

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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Business activity declines for twelfth month running in November

November data from Ulster Bank pointed to a continuation of the decline in activity in the Northern Ireland private sector. Output has now decreased in each of the past 12 months. New business also fell further, and at a sharp pace. With workloads decreasing, firms lowered their staffing levels, albeit at a reduced pace. Meanwhile, input costs continued to rise sharply, but companies still lowered their output prices in response to strong competitive pressures.

Activity continues to fall

As has been the case throughout the past year, output at Northern Ireland companies decreased in November amid reports of difficult economic conditions. The pace of reduction remained sharp, and was only slightly slower than in October. The fall contrasted with a marginal increase in activity at the UK level.

A further sharp fall in new orders was recorded during the month, with the rate of contraction little-changed from that seen in October. According to respondents, competitive pressures had impacted negatively on new order levels. Manufacturers in Northern Ireland, however, posted a second successive monthly increase in new business in November.

Employment declines at weaker pace

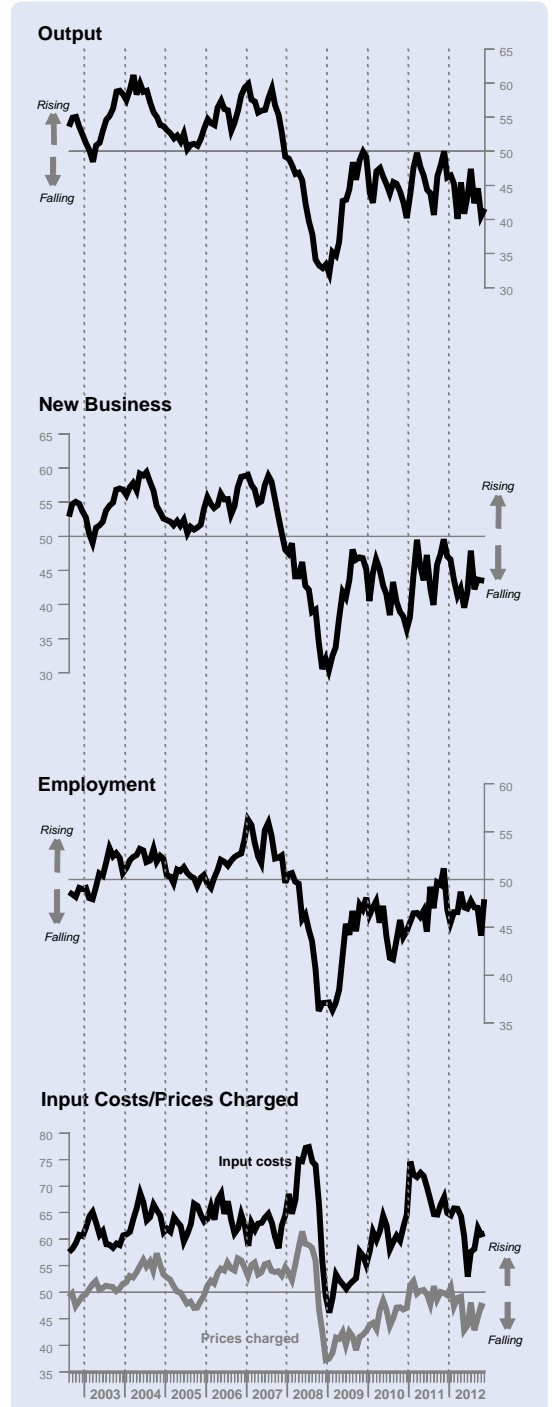
The reduction in new orders led companies to work through outstanding business, and at a substantial pace that was marginally quicker than in the previous month. The fall in Northern Ireland was much faster than that seen across the UK economy as a whole.

With workloads declining, firms in Northern Ireland lowered employment again. Although solid, the rate of job cuts slowed to the weakest in seven months, while the manufacturing sector posted a slight increase in staffing levels. The reduction in employment in Northern Ireland was faster than the UK economy average.

Output prices reduced further

As has been the case in each month since March 2009, companies in Northern Ireland recorded an increase in input prices in November. A number of respondents reported higher fuel costs. The rate of input price inflation quickened slightly during the month, but remained weaker than the series average.

Strong competition led companies to lower their output prices for the tenth successive month, and at a solid pace that was broadly unchanged from that seen in October. Sector data suggested that the overall reduction was mainly driven by services and construction companies as manufacturers posted only a slight fall and retailers increased their charges.



The above charts plot the seasonally adjusted indicators of business conditions in Northern Ireland. Index readings above 50.0 signal an increase on the previous month while readings below 50.0 signal a decrease.

Output / Business Activity

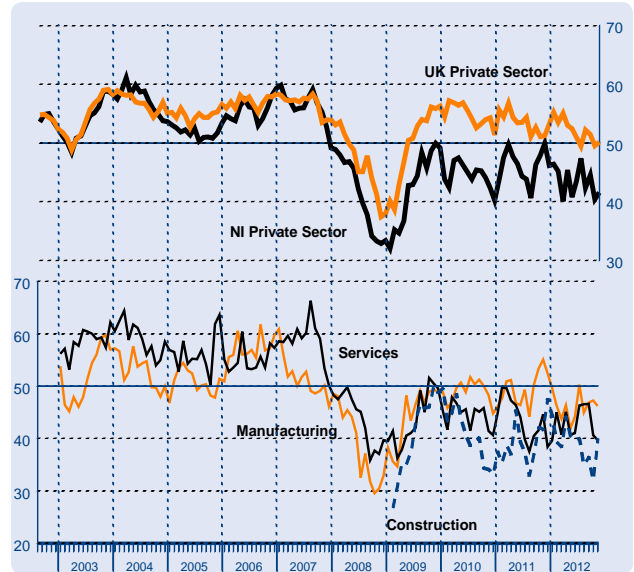
Q. Is the level of output or business activity at your company higher, the same or lower this month than one month ago?

| Northern Ireland Companies | | | | | | All UK | | |
|----------------------------|-----|----------|--------|---------|---------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | Higher % | Same % | Lower % | Net +/- | Index 50=no chg | S.Adj'd Index | S.Adj'd Index |
| 2012 | Jun | 17.2 | 52.9 | 29.9 | -12.6 | 43.7 | 43.6 | 51.0 |
| | Jul | 12.7 | 56.7 | 30.6 | -17.8 | 41.1 | 47.4 | 49.5 |
| | Aug | 18.1 | 46.4 | 35.5 | -17.4 | 41.3 | 42.4 | 52.2 |
| | Sep | 19.1 | 54.9 | 26.1 | -7.0 | 46.5 | 44.6 | 51.5 |
| | Oct | 14.0 | 55.7 | 30.3 | -16.4 | 41.8 | 40.5 | 49.6 |
| | Nov | 16.8 | 51.4 | 31.8 | -14.9 | 42.5 | 41.6 | 50.2 |

Business activity in the Northern Ireland private sector declined for the twelfth month in succession during November. This compared with a marginal expansion of output across the UK economy as a whole. The rate of contraction in Northern Ireland remained sharp, despite easing over the month. Where activity decreased, respondents linked this to difficult economic conditions. Close to 32% of panellists registered a drop in activity over the month.

All four sectors monitored by the survey posted falling output in November, although rates of decline varied. Services saw the fastest reduction, with the weakest at manufacturers.

| By sector | | | | |
|-----------|-----|--------------|---------------|----------|
| | | Construction | Manufacturing | Services |
| '12 | Sep | 36.5 | 46.9 | 46.6 |
| | Oct | 32.1 | 47.3 | 40.7 |
| | Nov | 39.9 | 46.3 | 39.7 |



New Business

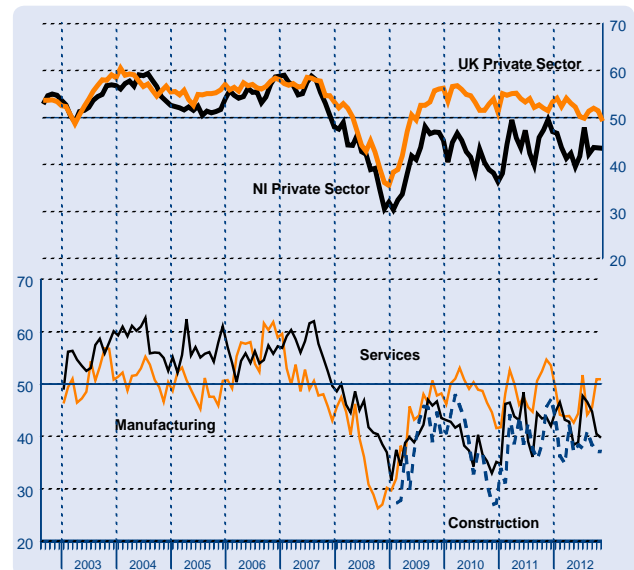
Q. Is the level of new orders or incoming new business at your company higher, the same or lower this month than one month ago?

| Northern Ireland Companies | | | | | | All UK | | |
|----------------------------|-----|----------|--------|---------|---------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | Higher % | Same % | Lower % | Net +/- | Index 50=no chg | S.Adj'd Index | S.Adj'd Index |
| 2012 | Jun | 19.9 | 43.2 | 36.9 | -17.1 | 41.5 | 41.8 | 50.3 |
| | Jul | 16.4 | 54.1 | 29.6 | -13.2 | 43.4 | 47.9 | 49.9 |
| | Aug | 18.4 | 45.7 | 35.9 | -17.5 | 41.2 | 42.3 | 51.4 |
| | Sep | 19.2 | 56.1 | 24.7 | -5.4 | 47.3 | 43.7 | 52.0 |
| | Oct | 17.5 | 56.2 | 26.3 | -8.8 | 45.6 | 43.6 | 51.5 |
| | Nov | 19.0 | 46.3 | 34.6 | -15.6 | 42.2 | 43.5 | 49.3 |

As has been the case in each month since December 2007, new business decreased at private sector firms in Northern Ireland during November. The rate of decline was substantial, and little-changed from those seen in recent months. The fall in new orders at Northern Ireland companies was faster than the UK economy average. Strong competition for new business was a factor leading to the reduction, according to respondents.

In contrast to the overall trend, the manufacturing sector posted a second successive increase in new orders. The three remaining sectors all posted declining new business, however.

| By sector | | | | |
|-----------|-----|--------------|---------------|----------|
| | | Construction | Manufacturing | Services |
| '12 | Sep | 38.4 | 45.5 | 44.8 |
| | Oct | 37.2 | 50.9 | 40.5 |
| | Nov | 37.2 | 51.0 | 39.8 |



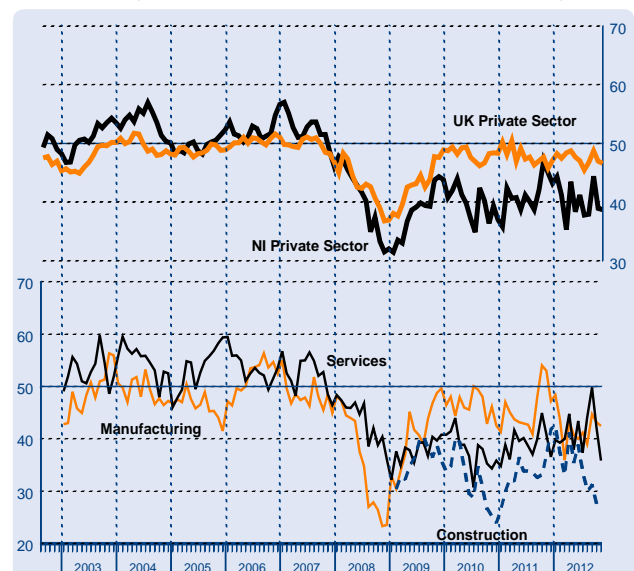
Backlogs

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?

| Northern Ireland Companies | | | | | | All UK | | |
|----------------------------|-----|----------|--------|---------|---------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | Higher % | Same % | Lower % | Net +/- | Index 50=no chg | S.Adj'd Index | S.Adj'd Index |
| 2012 | Jun | 12.3 | 58.6 | 29.1 | -16.8 | 41.6 | 41.2 | 47.1 |
| | Jul | 8.4 | 57.2 | 34.5 | -26.1 | 36.9 | 37.8 | 45.5 |
| | Aug | 10.5 | 53.3 | 36.2 | -25.8 | 37.1 | 37.9 | 46.8 |
| | Sep | 17.4 | 64.6 | 18.0 | -0.6 | 49.7 | 44.5 | 48.8 |
| | Oct | 10.1 | 54.9 | 35.0 | -24.9 | 37.5 | 39.0 | 47.0 |
| | Nov | 12.3 | 51.7 | 36.0 | -23.7 | 38.2 | 38.8 | 46.7 |

November data signalled a further sharp reduction in backlogs of work at Northern Ireland companies. The rate of depletion was marginally quicker than recorded in the previous month. Northern Ireland firms posted a much faster decline in outstanding business than at the UK level. Respondents indicated that falling new orders was the main factor leading to them to work through backlogs. Exactly 36% of panellists reported a decline in outstanding business, against 12% that posted a rise. The sharpest reduction was recorded in the construction sector, while retailers registered a weaker pace of depletion than in October.

| By sector | | | | |
|-----------|-----|--------------|---------------|----------|
| | | Construction | Manufacturing | Services |
| '12 | Sep | 31.3 | 44.7 | 49.8 |
| | Oct | 27.6 | 43.2 | 42.2 |
| | Nov | 27.8 | 42.5 | 35.9 |



Employment

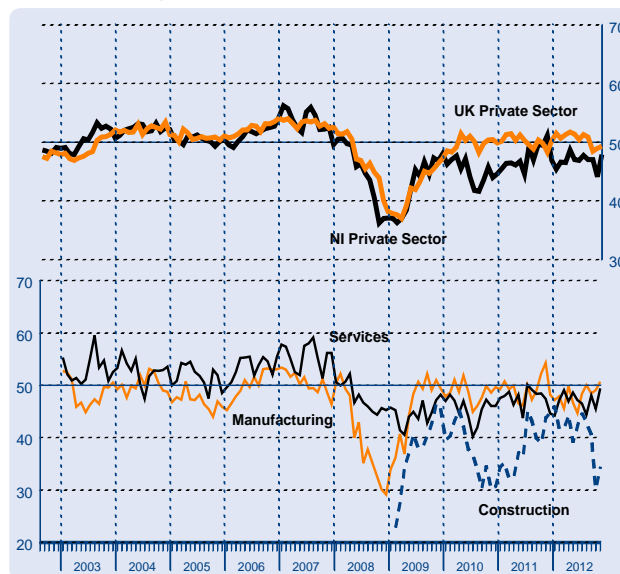
Q. Is the level of employment at your company higher, the same or lower this month than one month ago?

| Northern Ireland Companies | | | | All UK | | | |
|----------------------------|----------|--------|---------|---------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Higher % | Same % | Lower % | Net +/- | Index 50=no chg | S.Adj'd Index | S.Adj'd Index |
| 2012 Jun | 8.4 | 79.3 | 12.4 | -4.0 | 48.0 | 47.0 | 50.5 |
| Jul | 5.5 | 83.6 | 11.0 | -5.5 | 47.3 | 47.8 | 51.4 |
| Aug | 9.2 | 76.8 | 14.0 | -4.8 | 47.6 | 47.1 | 50.9 |
| Sep | 7.7 | 79.0 | 13.2 | -5.5 | 47.2 | 47.0 | 48.5 |
| Oct | 4.1 | 80.7 | 15.2 | -11.0 | 44.5 | 44.2 | 49.0 |
| Nov | 10.1 | 77.0 | 12.9 | -2.8 | 48.6 | 47.9 | 49.4 |

With workloads declining again in November, Northern Ireland private sector firms lowered their staffing levels accordingly. The fall in the region was solid, and faster than that seen across the UK economy as a whole. That said, the rate of job cuts was much slower than in the previous month, and the weakest since April. According to respondents, employment had been reduced in response to lower workloads.

Manufacturing firms increased their staffing levels for the first time in three months during November. Meanwhile, construction and services both saw weaker rates of job shedding.

| By sector | | | |
|-----------|--------------|---------------|----------|
| | Construction | Manufacturing | Services |
| '12 Sep | 40.7 | 48.5 | 48.1 |
| Oct | 30.2 | 49.1 | 45.6 |
| Nov | 34.4 | 50.7 | 49.5 |



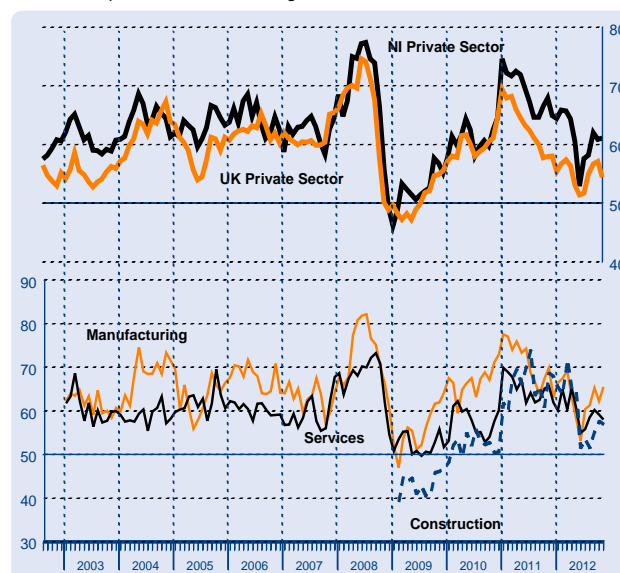
Input Costs

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

| Northern Ireland Companies | | | | All UK | | | |
|----------------------------|----------|--------|---------|---------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Higher % | Same % | Lower % | Net +/- | Index 50=no chg | S.Adj'd Index | S.Adj'd Index |
| 2012 Jun | 16.5 | 74.4 | 9.0 | 7.5 | 53.7 | 53.0 | 51.5 |
| Jul | 21.7 | 68.7 | 9.7 | 12.0 | 56.0 | 57.7 | 51.8 |
| Aug | 24.7 | 66.3 | 9.1 | 15.6 | 57.8 | 58.2 | 55.0 |
| Sep | 28.5 | 68.4 | 3.1 | 25.4 | 62.7 | 62.1 | 56.7 |
| Oct | 27.8 | 65.4 | 6.9 | 20.9 | 60.5 | 60.9 | 57.1 |
| Nov | 22.6 | 73.4 | 4.0 | 18.6 | 59.3 | 61.1 | 54.5 |

A further marked rise in input costs was recorded across the Northern Ireland private sector during November. Input prices have increased in each month since March 2009. The rate of inflation remained much faster than recorded at the UK level, but was still slower than the average seen across the history of the series. Where input prices rose, this was often linked by respondents to higher fuel costs. Around 23% of panellists registered a rise in input prices, against just 4% that posted a fall. Manufacturers signalled the strongest increase in input prices, followed by retailers.

| By sector | | | |
|-----------|--------------|---------------|----------|
| | Construction | Manufacturing | Services |
| '12 Sep | 55.3 | 65.4 | 60.2 |
| Oct | 57.7 | 62.2 | 59.2 |
| Nov | 56.9 | 65.5 | 58.0 |



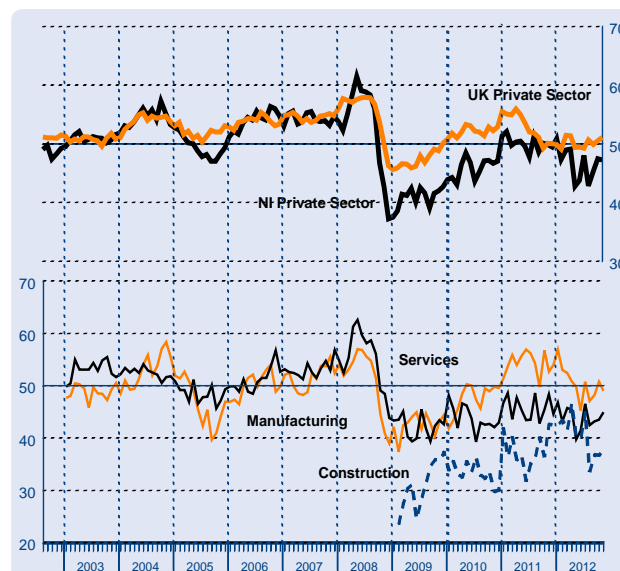
Prices Charged

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 | | | | All UK | | | |
|----------------------------|----------|--------|---------|---------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Higher % | Same % | Lower % | Net +/- | Index 50=no chg | S.Adj'd Index | S.Adj'd Index |
| 2012 Jun | 6.4 | 75.9 | 17.7 | -11.3 | 44.4 | 43.8 | 49.5 |
| Jul | 5.2 | 83.5 | 11.3 | -6.1 | 47.0 | 48.1 | 49.3 |
| Aug | 2.6 | 78.7 | 18.7 | -16.1 | 42.0 | 42.9 | 50.7 |
| Sep | 7.7 | 74.5 | 17.8 | -10.2 | 44.9 | 45.4 | 50.0 |
| Oct | 7.8 | 77.2 | 15.0 | -7.2 | 46.4 | 47.5 | 50.6 |
| Nov | 9.4 | 73.5 | 17.1 | -7.7 | 46.1 | 47.3 | 51.1 |

Northern Ireland companies continued to lower their output prices during November, with panellists indicating that this was largely in response to competitive market conditions. Prices charged in Northern Ireland have now fallen in ten consecutive months. The latest reduction was solid, and little-changed from that seen in October. In contrast to the trend seen in Northern Ireland, UK companies raised output prices slightly during the month. Retailers in Northern Ireland increased their prices charged, while the three remaining sectors all lowered output prices. That said, the fall at manufacturing firms was only slight.

| By sector | | | |
|-----------|--------------|---------------|----------|
| | Construction | Manufacturing | Services |
| '12 Sep | 36.9 | 48.3 | 43.2 |
| Oct | 36.8 | 50.8 | 43.5 |
| Nov | 37.7 | 49.0 | 44.9 |



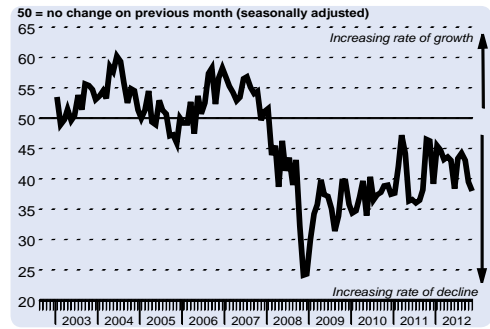
New Export Business*

Is the level of new export 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 |
|------|-----|----------|--------|---------|---------|-----------------|---------------|
| 2012 | Jun | 15.1 | 44.0 | 40.9 | -25.7 | 37.1 | 38.4 |
| | Jul | 15.0 | 54.7 | 30.4 | -15.4 | 42.3 | 43.4 |
| | Aug | 12.8 | 60.8 | 26.4 | -13.7 | 43.2 | 44.3 |
| | Sep | 12.3 | 64.1 | 23.6 | -11.3 | 44.4 | 43.1 |
| | Oct | 13.2 | 53.0 | 33.9 | -20.7 | 39.7 | 39.5 |
| | Nov | 18.1 | 38.1 | 43.9 | -25.8 | 37.1 | 38.1 |

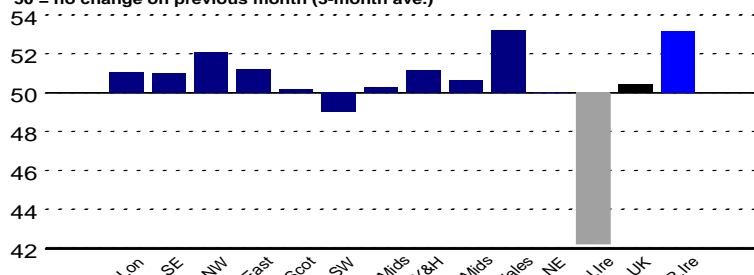
November data pointed to another substantial reduction in new export orders at Northern Ireland companies, extending the current sequence of decline to 58 months. Moreover, the pace of reduction quickened slightly over the month.



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). Nine of the twelve UK regions posted rises in activity over the three months to November. The North East signalled no change in output, while falls were seen in the South West and Northern Ireland, with the rate of decline steeper in the latter. Meanwhile, the Republic of Ireland posted solid growth of business activity.

50 = no change on previous month (3-month ave.)

