

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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First fall in activity since June 2013

The Northern Ireland private sector ended 2014 on a downbeat note as output decreased for the first time in a year-and-a-half. Growth of new business slowed and employment was broadly unchanged in December. Meanwhile, the rate of input cost inflation accelerated, but companies continued to lower their output prices.

Business activity declines

The headline seasonally adjusted Business Activity Index fell below the 50.0 no-change mark for the first time since June 2013, posting 49.8 in December from 52.6 in the previous month. The fall in activity in Northern Ireland contrasted with ongoing growth across the UK economy as a whole. Some panellists reported a slowdown in demand during the final quarter of 2014. Activity decreased at manufacturers and retailers, but continued to rise in the services and construction sectors.

New orders continued to increase during December, but the rate of growth slowed to the weakest in the current 19-month sequence of expansion. Meanwhile, new export orders were unchanged, following a decrease in November.

Marked reduction in backlogs

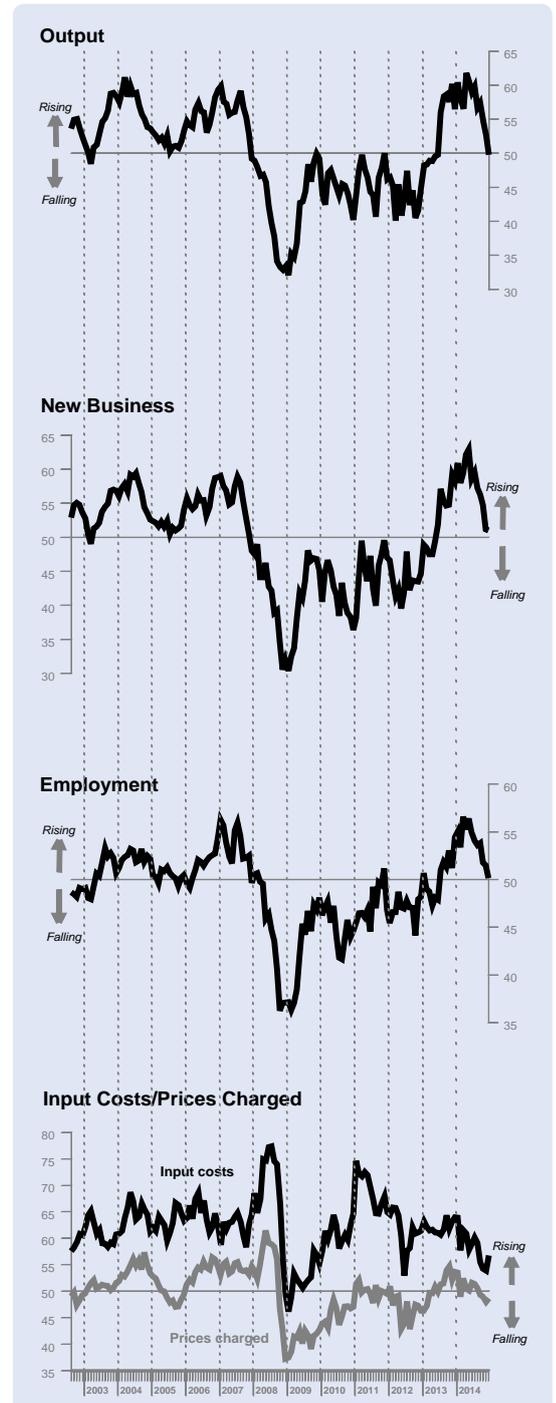
Outstanding business decreased for the third month running in December, with the sharp decline the strongest since March 2013. Panellists indicated that a lack of new work to replace completed projects had contributed to the latest fall in backlogs.

Meanwhile, employment in the Northern Ireland private sector was broadly unchanged in December. The near stagnation in staffing levels contrasted with a further marked rise in employment across the UK economy as a whole. The manufacturing and retail sectors posted falling staffing levels, while job creation continued at services at construction companies.

Faster increase in input prices

In contrast to the recent trend, the rate of cost inflation accelerated in December, but remained much weaker than the series average. Rising average staff costs were mentioned by a number of firms, while lower energy and fuel prices imparted downward pressure on cost burdens. The strongest rise in input prices was seen in the construction sector.

Northern Ireland firms lowered their output prices for the fourth consecutive month in December, albeit only slightly. According to respondents, competitive pressure had been the main factor leading charges to decrease. The construction sector was the only area to increase selling prices, with the sharpest fall seen at retailers.



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.

