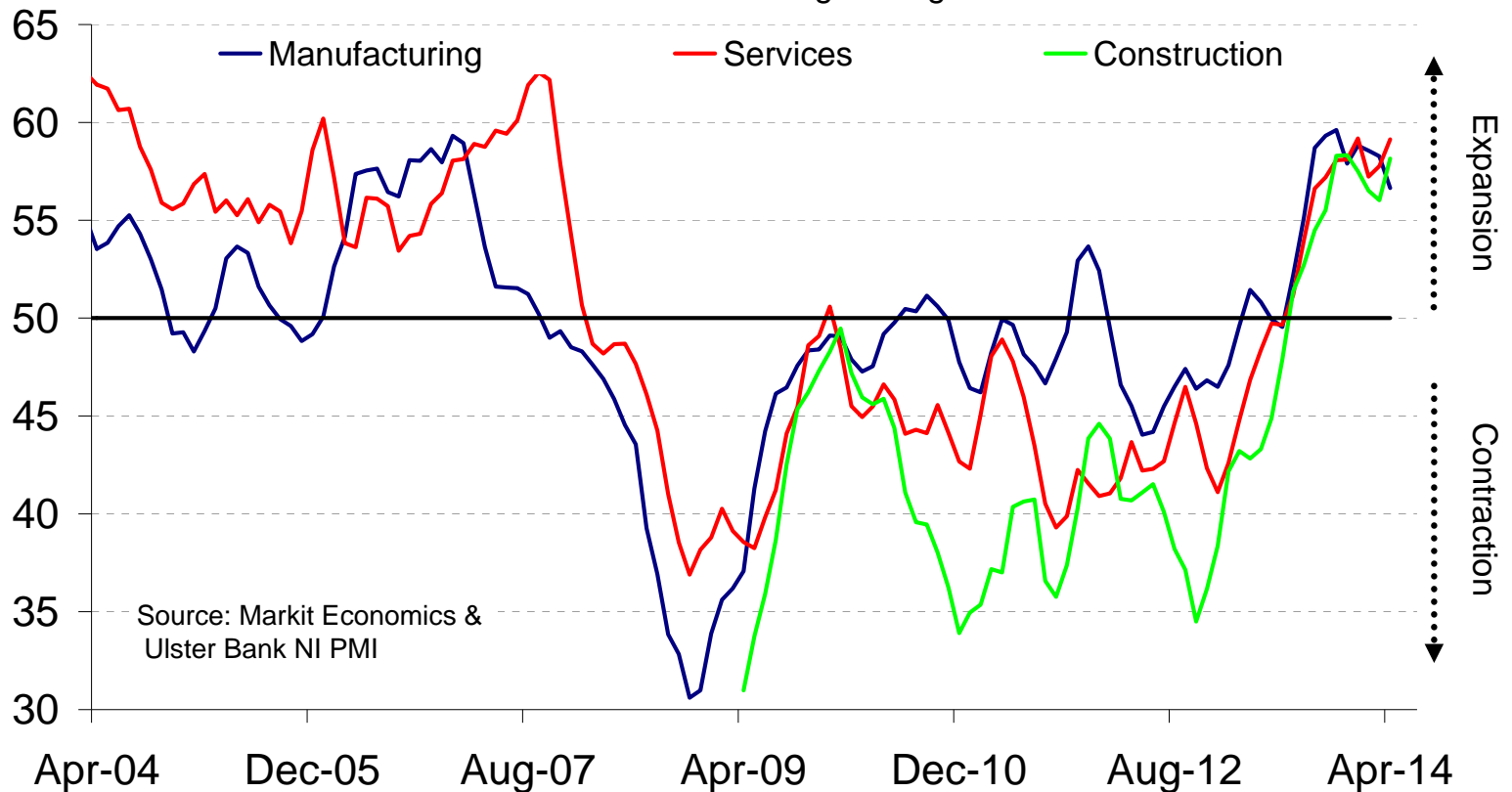
All 3 broad sectors within NI saw a marked turnaround in business activity in H2 2013



NI's services and construction sectors report an acceleration in output growth in the 3 months to April

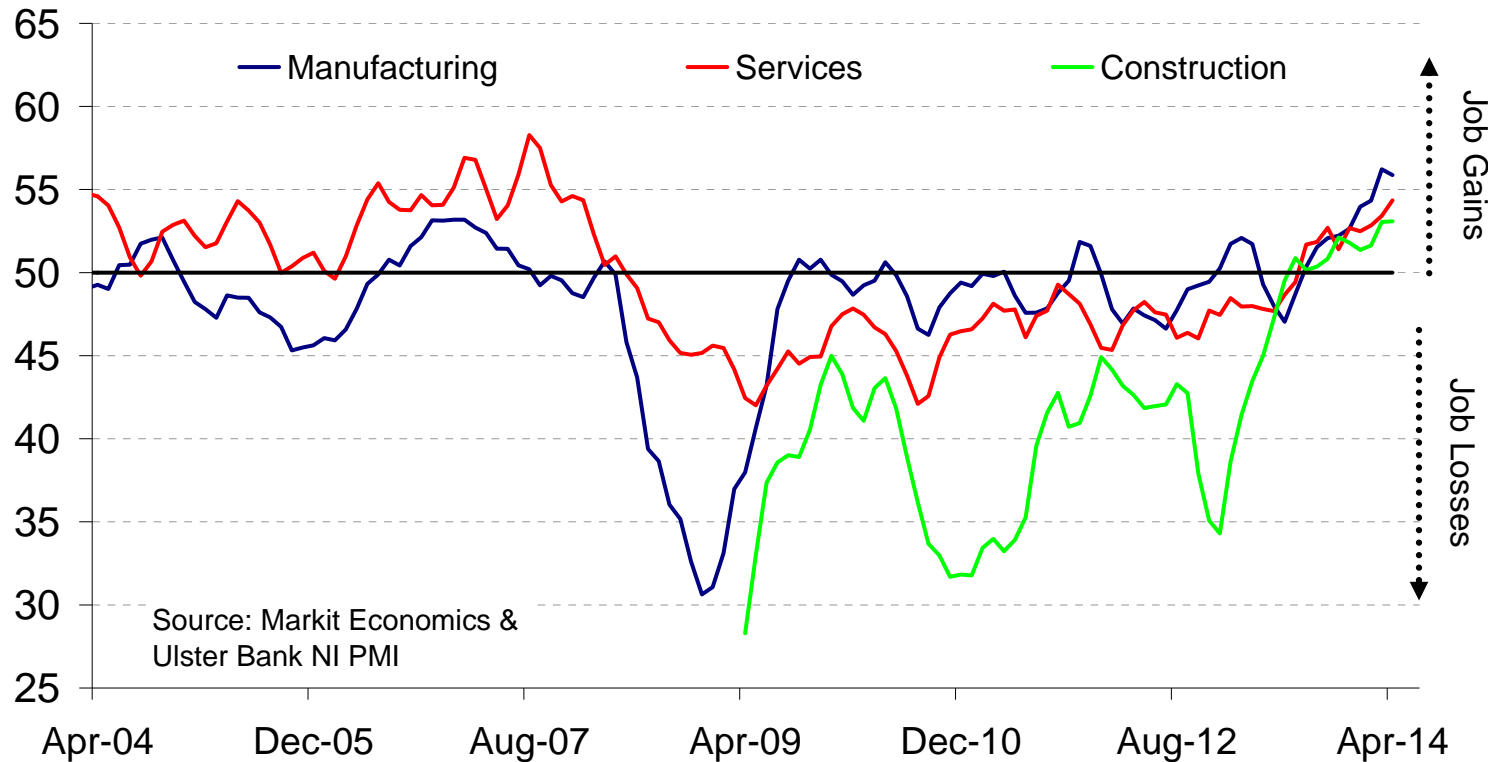
Northern Ireland Private Sector Output

3 month moving average

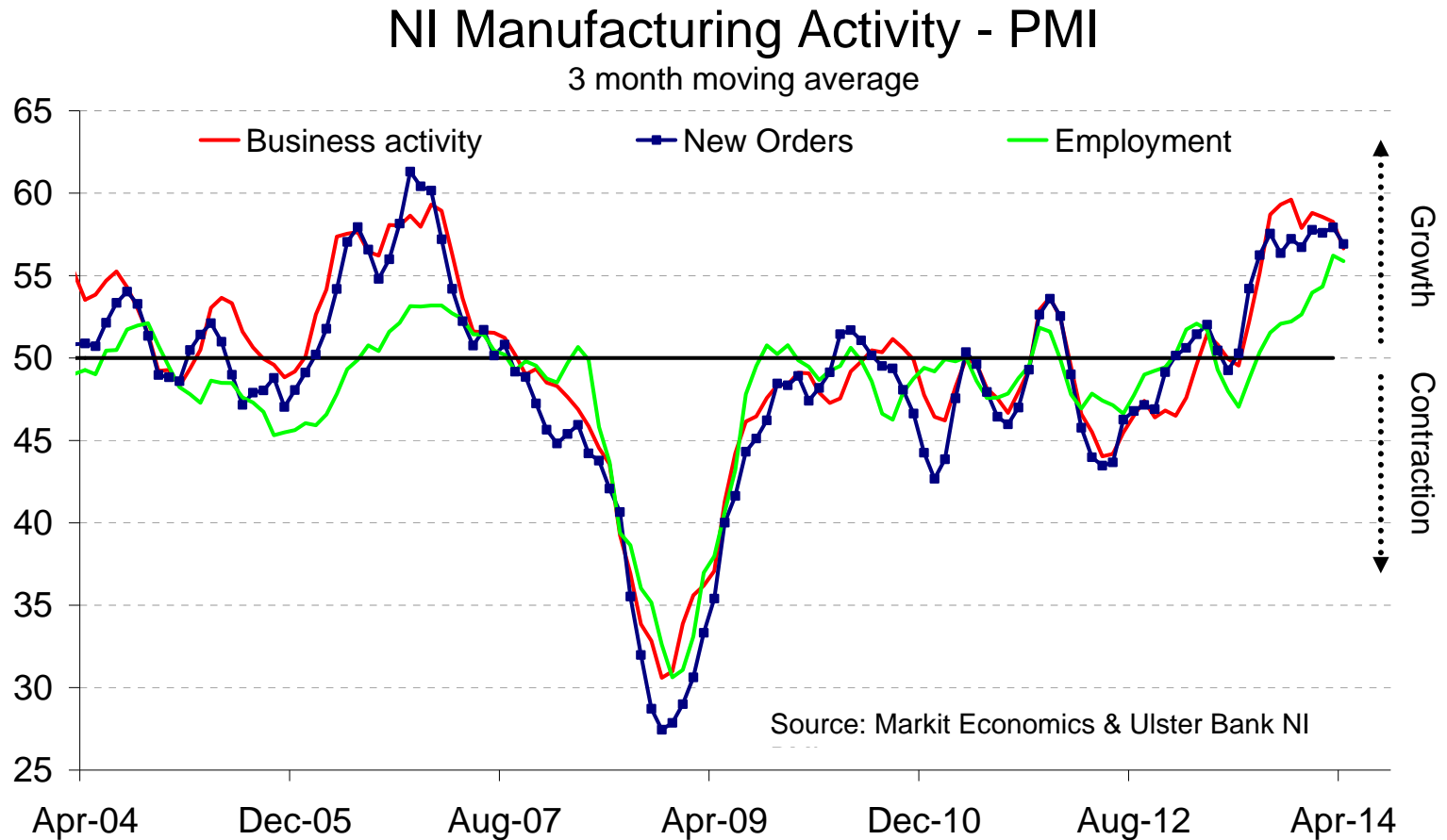


with all sectors posting employment growth over the last 3 months with services reporting a marked acceleration