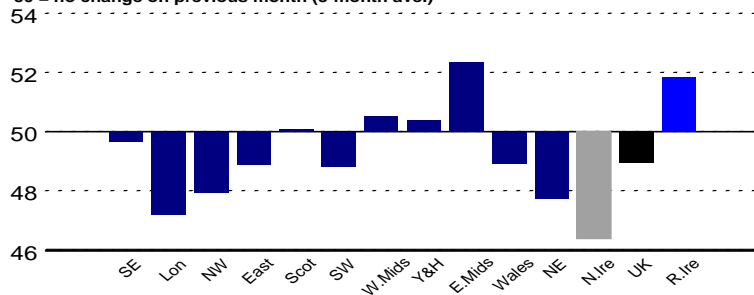


| | Share of UK GVA, 2010 (National Statistics) | Last 12 months | PMI Output Index Latest 3 months | Latest month |
|-----------------|---|----------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| London | (21.5%) | 53.7 | 51.0 | 51.9 |
| South East | (14.7%) | 52.3 | 51.0 | 51.7 |
| North West | (9.5%) | 51.9 | 52.1 | 52.5 |
| East of England | (8.7%) | 52.0 | 51.2 | 49.2 |
| Scotland | (8.3%) | 51.4 | 50.2 | 50.3 |
| South West | (7.7%) | 50.5 | 49.0 | 49.7 |
| West Midlands | (7.3%) | 54.1 | 50.3 | 49.1 |
| Yorks & Humber | (7.0%) | 52.9 | 51.2 | 51.2 |
| East Midlands | (6.4%) | 52.9 | 50.6 | 49.9 |
| Wales | (3.6%) | 51.0 | 53.2 | 53.4 |
| North East | (3.2%) | 49.2 | 50.0 | 51.6 |
| N.Ireland | (2.2%) | 43.7 | 42.2 | 41.6 |
| UK | (100.0%) | 52.2 | 50.4 | 50.2 |
| Rep. of Ireland | n/a | 50.7 | 53.2 | 53.8 |

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). The East Midlands recorded the fastest rise in employment over the three-month period, while job creation was also recorded in the West Midlands, Yorkshire & Humber and Scotland. Northern Ireland posted the fastest fall in employment, followed by London. Staffing levels rose across the Republic of Ireland.

50 = no change on previous month (3-month ave.)



| | Contribution to UK Employment, 2008 (National Statistics) | Last 12 months | PMI Employment Index Latest 3 months | Latest month |
|-----------------|---|----------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| South East | (14.6%) | 51.0 | 49.7 | 50.8 |
| London | (12.3%) | 49.0 | 47.2 | 48.3 |
| North West | (10.9%) | 49.1 | 47.9 | 47.7 |
| East of England | (9.6%) | 50.9 | 48.9 | 49.9 |
| Scotland | (8.7%) | 51.0 | 50.1 | 50.0 |
| South West | (8.6%) | 50.1 | 48.8 | 50.5 |
| West Midlands | (8.6%) | 52.5 | 50.5 | 49.6 |
| Yorks & Humber | (8.2%) | 51.4 | 50.4 | 51.5 |
| East Midlands | (7.3%) | 53.5 | 52.4 | 51.1 |
| Wales | (4.6%) | 49.1 | 48.9 | 49.5 |
| North East | (3.9%) | 49.5 | 47.7 | 49.8 |
| N.Ireland | (2.7%) | 46.9 | 46.4 | 47.9 |
| UK | (100.0%) | 50.6 | 49.0 | 49.4 |
| Rep. of Ireland | n/a | 49.9 | 51.9 | 52.5 |

PMI® Survey Methodology

Purchasing Managers' Indexes® (or PMIs®) 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 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) 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 an 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.

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

Ulster Bank and Markit Economics

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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)

November 2012 Survey Update

Issued 10th December 2012

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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.

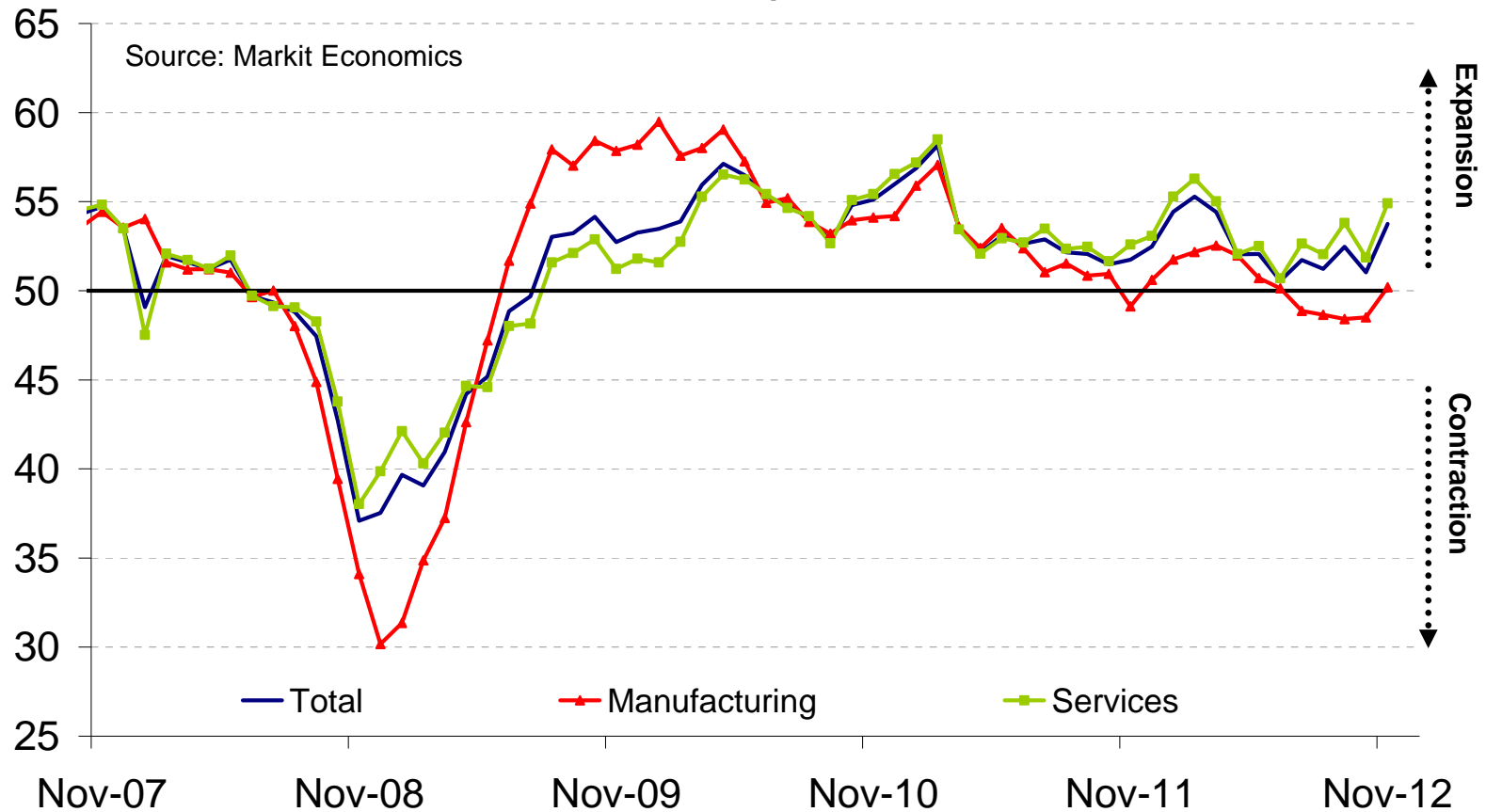
Index numbers are calculated from the percentages of respondents reporting an improvement, no change or decline on the previous month. These indices vary from 0 to 100 with readings of 50.0 signalling no change on the previous month. Readings above 50.0 signal an increase or improvement; readings below 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.*

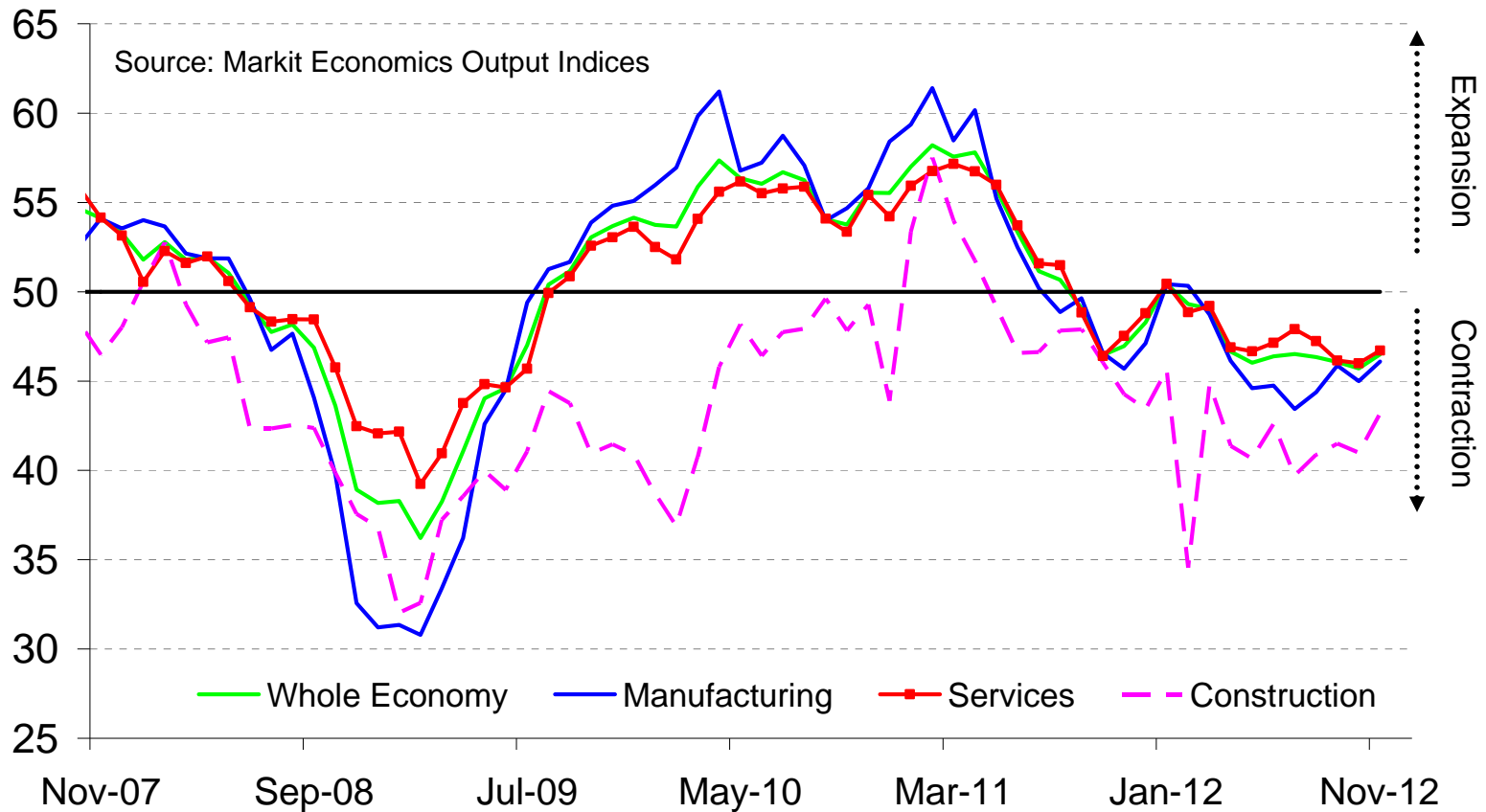
Global manufacturing output records positive growth for the first time in 5 months

Global Output - PMI



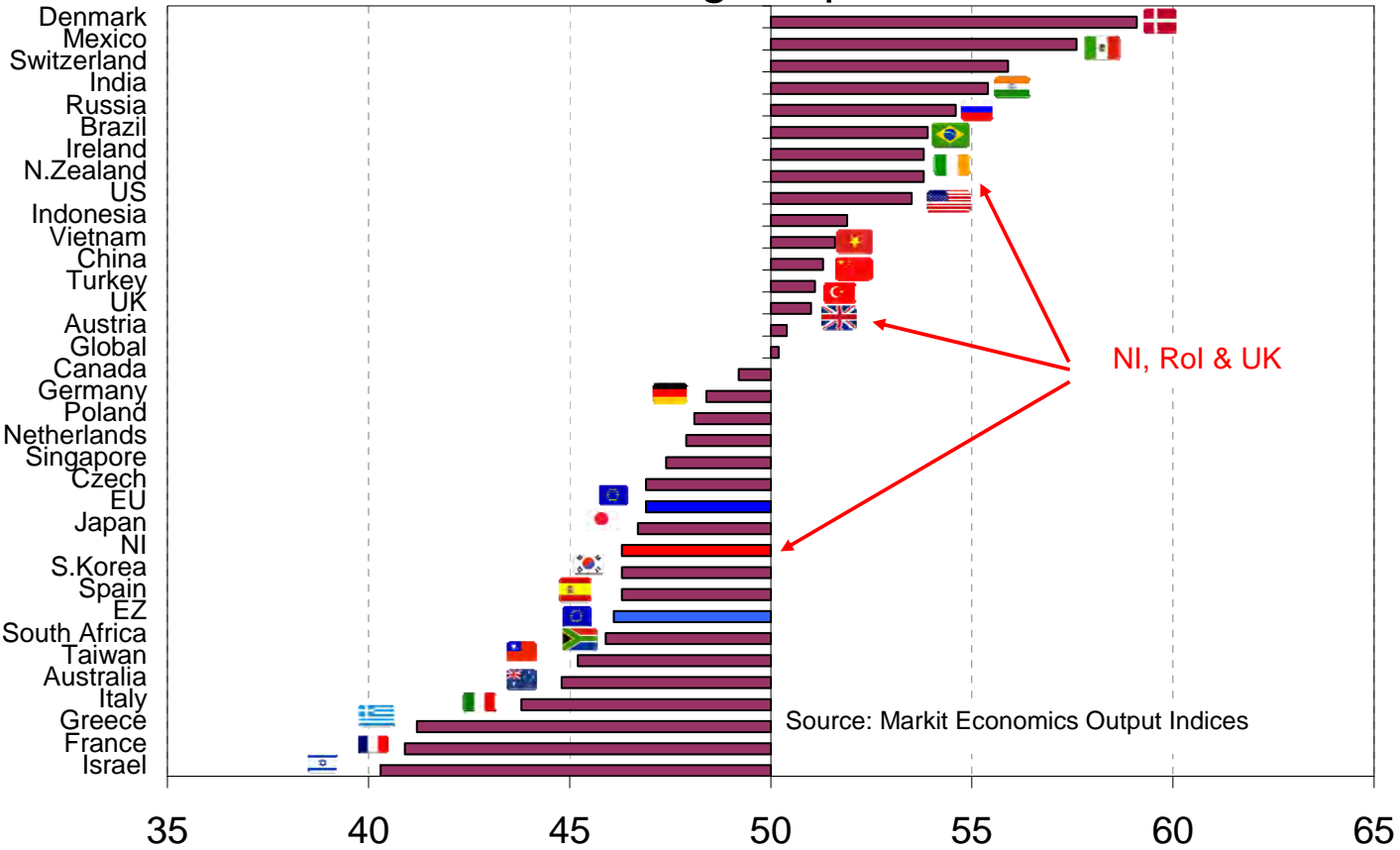
All sectors within the eurozone are still contracting

Eurozone PMIs: Output

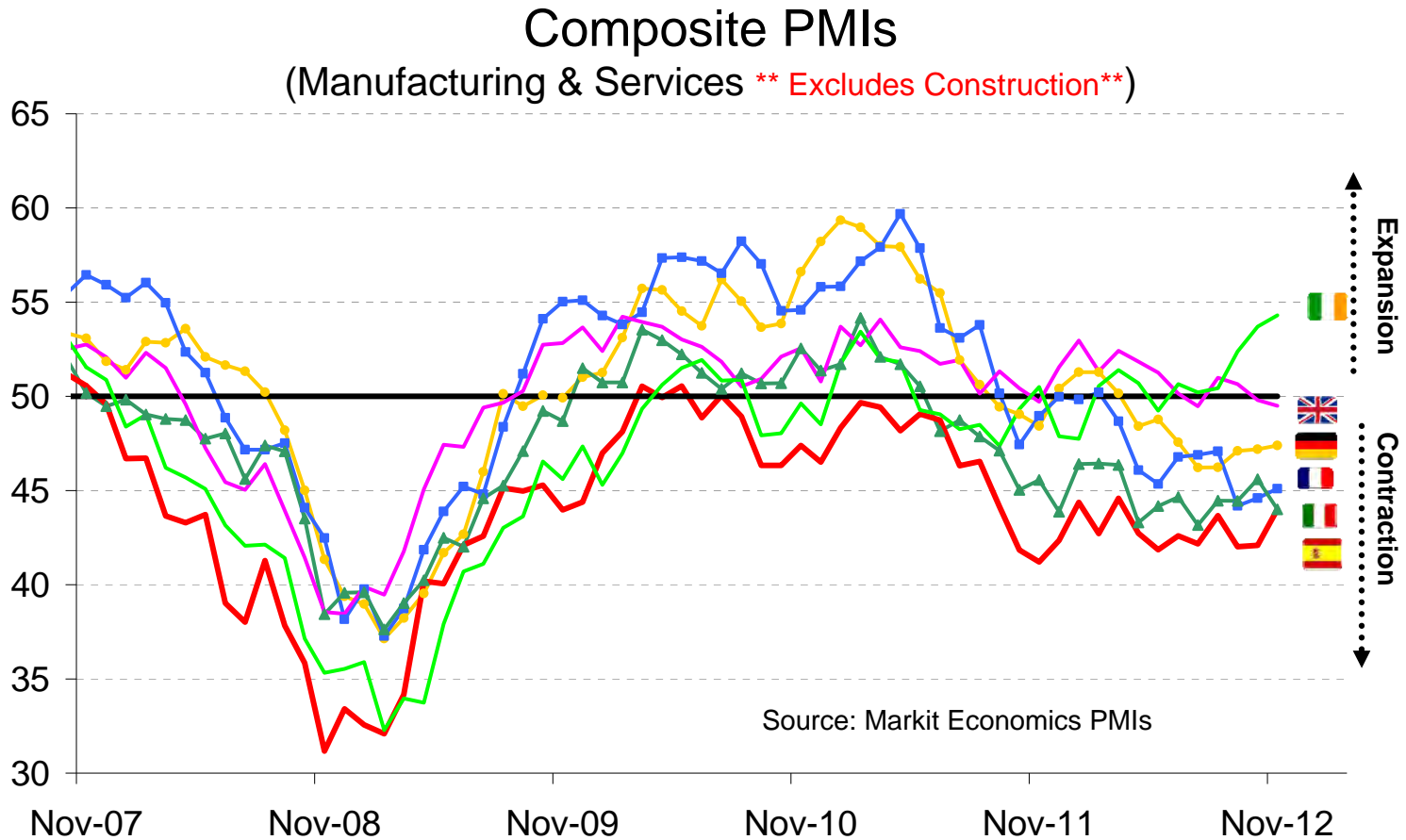


Israel, France & Greece post steepest falls in manufacturing output. Denmark & Mexico post strongest gains

PMIs: Manufacturing Output November 2012

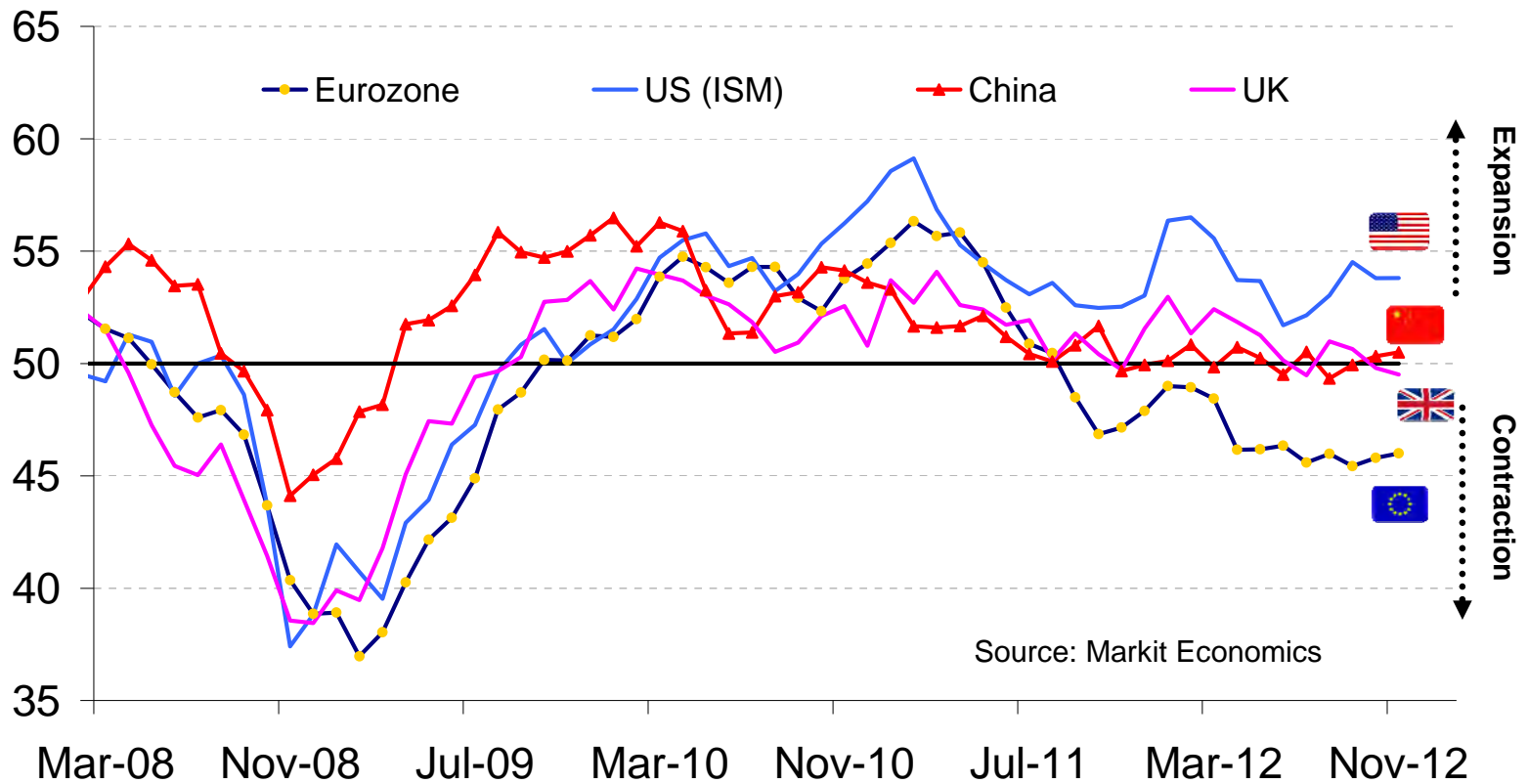


Republic of Ireland & the UK still outperforming their European competitors in November

