Ulster Bank Northern Ireland PMI®

The Ulster Bank Northern Ireland PMI[®] (Purchasing Managers' Index[®]) is produced by Markit Economics.

The report features original survey data collected from a representative panel of companies based in Northern Ireland and operating in the manufacturing, service, construction and retail/wholesale sectors.

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Sharpest rise in new business since the survey began in August 2002

Further strong growth of Northern Ireland private sector output was recorded in May, boosted by a series-record increase in new orders. Higher new business also contributed to a marked build-up of outstanding work, and companies increased employment accordingly. The rate of input cost inflation eased for the second month running, while firms left their output prices largely unchanged.

Record increase in new business

New business increased in May, as has been the case on a monthly basis throughout the past year. Furthermore, the rate of expansion accelerated to the strongest since the survey began in August 2002. The rise in new orders in Northern Ireland was much faster than the UK average. Where new business increased, panellists reported that this was partly due to improving market confidence. New export orders also rose, and at the fastest pace since August 2007.

The construction sector posted the sharpest rise in new orders during May, and this was also the case with business activity. Output across the Northern Ireland private sector rose at a substantial pace that was only slightly weaker than April's series record.

Job creation accelerates

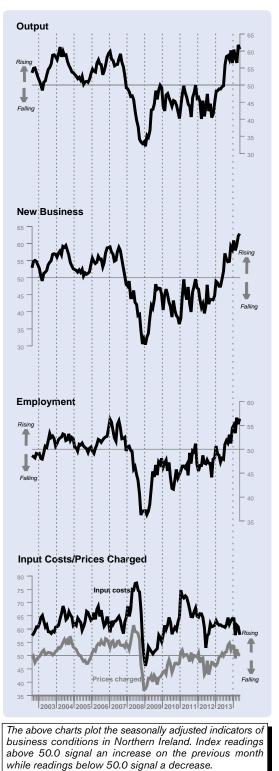
Increased new business resulted in a further rise in backlogs of work during the month. Outstanding business has risen continuously since last October, with the latest accumulation sharper than recorded in April.

A combination of higher new work and increasing backlogs led companies in Northern Ireland to raise their employment again in May. Furthermore, the rate of job creation quickened over the month. Staffing levels rose across each of the monitored sectors.

Slower rise in input prices

Although the rate of input cost inflation remained marked in May, it slowed for the second consecutive month as the recent strength of sterling reportedly limited inflationary pressures. Where input costs increased, this was linked by panellists to higher average staff costs and increases in prices from suppliers. Slower cost inflation was recorded across three of the four monitored sectors, the exception being retail.

Output prices were broadly unchanged during May, following a marginal increase in the previous month. Anecdotal evidence suggested that attempts to improve margins were diminished by competitive pressures. Construction and retail posted higher output prices, while manufacturing and services recorded declines. The fall in manufacturing output prices was the first since April 2013.



Output / Business Activity

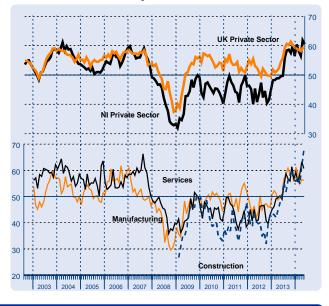
Q. Is the level of output or business activity at your company higher, the same or lower this month than one month ago?

| | | | Northern Ireland Companies | | | | | | |
|------|-----|-------------|----------------------------|------------|------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|--|
| | | Higher % | Same % | Lower % | Net +/- | Index 50=no chg | S.Adj'd Index | S.Adj'd Index | |
| 2013 | Dec | 29.9 | 50.7 | 19.4 | 10.5 | 55.2 | 56.5 | 59.3 | |
| 2014 | Jan | 32.7 | 44.0 | 23.3 | 9.4 | 54.7 | 60.4 | 59.1 | |
| | Feb | 33.5 | 49.6 | 16.9 | 16.6 | 58.3 | 58.1 | 58.6 | |
| | Mar | 29.2 | 59.2 | 11.5 | 17.7 | 58.8 | 56.6 | 58.2 | |
| | Apr | 41.5 | 53.9 | 4.6 | 36.9 | 68.5 | 61.9 | 59.4 | |
| | May | 29.6 | 61.8 | 8.6 | 21.0 | 60.5 | 60.6 | 59.1 | |

The Northern Ireland private sector registered a further substantial increase in output during May, with the rate of expansion slowing only slightly from the previous month's record high. The increase was again faster than the UK economy average. A number of respondents indicated that increased success in securing new contracts had helped lead to the rise in activity. The sharpest increase in activity of the four monitored sectors

was at construction companies, where the rate of growth was the fastest since the series began in February 2009. Elsewhere, rates of expansion eased but remained strong.

| nuoi | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----|--------------|--------------------|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| By sector | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Construction | Manuf- acturing | Services | | | | | | |
| '14 | Mar | 54.9 | 54.8 | 58.5 | | | | | | |
| | Apr | 62.3 | 56.4 | 63.3 | | | | | | |
| | May | 67.7 | 56.2 | 60.8 | | | | | | |



New Business

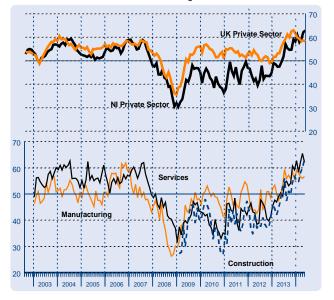
Q. Is the level of new orders or incoming new business at your company higher, the same or lower this month than one month ago?

| | | | Northern Ireland Companies | | | | | | |
|------|-----|-------------|----------------------------|------------|------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|--|
| | | Higher % | Same % | Lower % | Net +/- | Index 50=no chg | S.Adj'd Index | S.Adj'd Index | |
| 2013 | Dec | 32.2 | 46.8 | 21.0 | 11.2 | 55.6 | 58.3 | 61.7 | |
| 2014 | Jan | 31.5 | 50.5 | 18.0 | 13.5 | 56.7 | 60.9 | 59.8 | |
| | Feb | 36.3 | 47.6 | 16.0 | 20.3 | 60.2 | 58.0 | 59.4 | |
| | Mar | 34.8 | 53.3 | 11.9 | 22.9 | 61.4 | 59.5 | 58.3 | |
| | Apr | 42.1 | 49.1 | 8.8 | 33.3 | 66.6 | 62.2 | 58.7 | |
| | May | 32.8 | 58.6 | 8.6 | 24.1 | 62.1 | 62.9 | 58.4 | |

May data signalled a series-record increase in new business at Northern Ireland companies, with the rate of growth quickening for the third consecutive month. The rate of expansion in Northern Ireland was much faster than the UK average. Close to 33% of respondents posted a rise in new orders, with improved market confidence reportedly helping firms to secure new work. As with activity, the construction sector led the expansion

in new business, posting a record rise in new work. Substantial rises in new orders were also recorded in the remaining three sectors, although manufacturing was the only one to see the rate of growth accelerate.

| By sector | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----|--------------|--------------------|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | Construction | Manuf- acturing | Services | | | | | |
| '14 | Mar | 58.2 | 56.7 | 62.1 | | | | | |
| | Apr | 60.4 | 56.0 | 65.5 | | | | | |
| | May | 63.4 | 56.7 | 62.2 | | | | | |



Backlogs

Q. Is the level of business outstanding (i.e. work not yet commenced or completed) at your company higher, the same or lower this month than one month ago?

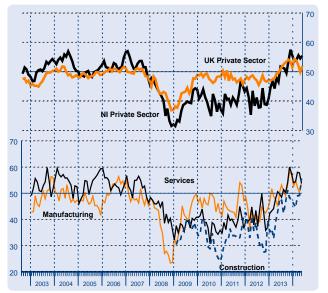
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| | | | Northern Ireland Companies | | | | | | |
|------|-----|-------------|----------------------------|------------|------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|--|
| | | Higher % | Same % | Lower % | Net +/- | Index 50=no chg | S.Adj'd Index | S.Adj'd Index | |
| 2013 | Dec | 21.1 | 65.6 | 13.3 | 7.8 | 53.9 | 55.6 | 51.5 | |
| 2014 | Jan | 16.5 | 66.0 | 17.4 | -0.9 | 49.5 | 53.6 | 54.3 | |
| | Feb | 22.4 | 64.9 | 12.8 | 9.6 | 54.8 | 54.1 | 53.9 | |
| | Mar | 25.7 | 62.0 | 12.3 | 13.4 | 56.7 | 55.6 | 52.2 | |
| | Apr | 24.4 | 66.3 | 9.3 | 15.2 | 57.6 | 54.5 | 49.9 | |
| | May | 21.5 | 67.1 | 11.5 | 10.0 | 55.0 | 55.5 | 52.0 | |

Companies in Northern Ireland posted another increase in backlogs of work during May, extending the current sequence of accumulation to eight months. Moreover, the pace of increase quickened slightly from the previous month and was stronger than the UK average. Panellists reported that increased new business had been the main factor leading backlogs of work to rise. Levels of orders received but either not yet

started or completed accumulated across each of the four monitored sectors, led by retail. Construction firms recorded a first increase in backlogs of work since October 2013.

| 0. | 010 | | | | i not you |
|----|-----|-----|--------------|--------------------|-----------|
| | | | | | |
| | | | Construction | Manuf- acturing | Services |
| | '14 | Mar | 49.0 | 52.3 | 58.1 |
| | | Apr | 49.3 | 50.3 | 57.8 |
| | | May | 55.6 | 54.0 | 53.8 |



Employment

Q. Is the level of employment at your company higher, the same or lower this month than one month ago?

| | | | Northern Ireland Companies | | | | | | |
|------|-----|-------------|----------------------------|------------|------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|--|
| | | Higher % | Same % | Lower % | Net +/- | Index 50=no chg | S.Adj'd Index | S.Adj'd Index | |
| 2013 | Dec | 16.8 | 74.4 | 8.8 | 8.0 | 54.0 | 54.5 | 55.2 | |
| 2014 | Jan | 18.3 | 72.2 | 9.5 | 8.8 | 54.4 | 55.0 | 55.6 | |
| | Feb | 11.8 | 80.4 | 7.7 | 4.1 | 52.0 | 53.4 | 56.0 | |
| | Mar | 19.4 | 74.2 | 6.4 | 13.1 | 56.5 | 56.6 | 54.4 | |
| | Apr | 14.9 | 80.6 | 4.5 | 10.4 | 55.2 | 55.3 | 56.3 | |
| | May | 17.0 | 79.9 | 3.1 | 13.9 | 57.0 | 56.4 | 56.3 | |

Rising new business, as well as a build-up of backlogs of work, encouraged companies in Northern Ireland to increase capacity. As a result, staffing levels increased in May, and at a sharp pace that was faster than that seen in April. The rate of job creation in Northern Ireland was broadly in line with the UK average. Employment has now risen in each of the past 11 months. Job creation was widespread across

the four sectors covered by the survey. The fastest increase was at manufacturing firms, where the rise in employment was a series record. Construction also posted an accelerated rate of job creation in May.

| i mao maa | ooprou | a aoi 000 | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| By sector | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Manuf- acturing | Services | | | | | | | | |
| 55.2 | 57.5 | 56.4 | | | | | | | | |
| 51.9 | 55.8 | 55.1 | | | | | | | | |
| 56.3 | 58.2 | 54.7 | | | | | | | | |
| | Construction 55.2 51.9 | ConstructionManuf- acturing55.257.551.955.8 | | | | | | | | |