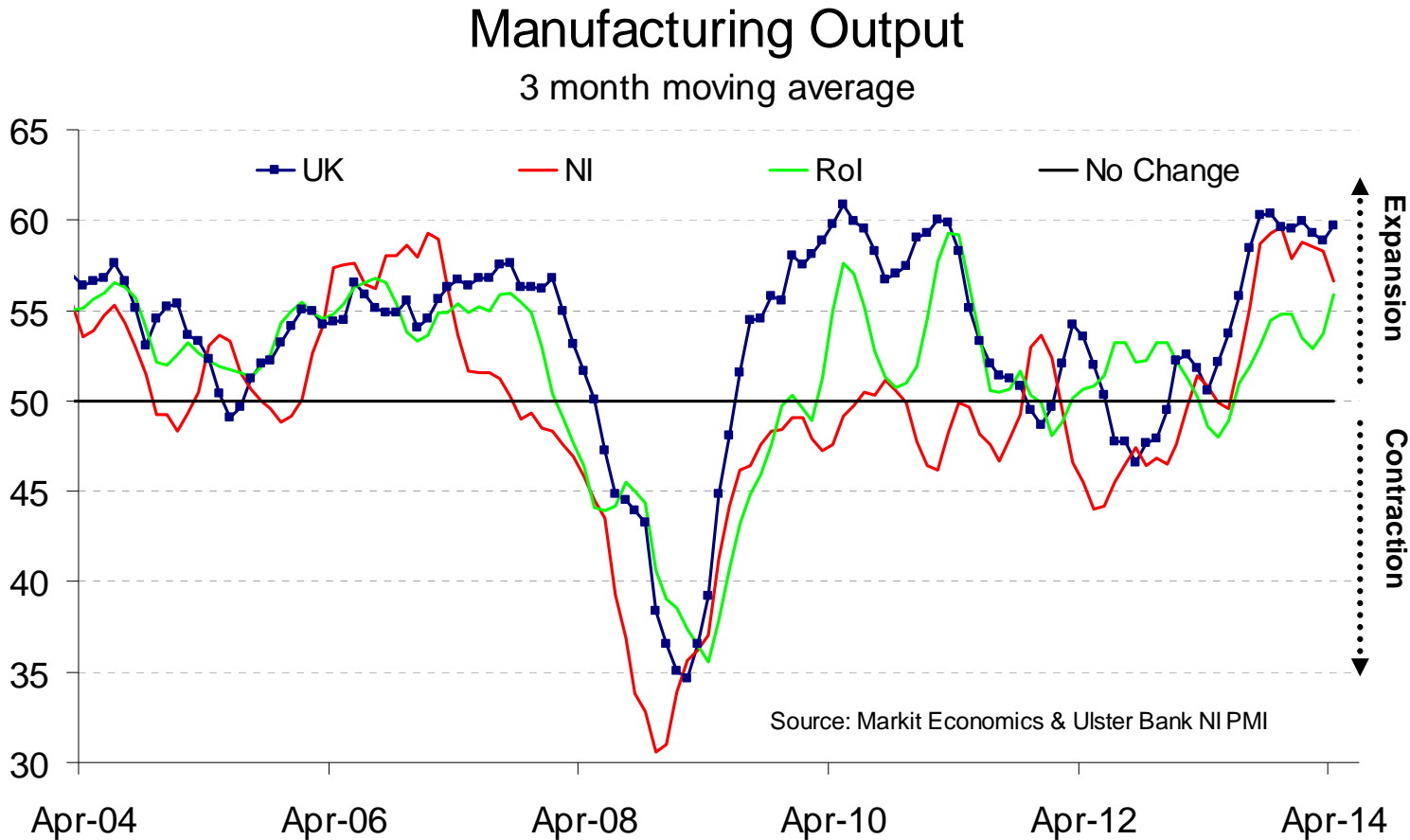
NI PMI - Employment Index
3 month moving average



NI manufacturing firms report an easing in output, orders & employment growth



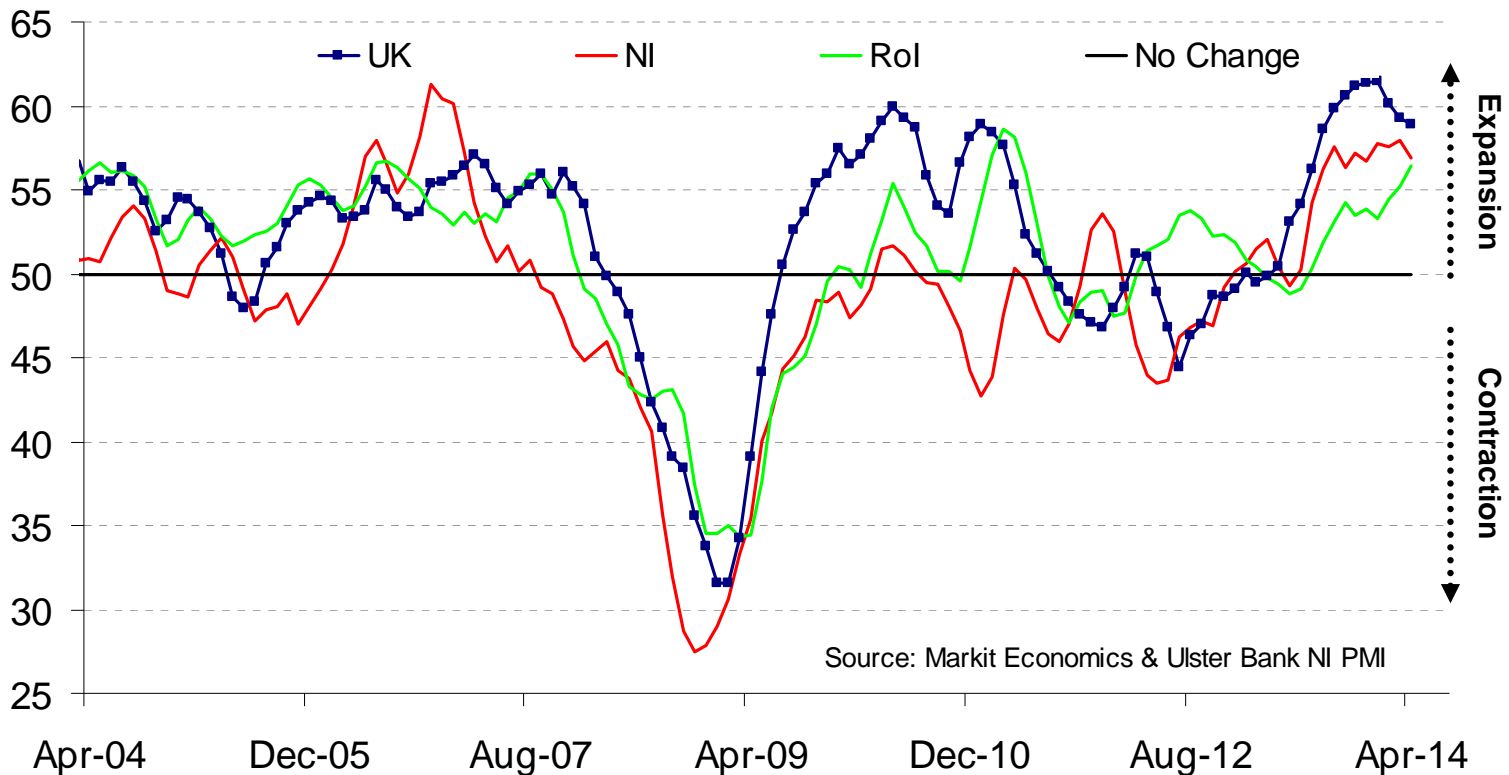
NI manufacturing firms report an easing in output growth while the RoI & UK see growth rates accelerate



The UK & NI post the strongest rates of orders growth, albeit slowing, while RoI firms post a pick-up in new orders growth

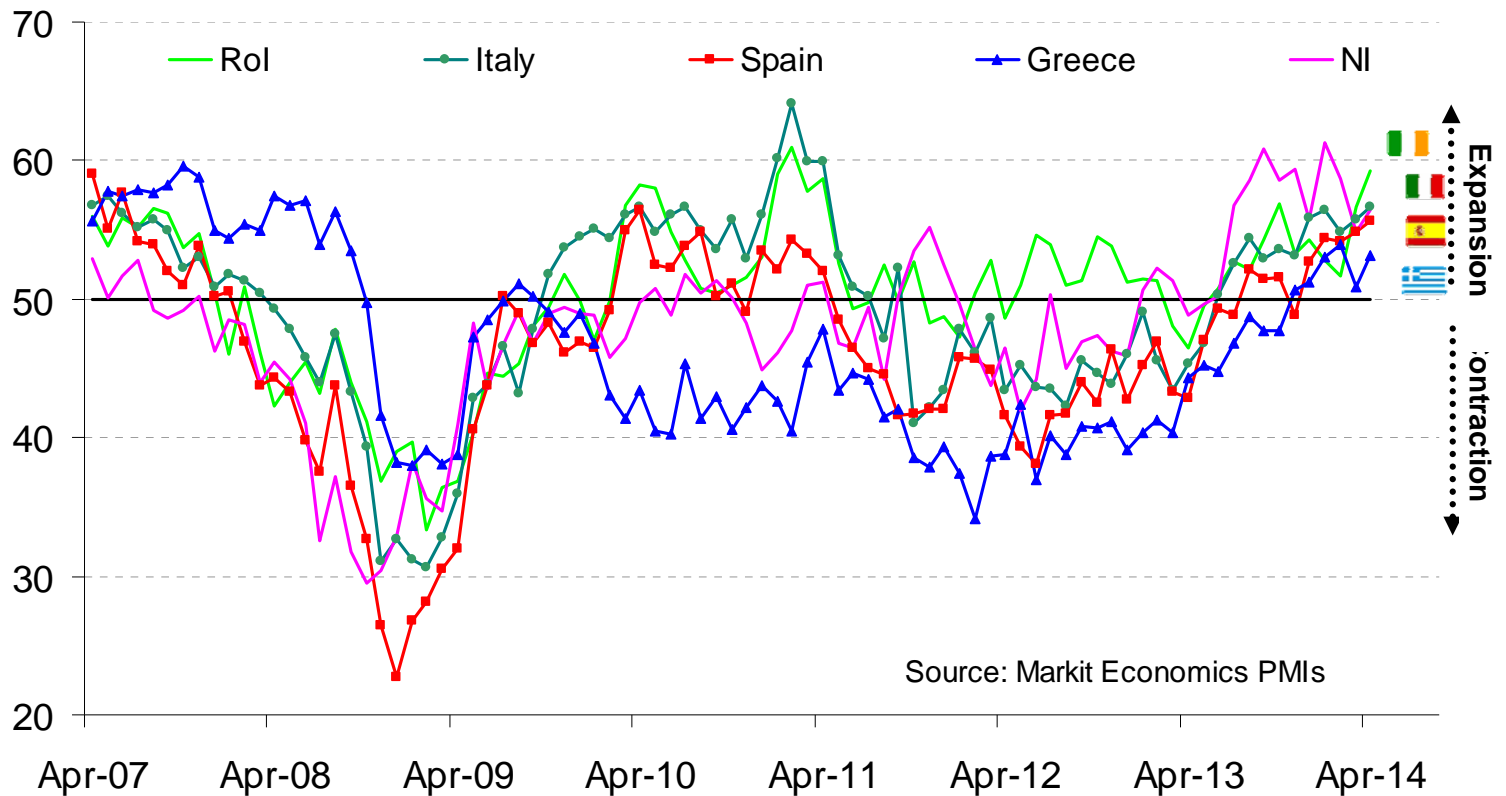
Manufacturing New Orders

3 month moving average



NI has been outperforming some of its European competitors for most of the last 10 months