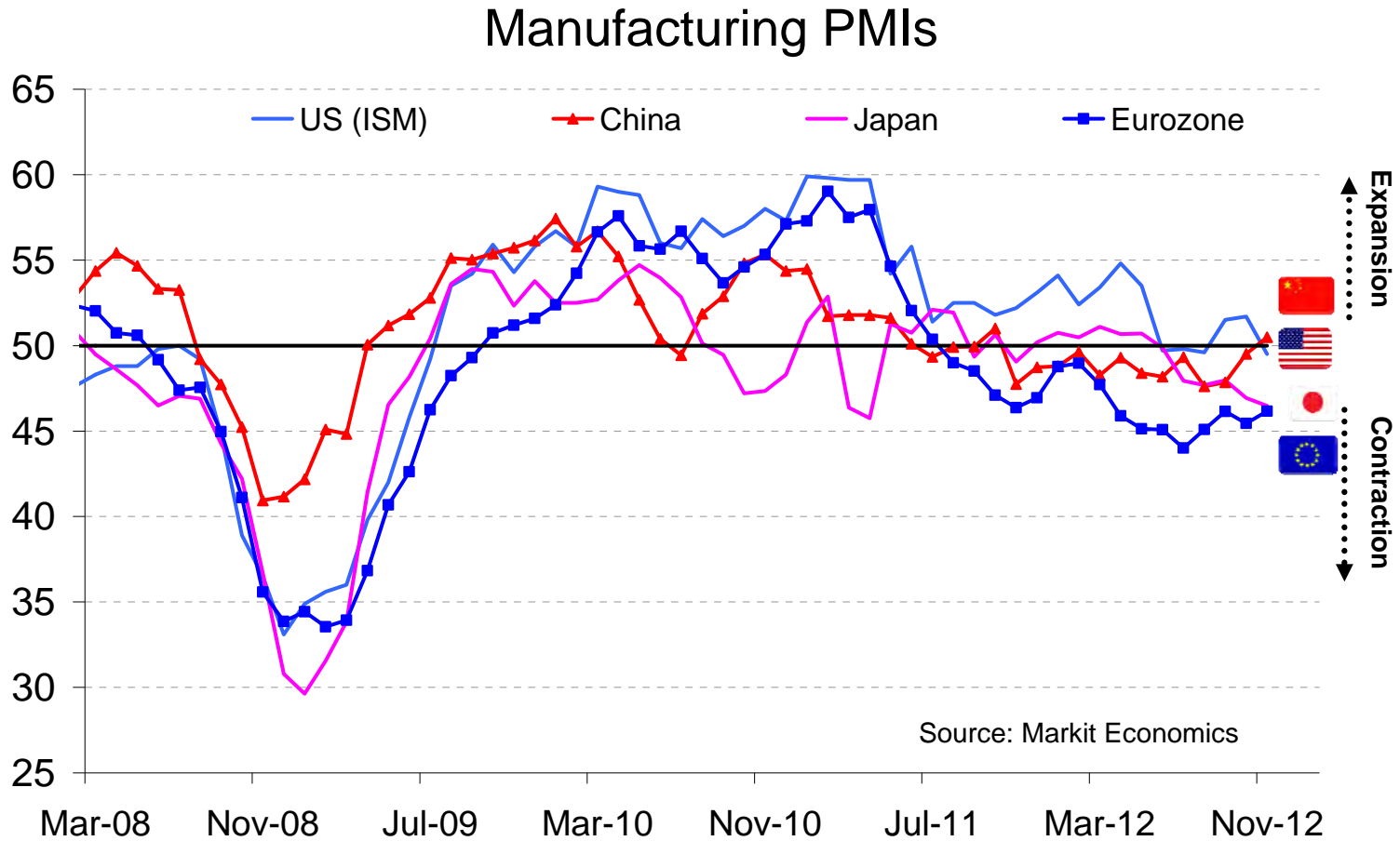


US remains the best performer relative to China, UK & EZ

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



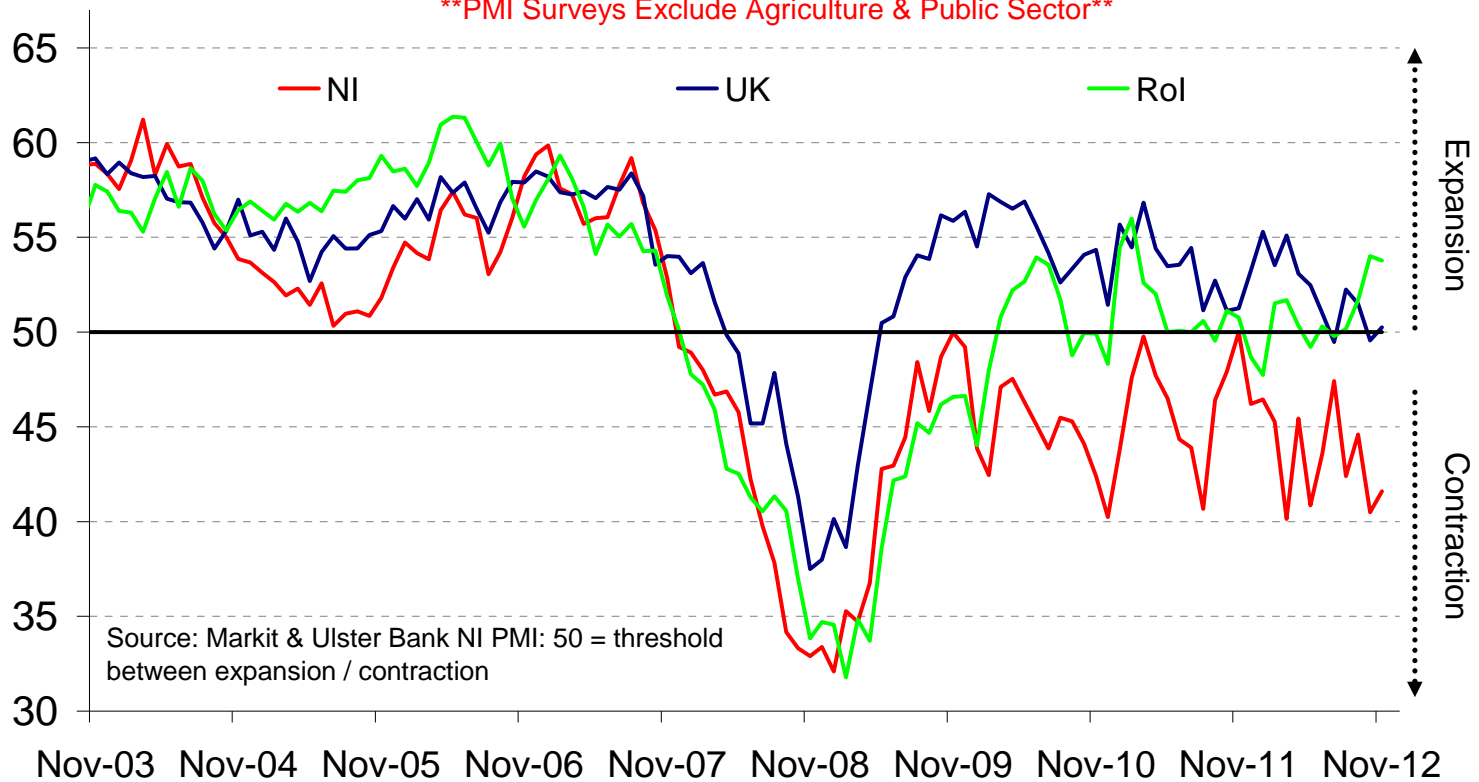
... but US manufacturing is back below 50 mark



UK just above expansion threshold whilst the rate of contraction remains steep for Northern Ireland

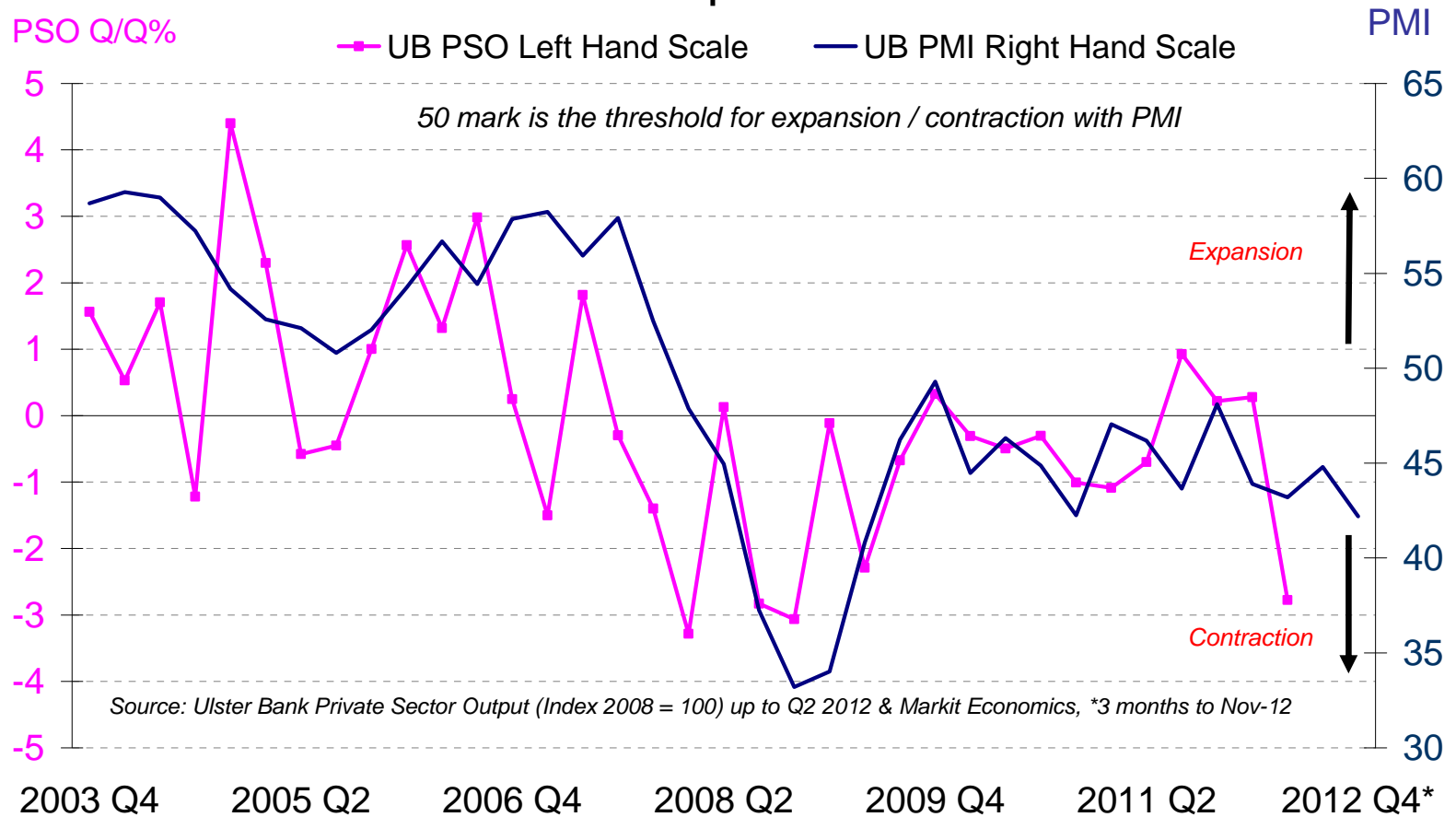
Private Sector Business Activity - PMIs

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



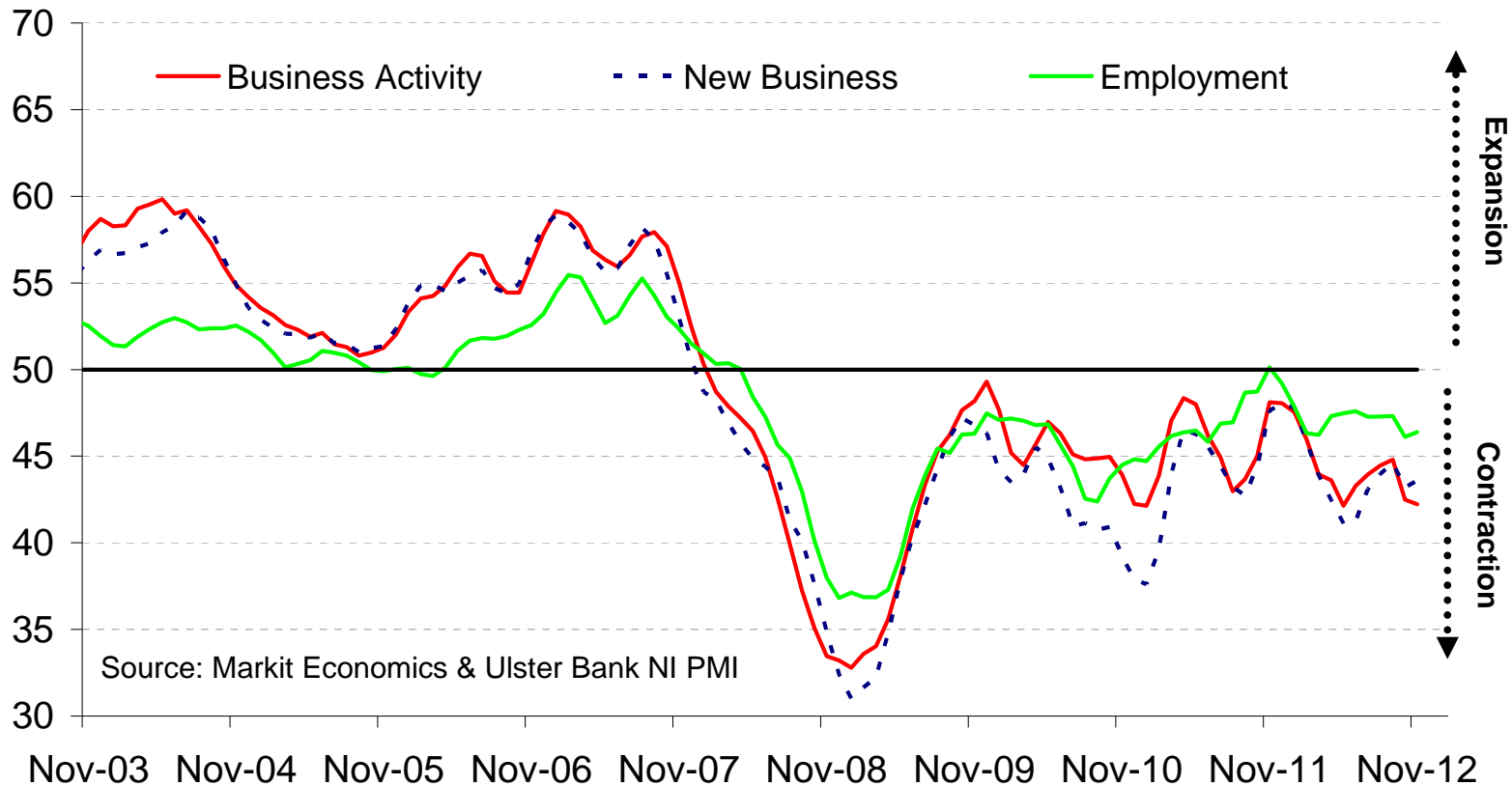
PMI suggests further falls in private sector composite index (combines DFP indices for construction, services and industrial production) in Q3 & Q4 2012

NI Private Sector Output Index Versus NI PMI

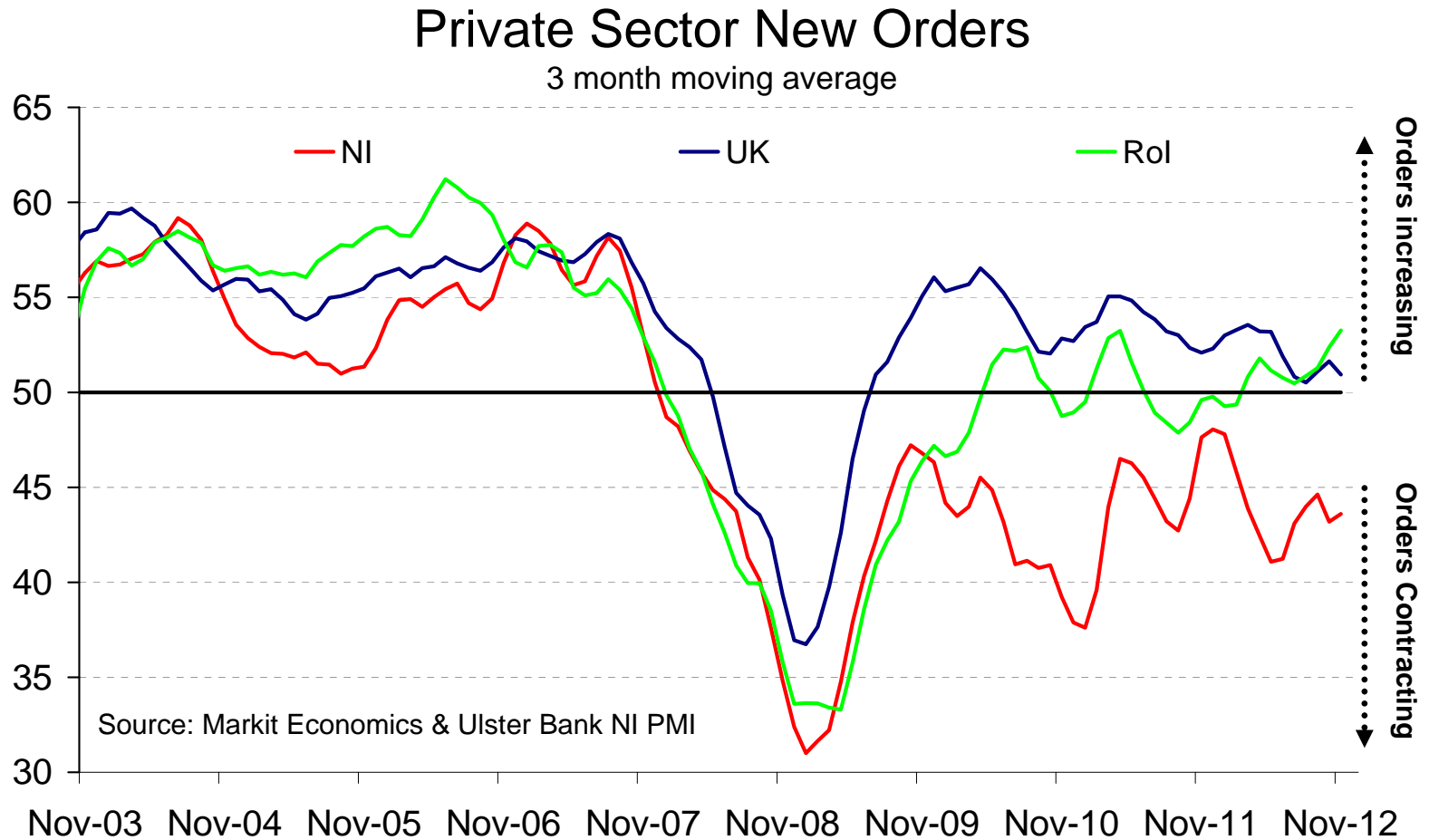


NI output, new orders and employment all contracting over the last 3 months

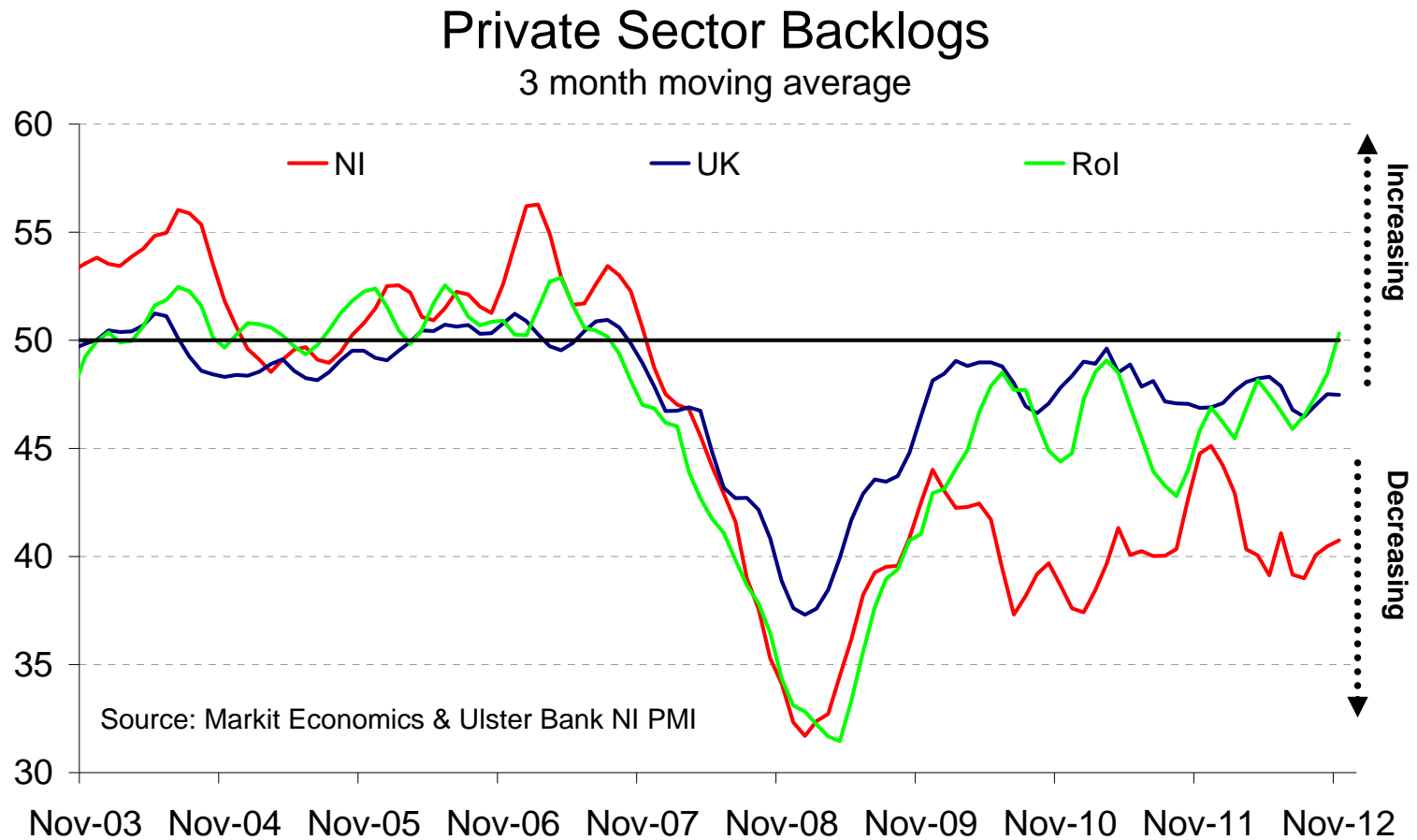
NI Private Sector Activity 3 month moving average