Input Costs

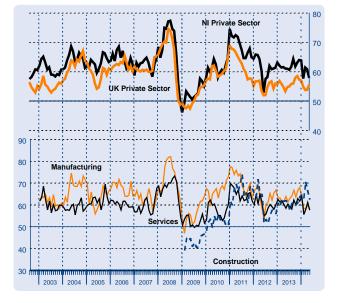
Q. Have average input prices or input costs risen, fallen or remained unchanged this month compared to one month ago?

| | | | Northern Ireland Companies | | | | | | |
|------|-----|-------------|----------------------------|------------|------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|--|
| | | Higher % | Same % | Lower % | Net +/- | Index 50=no chg | S.Adj'd Index | S.Adj'd Index | |
| 2013 | Dec | 23.8 | 74.0 | 2.3 | 21.5 | 60.8 | 64.0 | 57.4 | |
| 2014 | Jan | 31.4 | 64.4 | 4.1 | 27.3 | 63.6 | 63.9 | 57.1 | |
| | Feb | 16.9 | 80.2 | 2.9 | 14.0 | 57.0 | 57.7 | 55.0 | |
| | Mar | 31.3 | 67.1 | 1.6 | 29.7 | 64.8 | 61.5 | 53.8 | |
| | Apr | 26.8 | 72.1 | 1.1 | 25.6 | 62.8 | 60.9 | 53.9 | |
| | May | 20.8 | 76.2 | 2.9 | 17.9 | 59.0 | 57.9 | 55.6 | |

The rate of input cost inflation at private sector companies in Northern Ireland slowed for the second month in a row during May. That said, the latest increase in input prices was marked and remained stronger than seen across the UK as a whole. Where a rise in input costs was recorded, this was linked to higher average staff costs and price increases from suppliers. On the other hand, some firms reported that the recent strength

of sterling had helped to limit cost inflation. Slower rises in input prices were registered in each of the construction, manufacturing and services sectors during the month, with retail the only sector to post a sharper rise in costs.

| By sector | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----|--------------|--------------------|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | Construction | Manuf- acturing | Services | | | | | |
| '14 | Mar | 70.7 | 58.1 | 57.8 | | | | | |
| | Apr | 66.4 | 60.0 | 61.2 | | | | | |
| | May | 62.5 | 57.6 | 57.7 | | | | | |



Prices Charged

Q. Are the average prices charged for goods and services by your company higher, the same or lower this month than one month ago?

| | | | Northern Ireland Companies | | | | | | |
|------|-----|-------------|----------------------------|------------|------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|--|
| | | Higher % | Same % | Lower % | Net +/- | Index 50=no chg | S.Adj'd Index | S.Adj'd Index | |
| 2013 | Dec | 9.7 | 85.6 | 4.7 | 5.1 | 52.5 | 53.7 | 53.1 | |
| 2014 | Jan | 15.5 | 77.6 | 6.9 | 8.7 | 54.3 | 53.6 | 53.3 | |
| | Feb | 7.6 | 83.0 | 9.4 | -1.8 | 49.1 | 49.0 | 52.2 | |
| | Mar | 14.1 | 78.1 | 7.8 | 6.3 | 53.1 | 52.4 | 50.8 | |
| | Apr | 11.3 | 81.7 | 7.0 | 4.3 | 52.1 | 50.4 | 51.9 | |
| | May | 9.7 | 83.7 | 6.5 | 3.2 | 51.6 | 50.1 | 51.7 | |

Output prices were largely unchanged during May, following a marginal increase in charges in the previous month. Meanwhile, a modest increase in output prices was registered at the UK level. Some respondents indicated that they had raised their charges as part of attempts to improve margins. On the other hand, competitive pressures were reported to have placed downward pressure on charges. Output prices increased in the construction

and retail sectors, albeit at weaker rates than recorded in the previous survey period. Manufacturing selling prices decreased for the first time since April 2013, while services charges fell for the fourth month running.

| By sector | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | Services | | | | | | |
| Mar | 60.8 | 51.6 | 49.7 | | | | | | |
| Apr | 57.9 | 51.9 | 47.5 | | | | | | |
| May | 53.3 | 49.1 | 48.3 | | | | | | |
| | Mar Apr | Construction Mar 60.8 Apr 57.9 | ConstructionManufacturingMar60.851.6Apr57.951.9 | | | | | | |



New Export Business*

| Is the level of new export husines | s at your company highe | or the same or low | er this month than on | e month ag |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------|

| | | | Northern Ireland Companies | | | | |
|------|-----|-------------|----------------------------|------------|------------|--------------------|------------------|
| | | Higher % | Same % | Lower % | Net +/- | Index 50=no chg | S.Adj'd Index |
| 2013 | Dec | 22.3 | 60.8 | 16.9 | 5.4 | 52.7 | 54.0 |
| 2014 | Jan | 18.6 | 69.9 | 11.6 | 7.0 | 53.5 | 53.9 |
| | Feb | 19.2 | 69.9 | 10.9 | 8.3 | 54.1 | 52.5 |
| | Mar | 19.4 | 64.6 | 16.0 | 3.4 | 51.7 | 52.9 |
| | Apr | 14.2 | 76.6 | 9.2 | 5.1 | 52.5 | 51.6 |
| | May | 27.6 | 59.2 | 13.2 | 14.4 | 57.2 | 54.9 |

Northern Ireland companies recorded an eleventh successive monthly increase in new export orders during May. Moreover, the rate of expansion was marked, having accelerated to the fastest since August 2007.

Regional Comparisons: Output / Business Activity

The graph below shows the regional PMI Output Indexes for the UK. An average of the latest three months is used (see also the table to the right). Strong rates of output growth were recorded across all 12 UK regions during the three months to May. London remained the best performing region, followed closely by the North East. Output in the Republic of Ireland rose at a faster pace than the UK average.

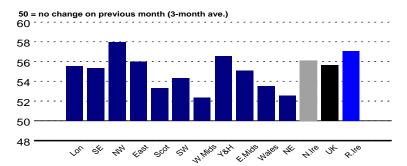


| 50 = no change on previous month | (seasonally adjusted) |
|---|--|
| 65 | Increasing rate of growth |
| 60 | |
| 55 | |
| 50 | |
| 45 | •••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••• |
| 40 | |
| 35 | |
| 30 | |
| 25 | |
| 20 mmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmm | Increasing rate of decline |

| | Share of UK | | PMI Output Index | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---------|------------------|--------|
| | GVA, 2012 | Last 12 | Latest 3 | Latest |
| | (National Statistics) | months | months | month |
| London | (22.8%) | 60.9 | 60.7 | 60.4 |
| South East | (14.9%) | 60.1 | 58.9 | 60.8 |
| North West | (9.6%) | 59.8 | 57.9 | 59.0 |
| East of England | (8.6%) | 58.8 | 58.9 | 58.6 |
| Scotland | (7.8%) | 56.4 | 55.1 | 54.0 |
| South West | (7.5%) | 59.9 | 58.4 | 58.4 |
| West Midlands | (7.2%) | 59.2 | 58.4 | 60.2 |
| Yorks & Humber | r (6.9%) | 57.4 | 56.5 | 57.3 |
| East Midlands | (5.9%) | 58.9 | 59.6 | 60.0 |
| Wales | (3.5%) | 58.5 | 59.6 | 58.2 |
| North East | (3.1%) | 57.2 | 59.8 | 63.5 |
| N.Ireland | (2.2%) | 57.9 | 59.7 | 60.6 |
| UK | (100.0%) | 59.3 | 58.9 | 59.1 |
| Rep. of Ireland | n/a | 57.2 | 59.8 | 59.5 |
| | | | | |

Regional Comparisons: Employment

The graph below shows the regional PMI Employment Indexes for the UK. An average of the latest three months is used (see also the table to the right). Increased staffing levels were again recorded in all 12 UK regions on average in the three months to May. Job creation was strongest in the North West, Yorkshire & Humber and Northern Ireland respectively. A further sharp rise in employment was recorded in the Republic of Ireland.



| | Share of UK | PN | Al Employment Inc | dex |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---------|-------------------|--------|
| | GVA, 2012 | Last 12 | Latest 3 | Latest |
| | (National Statistics) | months | months | month |
| London | (22.8%) | 55.5 | 55.5 | 58.2 |
| South East | (14.9%) | 54.4 | 55.3 | 56.3 |
| North West | (9.6%) | 55.7 | 58.0 | 59.5 |
| East of England | (8.6%) | 54.8 | 56.0 | 56.9 |
| Scotland | (7.8%) | 53.1 | 53.3 | 52.7 |
| South West | (7.5%) | 55.3 | 54.3 | 53.8 |
| West Midlands | (7.2%) | 54.0 | 52.4 | 54.2 |
| Yorks & Humber | (6.9%) | 53.4 | 56.6 | 56.2 |
| East Midlands | (5.9%) | 52.4 | 55.1 | 55.8 |
| Wales | (3.5%) | 52.8 | 53.5 | 53.1 |
| North East | (3.1%) | 52.0 | 52.6 | 52.7 |
| N.Ireland | (2.2%) | 53.1 | 56.1 | 56.4 |
| UK | (100.0%) | 54.6 | 55.7 | 56.3 |
| Rep. of Ireland | n/a | 55.7 | 57.1 | 56.5 |

PMI[®] Survey Methodology

The Purchasing Managers' Index[®] (or PMI[®]) surveys are monthly surveys of carefully selected 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 both manufacturing and service sectors. Index numbers are calculated from the percentages of respondents reporting an improvement, no change or decline on the previous month. These indices vary between 0 and 100 with readings of exactly 50.0 signaling 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) signalled. The indices are

seasonally adjusted to take into consideration expected variations for the time of year, such as summer shutdowns and national holidays. Sector data published in the Ulster Bank Northern Ireland PMI report are intended to give a indication of underlying trends in the manufacturing, services and construction industries within the Northern Ireland private sector economy. Data at the sector level are more volatile than the headline total private sector economy figures, and month-on-month movements in the sector data should therefore be treated with a degree of caution. treated with a degree of caution

*Exports are defined as sales outside of the United Kingdom.

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and wide ranging capability means we can deliver for our customers, whatever their business may be.

Markit Economics is a specialist compiler of business surveys and economic indices, including the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) series, which is now available for 32 countries and also 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.

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Ulster Bank Northern Ireland Purchasing Managers Index (PMI)

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

May 2014 Survey Update

Issued 9th June 2014

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PMI Surveys

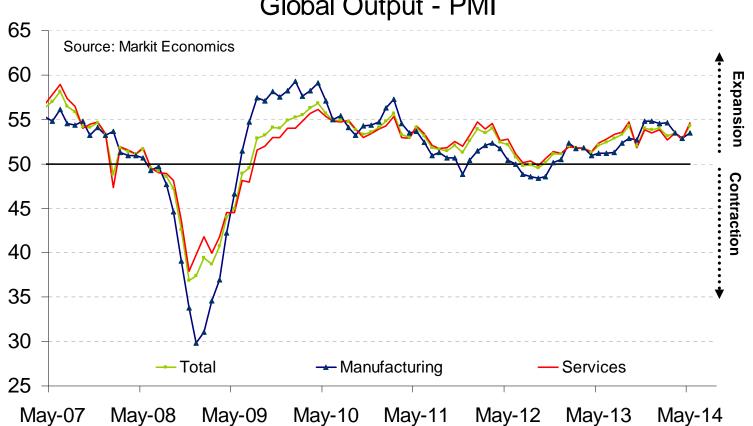
Purchasing Managers' Indexes (PMIs) are monthly surveys of private sector companies which provide an advance indication of what is happening in the private sector economy by tracking variables such as output, new orders, employment and prices across different sectors.