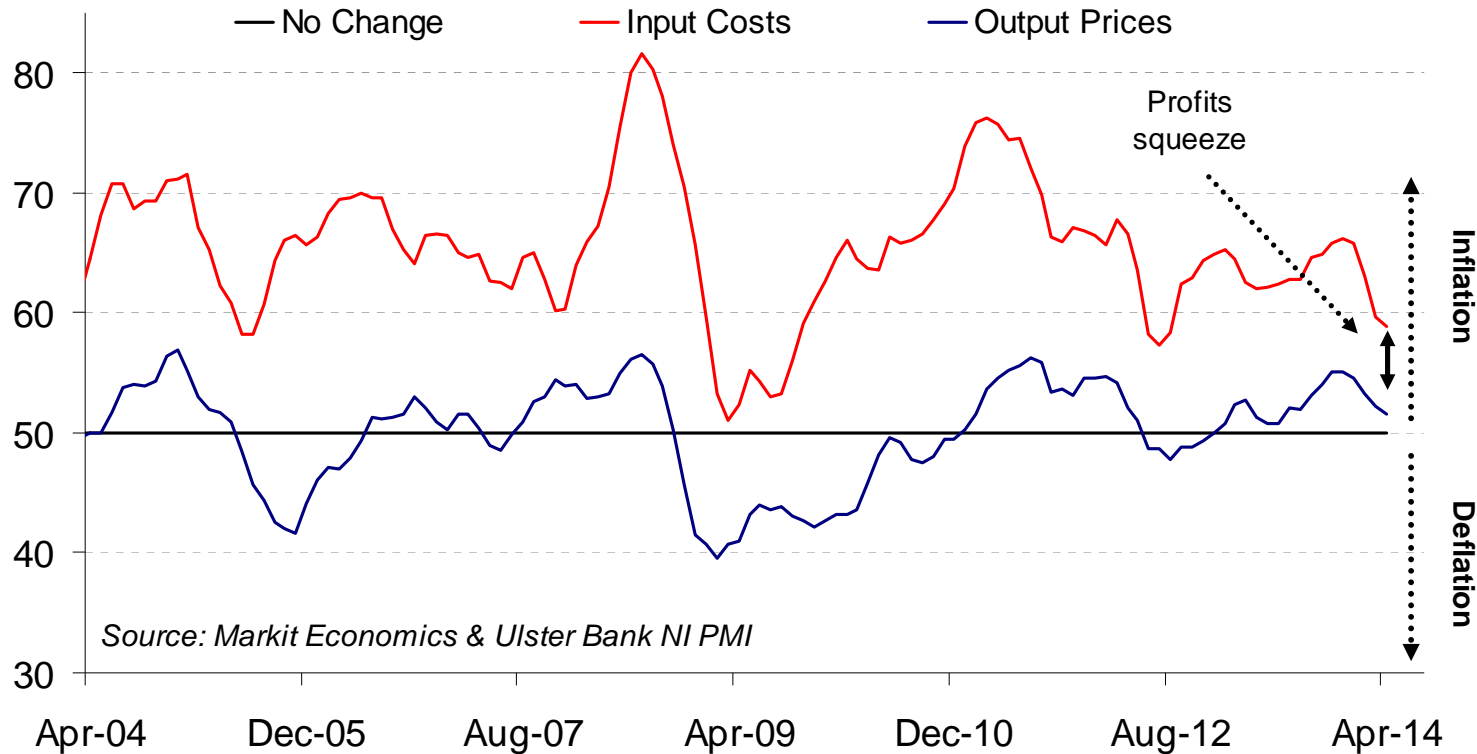
Manufacturing Output - PMI



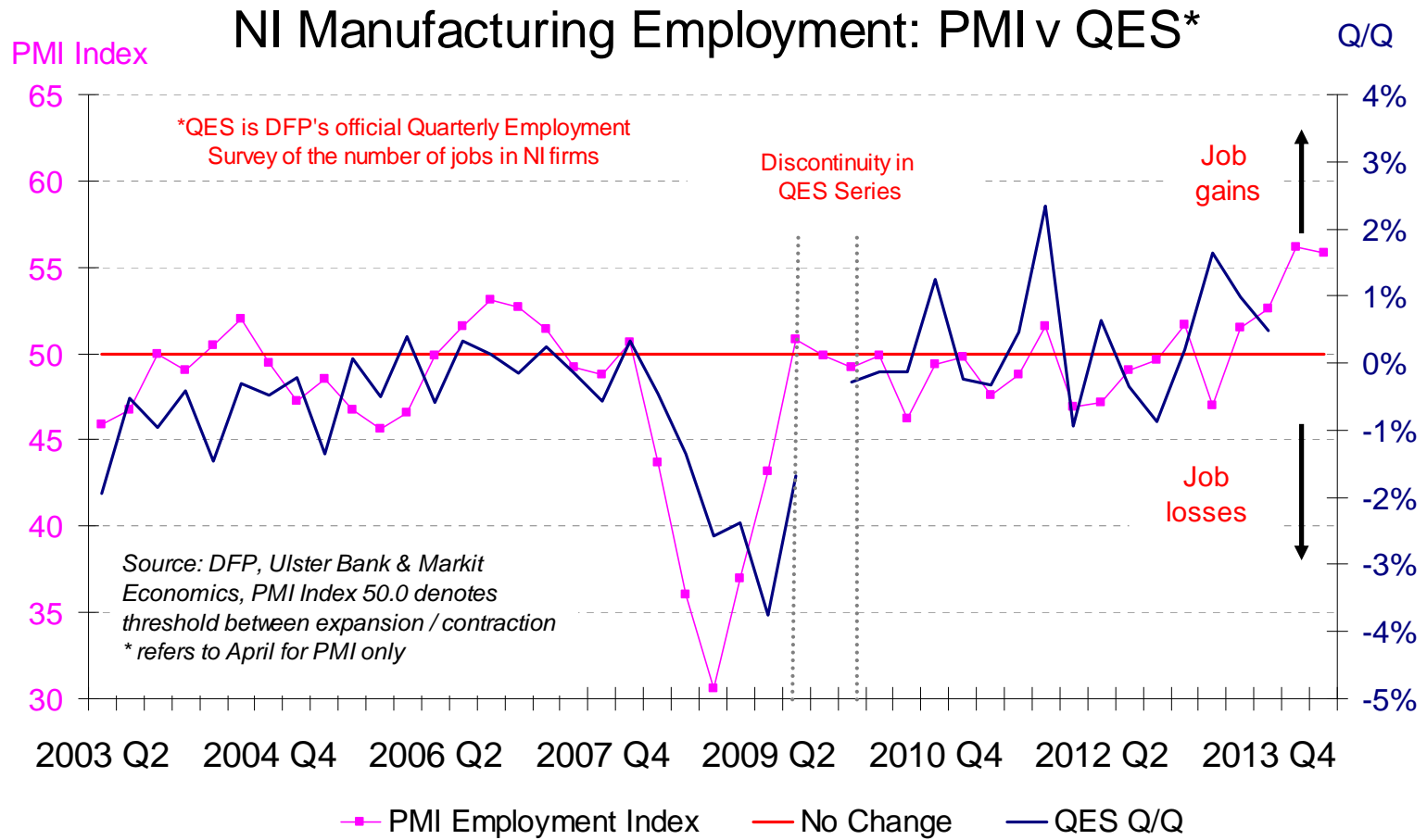
NI manufacturing firms report a significant easing in inflationary pressures

NI Manufacturing Input & Output Inflation

3 month moving average

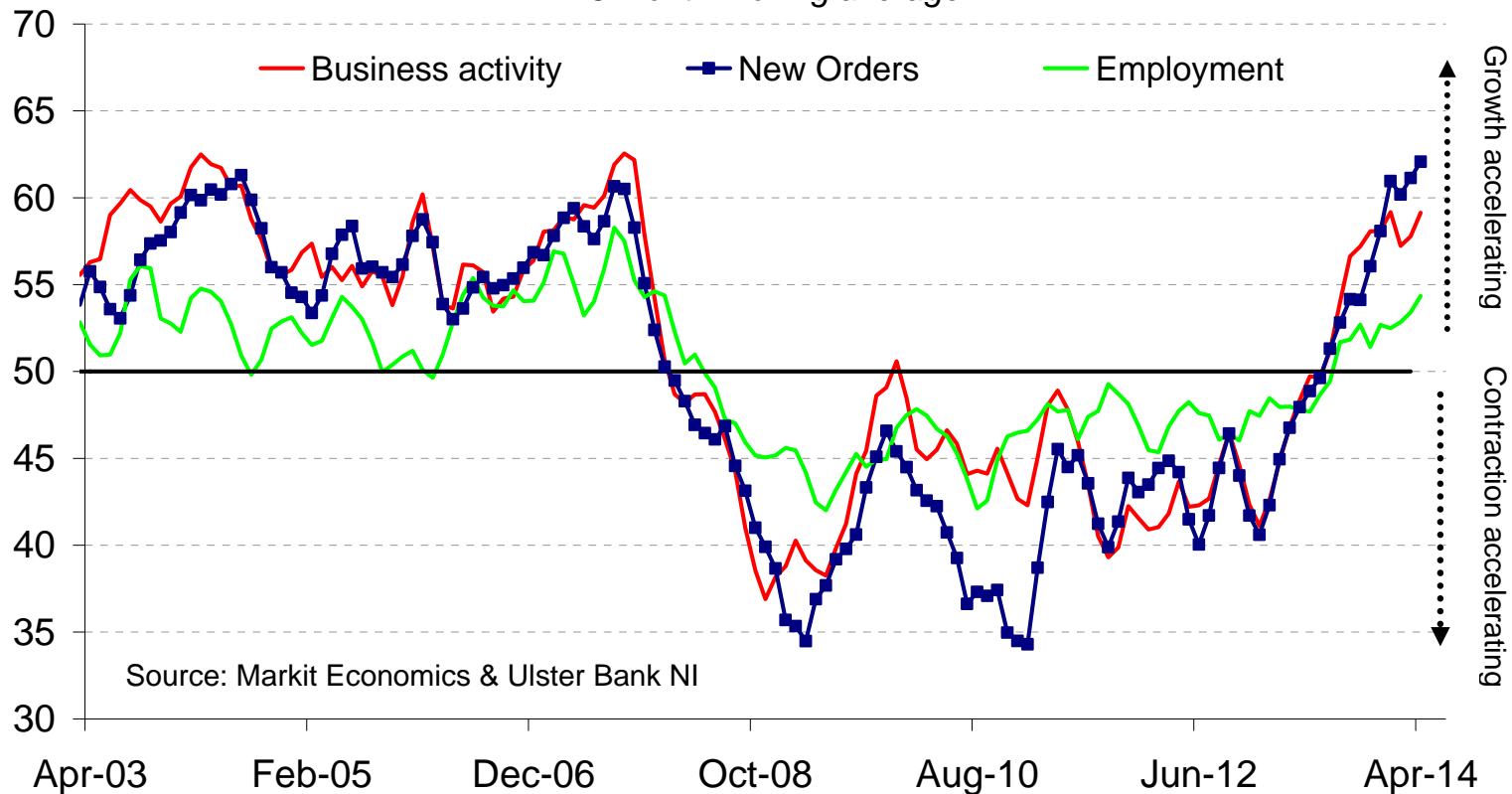


In Q1 2014, PMI signals the fastest rate of manufacturing employment growth since the survey began