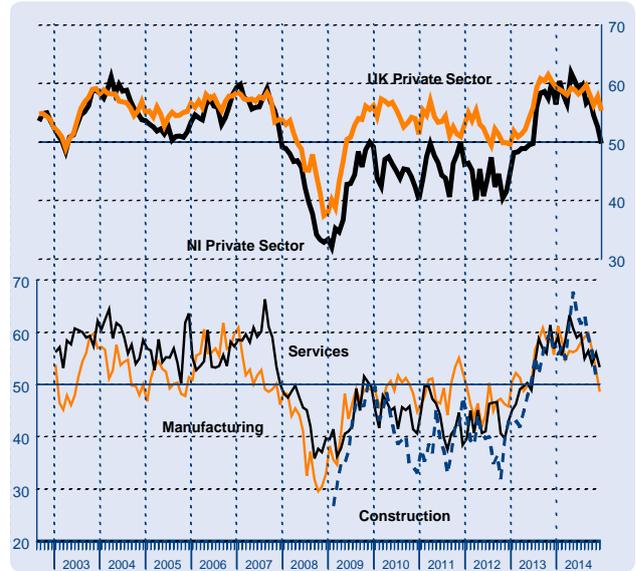
Output / Business Activity

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
2014	Jul	25.7	56.4	17.9	7.8	53.9	59.8	59.0
	Aug	21.0	59.0	20.0	1.0	50.5	56.7	59.8
	Sep	29.2	58.2	12.6	16.5	58.3	57.4	58.1
	Oct	21.3	59.0	19.7	1.7	50.8	54.7	56.4
	Nov	22.5	54.9	22.5	0.0	50.0	52.6	57.8
	Dec	19.3	56.4	24.3	-5.0	47.5	49.8	55.4

Northern Ireland companies posted a fractional decrease in output during December, ending a 17-month sequence of expansion. The fall represented a marked turnaround from the strong rates of growth seen up until the end of the third quarter of 2014, and contrasted with a further rise in activity across the UK as a whole. While some panellists continued to record growth of output in line with higher new orders, others reported a slowdown in demand over the fourth quarter of the year. Manufacturing production decreased for the first time since May 2013, while retail activity also fell. The services and construction sectors recorded growth of activity.

By sector				
		Construction	Manufacturing	Services
'14	Oct	56.4	56.8	54.0
	Nov	51.7	52.7	56.1
	Dec	52.5	48.6	53.3



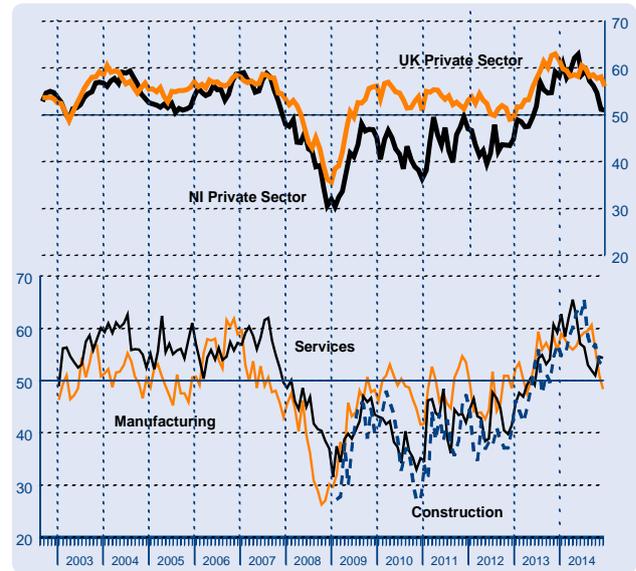
New Business

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
2014	Jul	25.6	57.8	16.6	9.0	54.5	59.5	59.9
	Aug	23.4	56.6	20.0	3.4	51.7	57.2	58.3
	Sep	29.0	56.0	15.0	14.0	57.0	56.3	58.6
	Oct	25.1	55.2	19.8	5.3	52.6	54.8	57.8
	Nov	20.0	52.8	27.3	-7.3	46.4	51.2	58.2
	Dec	18.8	58.5	22.7	-3.9	48.1	51.0	56.2

Although the Northern Ireland private sector continued to record rising new business in December, the rate of expansion slowed for the fifth consecutive month and was the slowest in the current sequence of growth which began in June 2013. The slight increase in new orders in Northern Ireland compared with a sharp rise at the UK level. Some respondents indicated having been able to secure new business, but others signalled a reluctance among clients to commit to projects. As was the case with activity, both the manufacturing and retail sectors posted lower new business, while services and construction saw new orders expand.