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

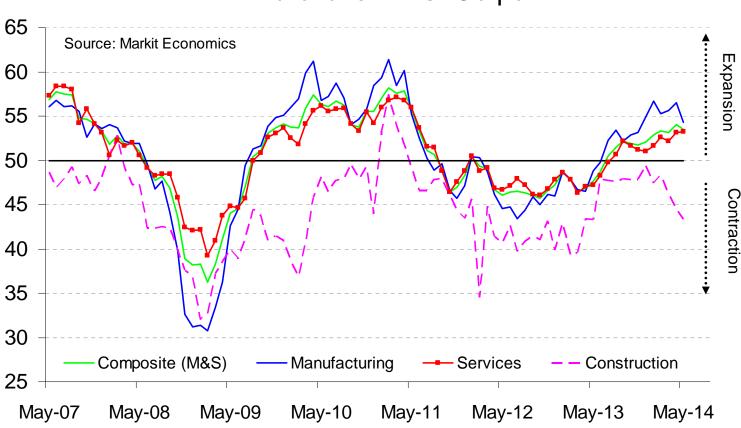
Data at a sector level are more volatile and **3-month moving averages** have been used to more accurately identify the broad trends.

Global manufacturing & services output growth picks up in May with services output at an 8-month high



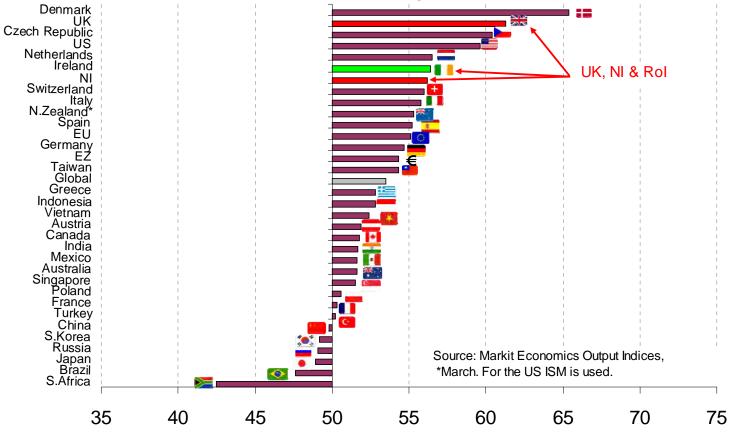
Global Output - PMI

The Eurozone's recovery loses some momentum with the 'downturn under construction' accelerating



Eurozone PMIs: Output

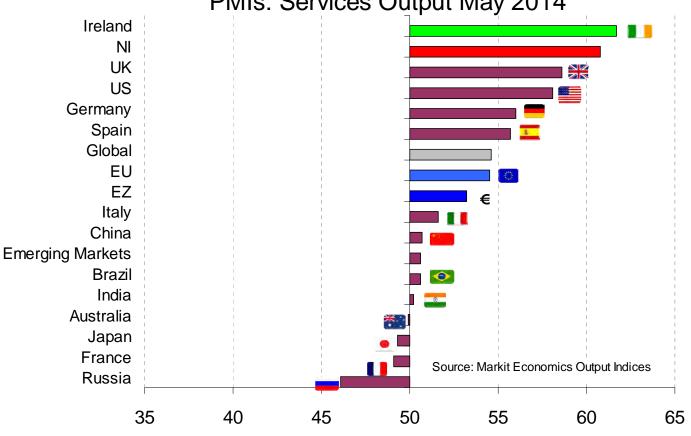
Most economies post manufacturing output growth in May



PMIs: Manufacturing Output May 2014

₩ RBS

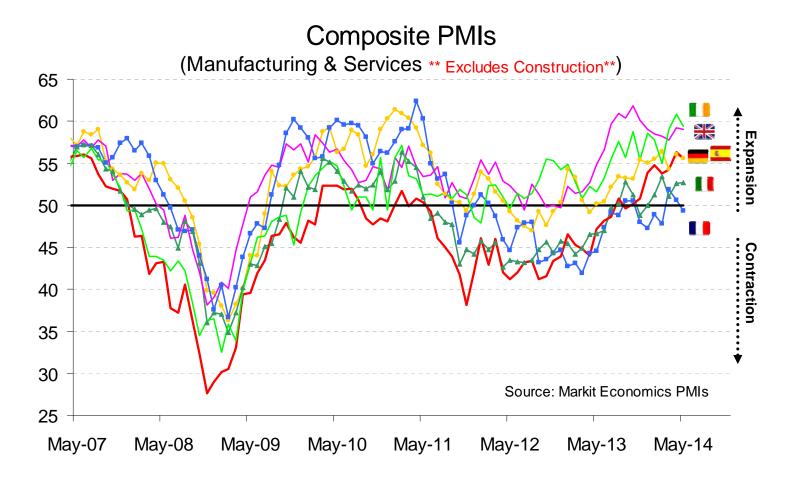
The Republic of Ireland & Northern Ireland posted the fastest rates of service sector output growth in May



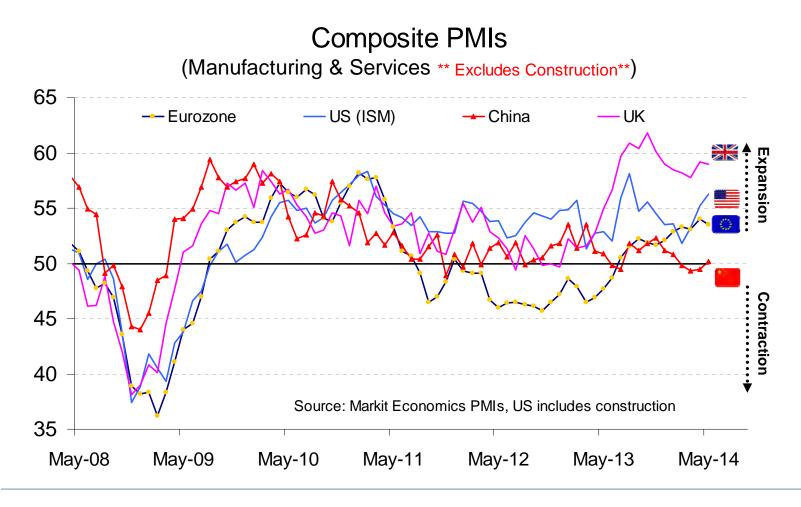
PMIs: Services Output May 2014

XX RBS

The French Composite PMI bucks the wider trend of continued growth amongst other economies in May

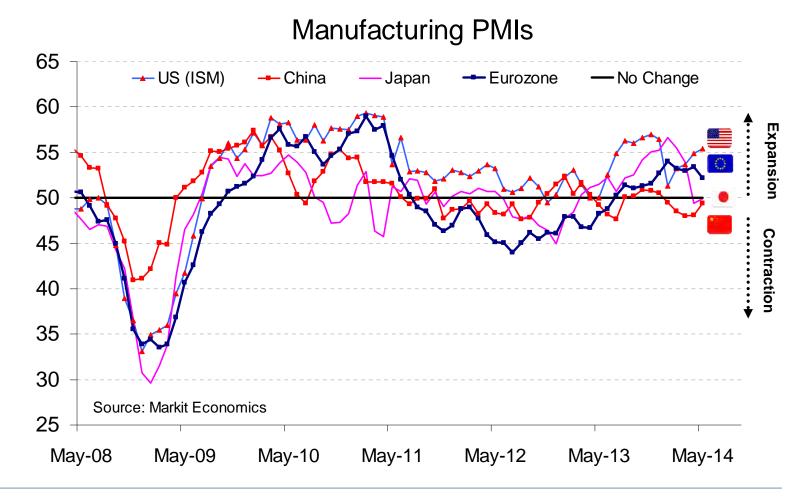


The US & Chinese Composite PMIs improve in May

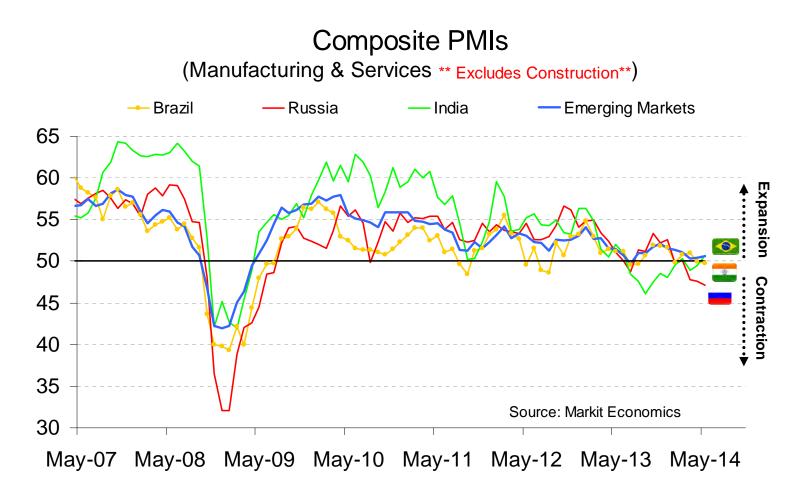


₩ RBS

The US recovery, following adverse weather conditions, continues while Japan & China remain sub-50

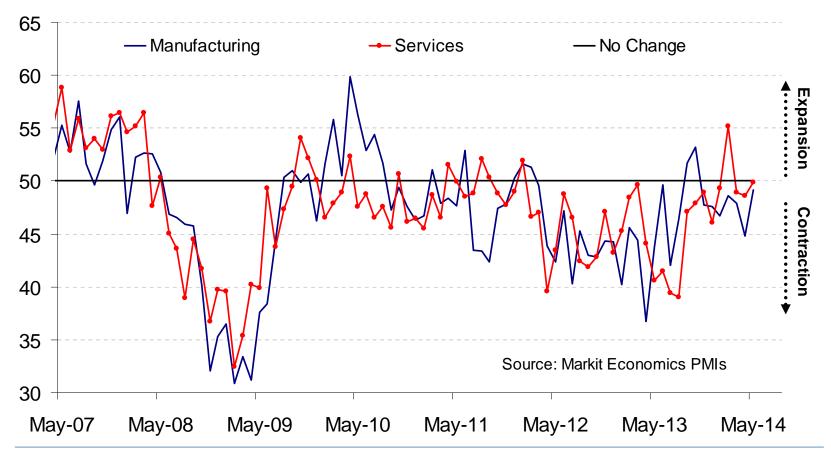


Emerging markets growth remains subdued. Russian PMI is contracting at its fastest rate since May 2009



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

Australia - PMI

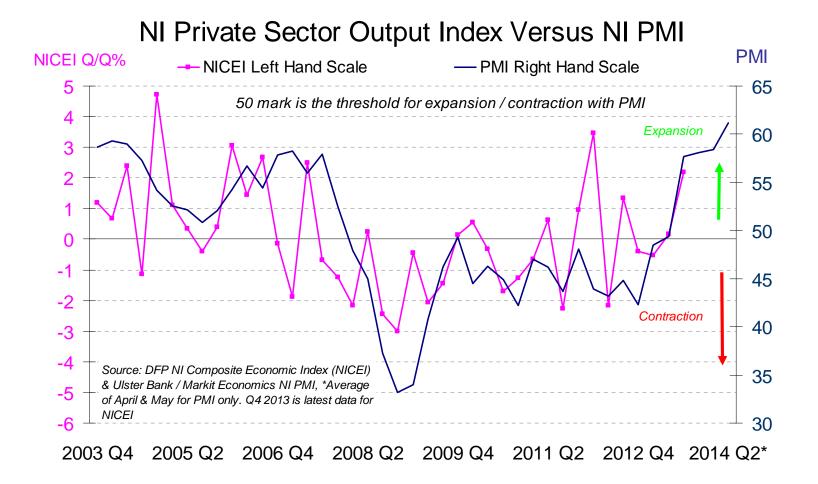


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The UK, NI & the Rol all see their business activity growth rates ease in May albeit rates of growth remain strong