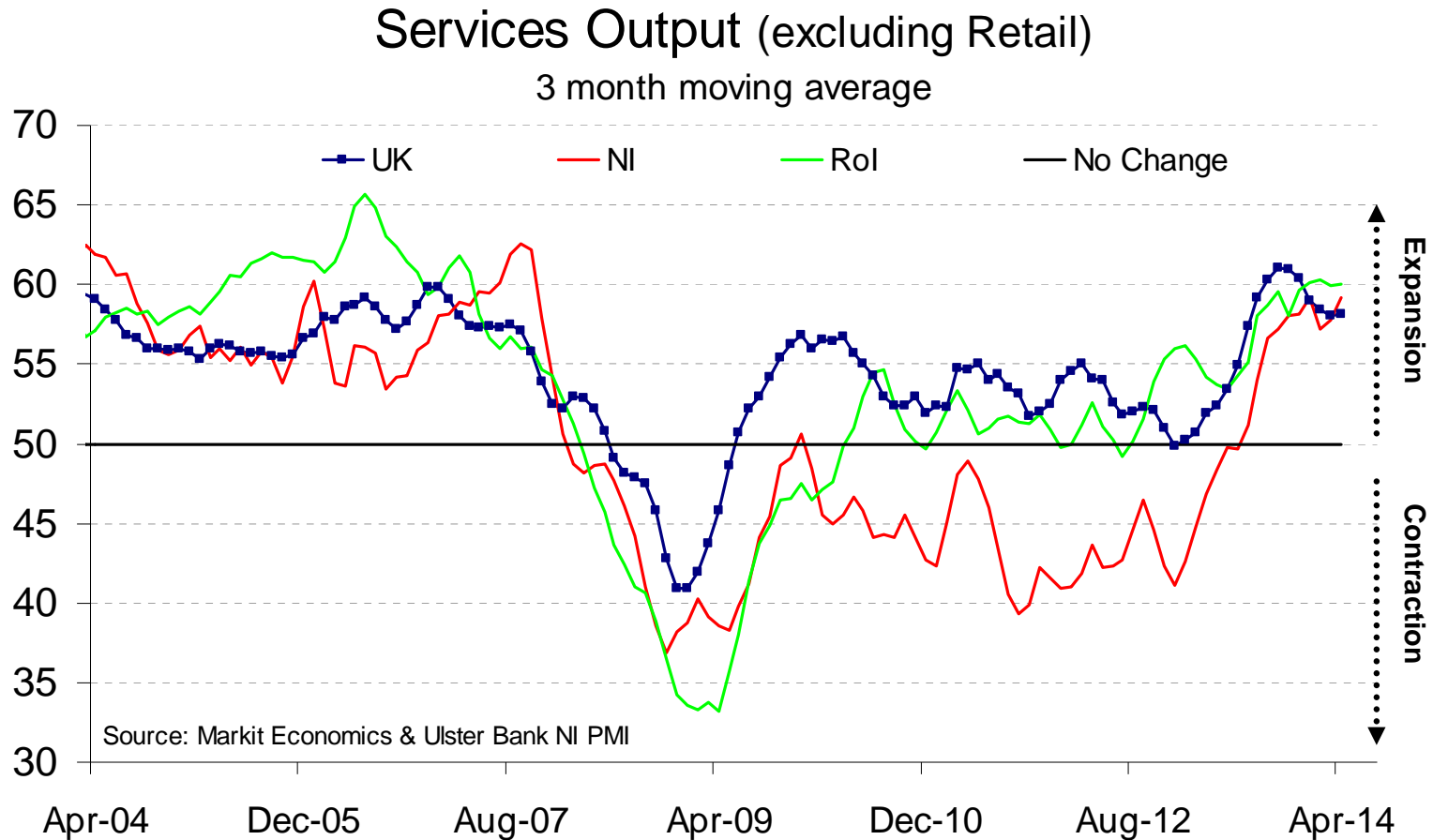


Service sector experiences an acceleration in output, new orders & employment growth in the three months to April

NI Service Sector (excludes Retail)
3 month moving average



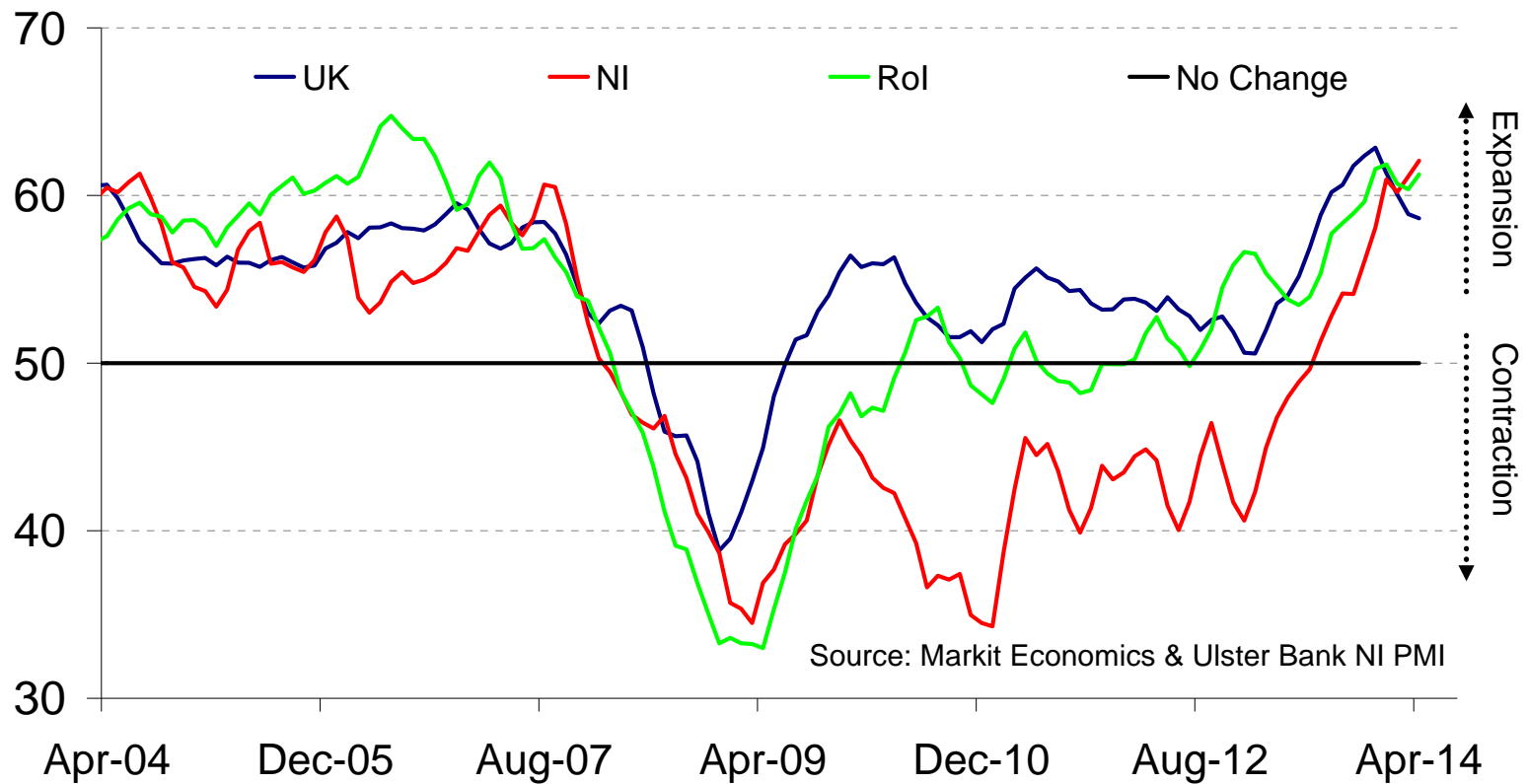
All 3 economies post strong rates of growth in services output in April with the RoI leading the way ...