By sector				
		Construction	Manufacturing	Services
'14	Oct	57.0	56.2	51.0
	Nov	53.3	51.1	54.6
	Dec	55.0	48.4	54.4



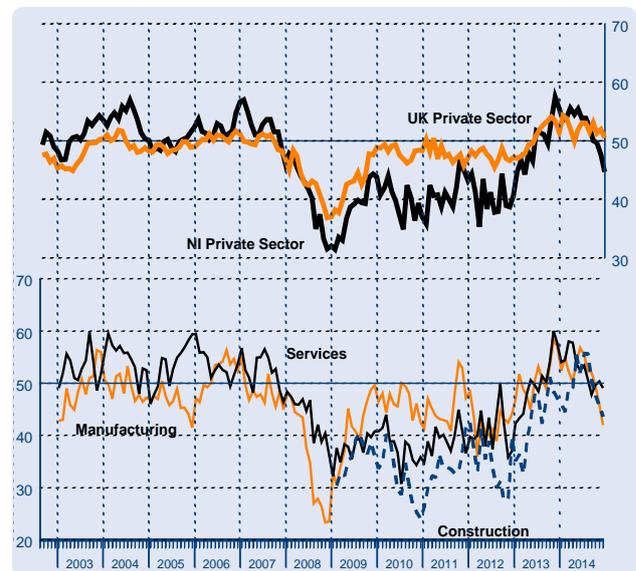
Backlogs

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
2014	Jul	17.3	68.9	13.8	3.6	51.8	53.9	53.1
	Aug	16.8	64.8	18.4	-1.6	49.2	52.4	51.6
	Sep	20.0	61.1	19.0	1.0	50.5	50.1	53.2
	Oct	16.5	64.2	19.3	-2.8	48.6	49.7	51.4
	Nov	14.2	62.0	23.9	-9.7	45.1	47.6	52.0
	Dec	9.5	65.0	25.5	-16.0	42.0	44.7	50.5

Backlogs of work decreased for the third consecutive month in December. Furthermore, the rate of depletion was sharp, having accelerated to the strongest since March 2013. Around 26% of respondents posted a fall in outstanding business, against 10% that registered a rise. Panellists reported that projects had been completed with growth of new work insufficient to compensate. All four monitored sectors posted falls in backlogs, with sharp reductions seen at manufacturers, construction companies and retailers. Service providers registered a slight reduction in outstanding business, following a rise in November.

By sector				
		Construction	Manufacturing	Services
'14	Oct	47.9	49.8	49.7
	Nov	45.7	46.0	50.4
	Dec	43.7	42.0	49.1



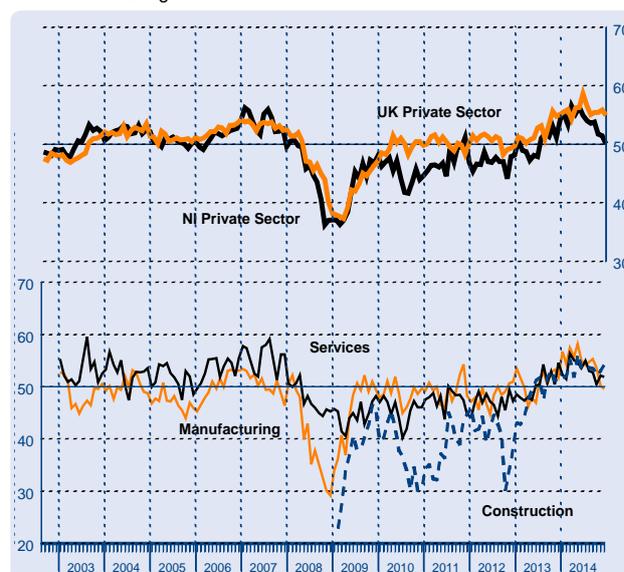
Employment

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
2014 Jul	12.2	83.8	4.0	8.2	54.1	54.1	56.5
Aug	10.8	85.7	3.5	7.3	53.7	53.7	55.1
Sep	14.5	78.8	6.7	7.8	53.9	53.8	55.5
Oct	5.1	90.5	4.4	0.7	50.3	51.8	55.5
Nov	10.5	82.5	7.0	3.5	51.7	51.5	55.9
Dec	9.3	79.9	10.8	-1.5	49.2	50.1	55.0

Northern Ireland companies left their staffing levels broadly unchanged during December, following 17 consecutive monthly rises in employment. Meanwhile, the UK as a whole posted a marked rate of job creation. Some panellists reported having been able to fill vacant positions during the month. On the other hand, efforts to reduce costs and resignations were mentioned by those companies that posted a fall in employment. Manufacturing firms signalled a first reduction in staffing levels since June 2013, while retail employment also fell. Further job creation was recorded across the services and construction sectors.