Private Sector Business Activity - PMIs **PMI Surveys Exclude Agriculture & Public Sector** 65 Rol - NI — UK 60 Expansion 55 50 45 Contraction 40 35 Source: Markit & Ulster Bank NI PMI 50 = threshold between expansion / contraction 30 May-04 Jan-06 Sep-07 May-09 Jan-11 Sep-12 May-14

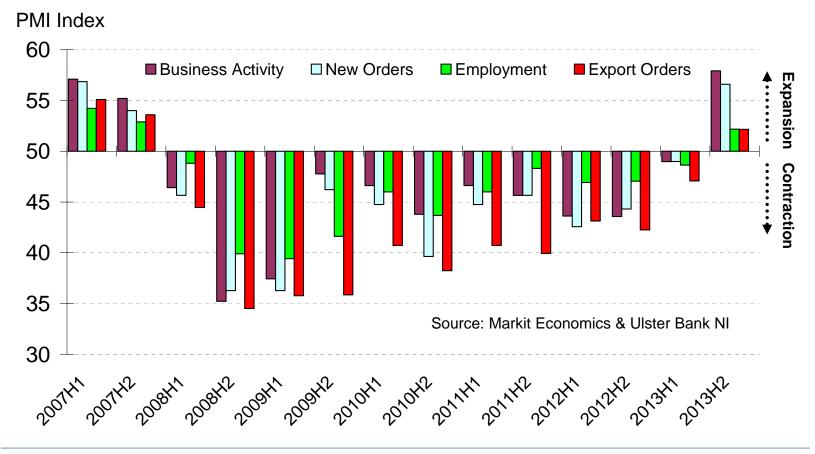
PMI suggests growth in DFP's private sector composite index (combines indices for construction, services, agriculture & industrial production) in Q1 & Q2 2014



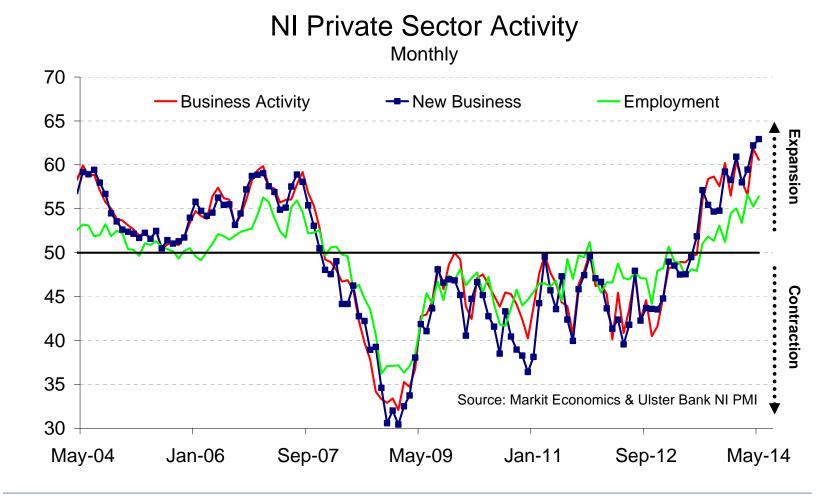
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NI's recovery took hold in the second half (H2) of 2013

NI Private Sector Performance (PMI)

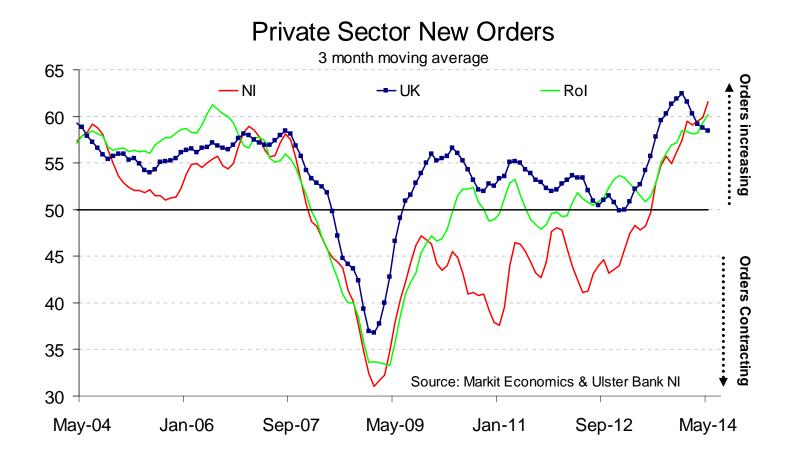


NI firms report record rates of growth in new business in May with job creation accelerating too



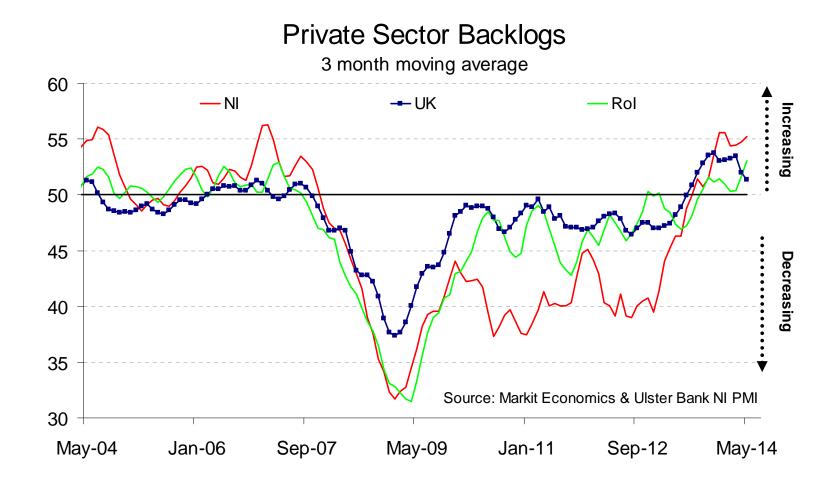
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NI order books growing at a record rate in May which suggests more growth in the months ahead



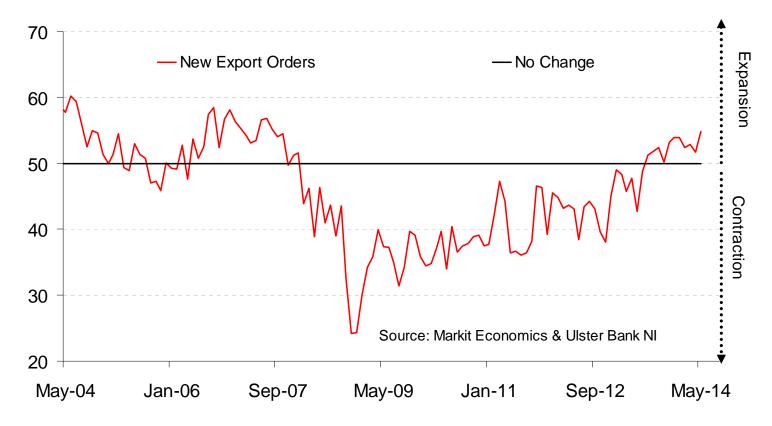
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Surge in demand has led to rising backlogs of work particularly within NI and Rol

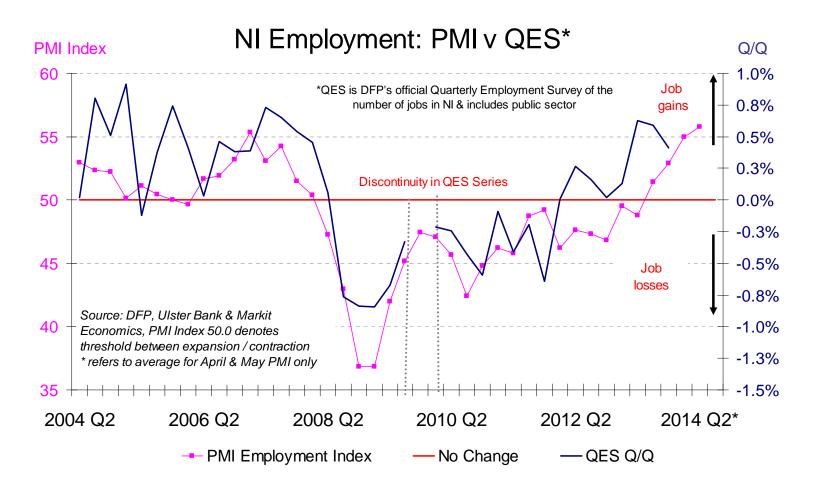


NI firms post their 11th successive rise in export orders & the fastest rate of growth since August 2007

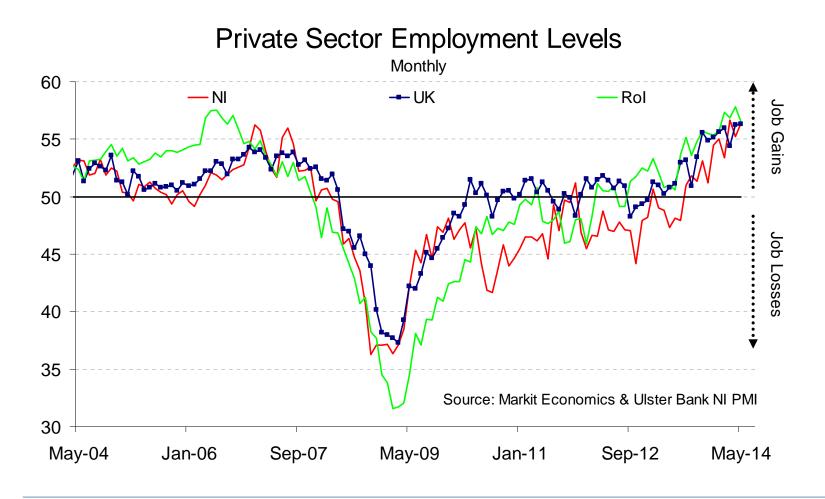
NI New Export Business



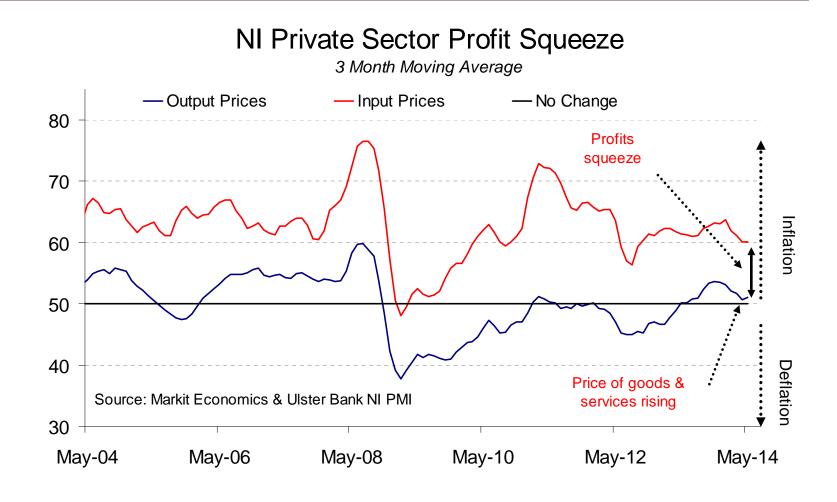
PMI for Q1 signals fastest rate of jobs growth in 7 years with even stronger growth rates for Q2