Pace of contraction in NI new orders remains steep

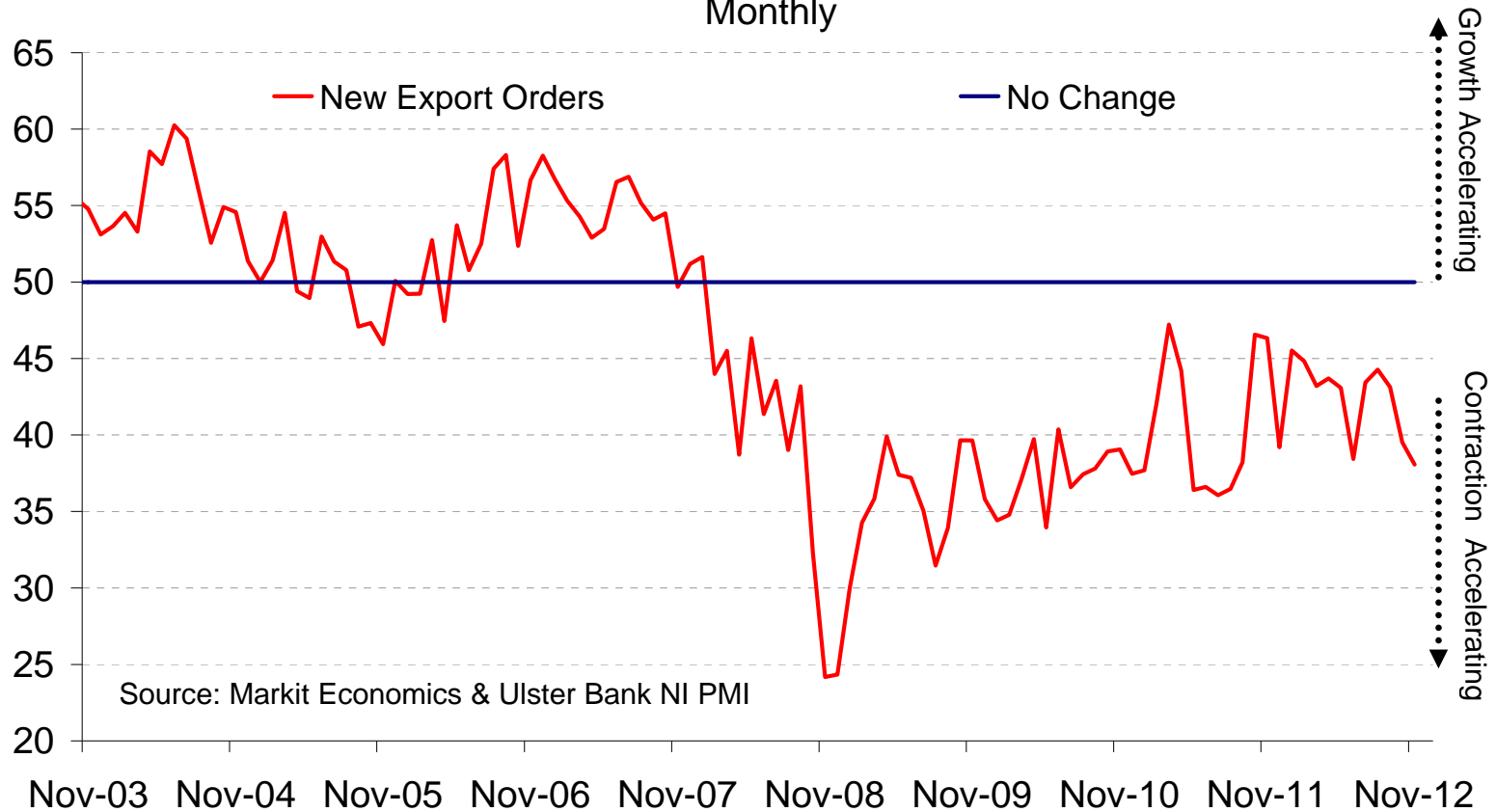


NI's levels of work outstanding still falling at a rapid rate

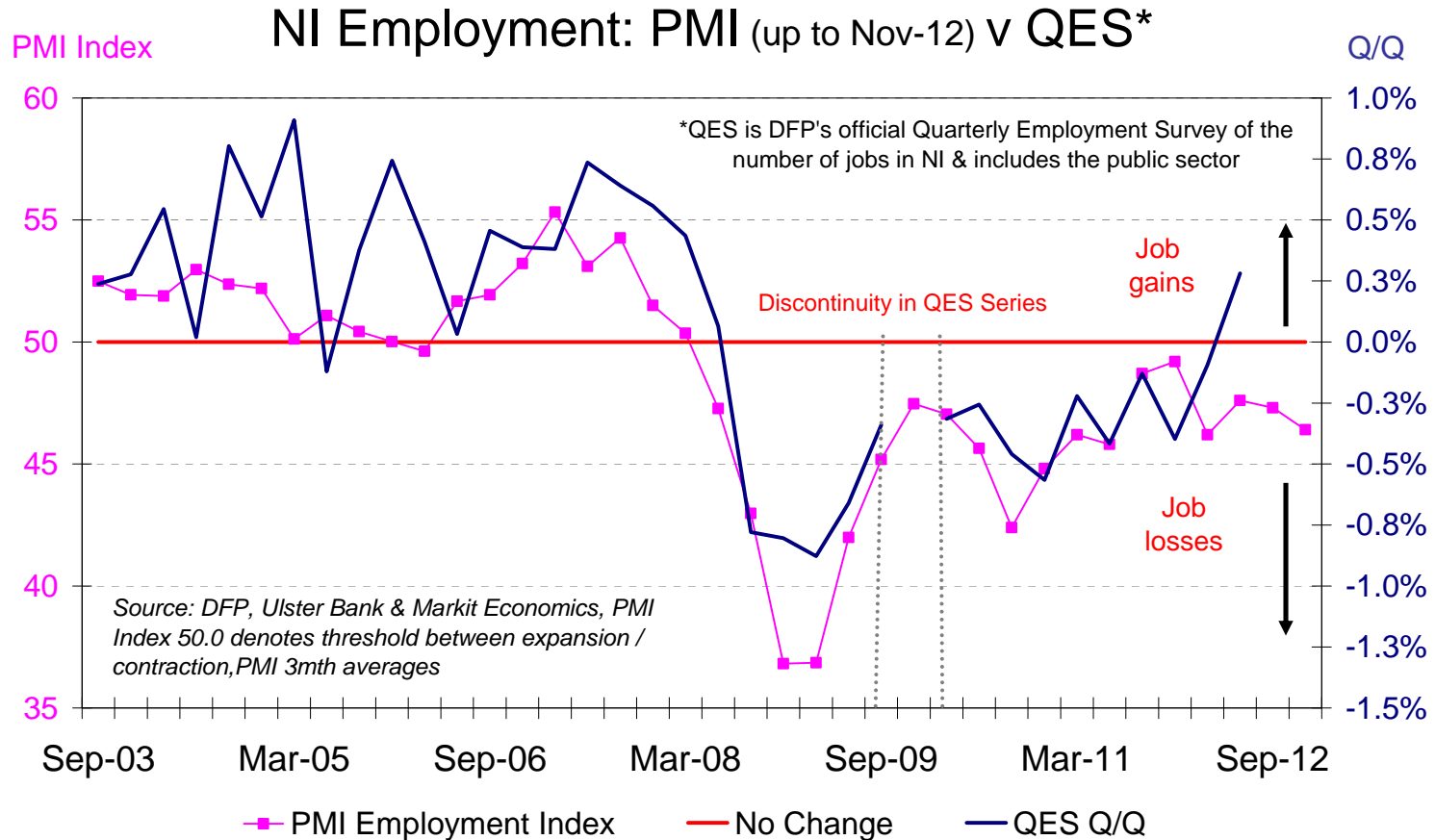


Export orders have been falling since February 2008

NI New Export Business
Monthly



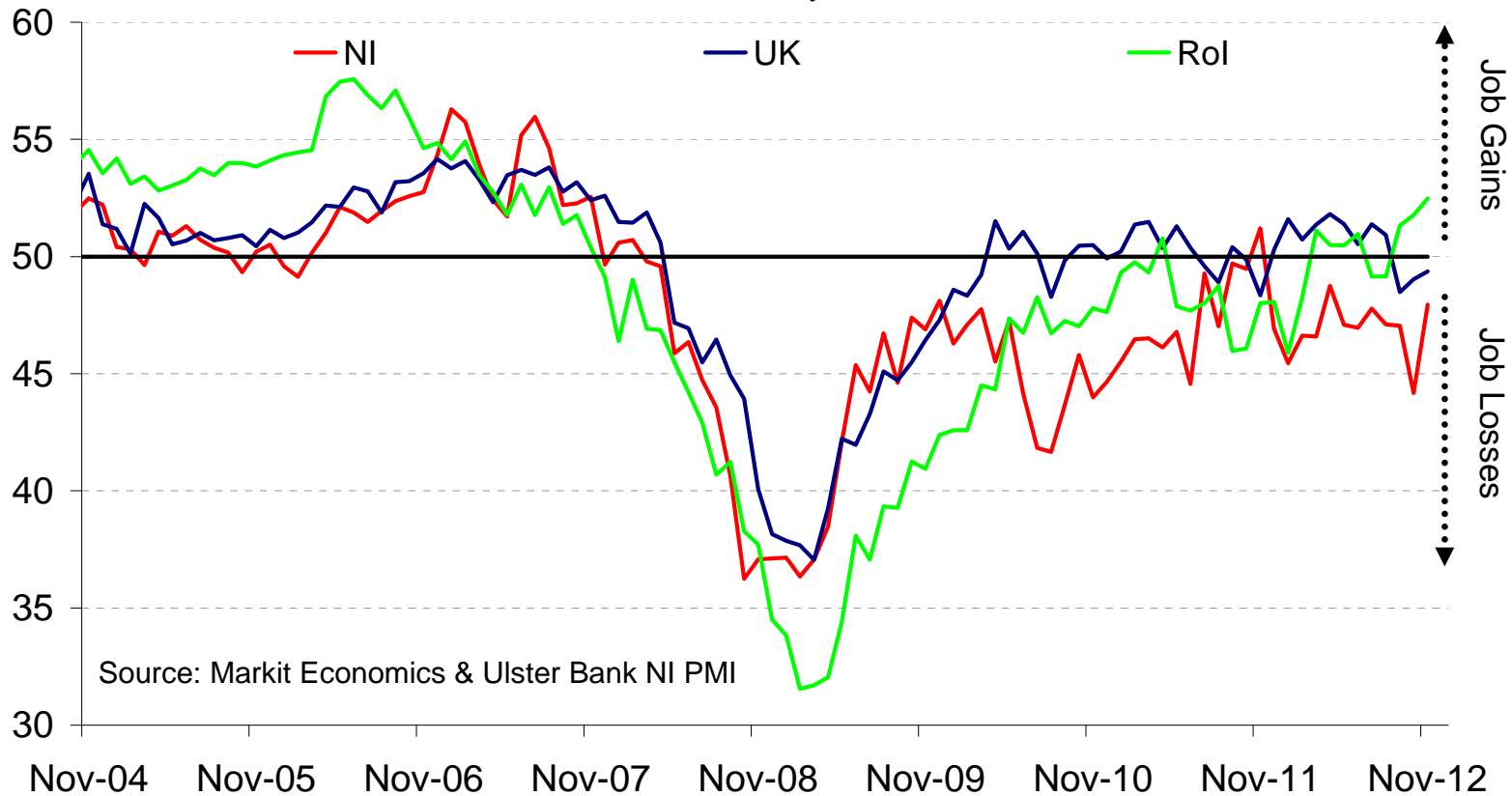
PMI underestimated job gains in Q2 (relative to official Quarterly Employment Survey – QES) further job losses signalled in Q3 & Q4 2012



Northern Ireland's rate of decline in employment levels eases sharply in November

Private Sector Employment Levels

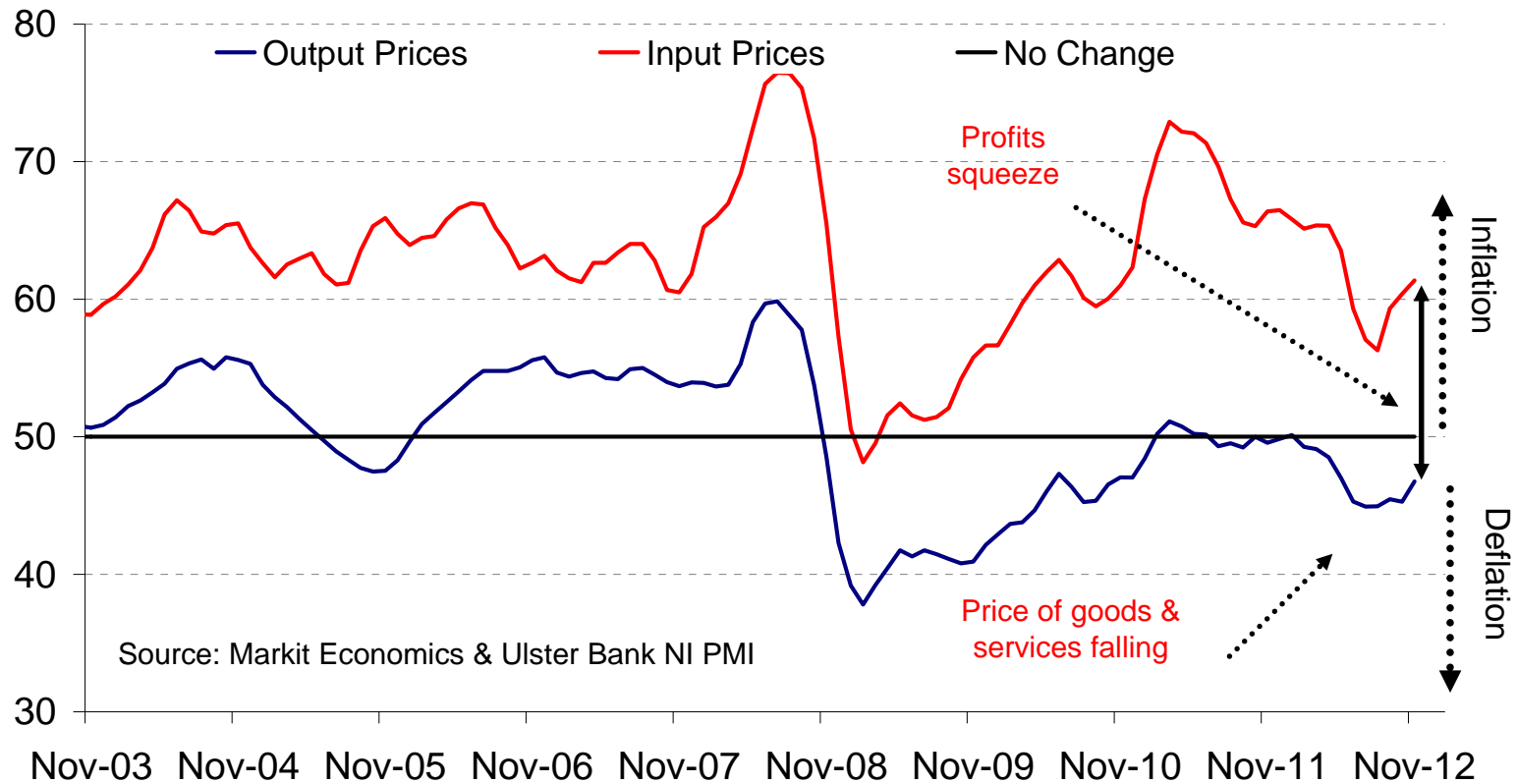
Monthly



Input cost inflation accelerates with output prices and charges still falling

NI Private Sector Profit Squeeze

3 Month Moving Average

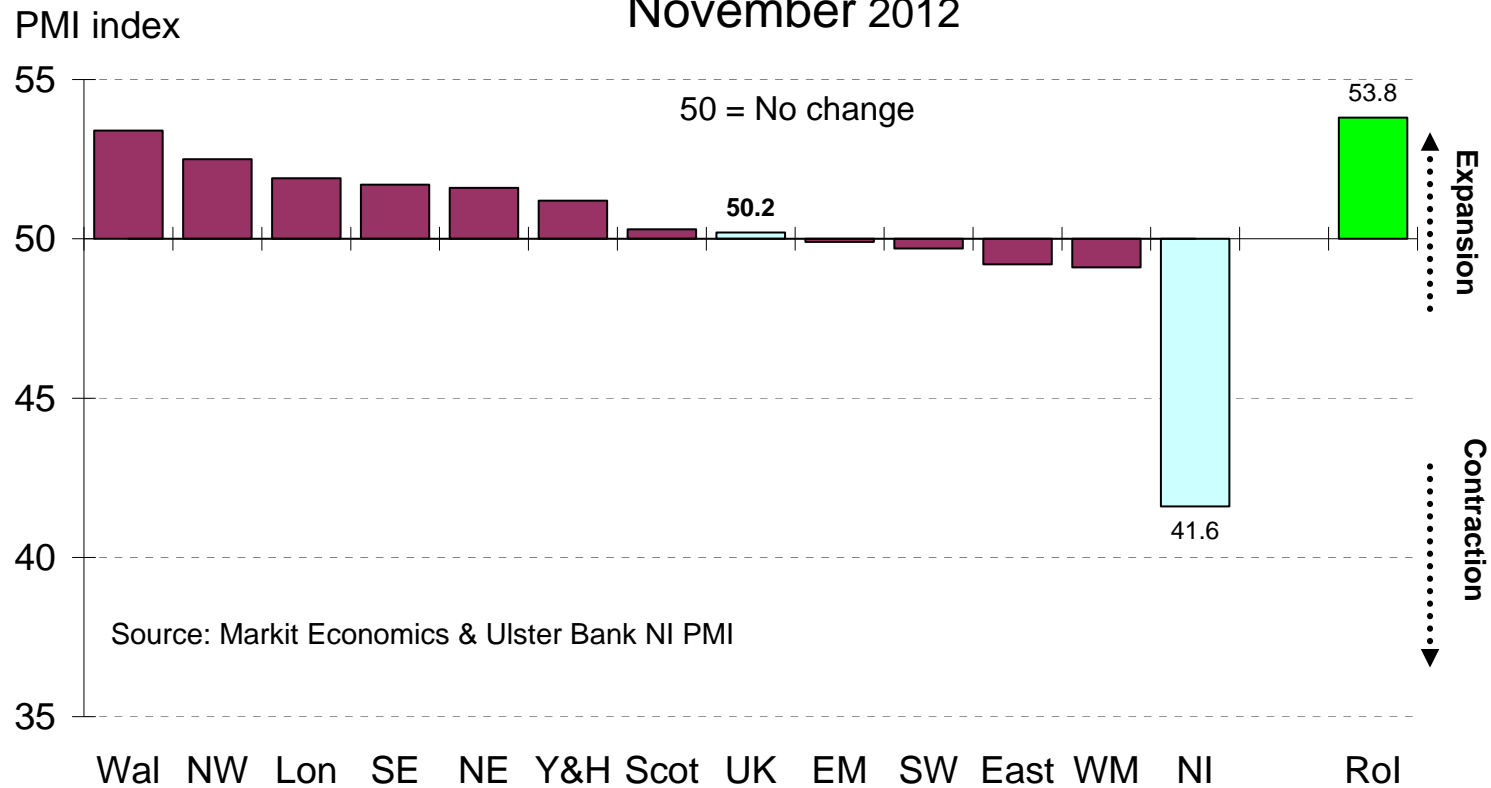


*Regional
Comparisons*

5 UK regions post a contraction in November with Northern Ireland posting the steepest decline...

Output / Business Activity

November 2012



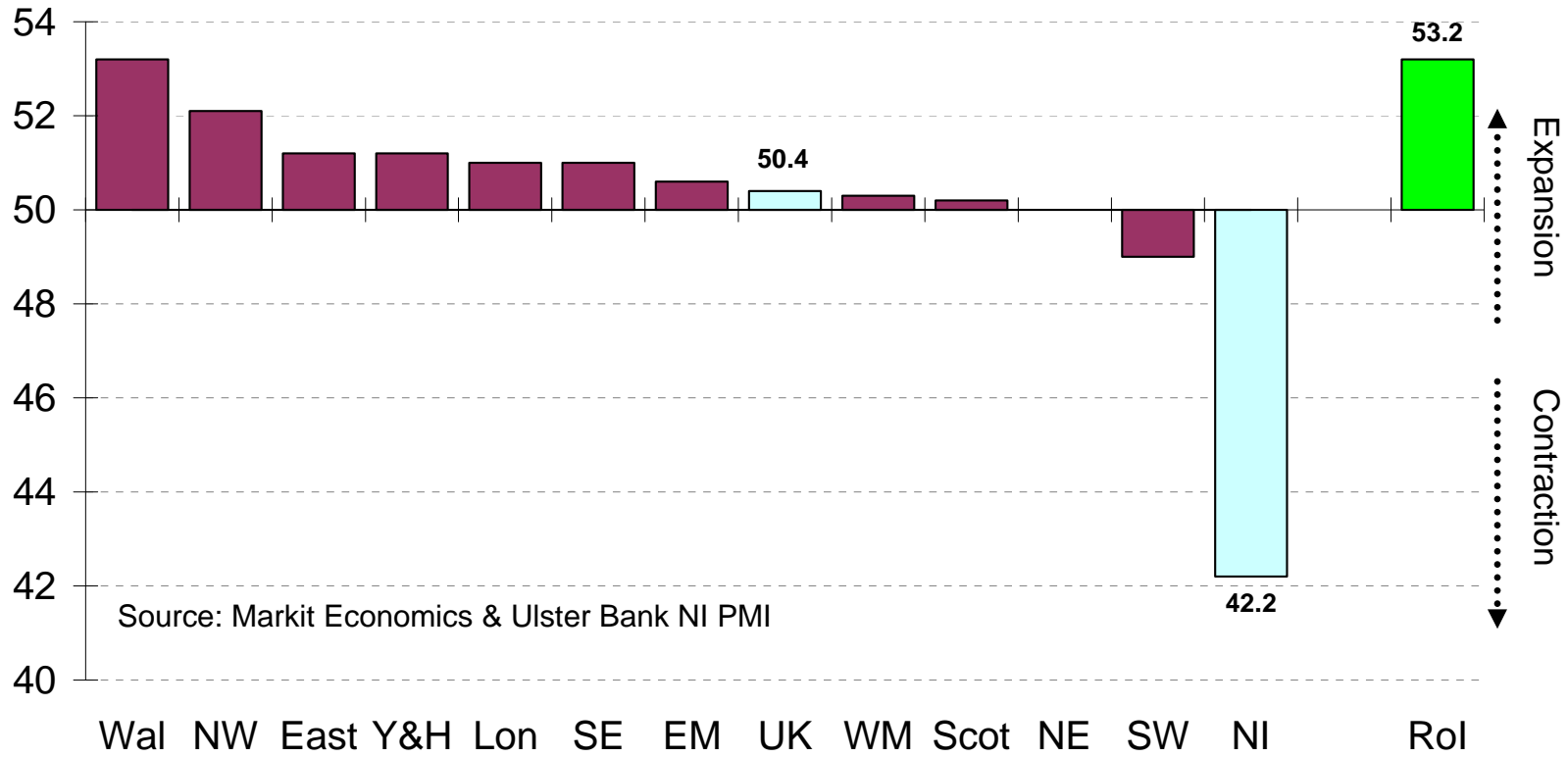
NI posts sharpest rate of decline over the last 3 months...

Output / Business Activity

3 months to November 2012

50 = No change

PMI Index



Source: Markit Economics & Ulster Bank NI PMI

.....and over the last 12 months

Output / Business Activity

Last 12 months to November 2012

50 = No change

PMI index

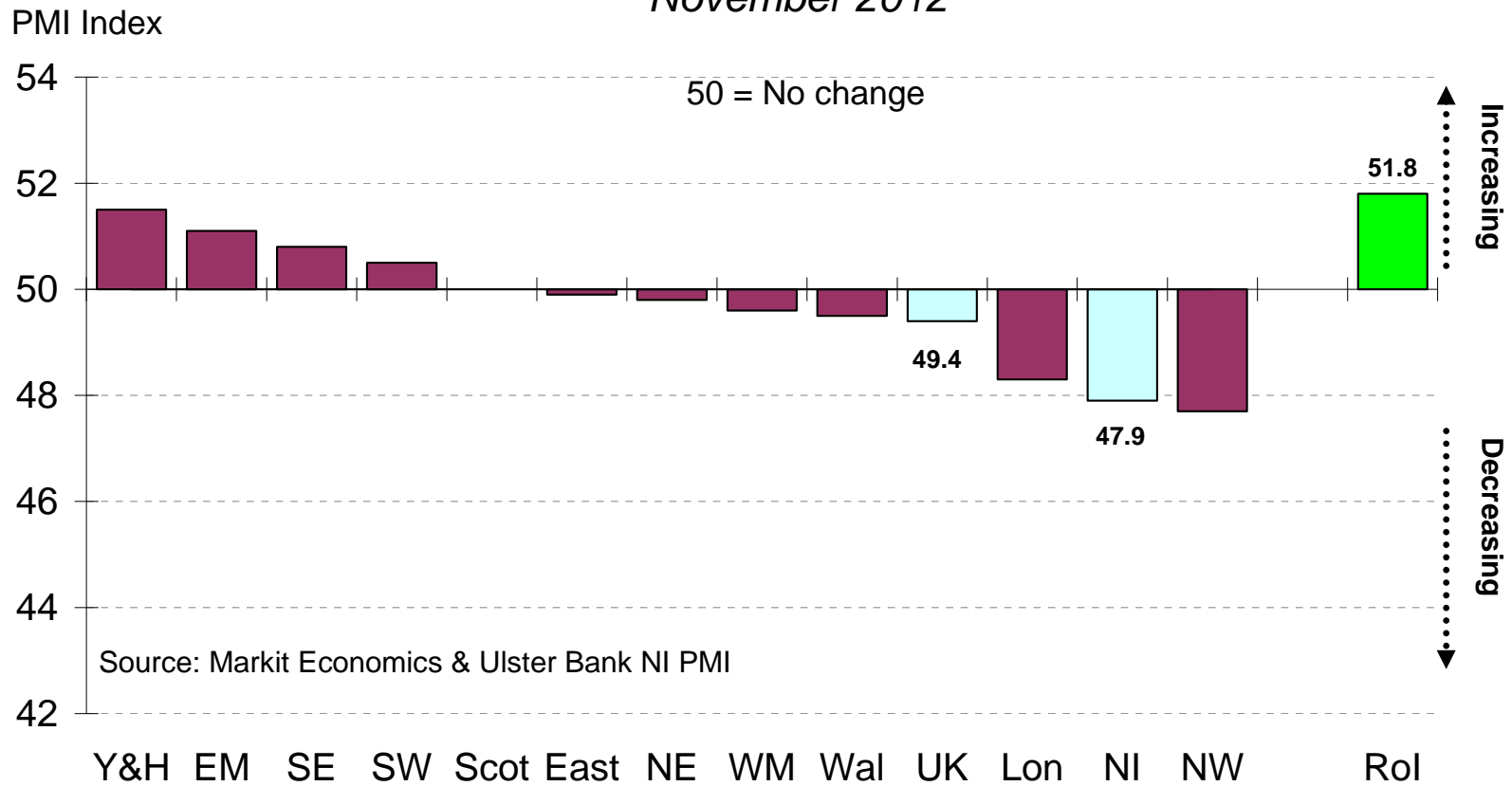


Source: Markit Economics & Ulster Bank NI PMI

After the North West, Northern Ireland posts the steepest decline in employment over the last month ...

Employment Levels

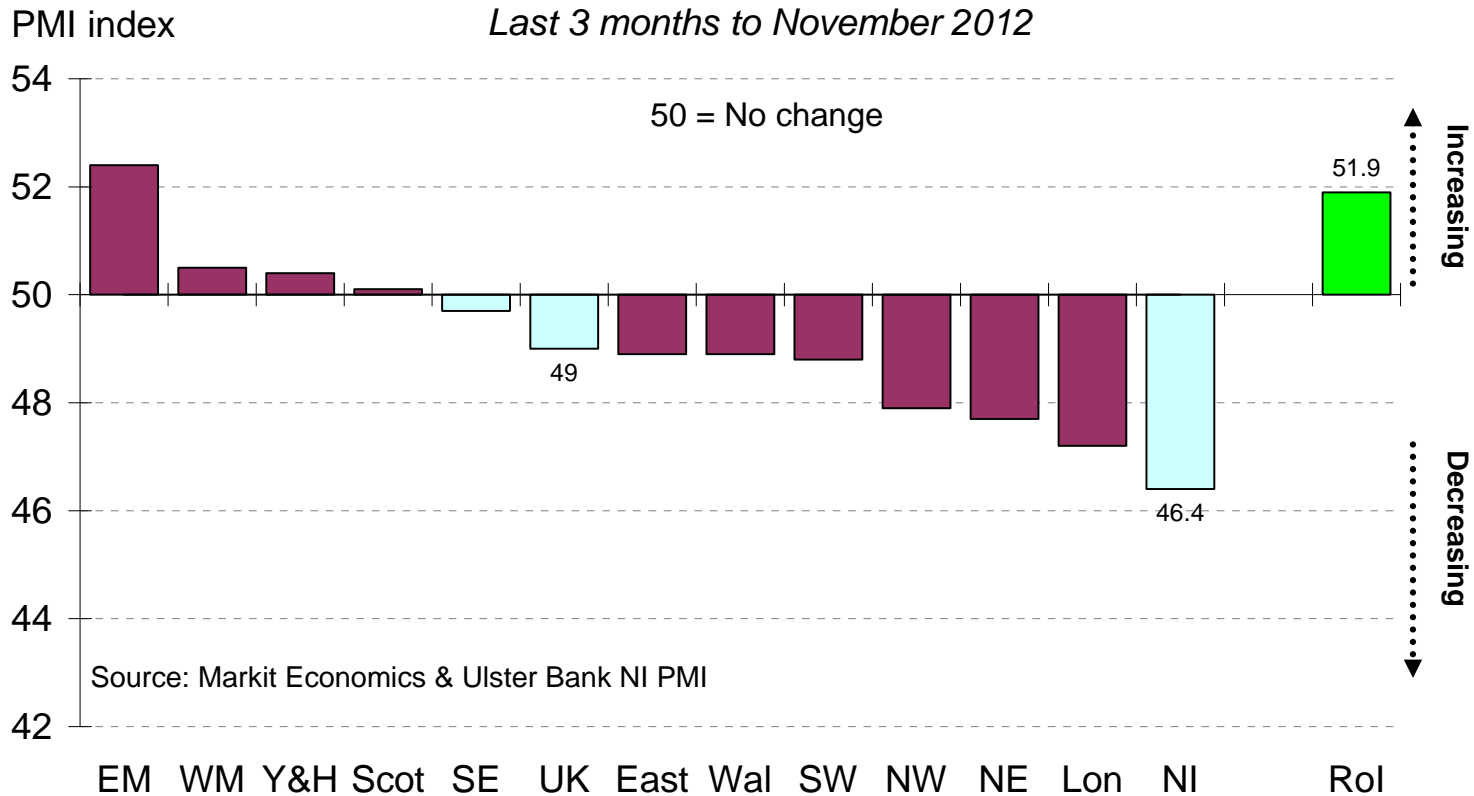
November 2012



...and steepest decline over the last 3 months...