... and new orders growth is accelerating too

Services New Orders (excluding Retail)

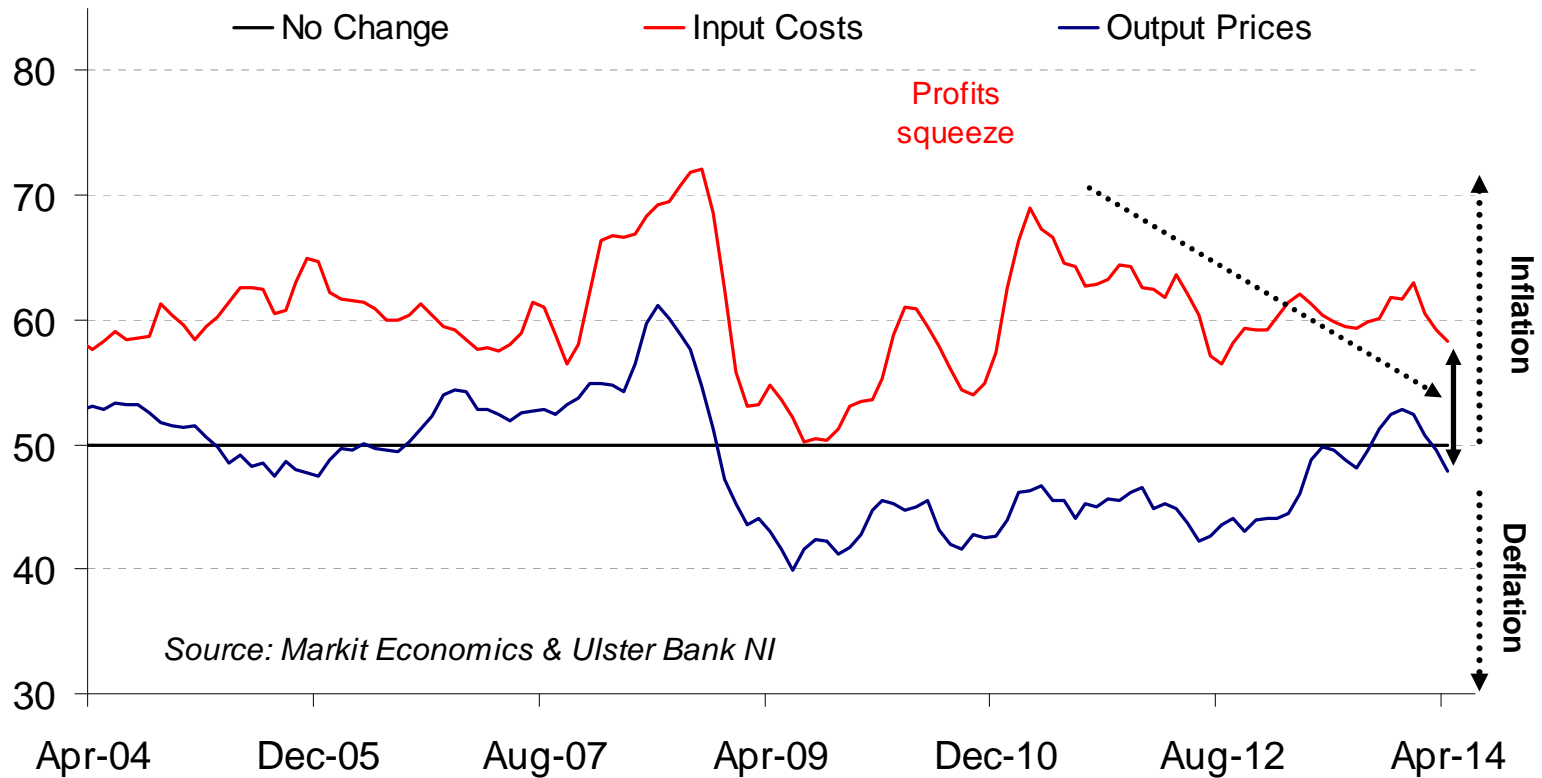
3 month moving average



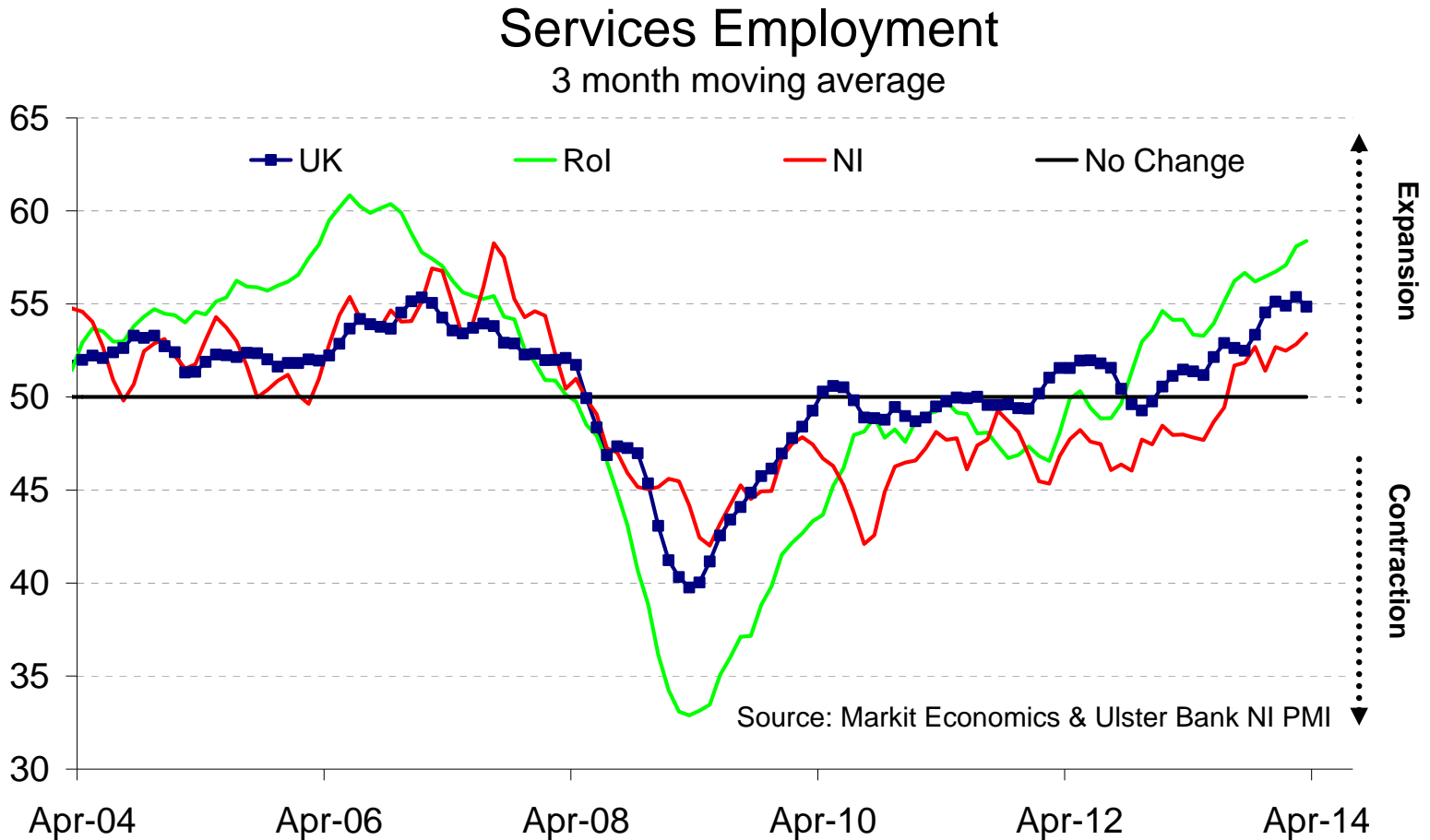
Input & output price inflation ease within service sector in April with output price deflation for 3rd month in a row

NI Services Input & Output Inflation

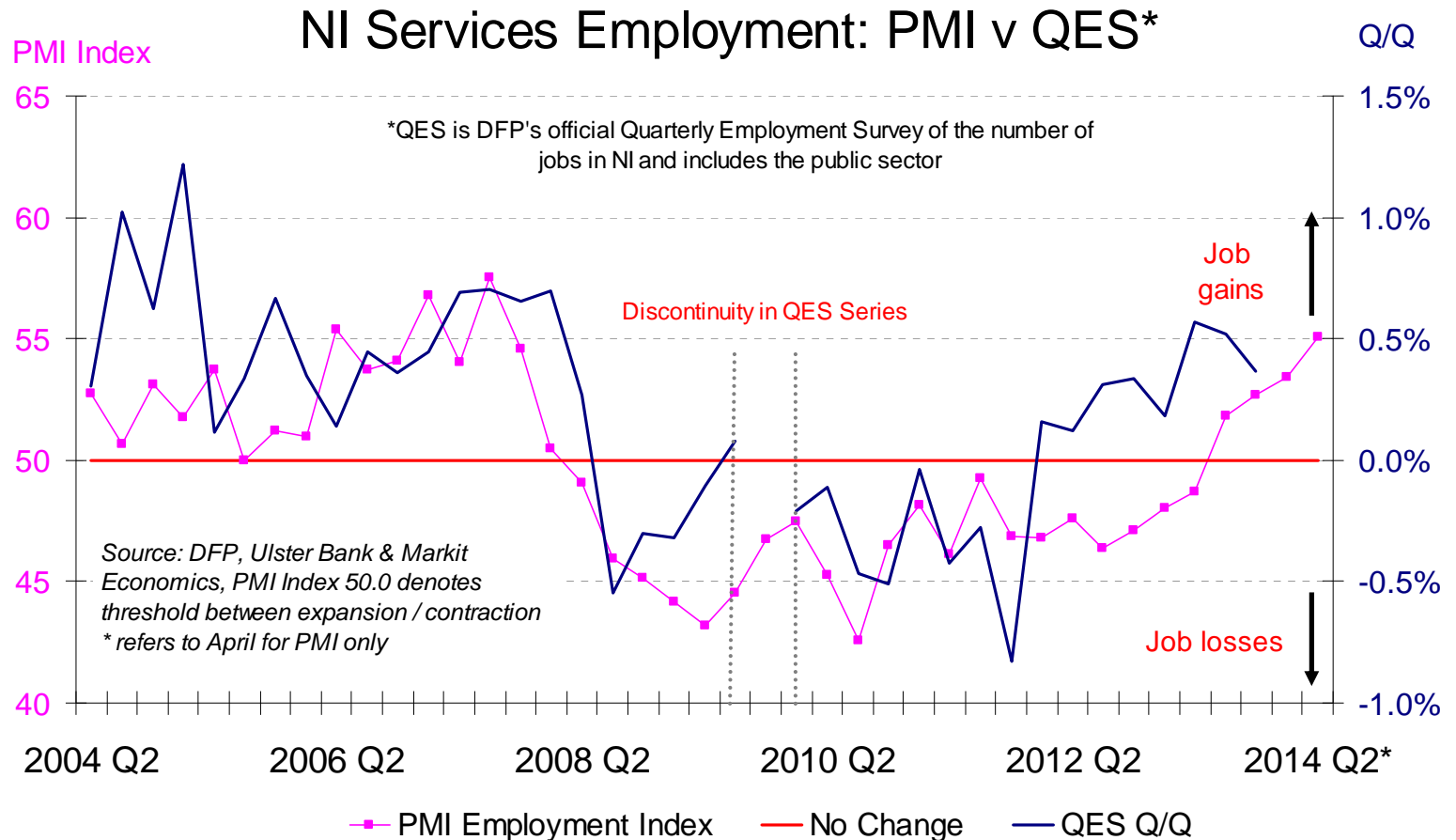
3 month moving average



Service sector employment growth accelerates within the RoI & NI over the last 3 months to April