Job creation continues at a rapid rate for all economies in May



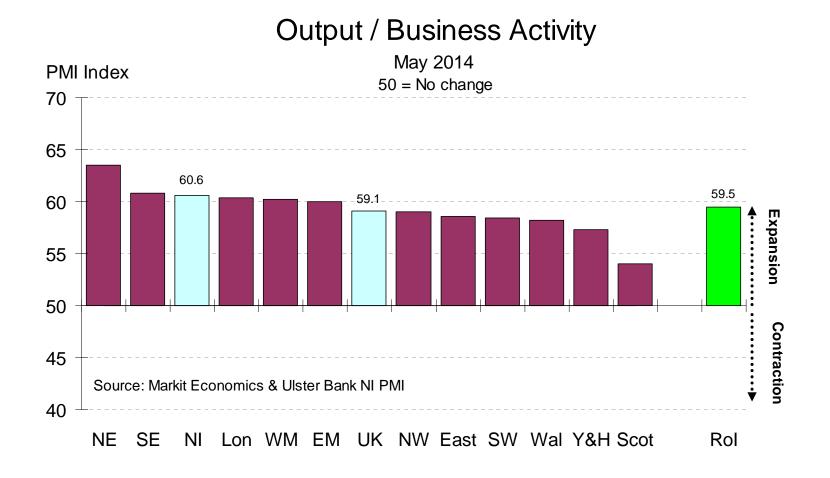
Output cost inflation remains subdued



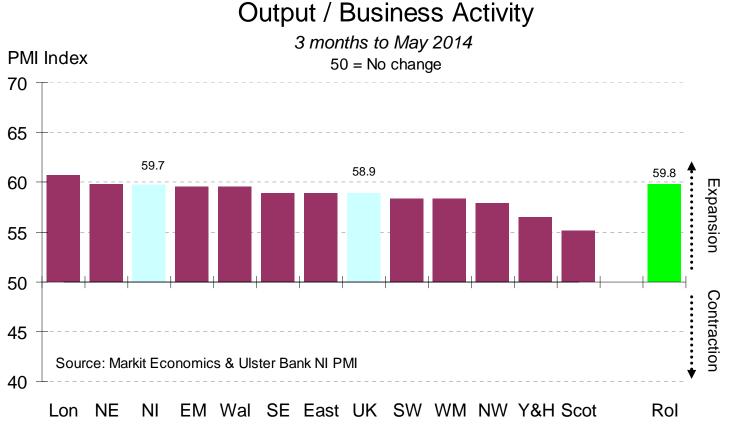
Regional Comparisons



Strong growth across all UK regions & the Rol in May



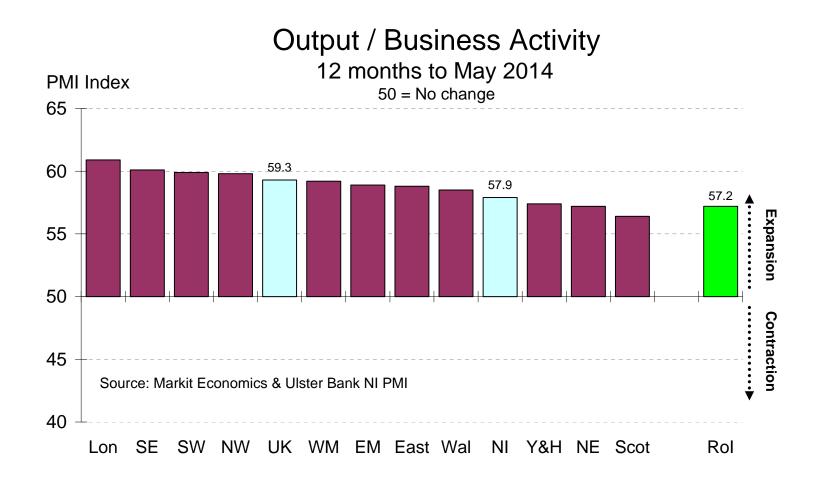
...all the UK regions & the Rol post strong rates of growth over the last 3 months...



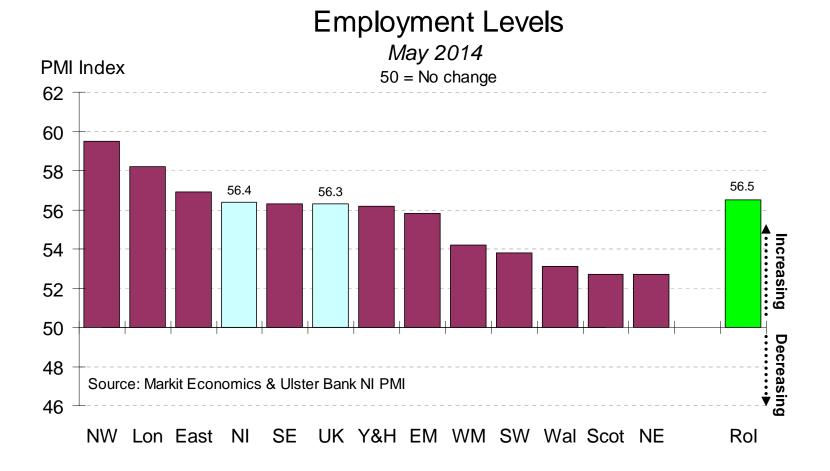
XX RBS



... and over the last 12 months

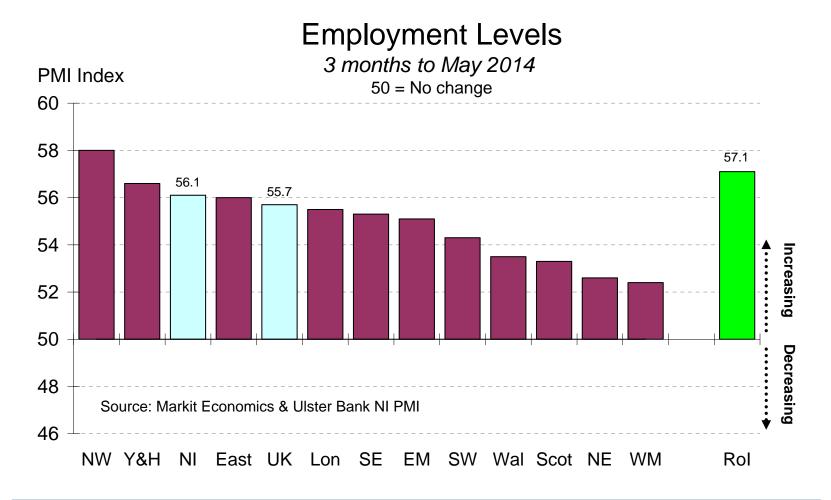


The UK, Rol and NI all post similar rates of employment growth in May

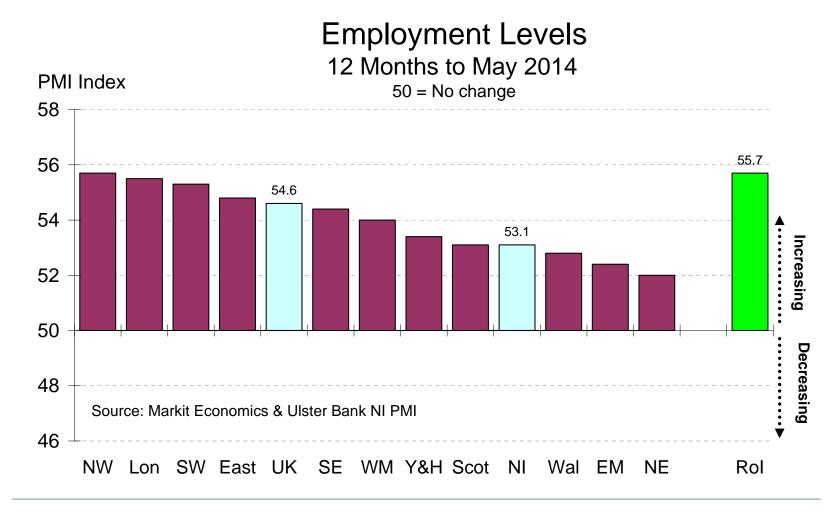


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All UK regions and the Rol post strong rates of employment growth over the last 3 months



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



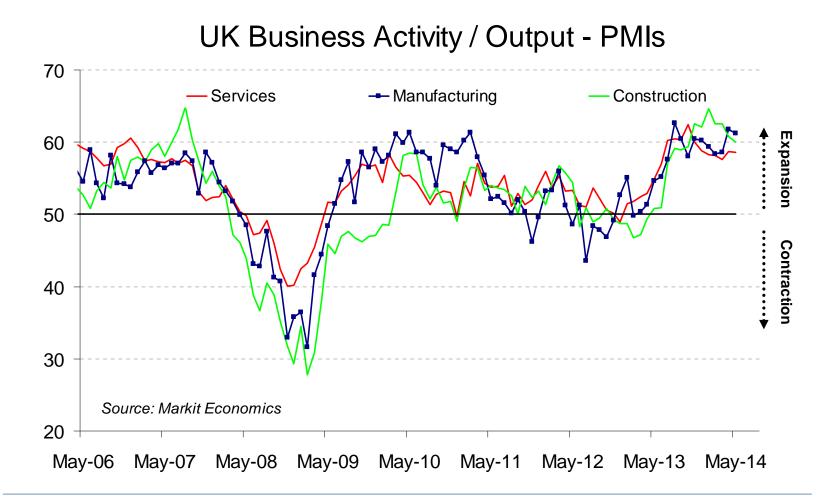
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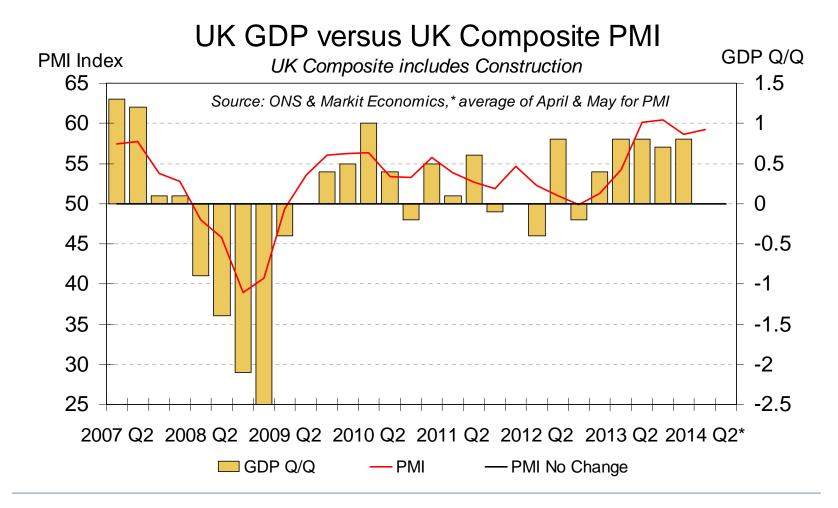
Sectoral Comparisons