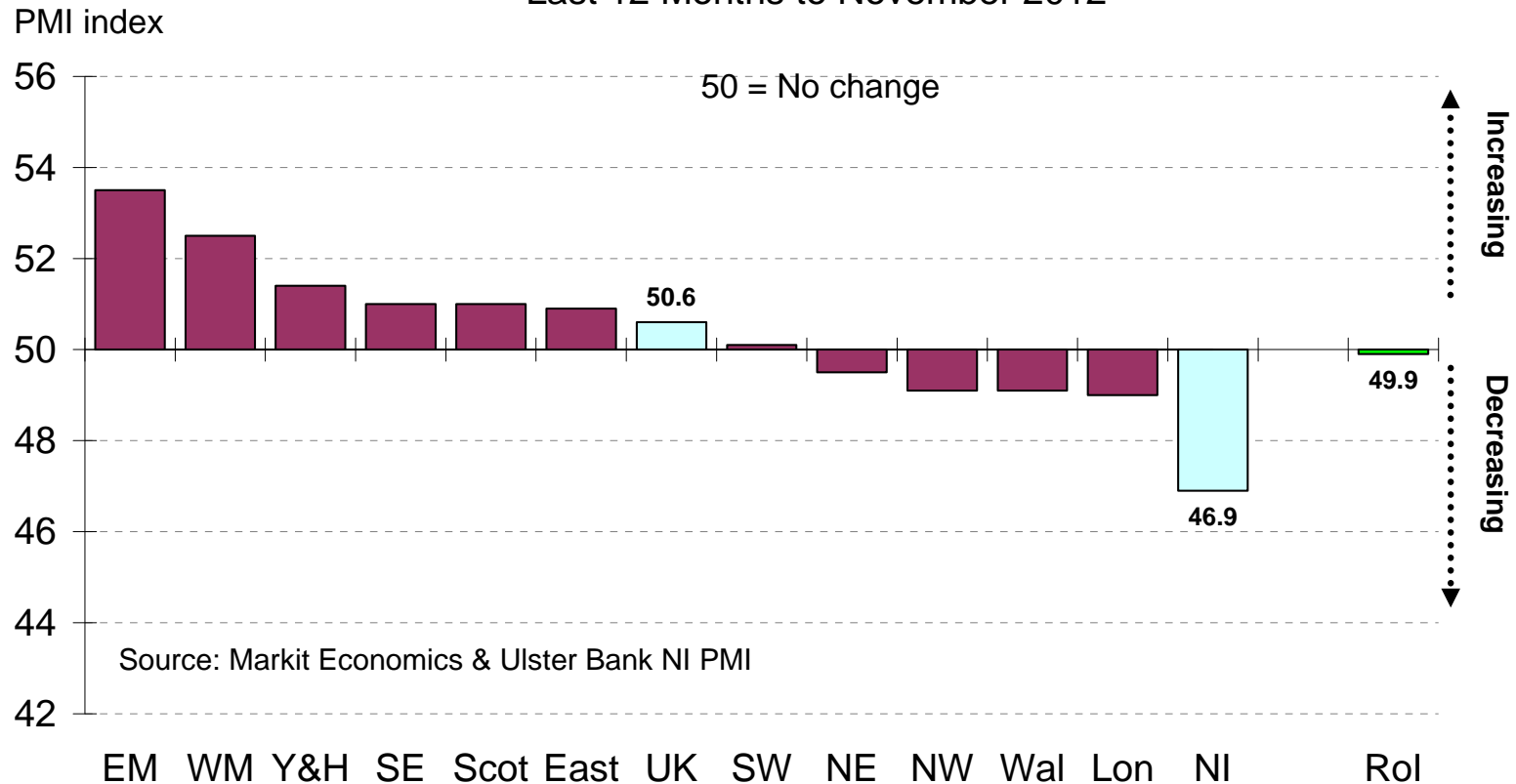
Employment Levels

Last 3 months to November 2012



...and over the last 12 months

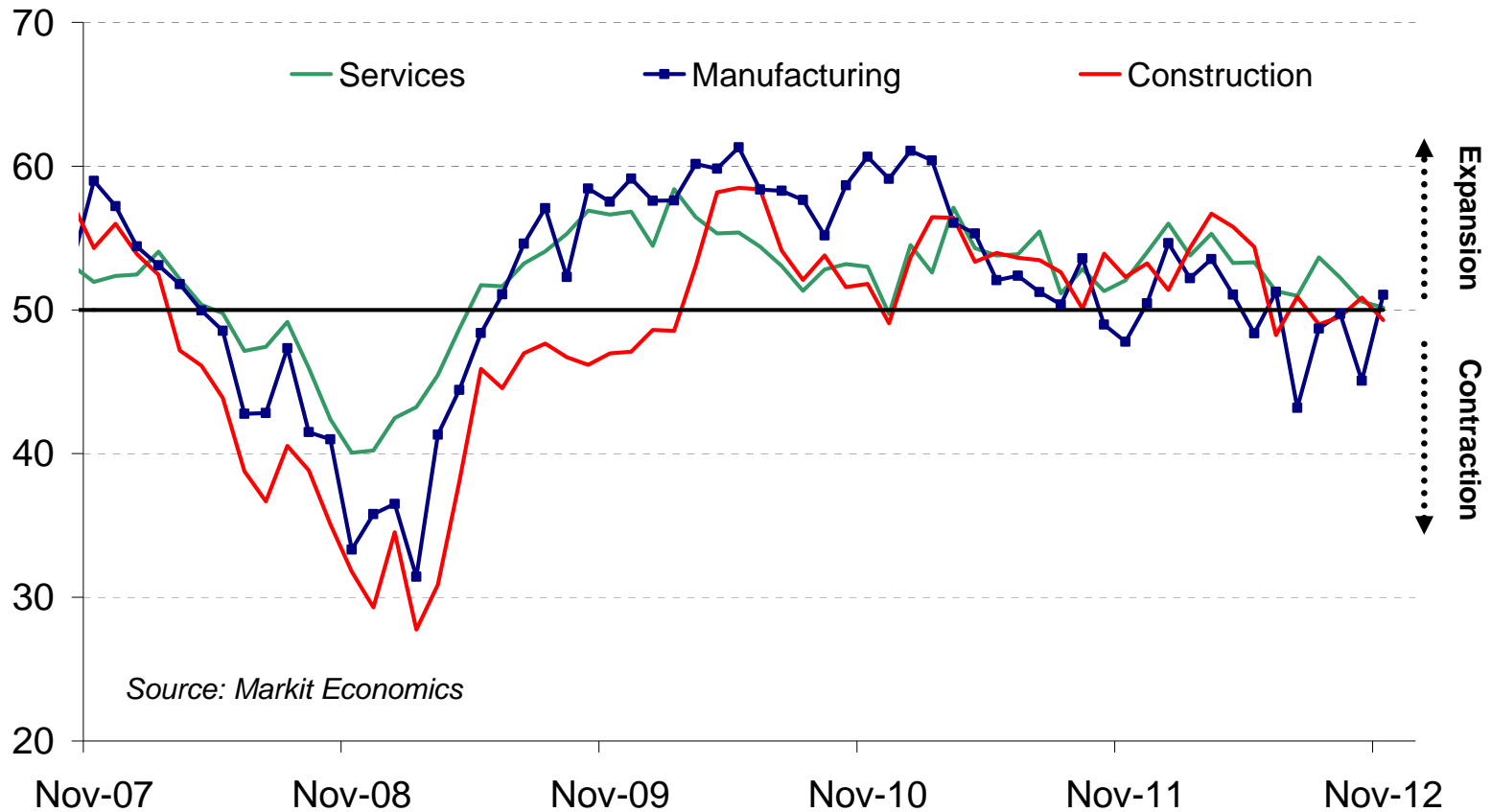
Employment Levels Last 12 Months to November 2012



Sectoral Comparisons

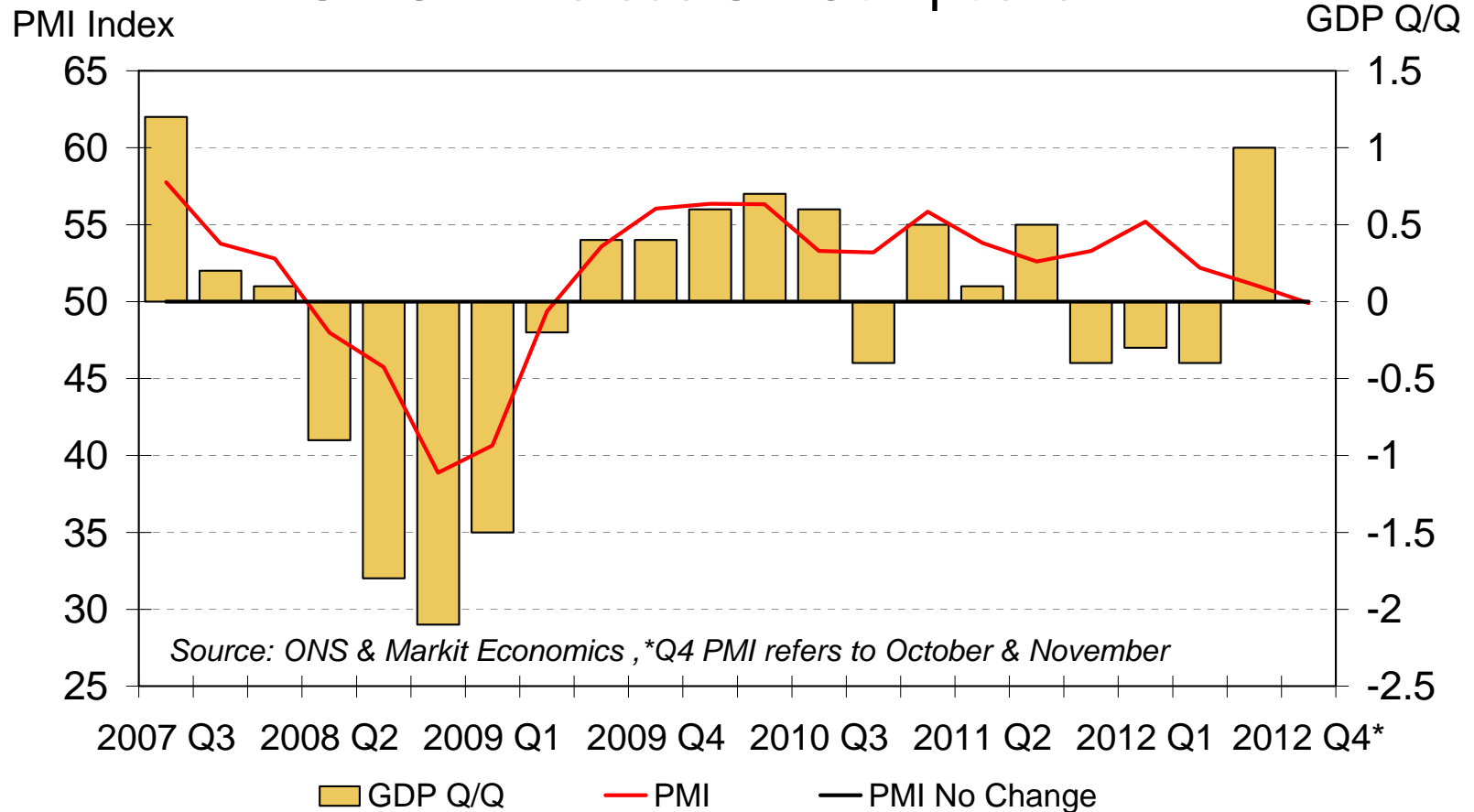
Manufacturing & Services output above the 50 expansion threshold in November

UK Business Activity / Output - PMIs



UK composite PMI was more positive than official GDP data (impacted by special factors) in 3 of the last 4 quarters

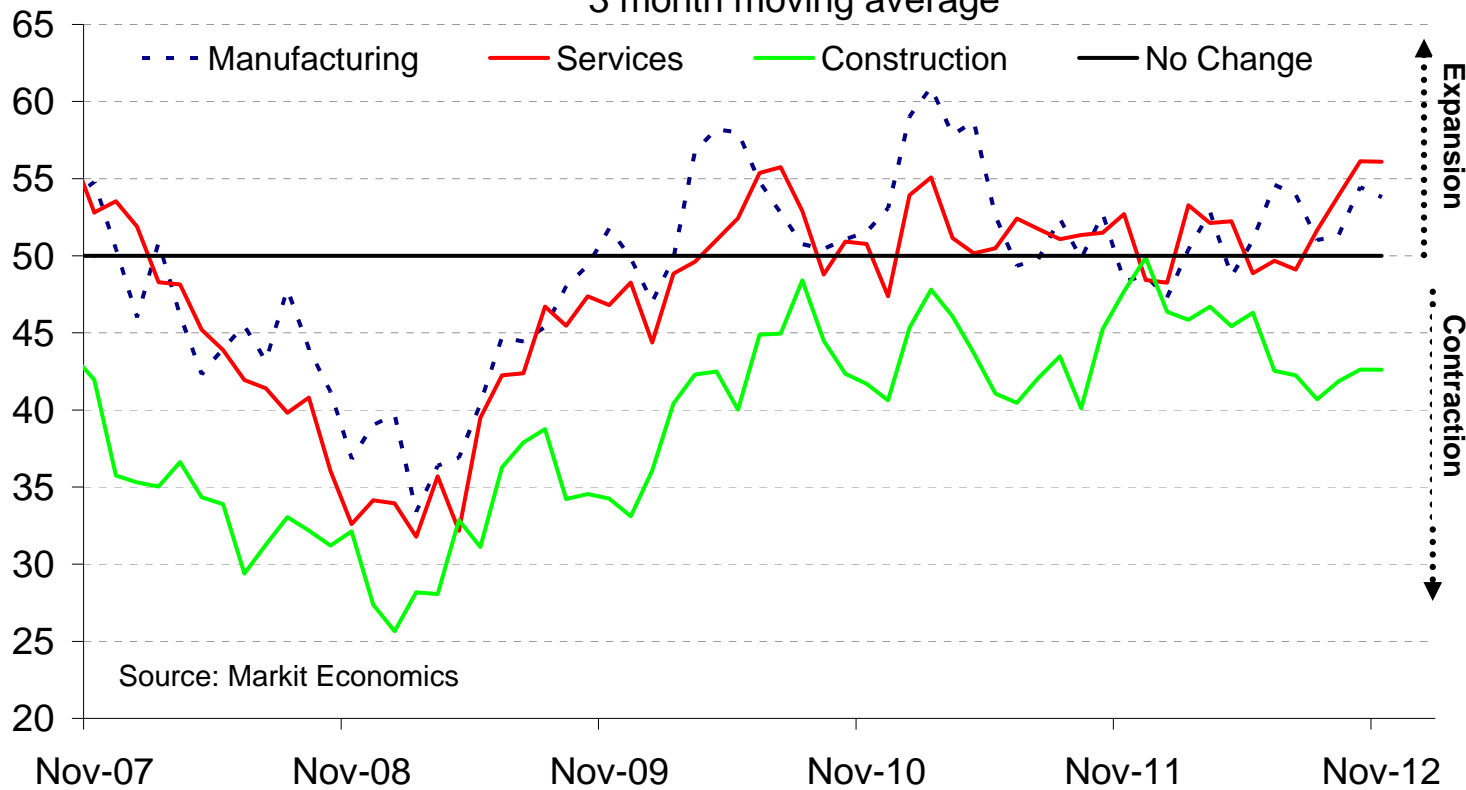
UK GDP versus UK Composite PMI



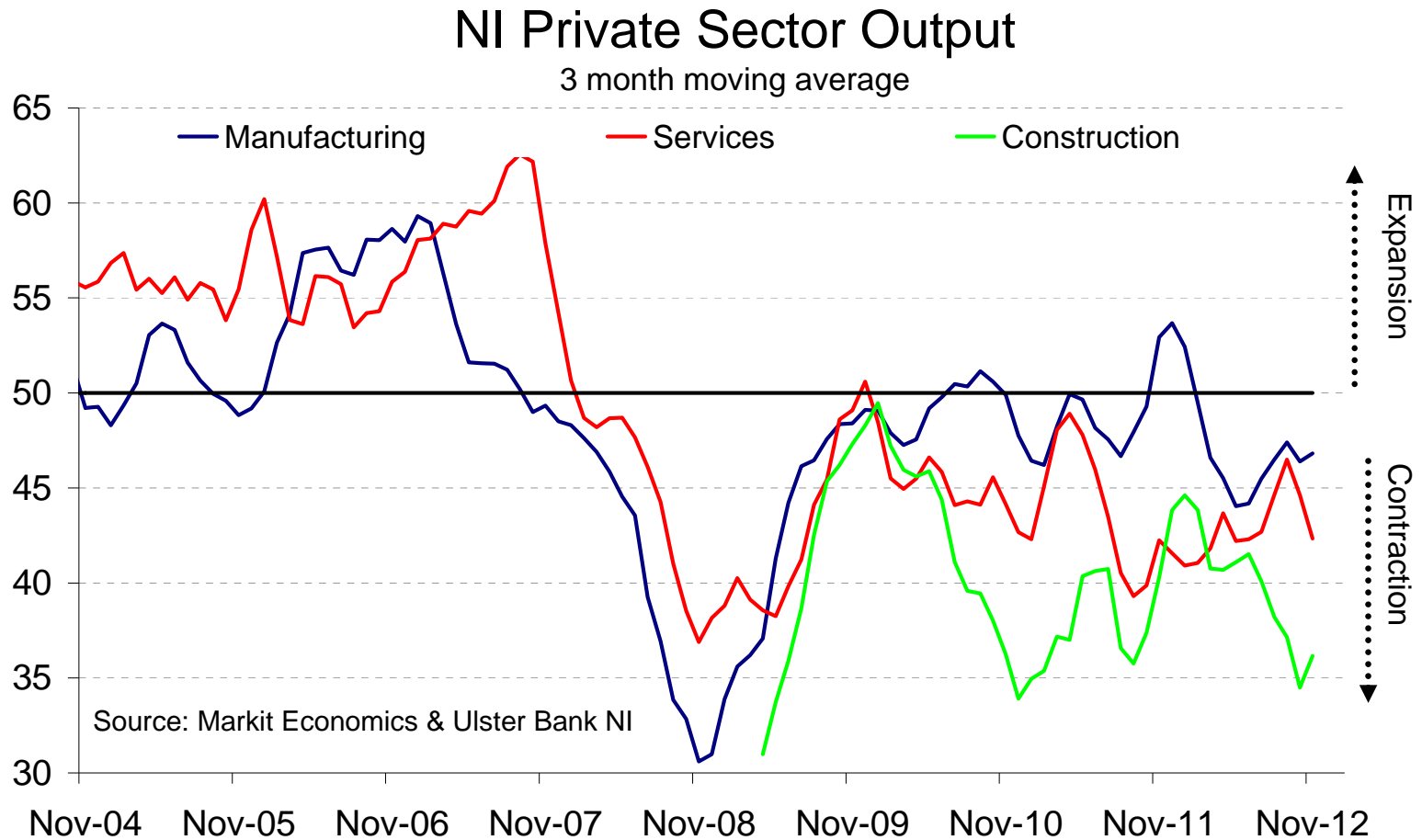
Services & manufacturing are above 50 in the Rol

Rol Business Activity - PMIs

3 month moving average

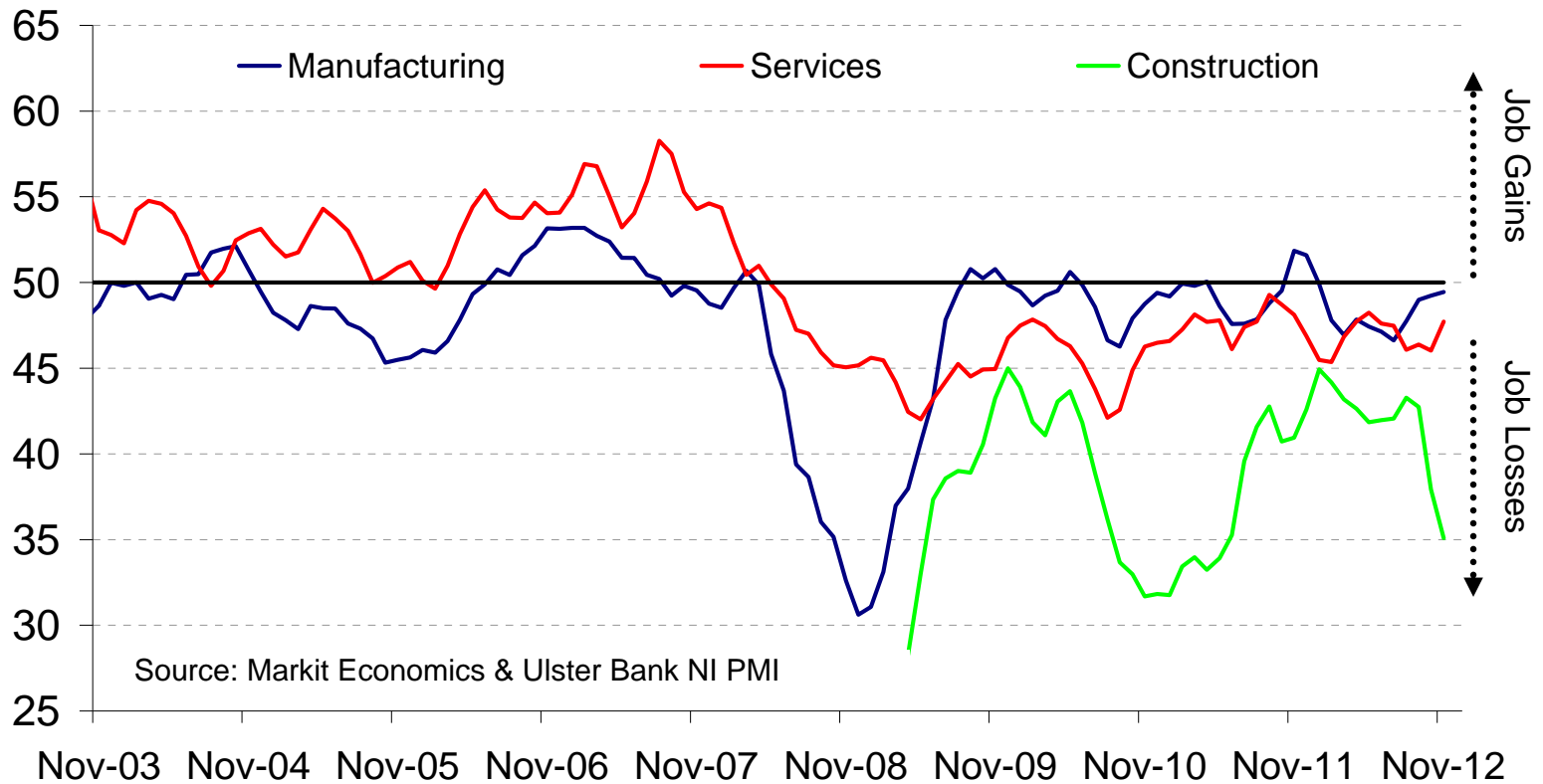


All sectors in NI contracting....