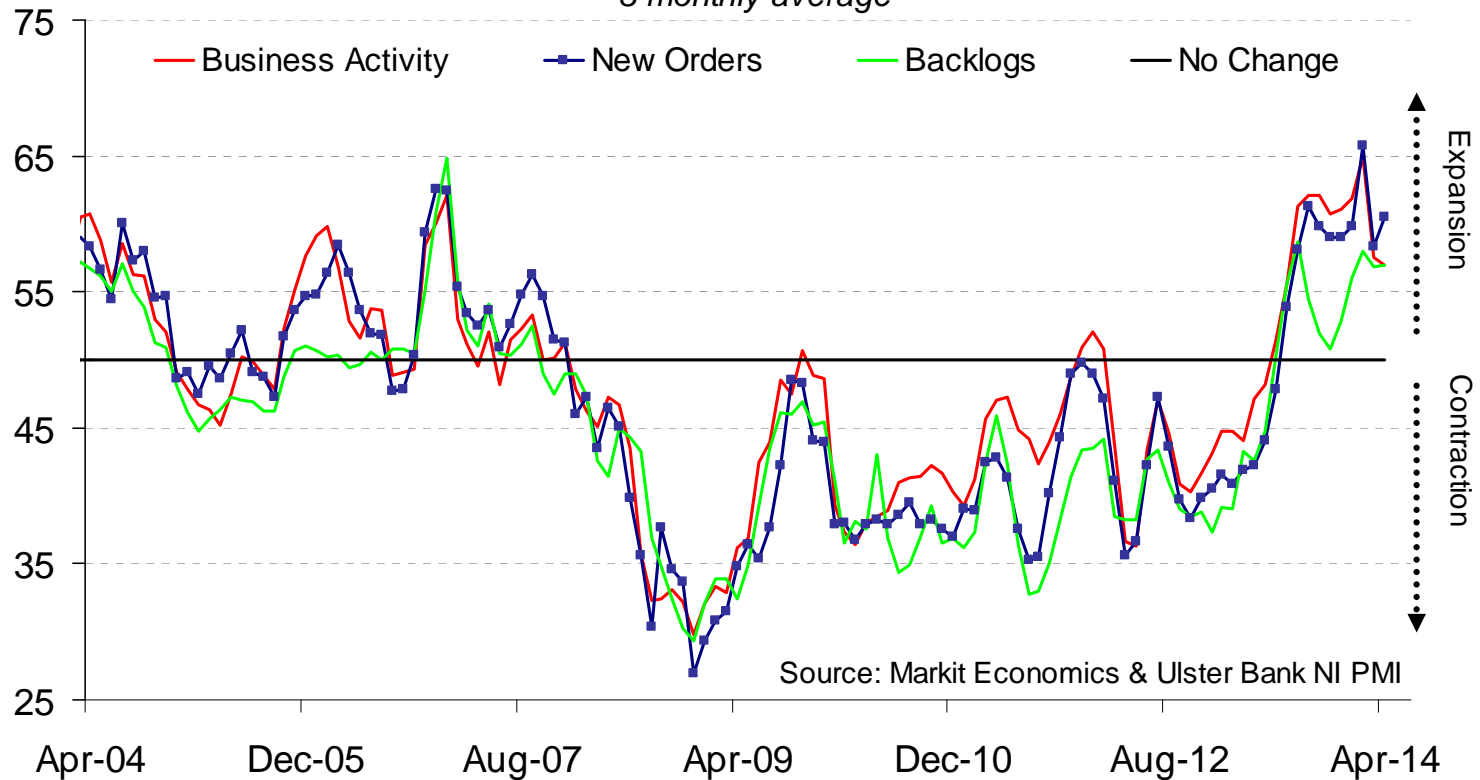
In Q1 the services PMI showed its fastest rate of jobs growth since Q4 2007. Strong growth maintained in April



NI retailers report a marked slowdown in sales and new orders from its recent highs

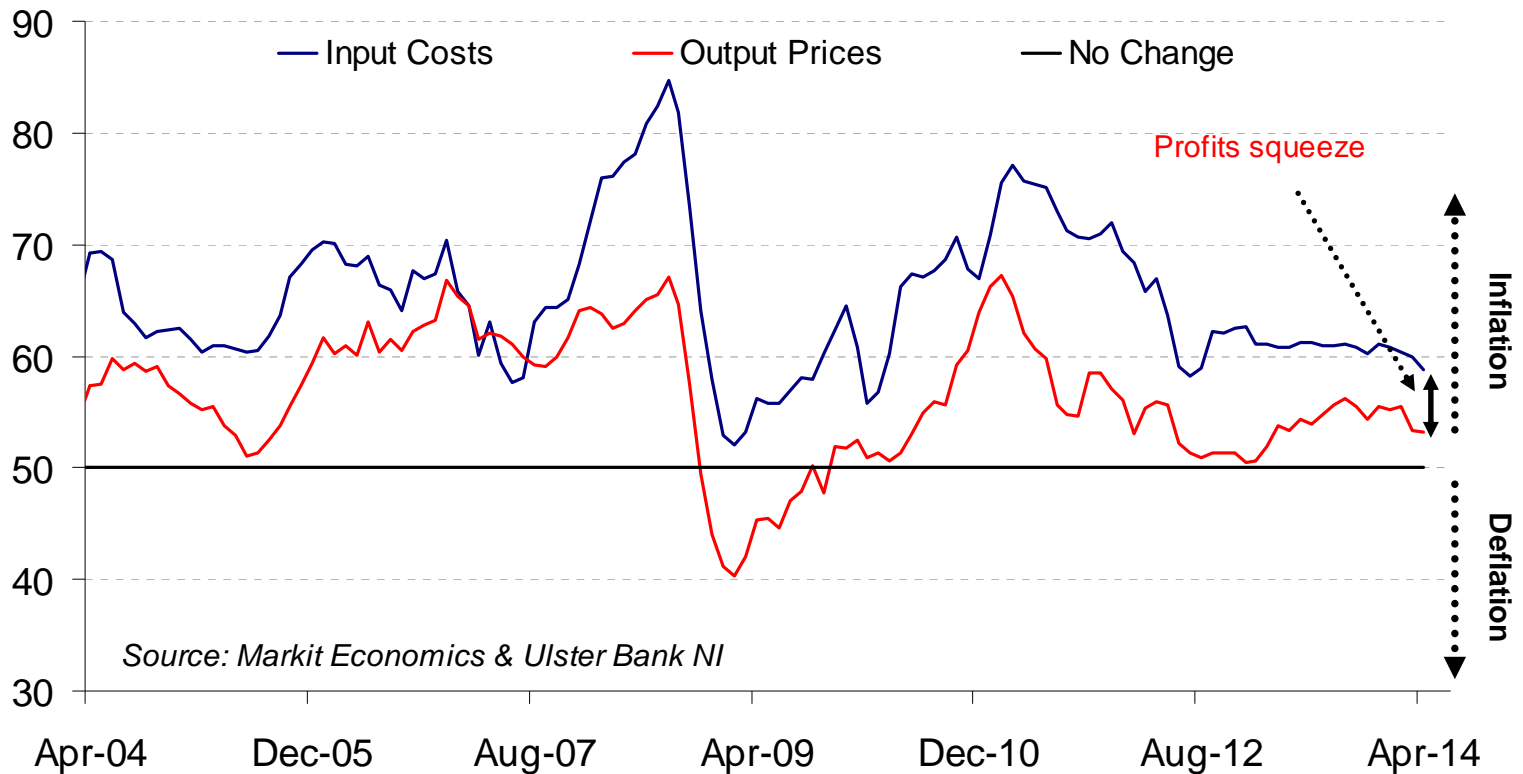
Northern Ireland Retail PMI

3 monthly average



Local retailers maintain pricing power in April

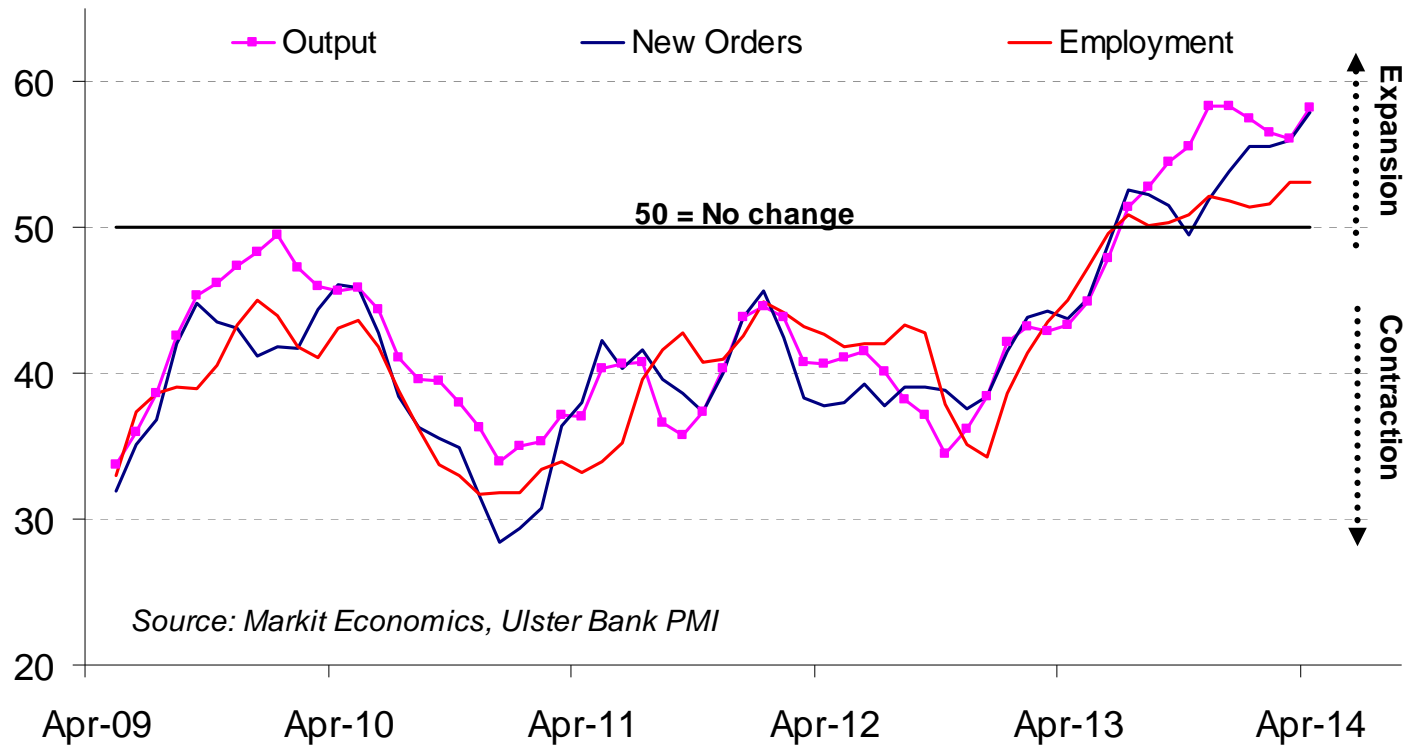
NI Retail Input & Output Inflation 3 month moving average



NI construction sector continues to report growth in output, new orders & employment over the last 3 months