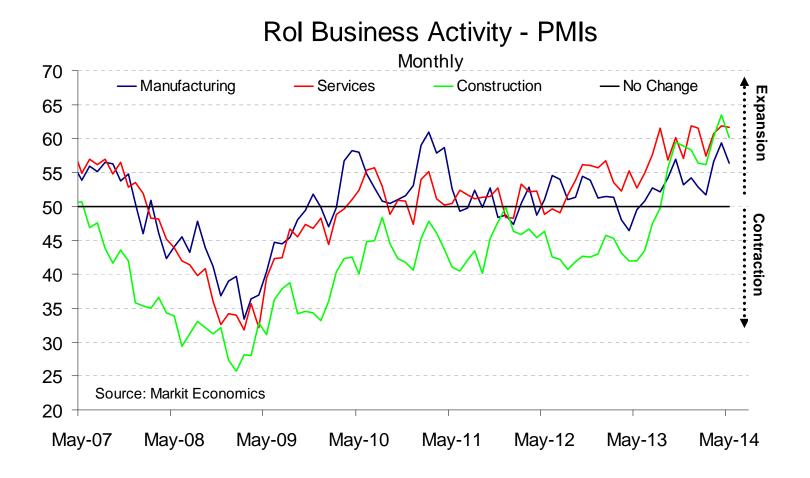
All sectors maintain strong rates of growth in May



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

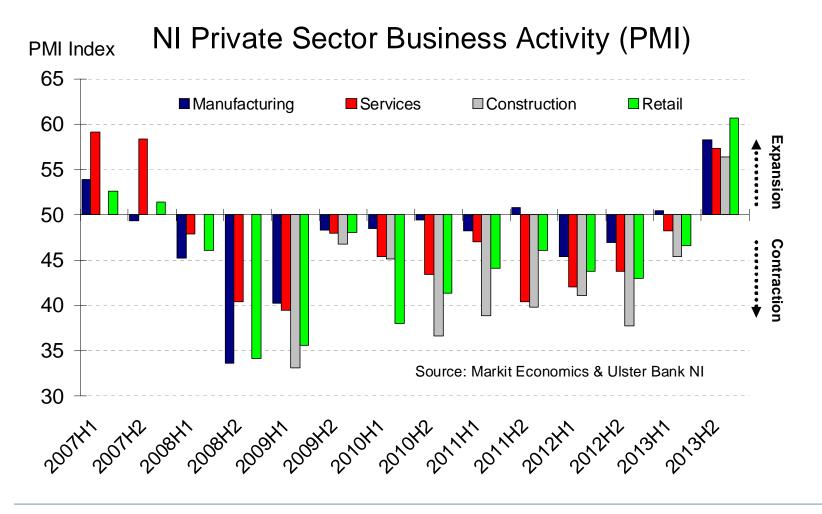


Rol output growth eases across all sectors in May



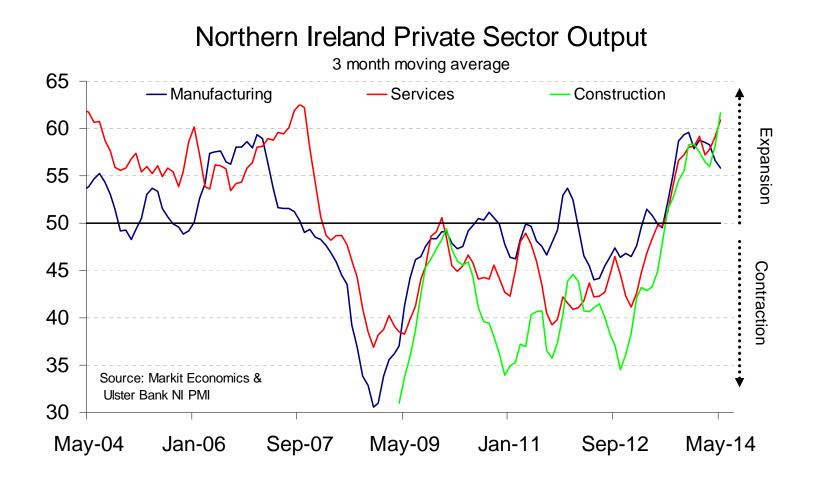
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All 3 broad sectors within NI saw a marked turnaround in business activity in H2 2013



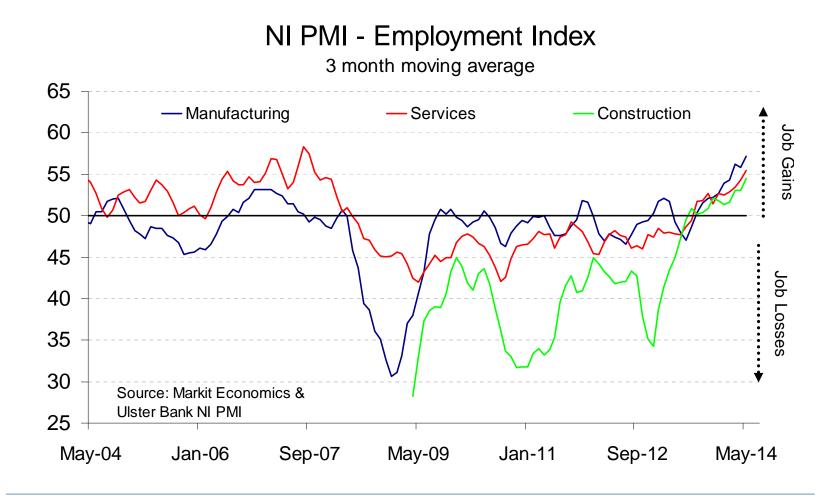
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NI's services and construction sectors report an acceleration in output growth in the 3 months to May



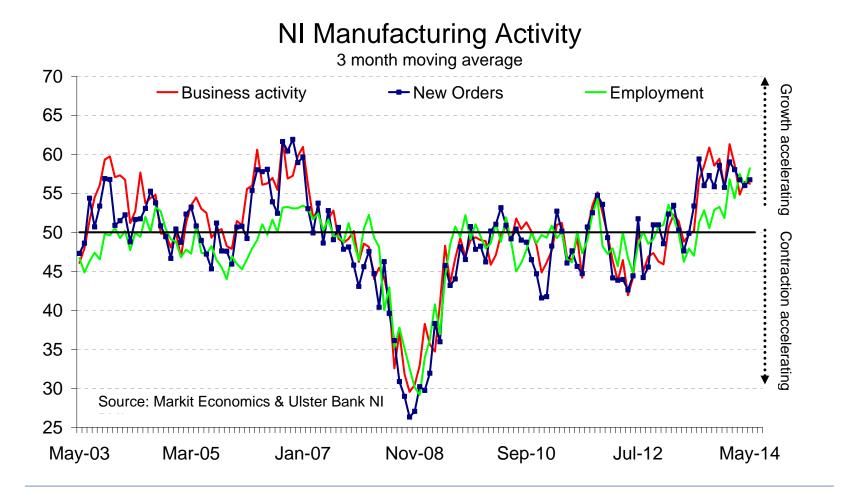
₩ RBS

with all sectors posting employment growth over the last 3 months



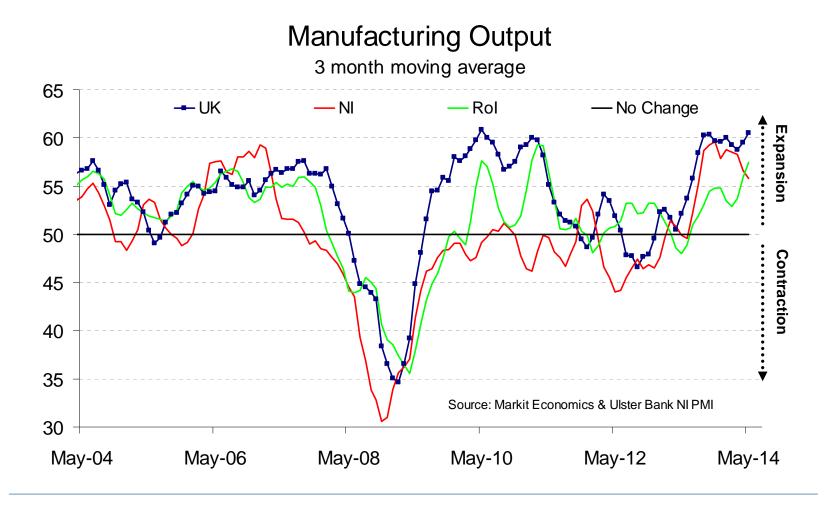
₩ RBS

NI manufacturing firms report strong rates of growth in output & orders. Employment rising at a record rate

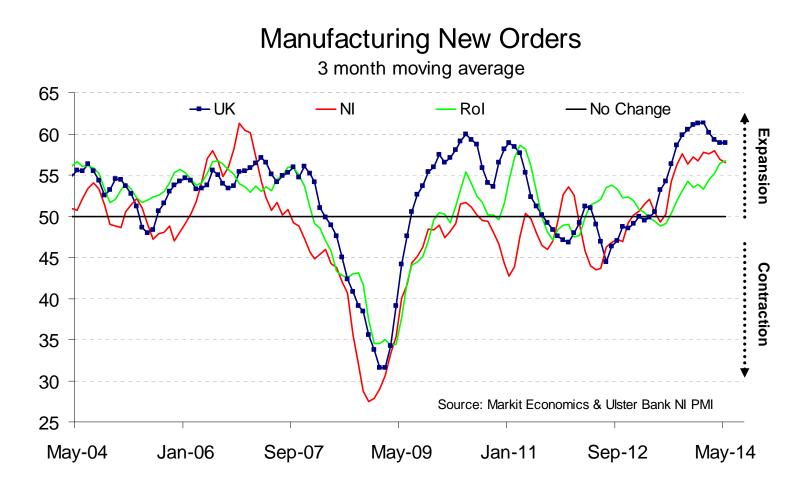


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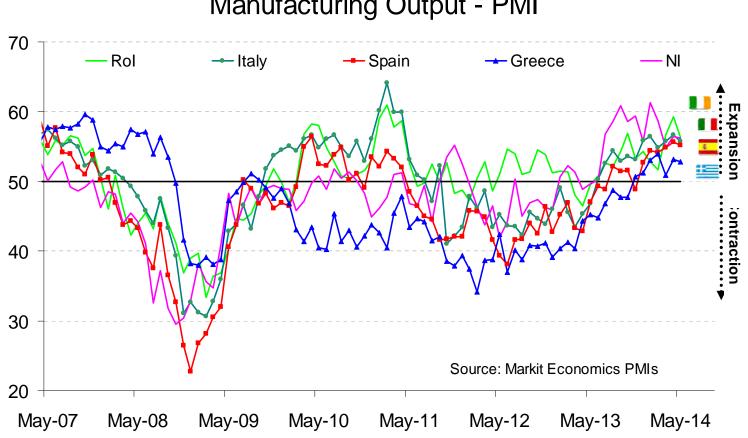
NI manufacturing firms report an easing in output growth while the RoI & UK see growth rates accelerate



The UK posts the strongest rates of orders growth, with NI slowing, while Rol firms post a pick-up in new orders growth



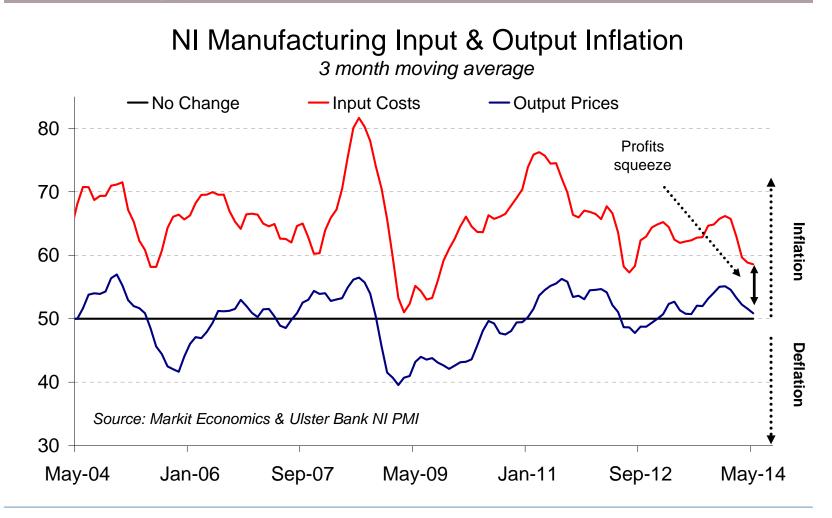
NI has been outperforming some of its European competitors for most of the last 12 months