... all NI sectors post employment declines over last 3 months although manufacturing posts growth in November

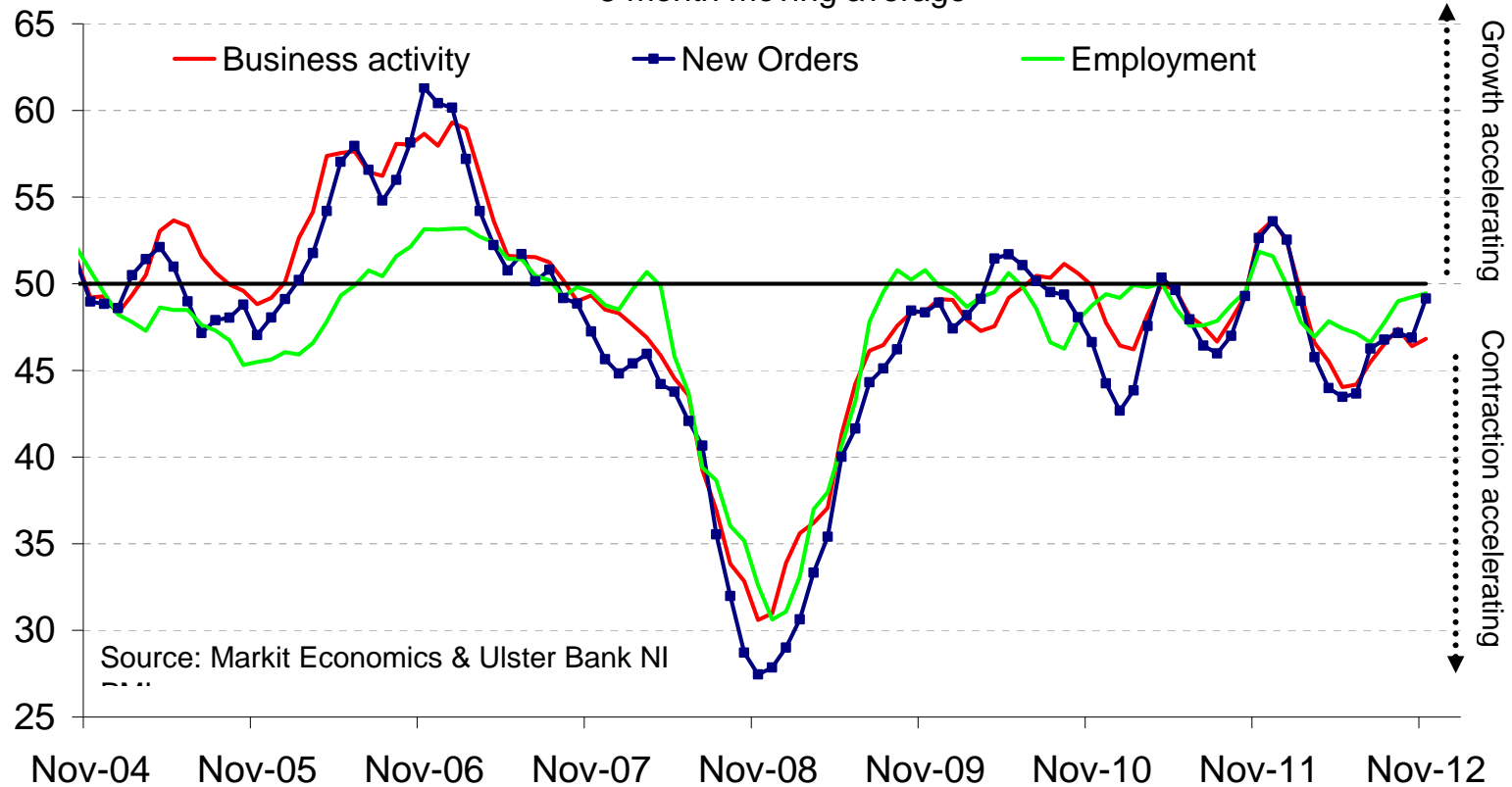
NI PMI - Employment Index
3 month moving average



Pace of decline in manufacturing eases with growth in employment and new orders in November

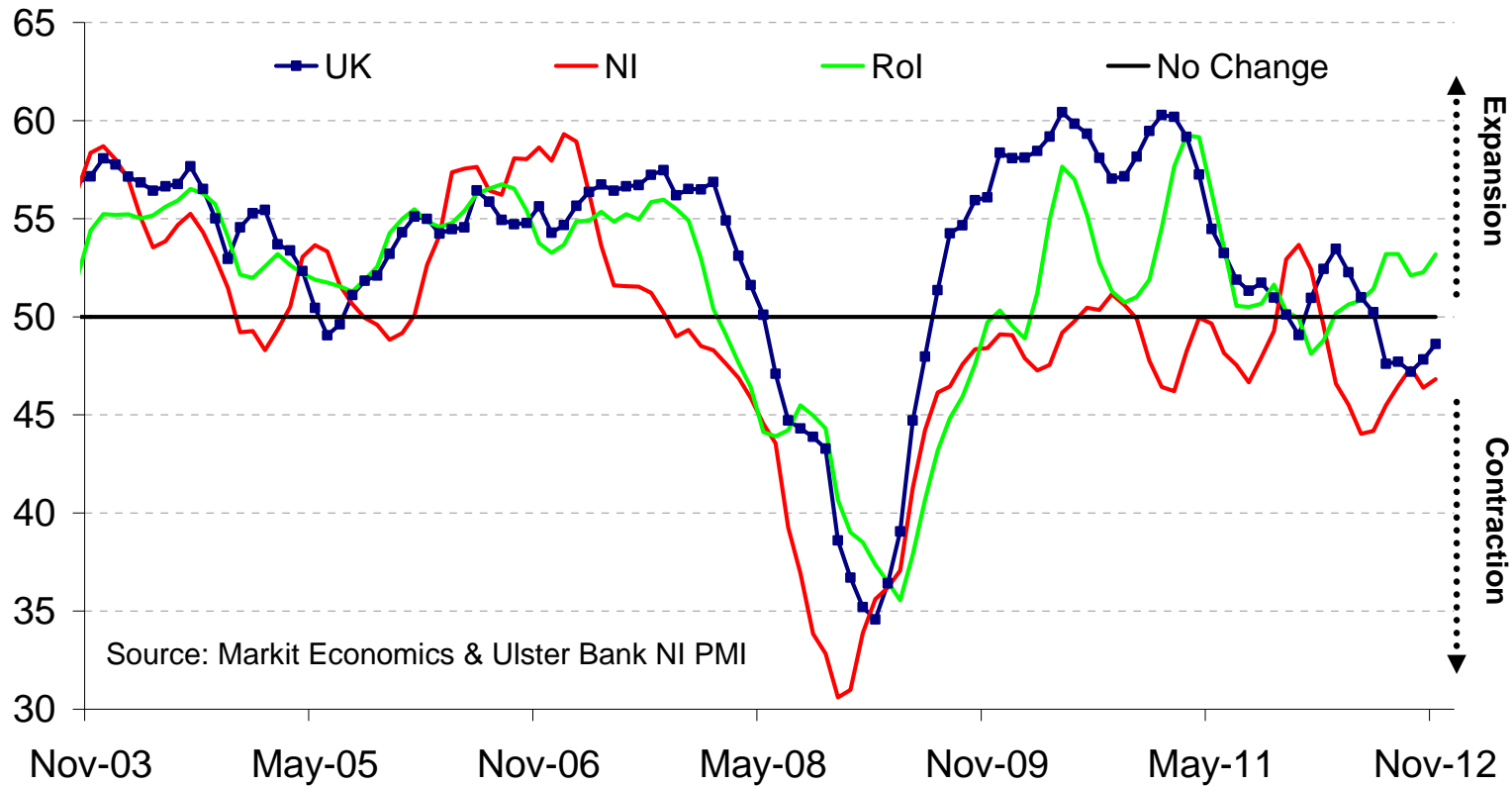
NI Manufacturing Activity

3 month moving average



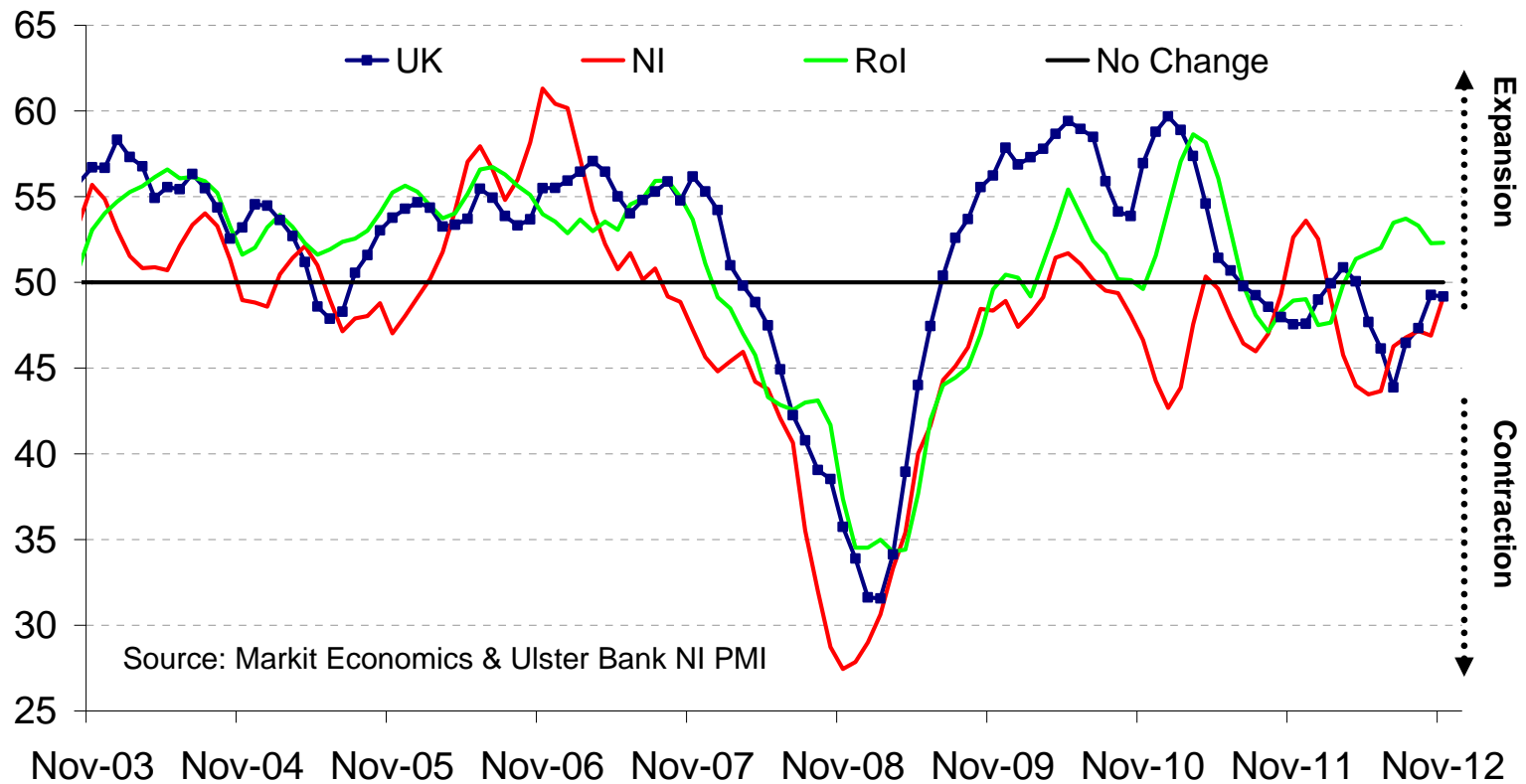
NI & UK manufacturing performance is converging whilst the RoI continues to outperform

Manufacturing Output 3 month moving average



...and new orders still falling in NI & the UK

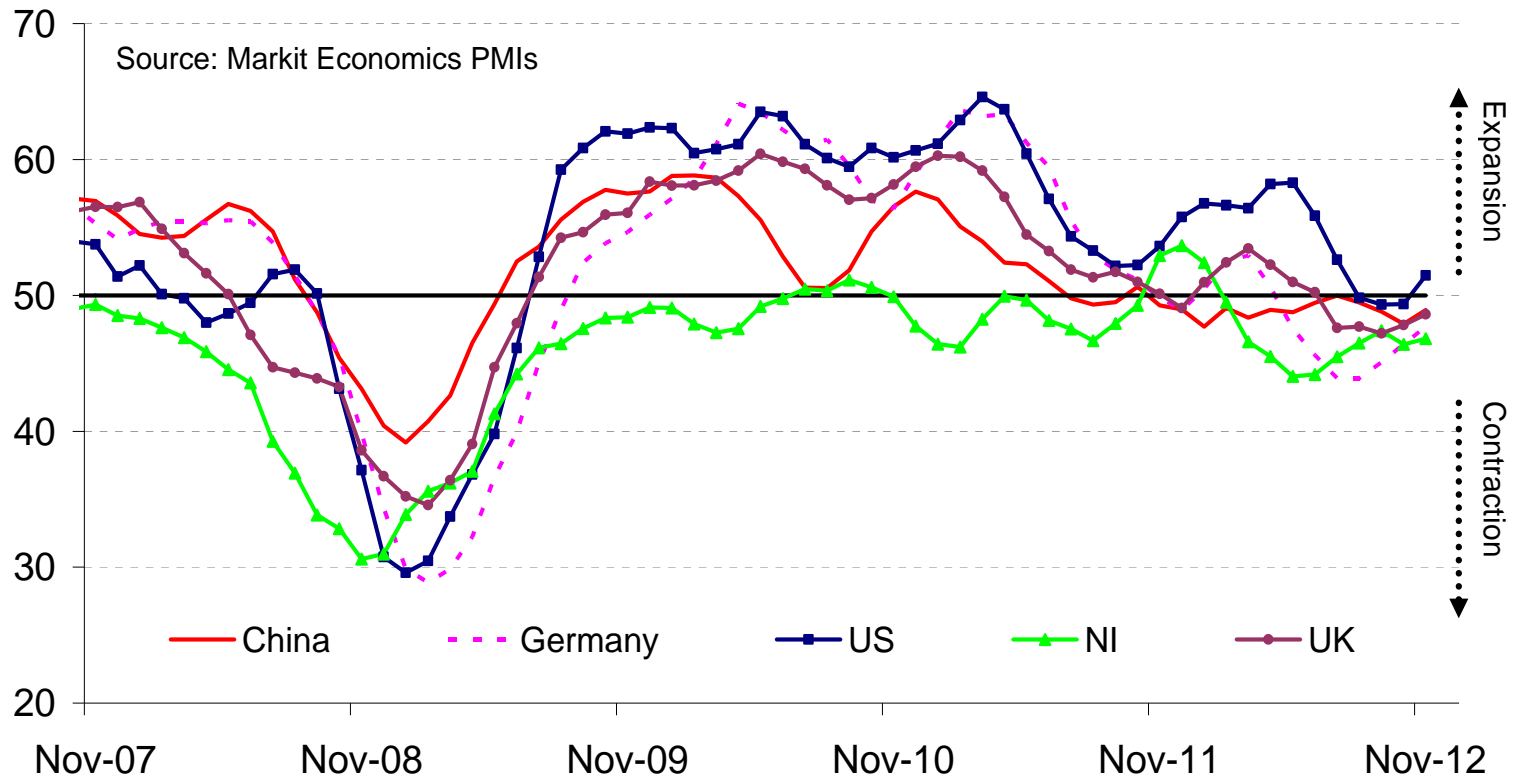
Manufacturing New Orders
3 month moving average



N.Ireland lagging economies elsewhere

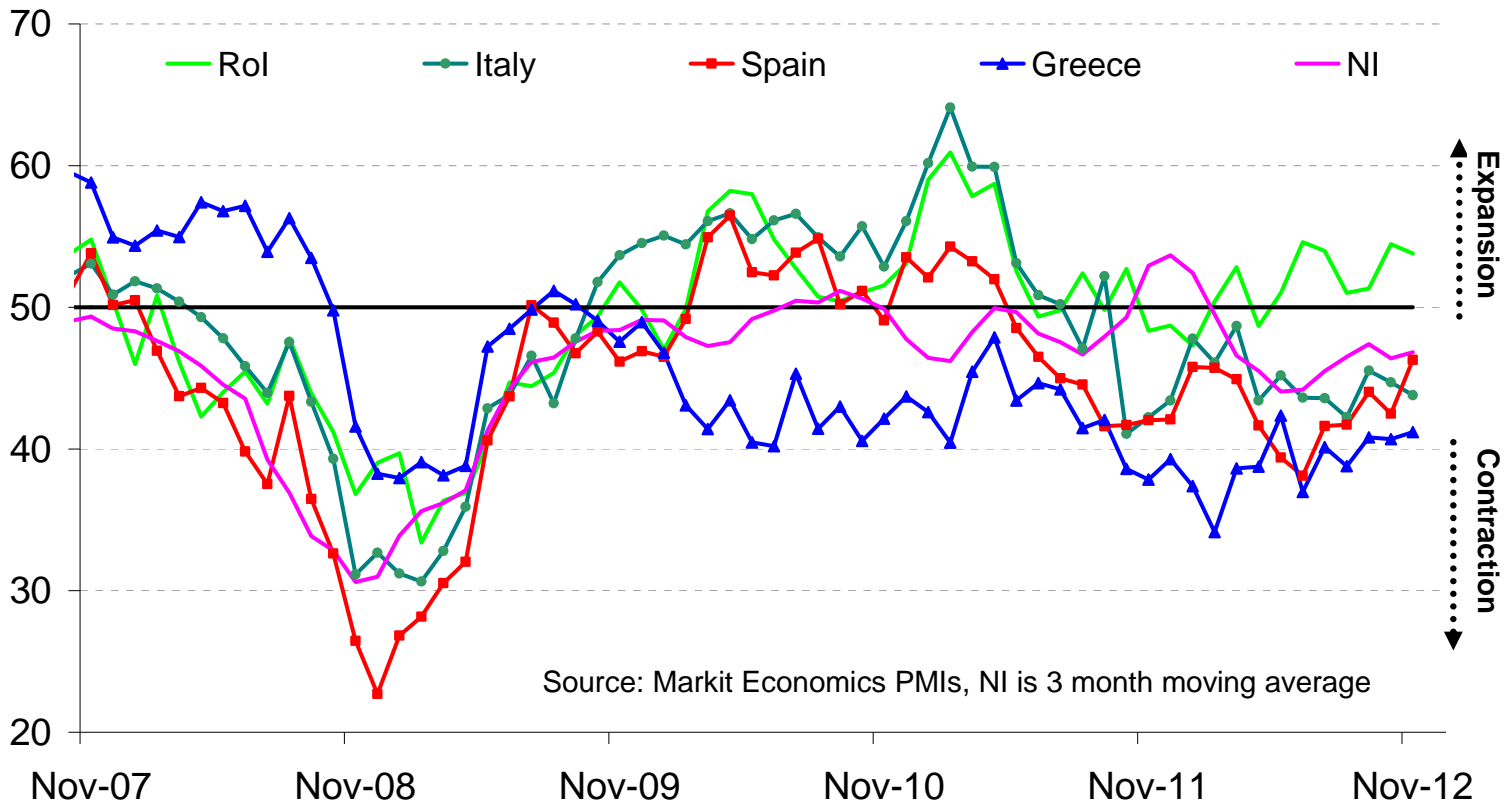
Manufacturing Output - PMI

3 month moving average



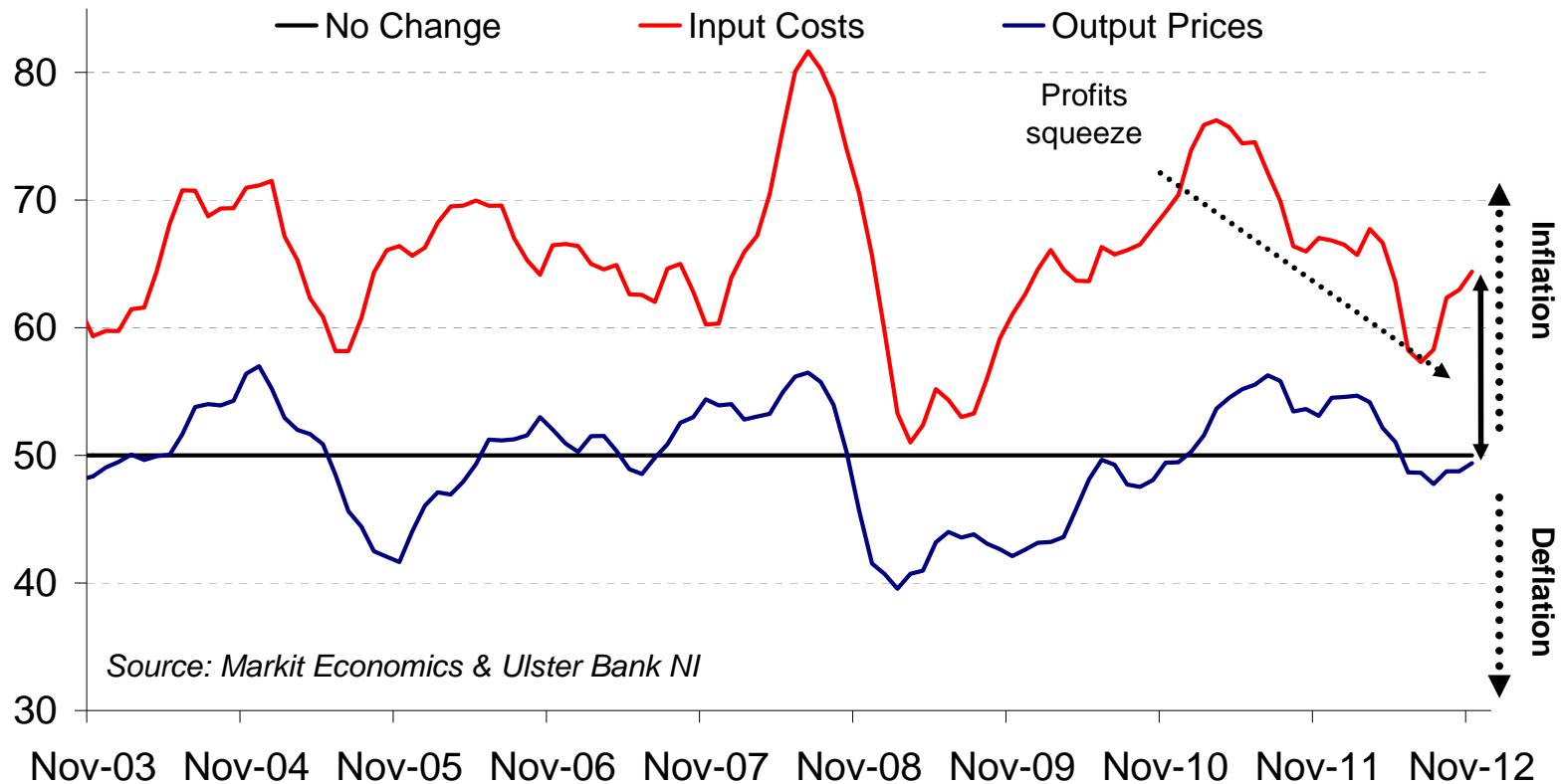
Ireland outperforming its euro zone partners

Manufacturing Output - PMI

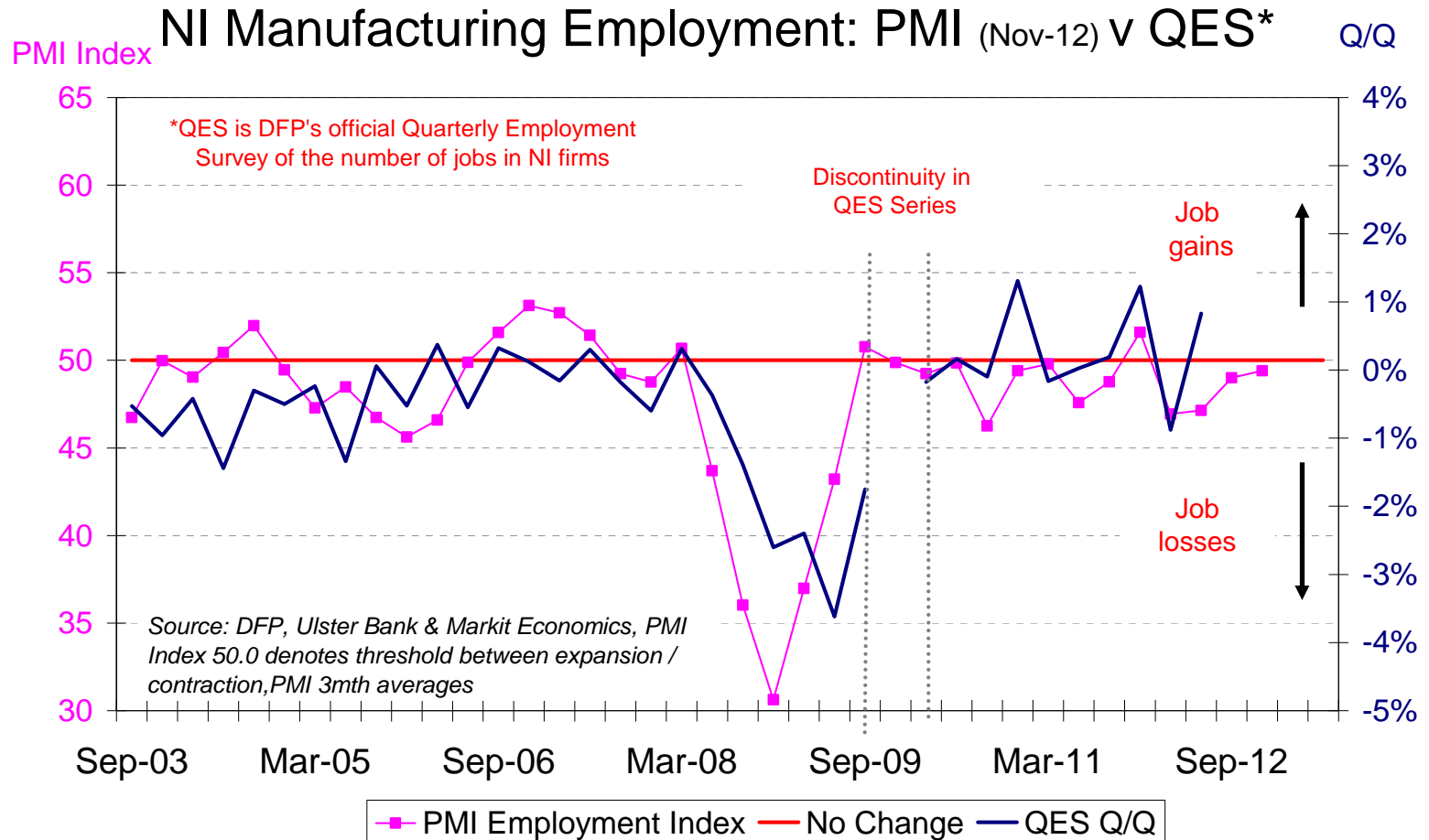


Cost price inflation accelerating for local manufacturing firms & pricing power still falling = profits squeeze