NI Construction PMI

3 month moving average

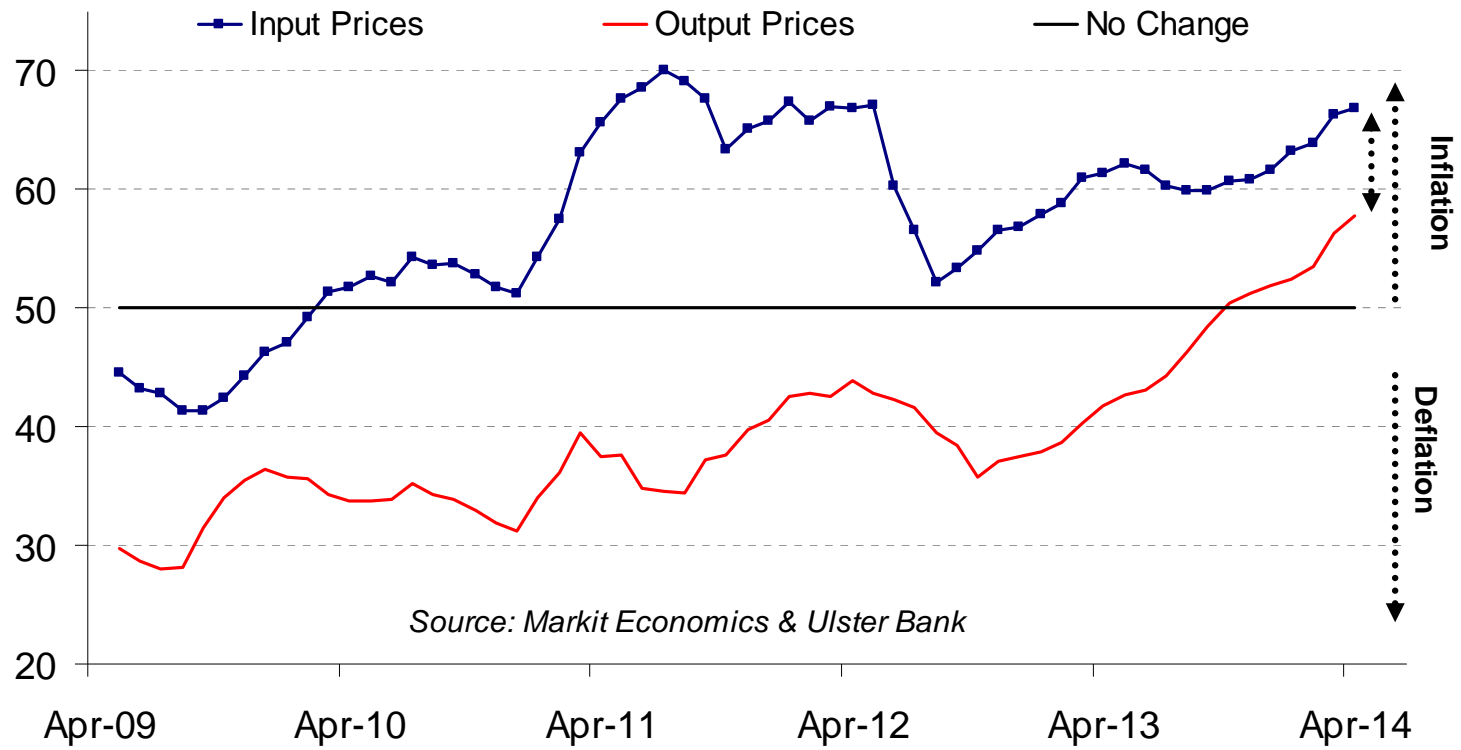


...and output prices have been rising at a record rate

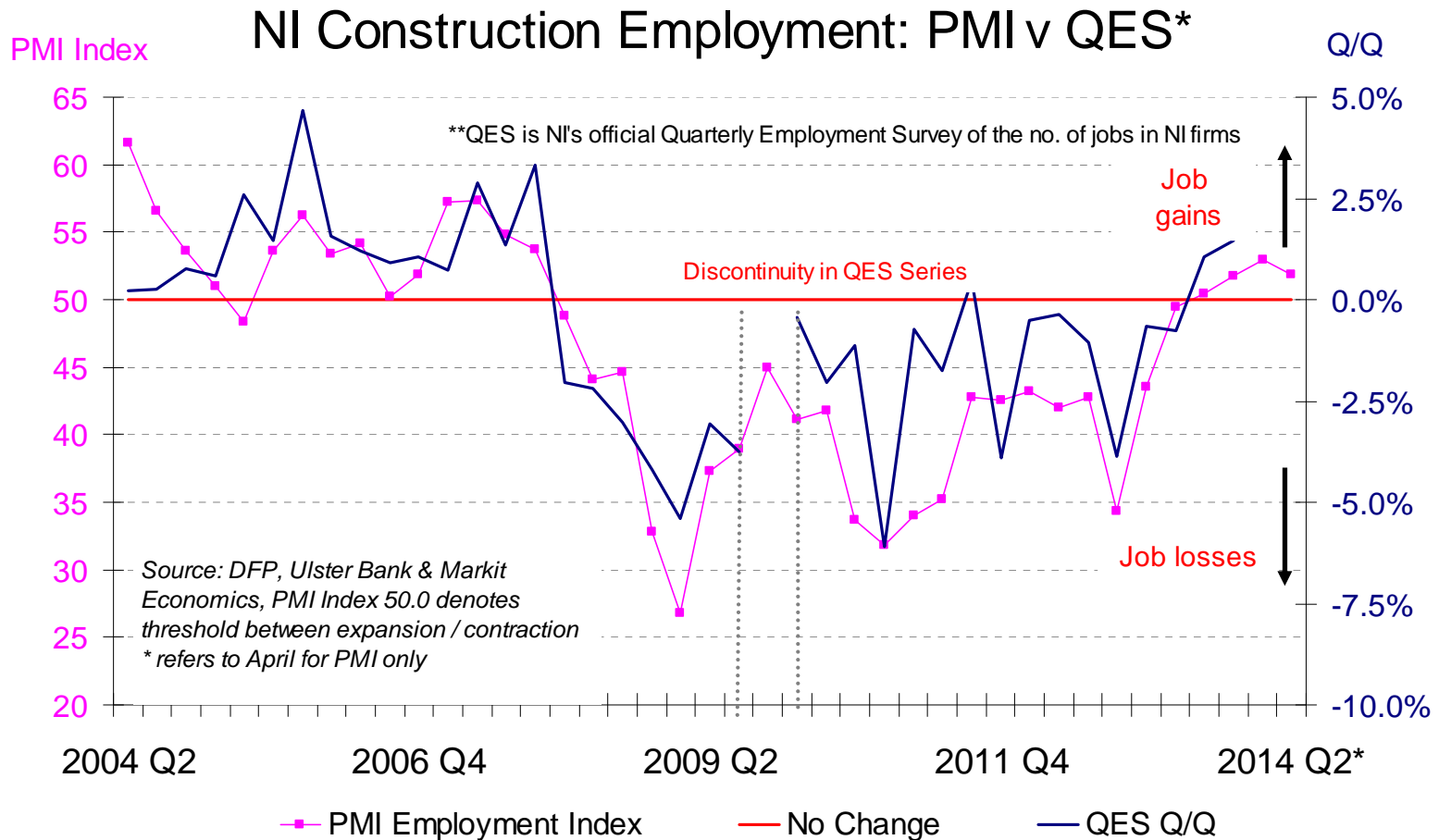
NI Construction Sector Profits Squeeze

3 month moving average

PMI Index



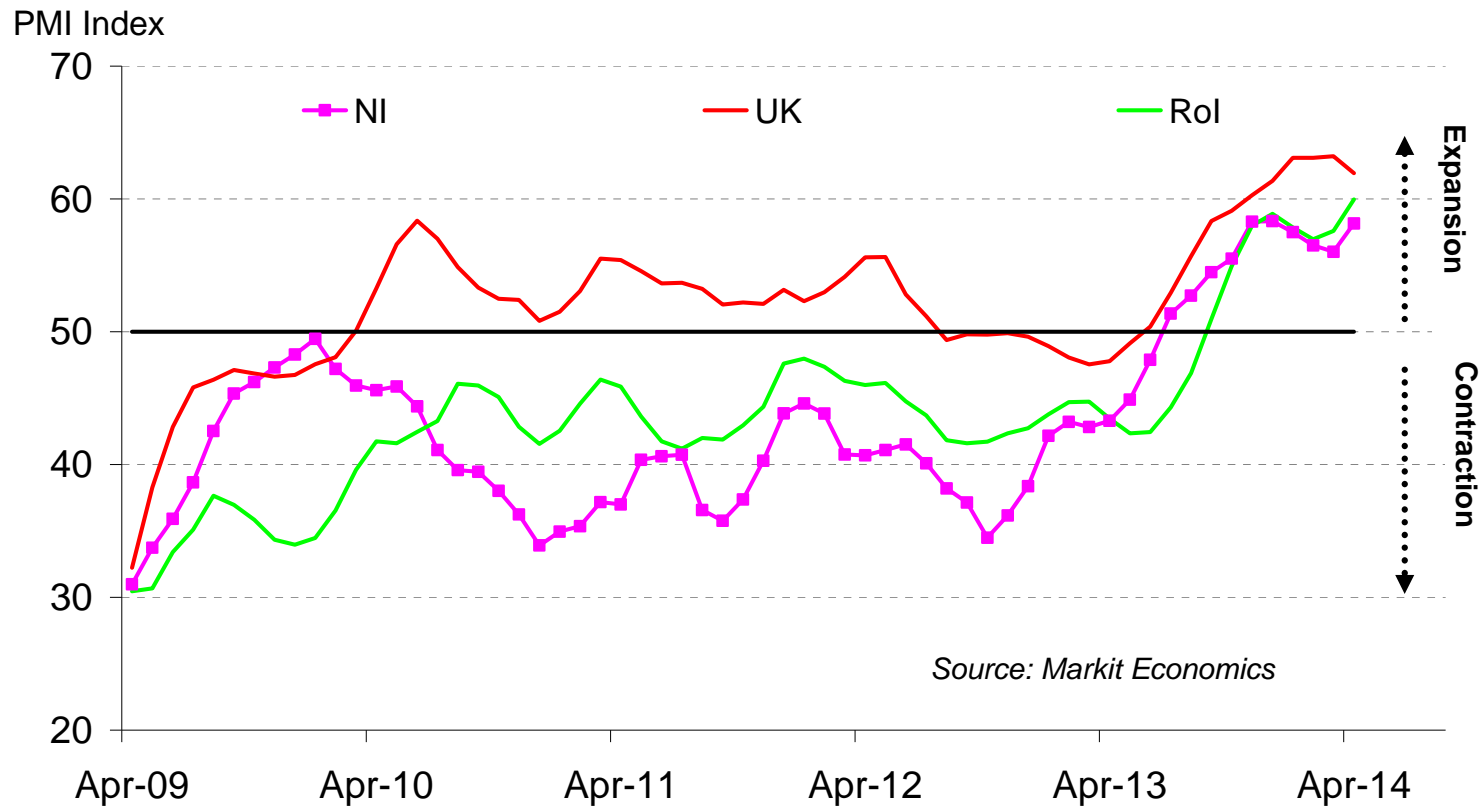
NI's construction PMI posts its third successive quarterly rise in employment in Q1 2014 with further gains in April



Construction output growth remains strong particularly within the UK. Growth in Rol & NI is accelerating