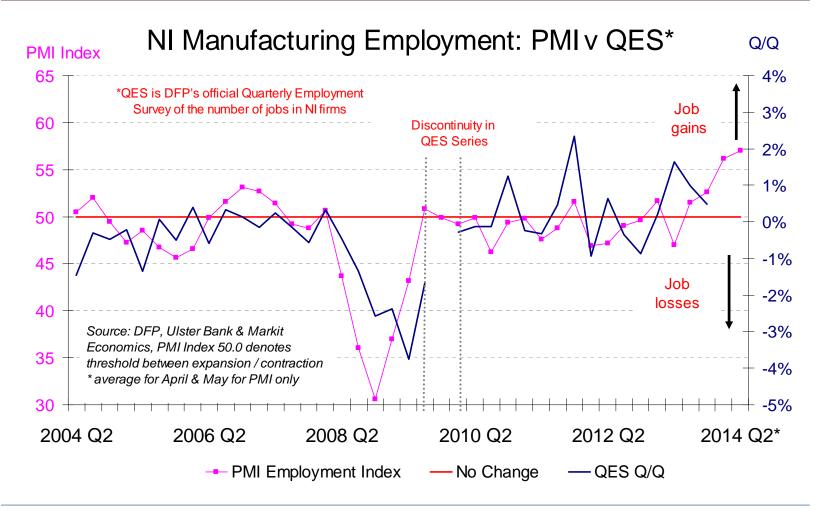
Manufacturing Output - PMI

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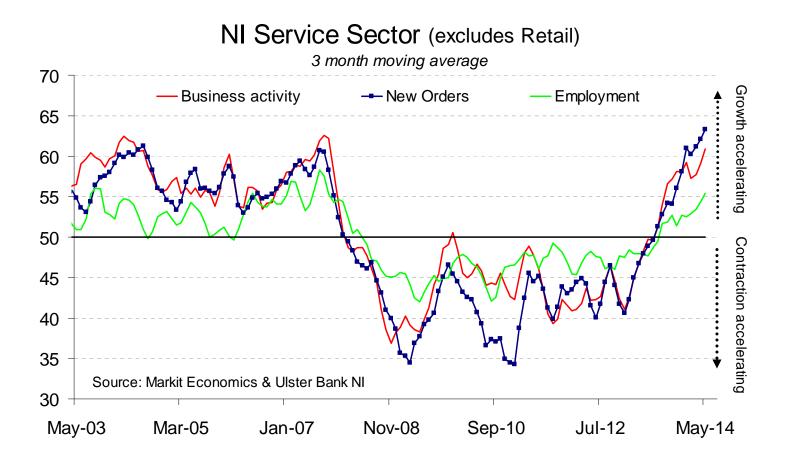
NI manufacturing firms report a significant easing in inflationary pressures



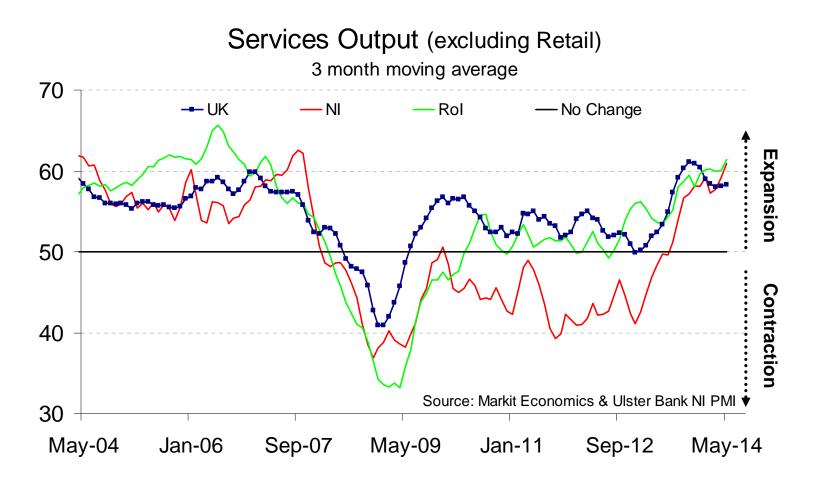
The PMI is signalling the fastest rate of manufacturing employment growth in Q1 & Q2 since the PMI began



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

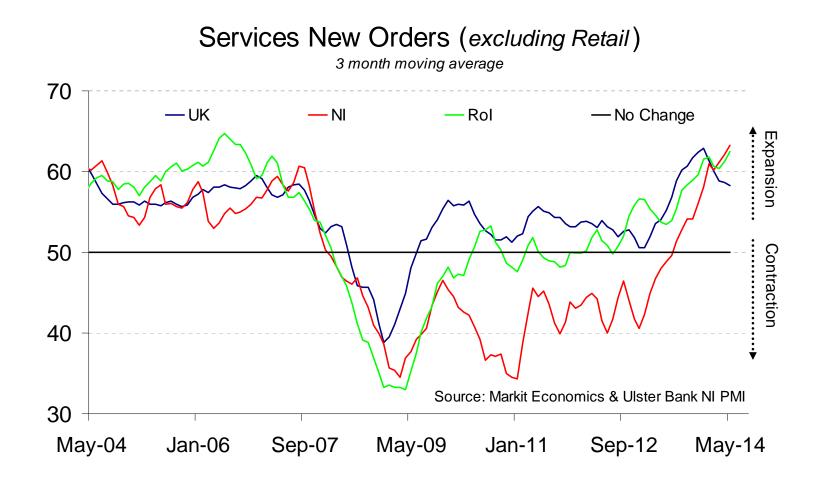


All 3 economies post strong rates of growth in services output in May with the Rol leading the way ...



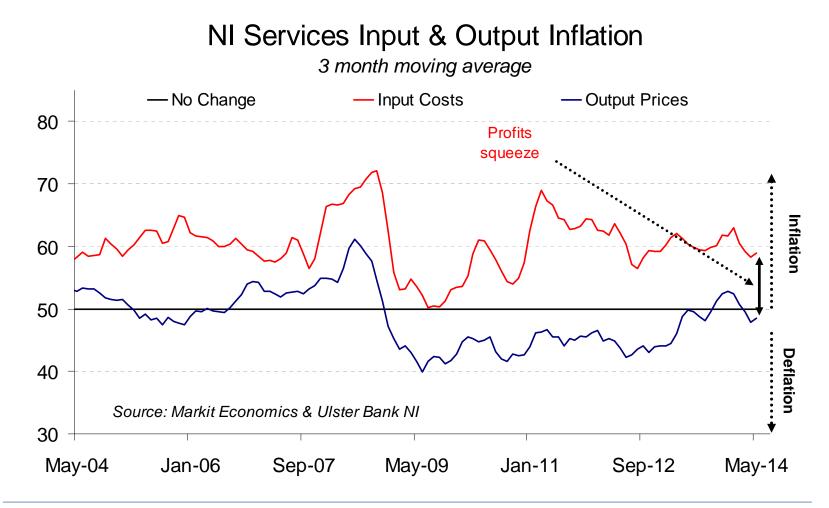
₩ RBS

... and new orders growth is accelerating in NI & Rol too

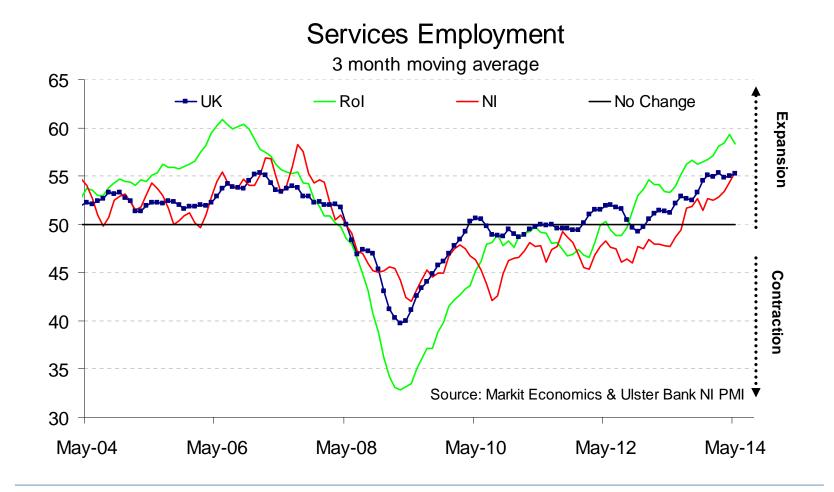


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Service sector posts its 4th consecutive month of output price deflation (*falling prices*)

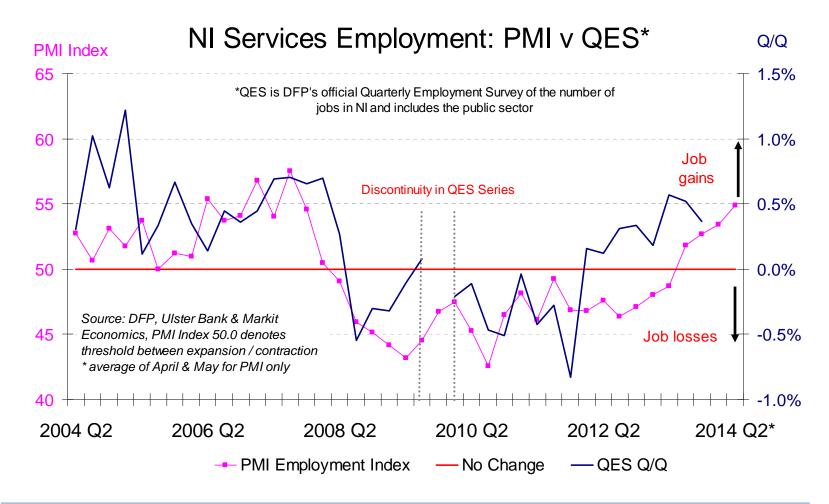


Service sector employment growth remains strong across all 3 economies with NI jobs growth accelerating