NI Manufacturing Input & Output Inflation 3 month moving average

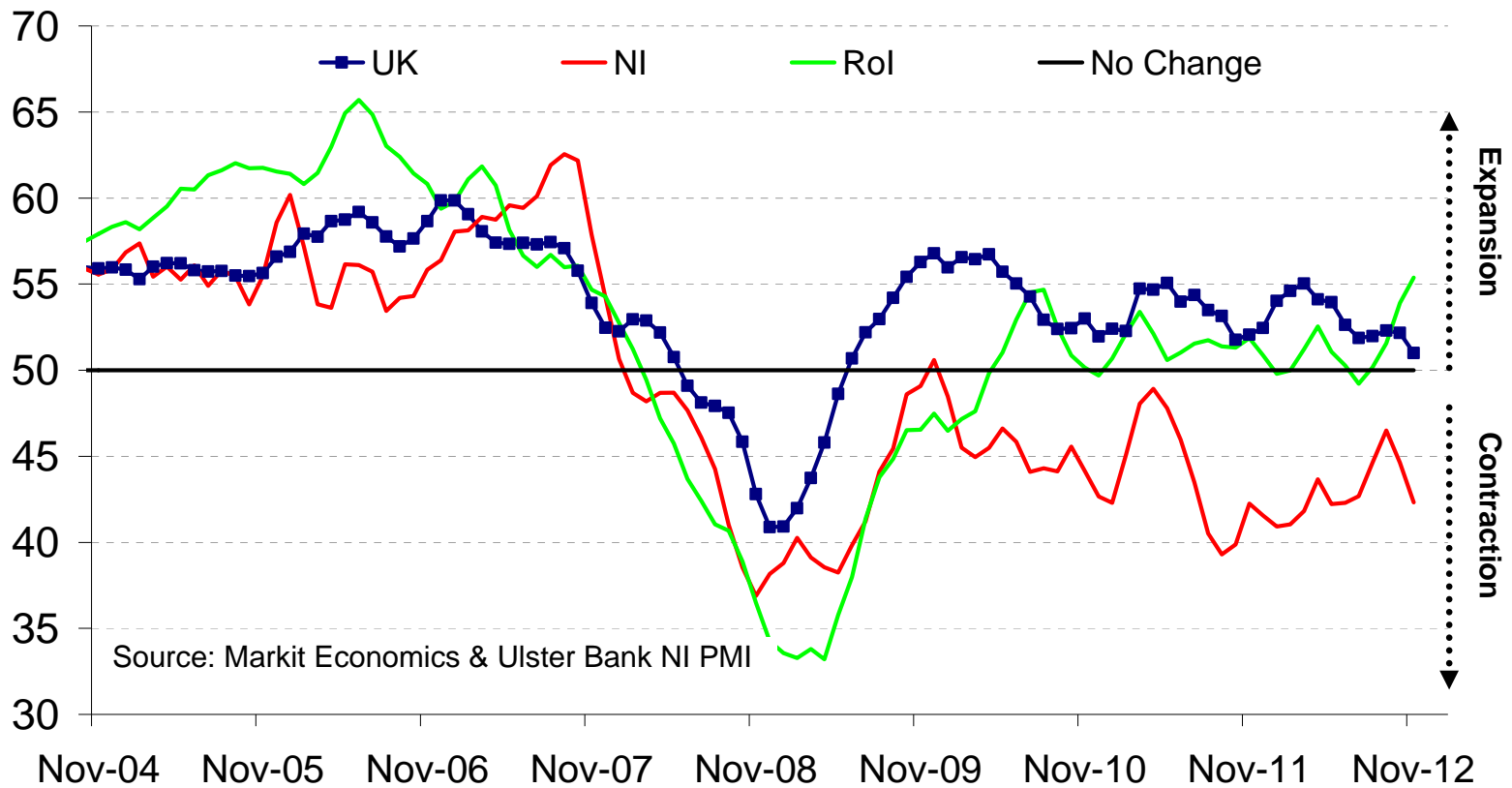


PMI signals no major manufacturing job losses in Q3 and Q4 but FG Wilson announcement still to take effect



Rol growth accelerates while NI-UK divergence within service sector remains...

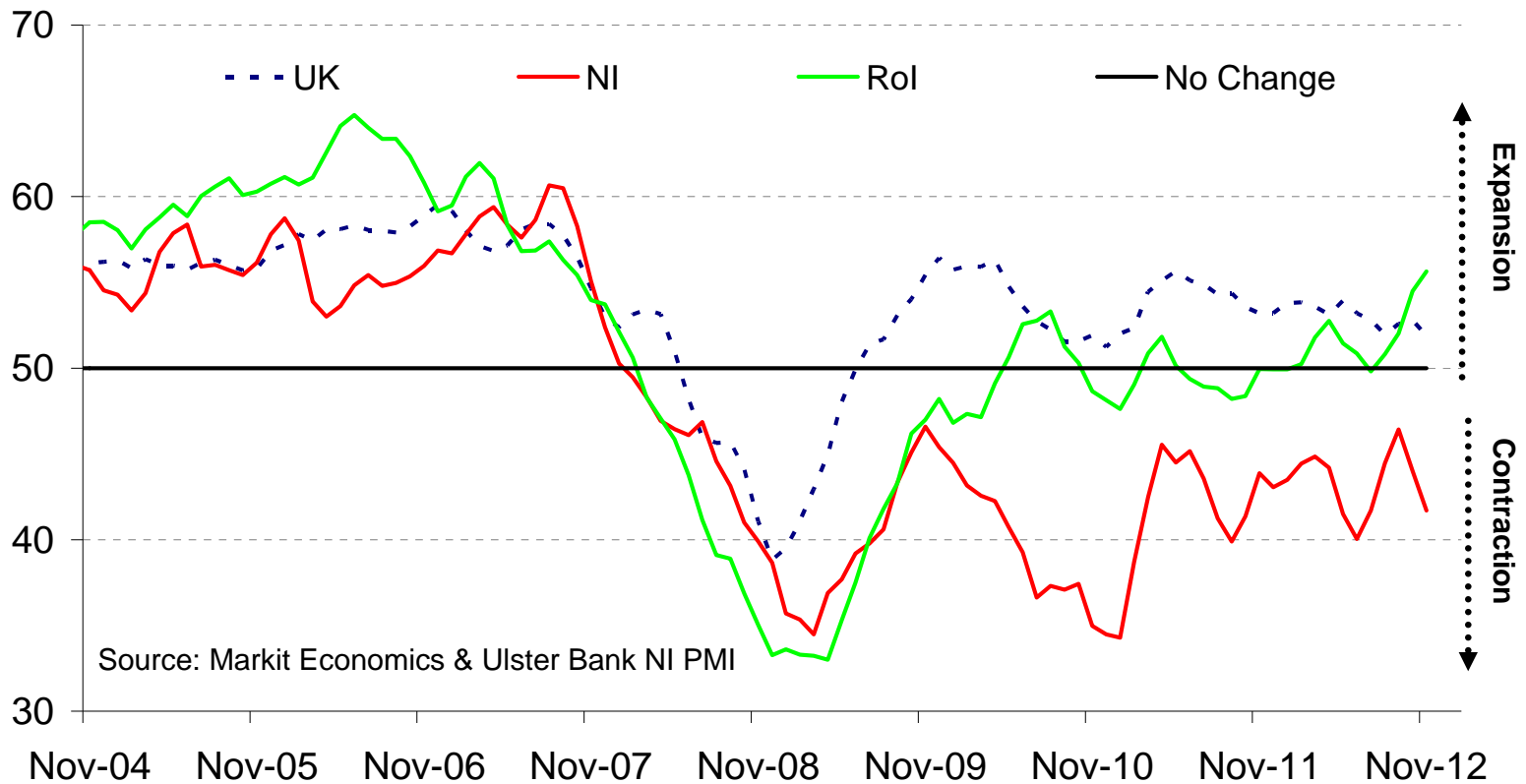
Services Output (excluding Retail)
3 month moving average



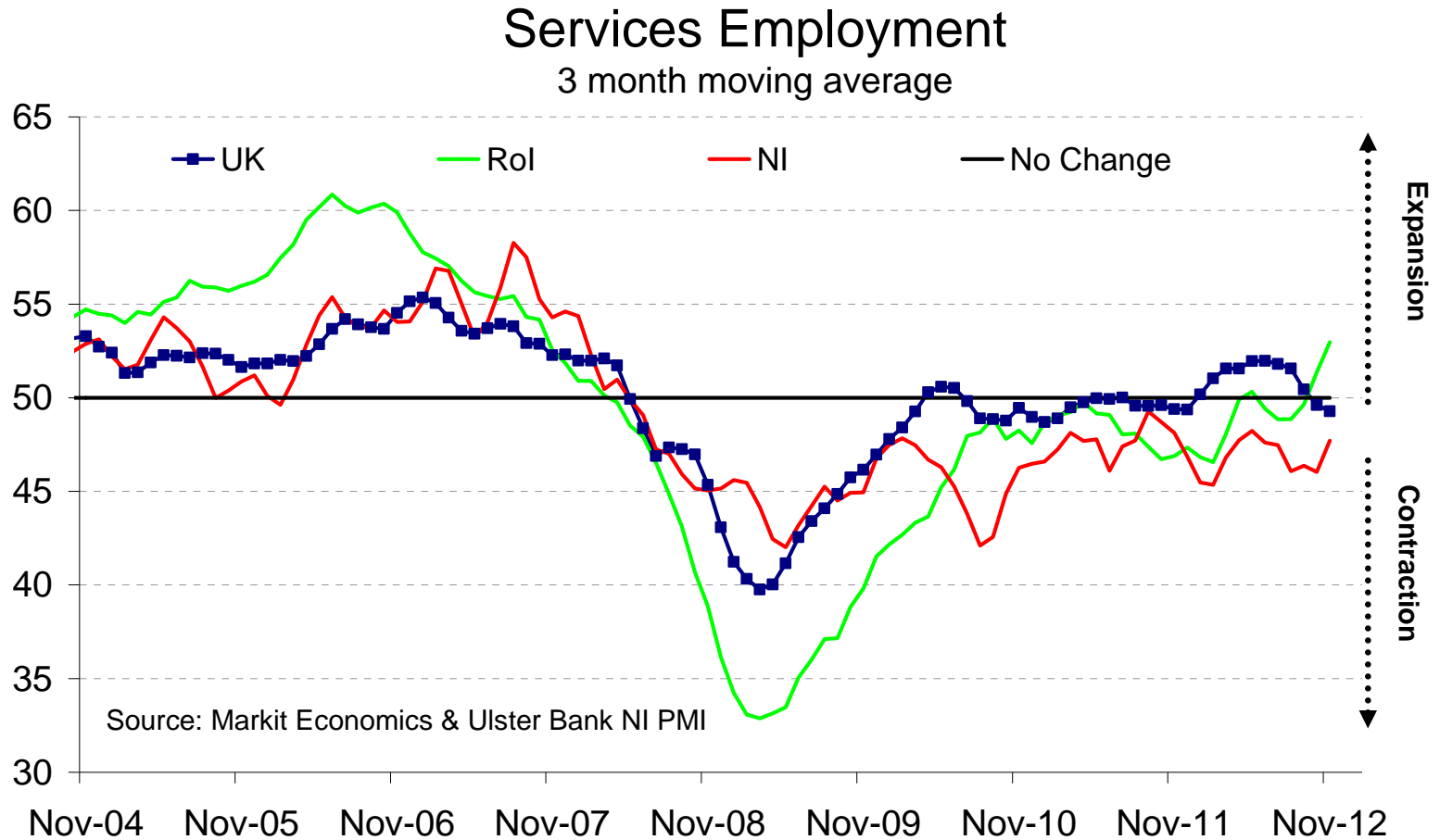
...with significant gap in new orders remaining

Services New Orders (excluding Retail)

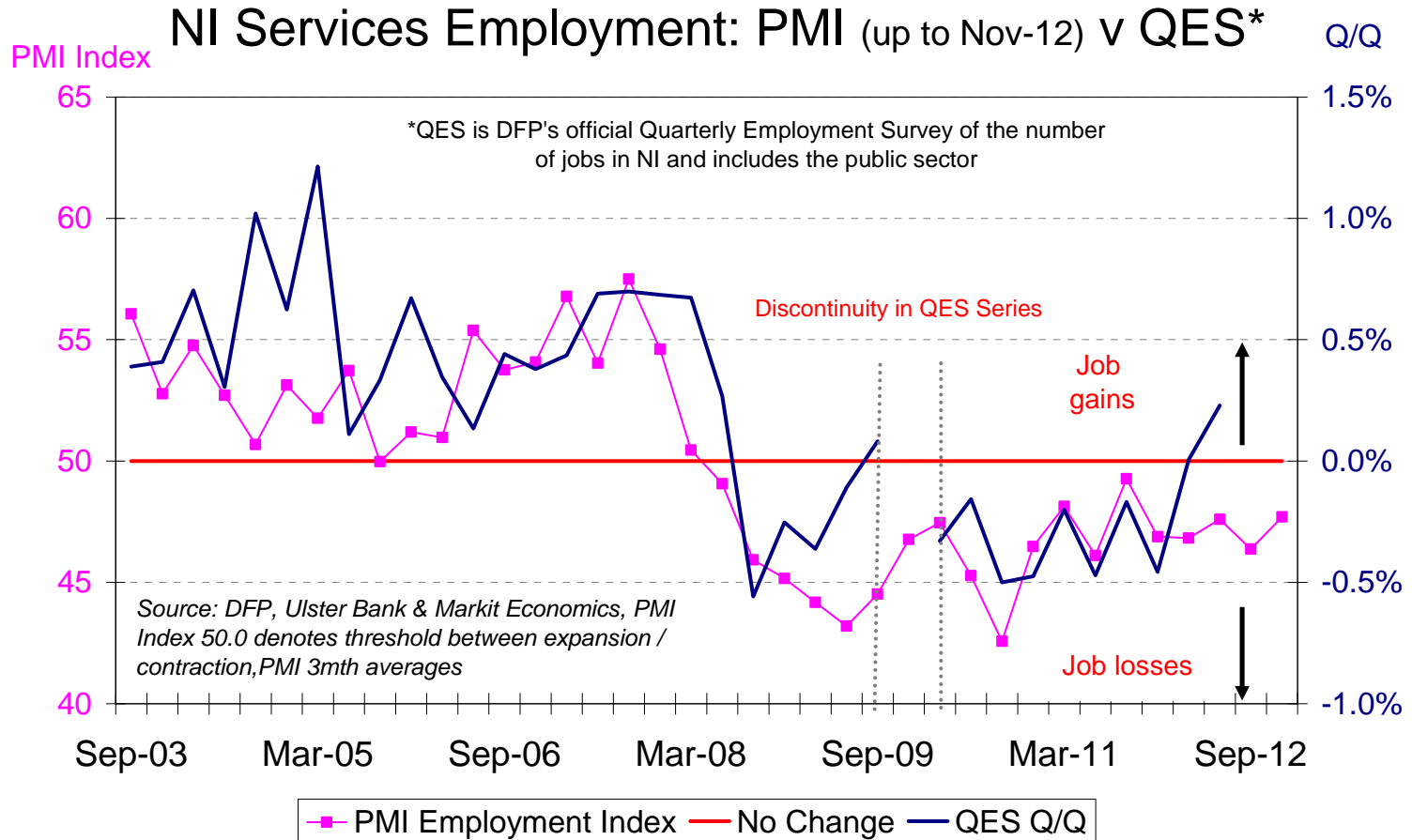
3 month moving average



...with employment levels still falling in NI & now UK



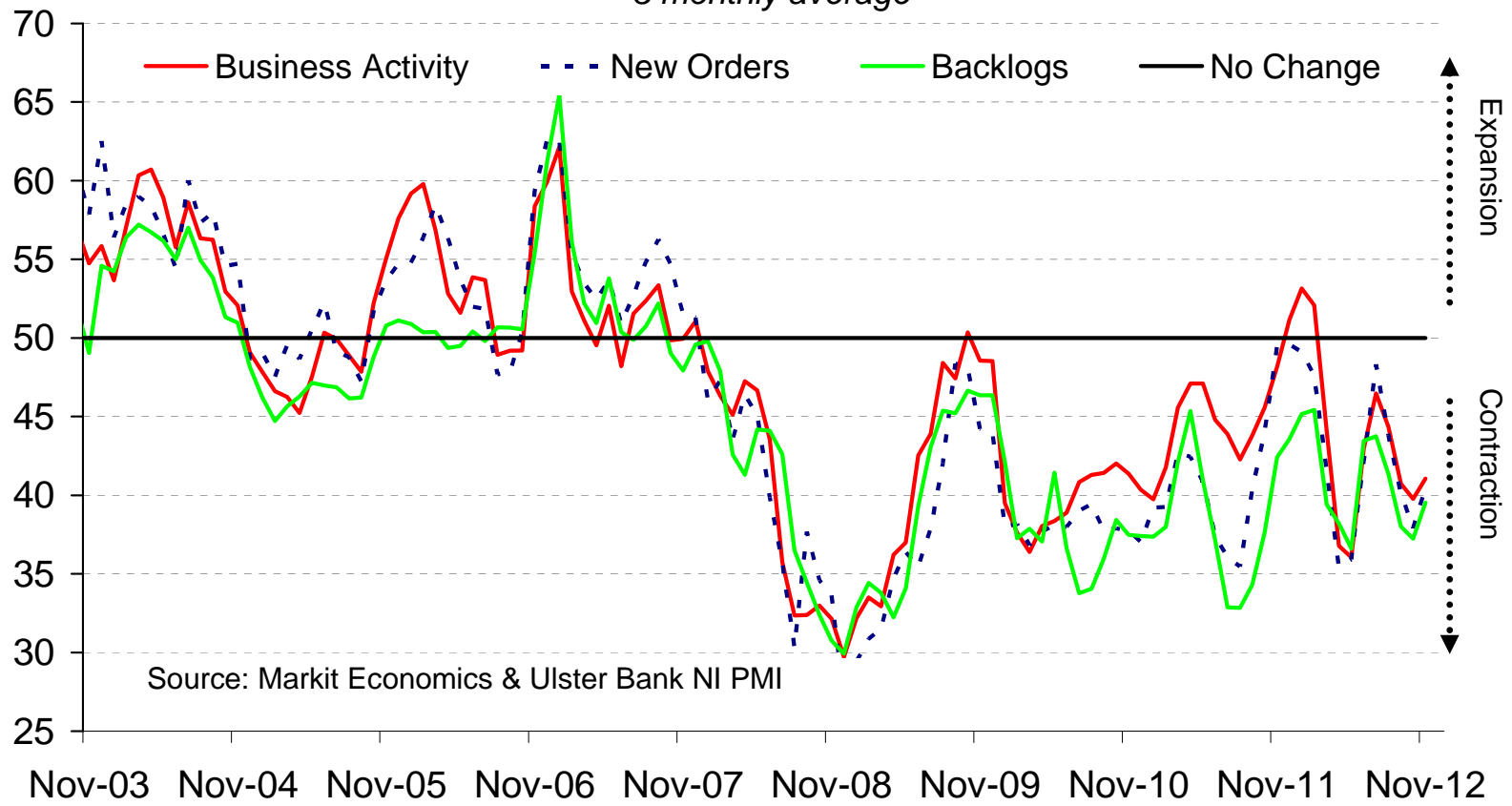
The PMI has signalled more job losses than the official data have indicated so far. But PMI includes private sector only



Local retailers still reporting falling orders & activity

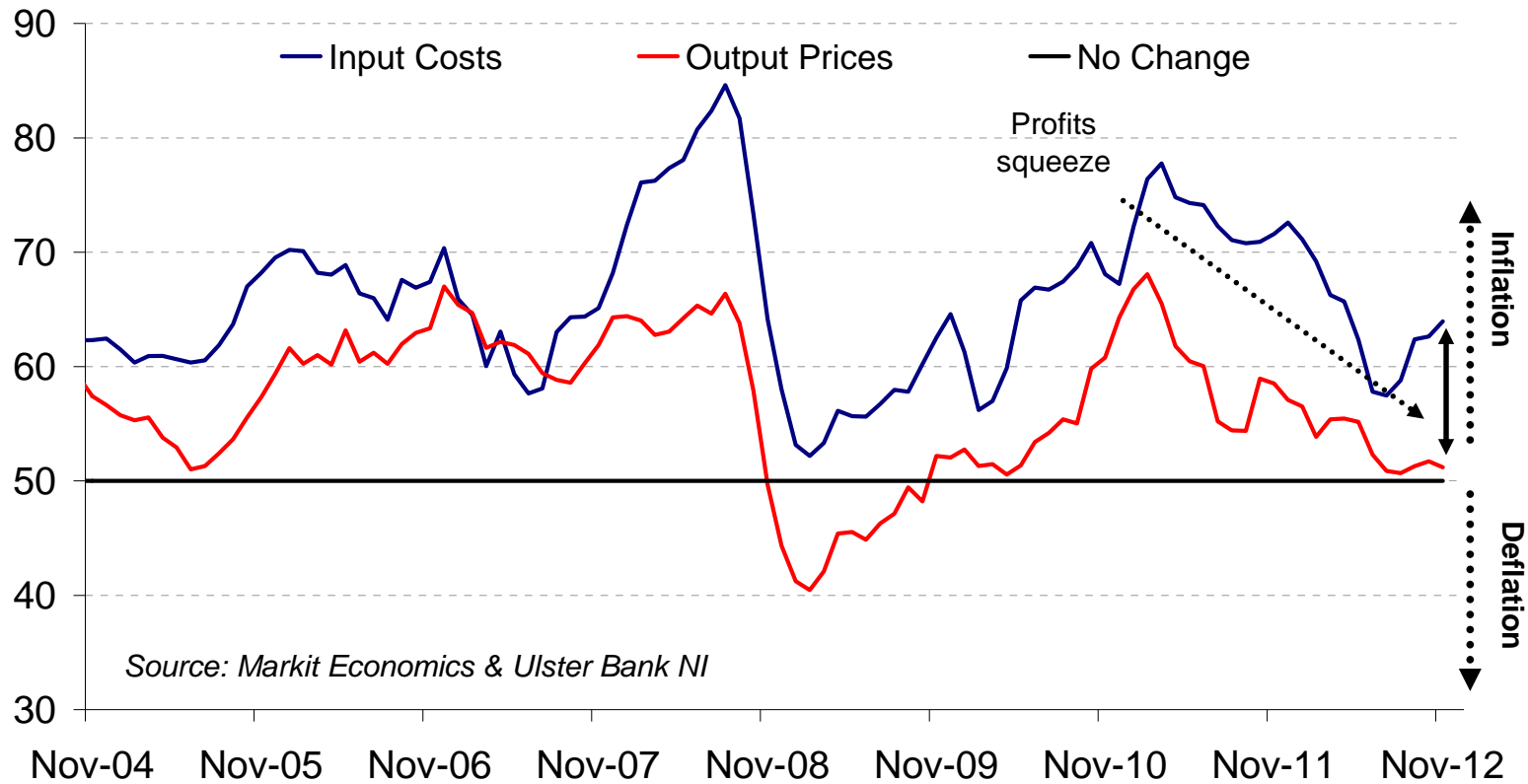
Northern Ireland Retail PMI

3 monthly average



Profits squeeze on local retailers intensifies

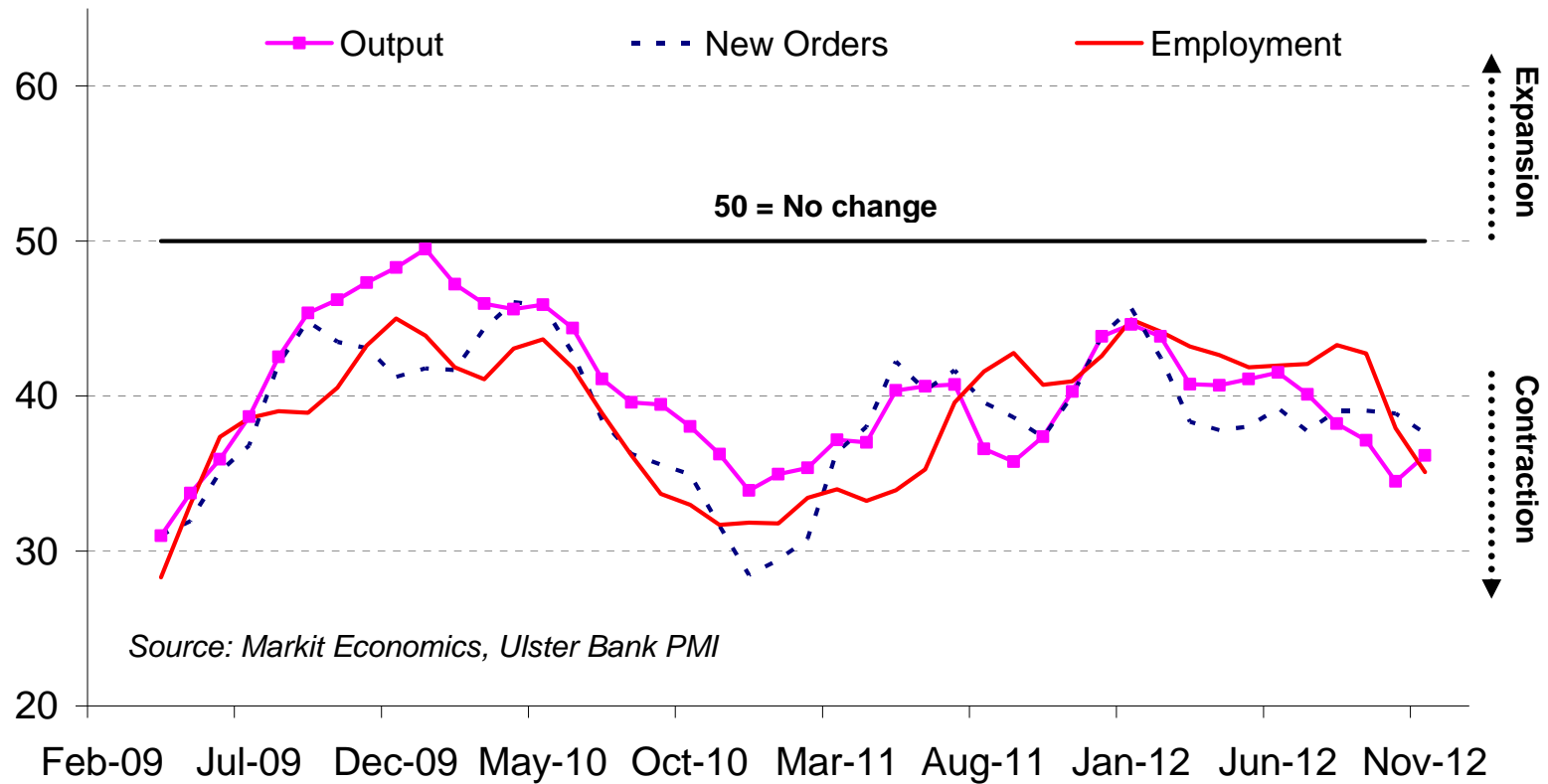
NI Retail Input & Output Inflation
3 month moving average