Construction Sector Output - PMI

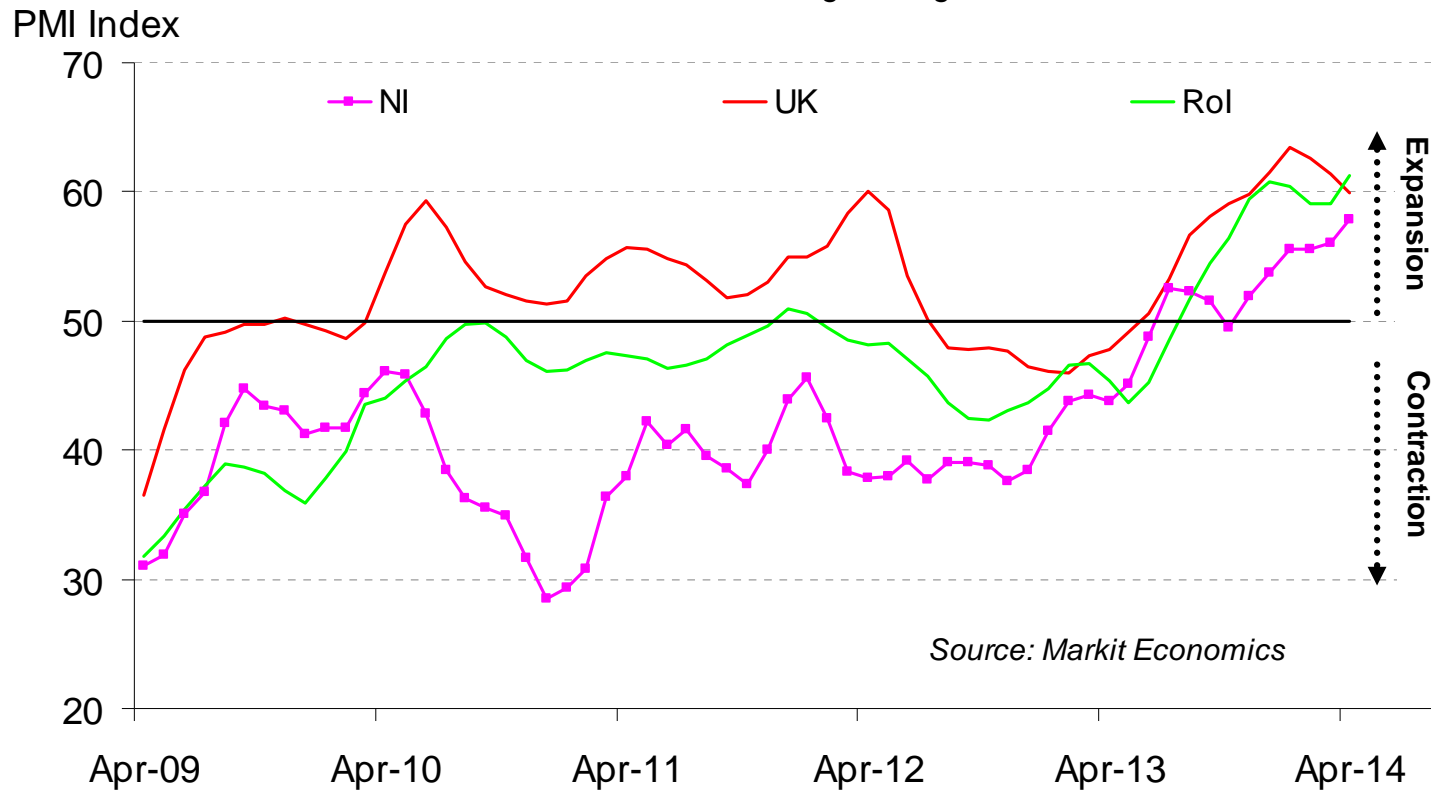
3 month moving average



NI new orders growth hits a record high in April and suggests significant work remains in the pipeline

Construction Sector New Orders - PMI

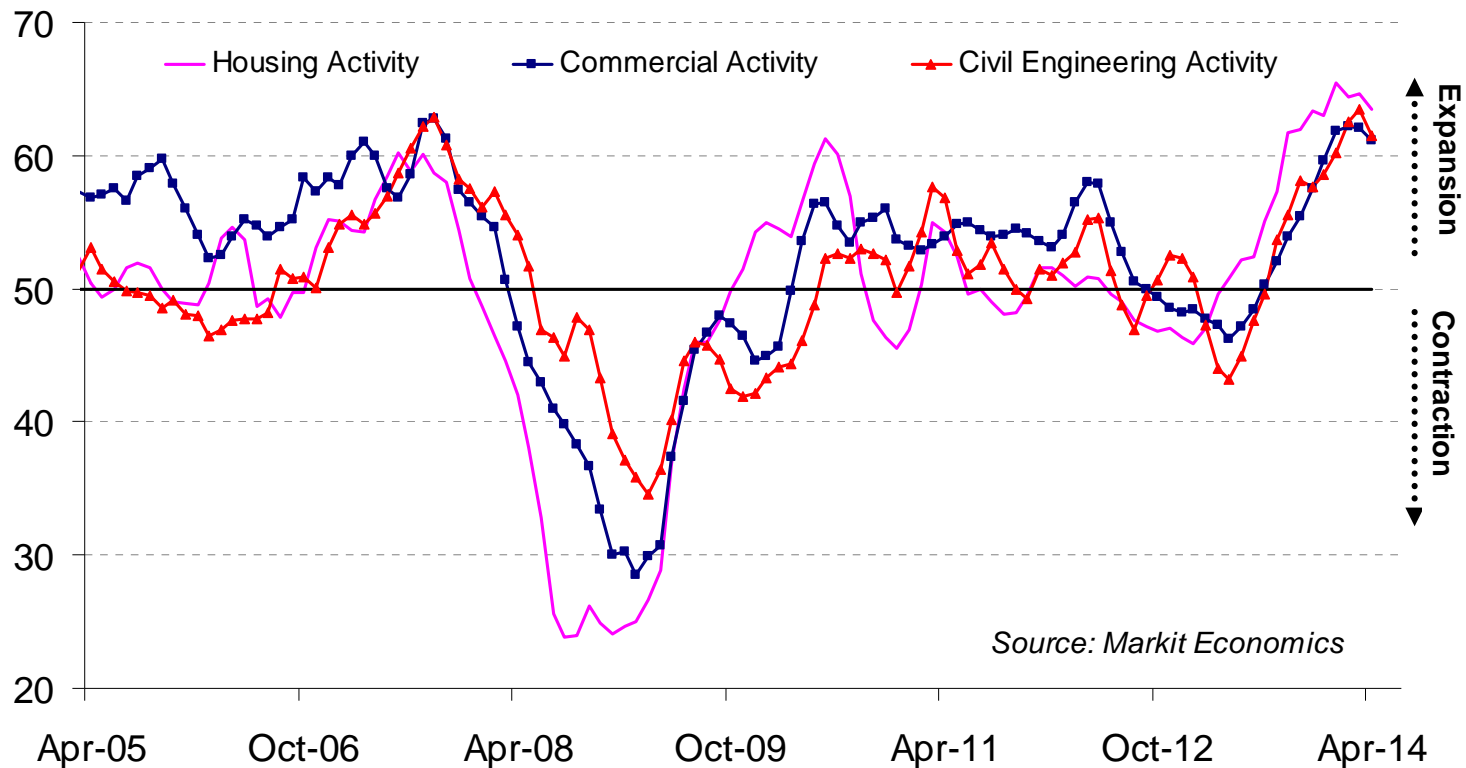
3 month moving average



Opportunities for NI firms within GB. House building has recently been expanding at its fastest rate in over 11 years

UK Construction Activity - PMIs

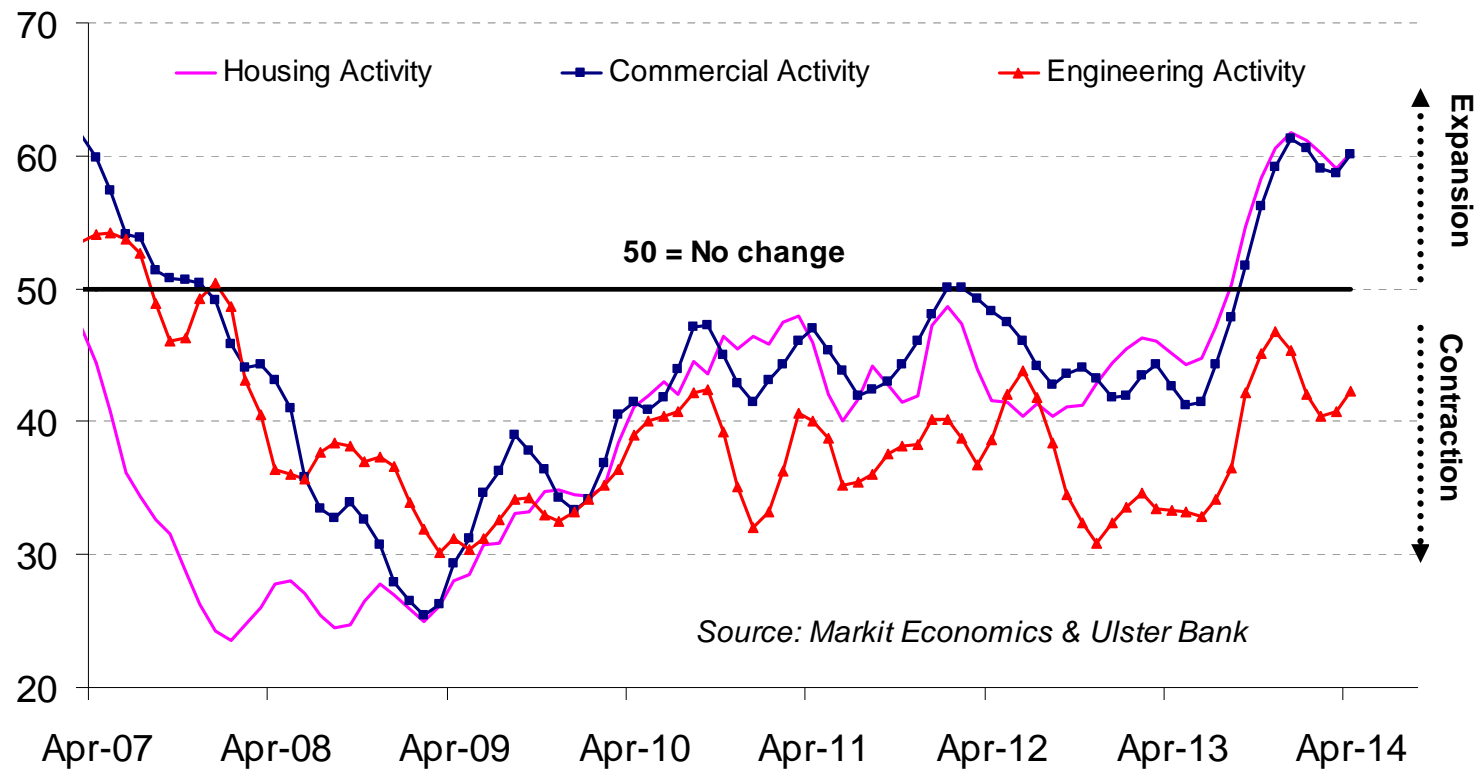
3 month moving average



...with opportunities returning within the RoI too

Republic of Ireland Construction Activity - PMI

3 month moving average



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Calls may be recorded.