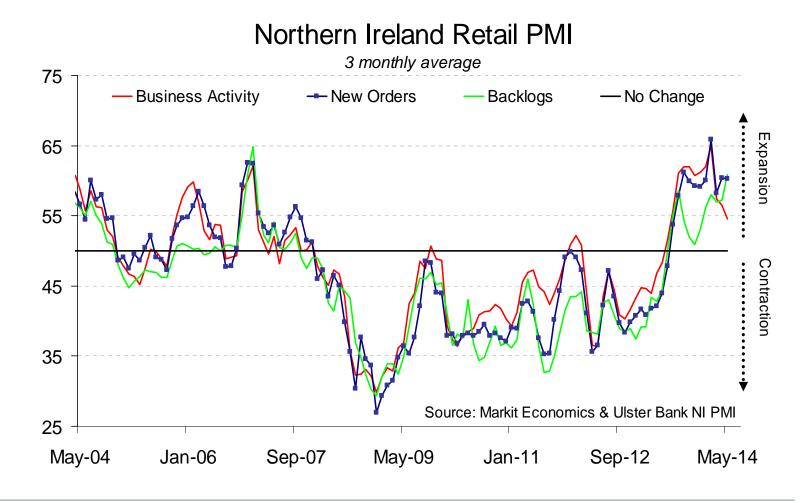


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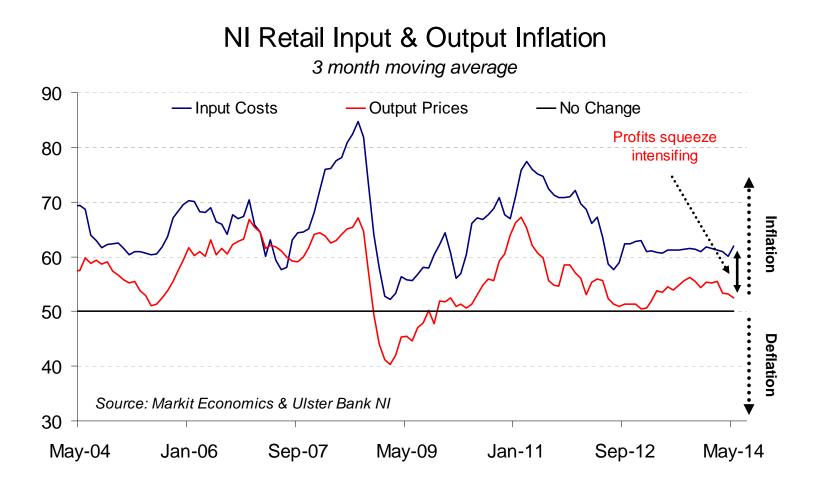
In Q1 the services PMI showed its fastest rate of jobs growth since Q4 2007. Strong growth maintained in Q2



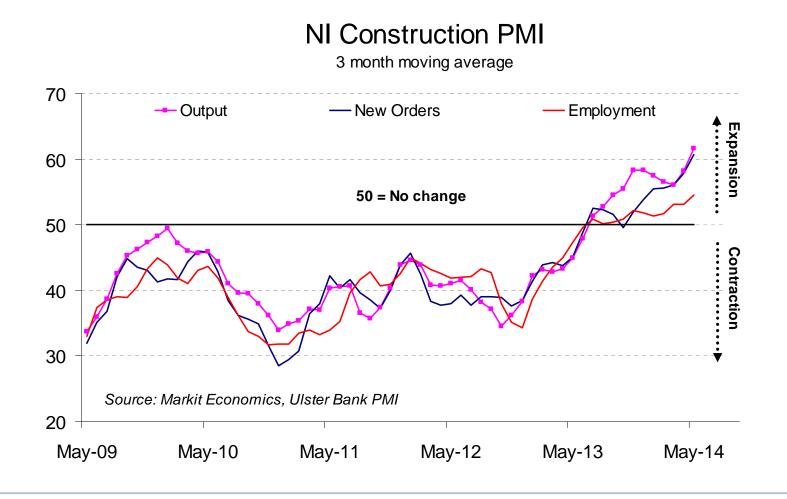
NI retailers report a marked slowdown in sales but new orders remained strong in May



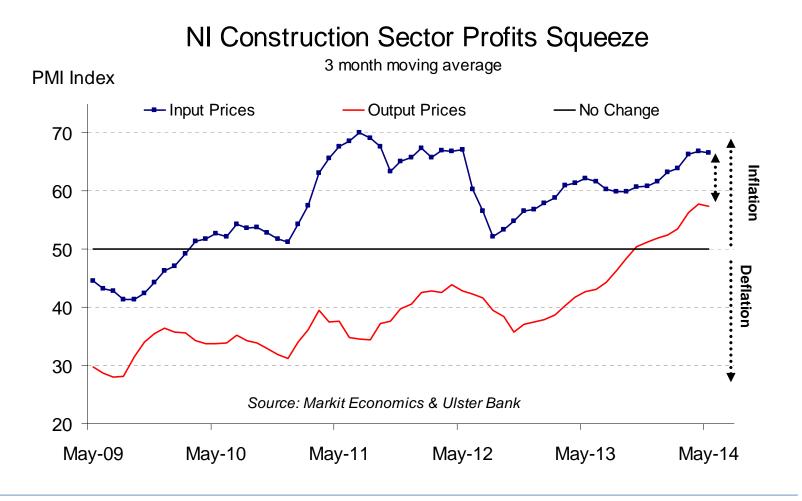
Local retailers report a pick-up in input cost inflation and an easing in output price inflation



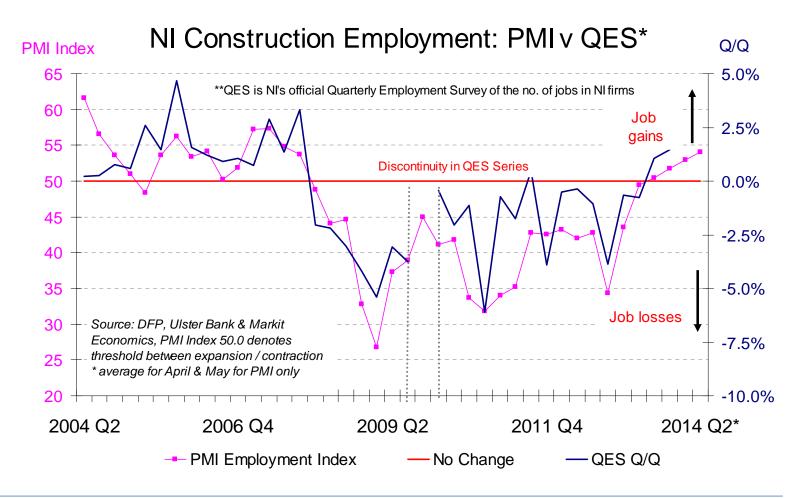
NI's construction sector reports record rates of growth in output, new orders & employment over the last 3 months



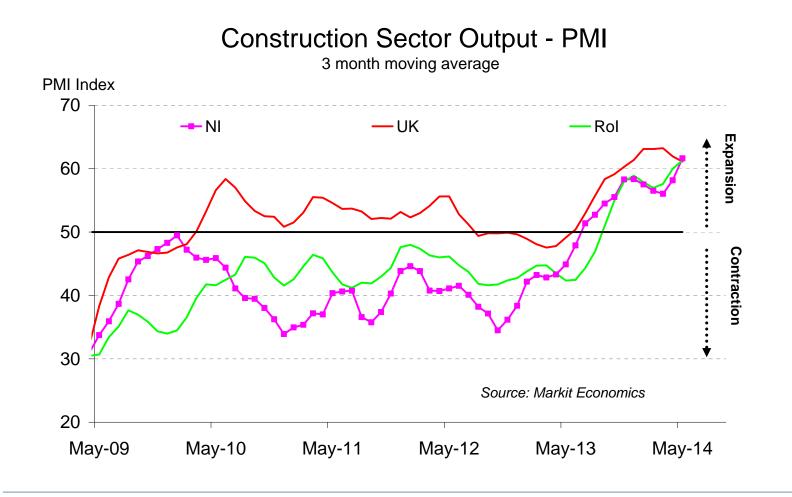
...and output prices have been rising at a record rate



NI's construction PMI posts its 3rd successive quarterly rise in employment in Q1 & is set for further gains in Q2

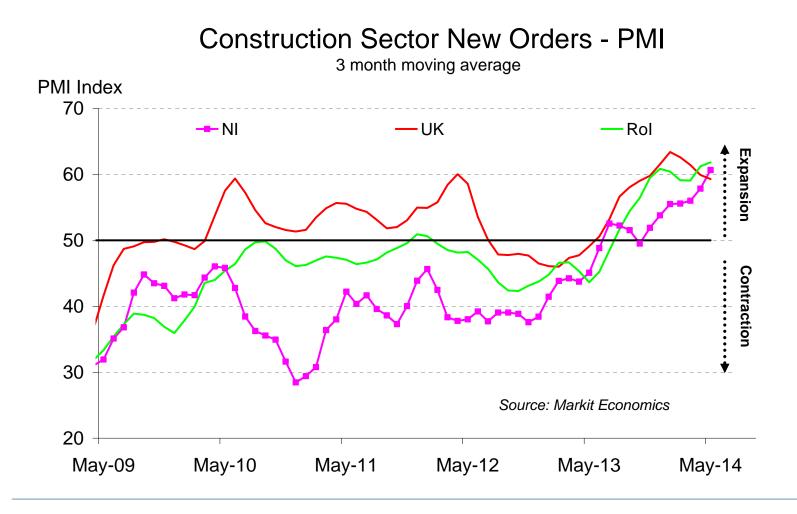


Construction output growth remains strong in all three economies. Growth in Rol & NI is accelerating in Q2

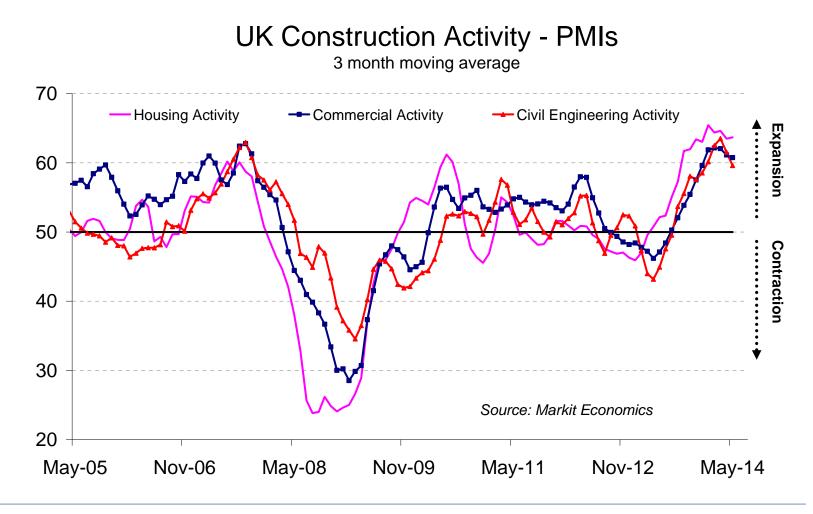


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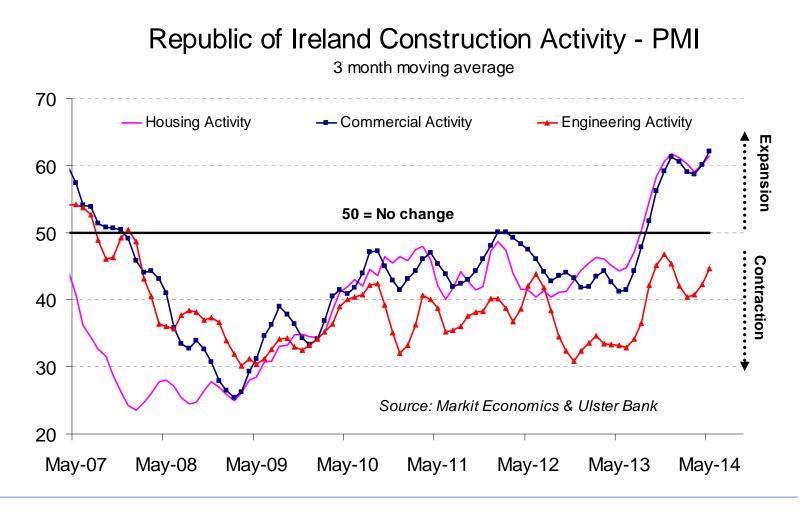
NI new orders growth hits a record high in May and suggests significant work remains in the pipeline



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



...with opportunities returning within the Rol too



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