NI construction sector still in the midst of a severe downturn

NI Construction PMI

3 month moving average

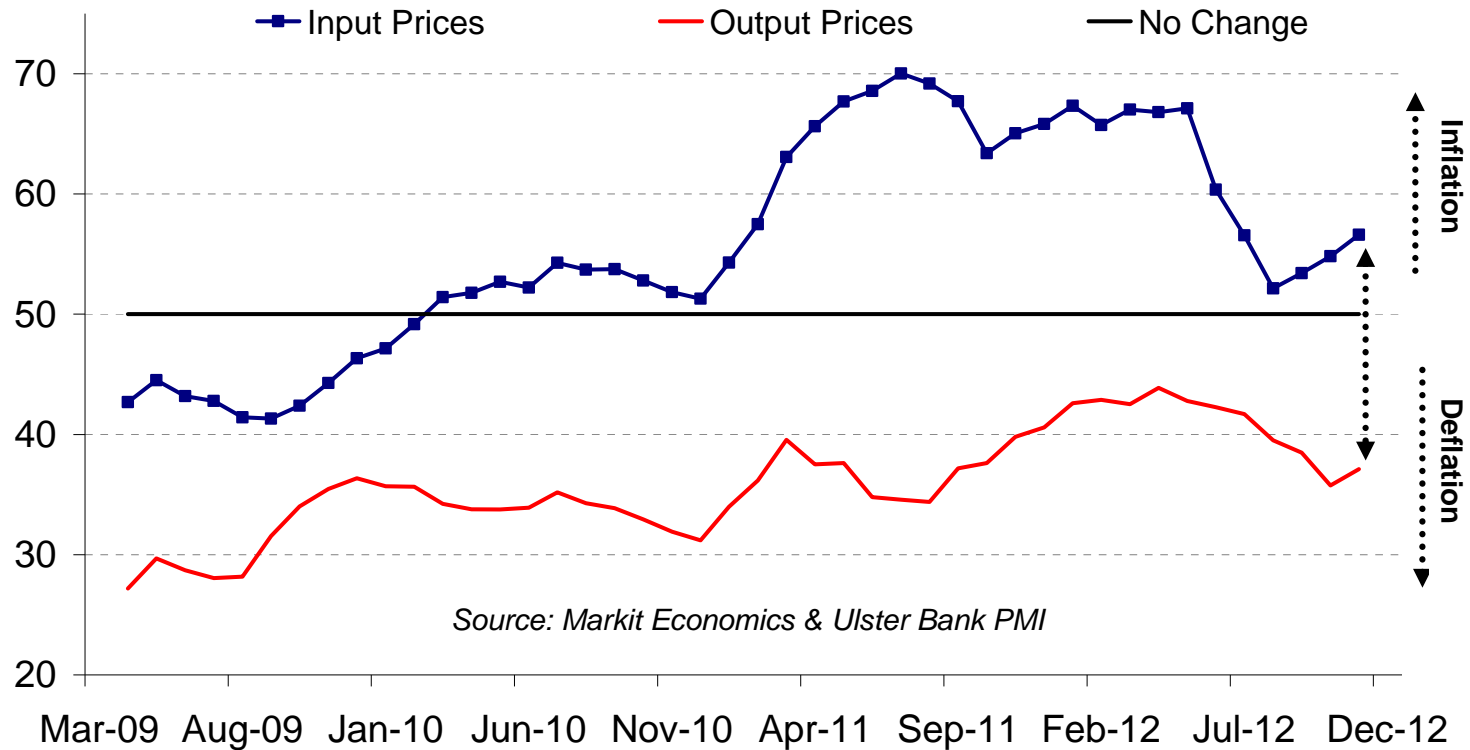


.....with profits squeeze intensifying

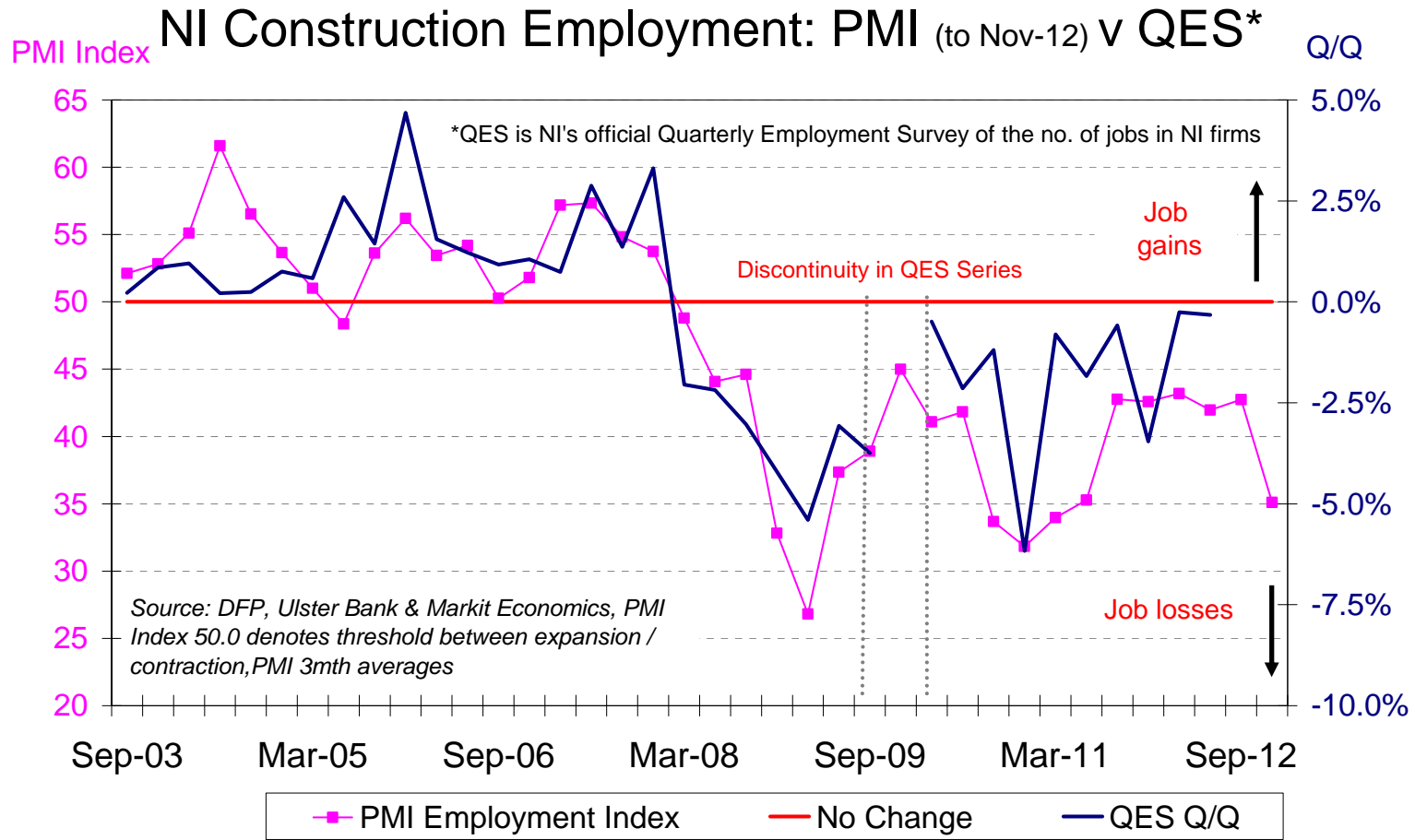
NI Construction Sector Profits Squeeze

3 month moving average

PMI Index



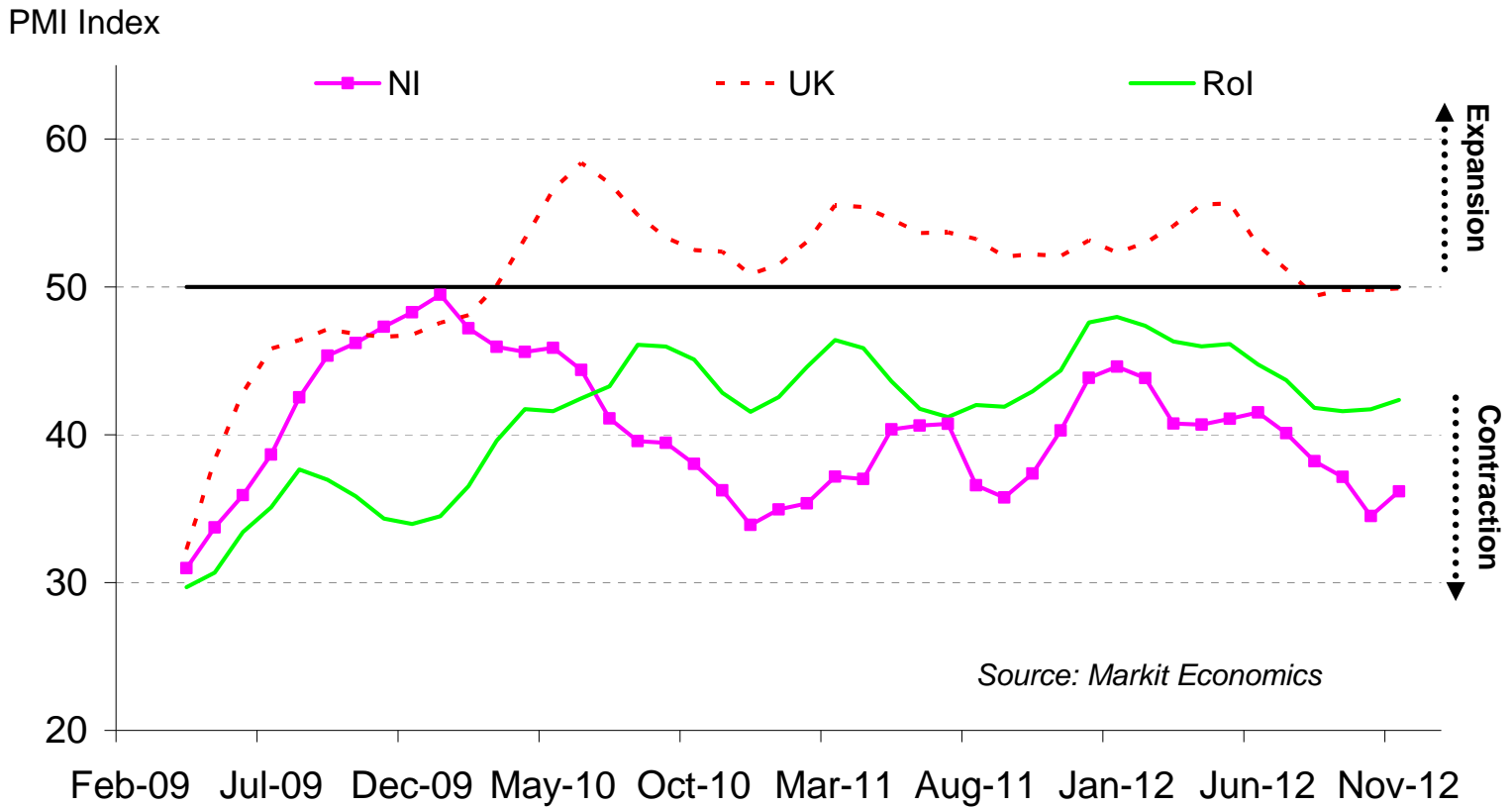
NI PMI has been a reasonably good predictor of actual job losses in the official employment surveys (QES)



Significant NI-UK divergence remains with output

Construction Sector Output - PMI

3 month moving average

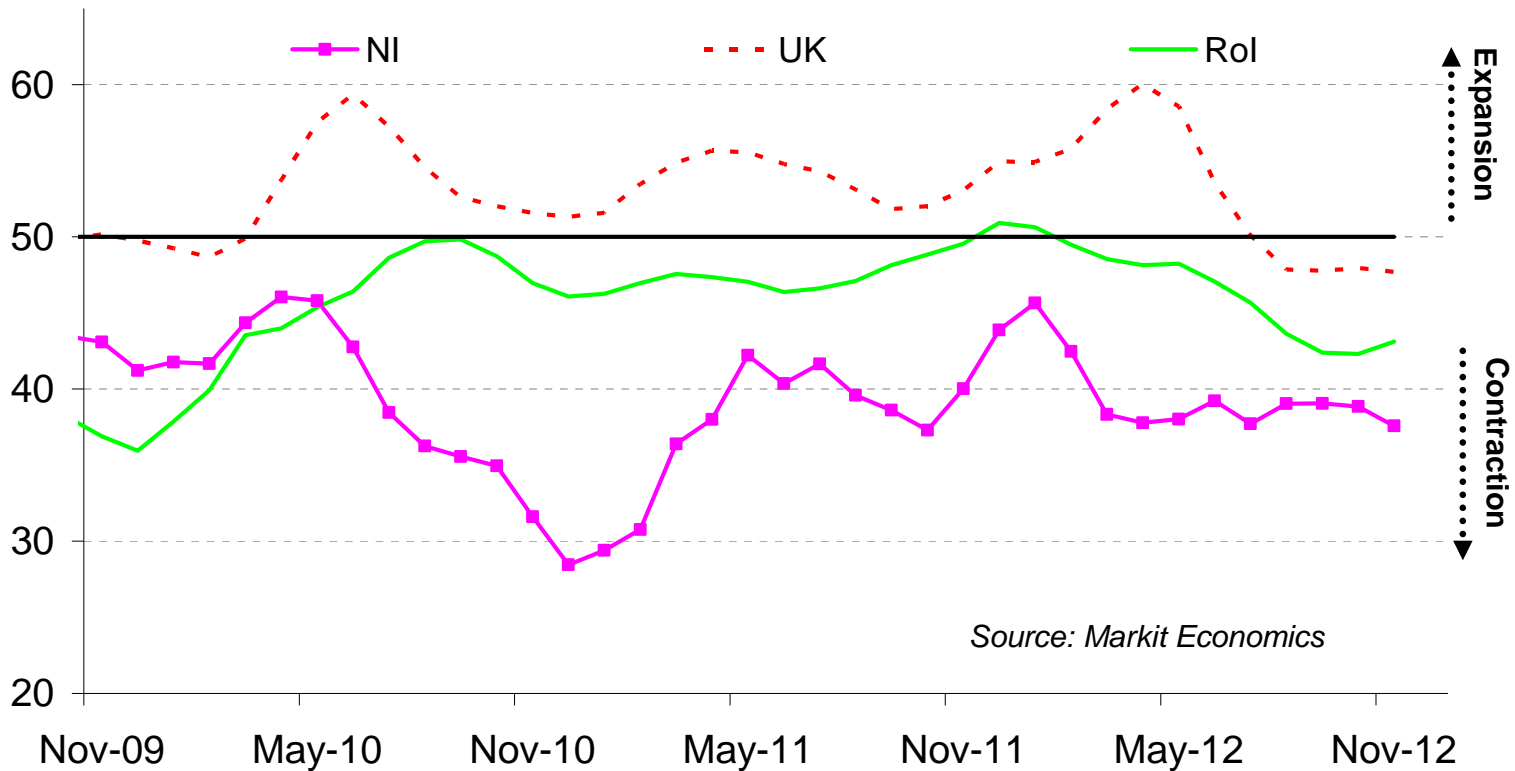


... and with new orders falling in NI, UK & RoI

Construction Sector New Orders - PMI

3 month moving average

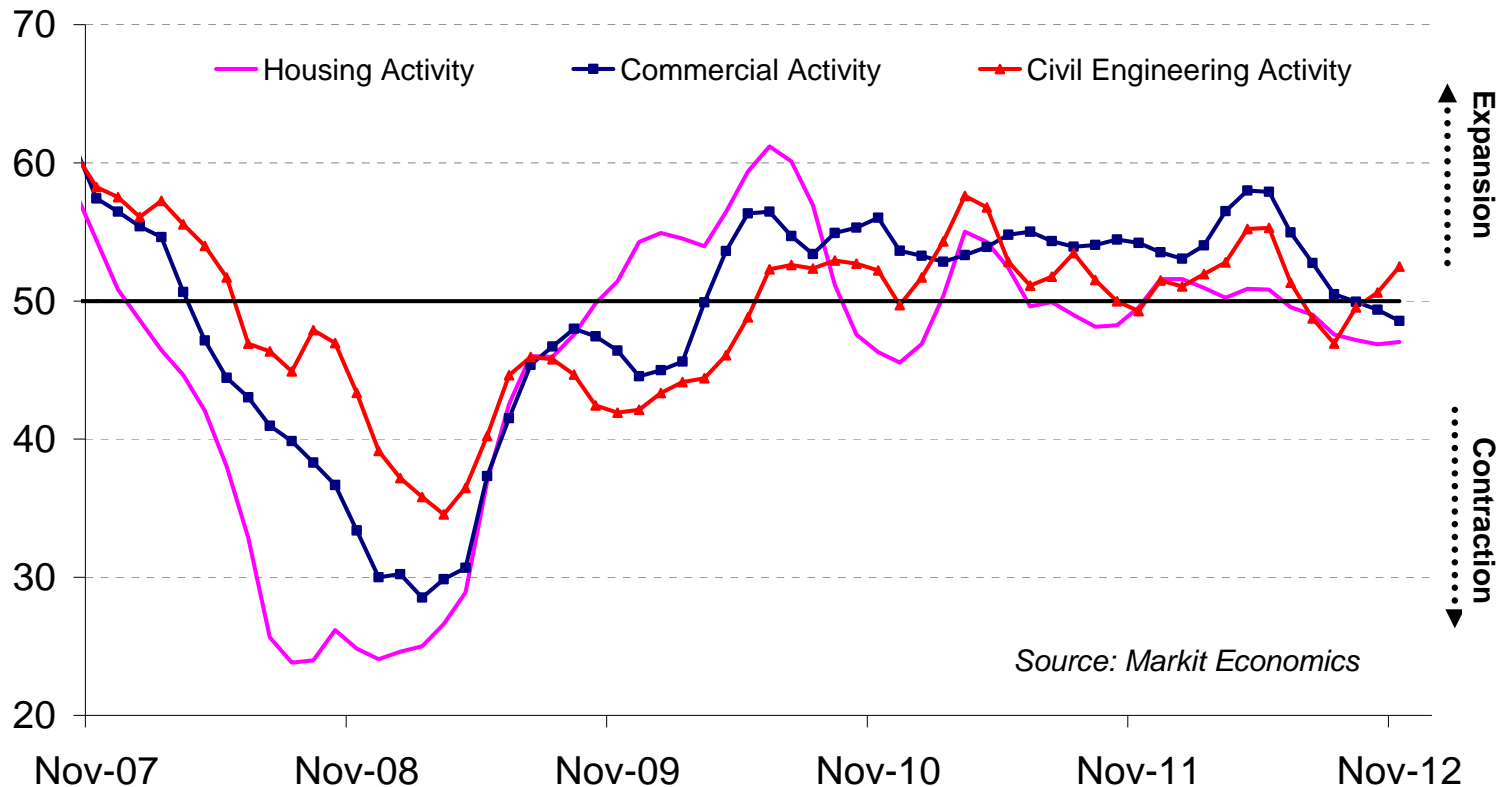
PMI Index



Growth opportunities for NI firms within GB will wane as activity eases but pick-up in civil engineering sector

UK Construction Activity - PMIs

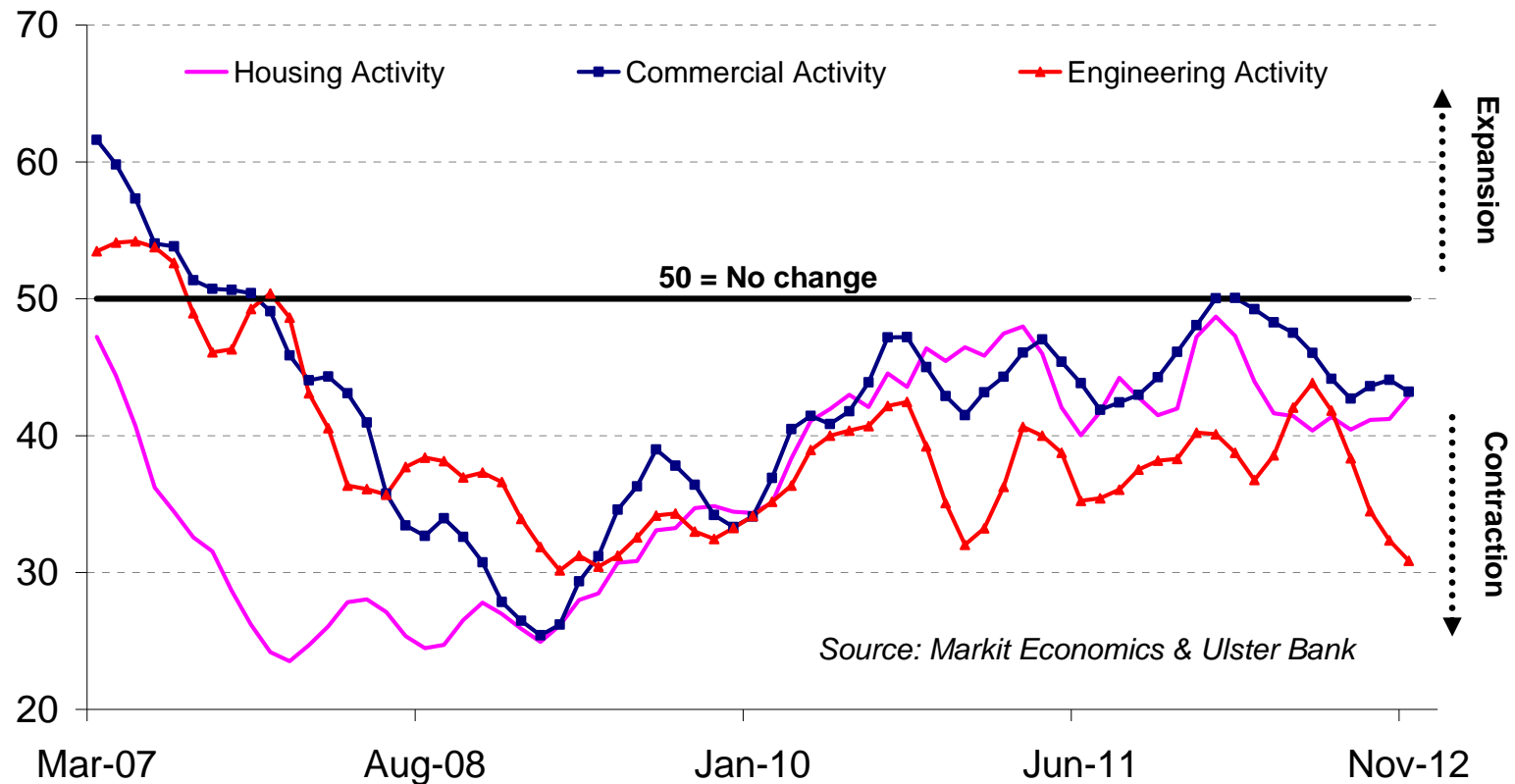
3 month moving average



Lack of opportunities in the RoI with all construction sub-sectors declining in November

Republic of Ireland Construction Activity - PMI

3 month moving average



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