By sector			
	Construction	Manufacturing	Services
'14 Oct	52.2	53.7	50.5
Nov	53.2	50.2	52.2
Dec	54.3	49.6	51.9



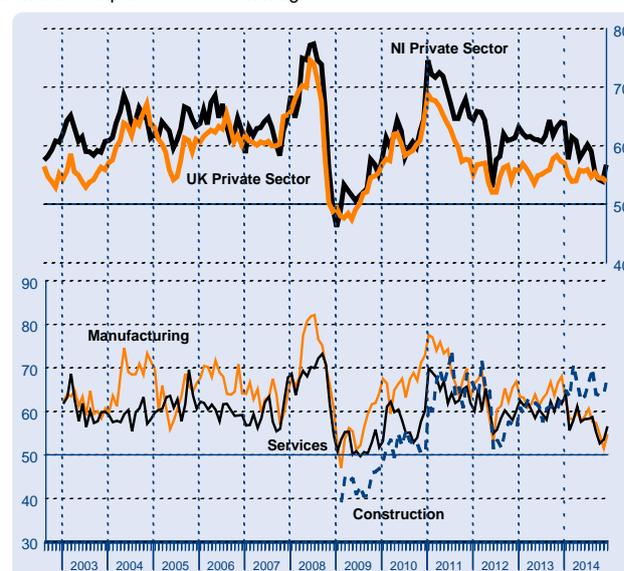
Input Costs

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
2014 Jul	22.1	74.5	3.3	18.8	59.4	60.2	56.0
Aug	18.1	77.5	4.4	13.7	56.9	59.1	54.7
Sep	16.7	78.7	4.6	12.2	56.1	55.6	55.5
Oct	15.1	75.9	9.0	6.0	53.0	54.3	54.5
Nov	14.4	75.7	9.8	4.6	52.3	54.0	54.5
Dec	20.1	69.6	10.4	9.7	54.9	56.8	53.9

After having slowed throughout the previous four months, the rate of input cost inflation quickened in December to the fastest since August. That said, the latest increase was still much weaker than the series average. Higher staff costs were mentioned by some respondents, with lower fuel and energy prices providing the main downward pressures on input costs. Each of the four monitored sectors posted faster increases in input prices, with the sharpest overall rise seen at construction companies. Service providers posted the sharpest increase in four months, while subdued rises were seen in retail and manufacturing.

By sector			
	Construction	Manufacturing	Services
'14 Oct	63.5	54.7	52.7
Nov	64.3	51.6	53.5
Dec	68.3	54.8	56.6



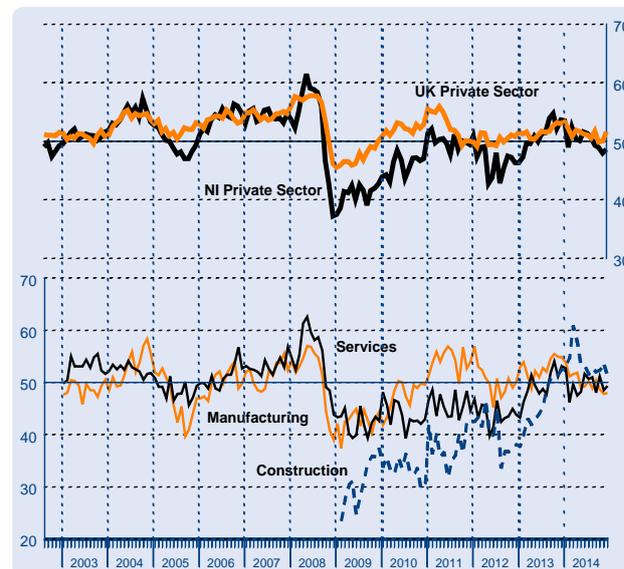
Prices Charged

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
2014 Jul	9.0	83.1	7.9	1.0	50.5	51.4	51.1
Aug	5.3	86.7	8.0	-2.7	48.6	50.6	50.6
Sep	4.3	87.0	8.6	-4.3	47.9	49.4	51.8
Oct	5.6	84.9	9.5	-3.9	48.1	49.0	49.9
Nov	8.0	77.7	14.4	-6.4	46.8	48.0	50.1
Dec	8.3	78.1	13.6	-5.4	47.3	48.7	51.6

In spite of a stronger increase in input prices during December, companies in Northern Ireland continued to lower their output prices during the month. Anecdotal evidence suggested that this was mainly due to competitive pressures. Charges have now decreased in each of the past four months, with the fall in Northern Ireland contrasting with modest inflation across the UK as a whole. The only sector to record a rise in output prices was construction, although the rate of inflation was the slowest since September 2013. The three remaining sectors all posted weaker falls in selling prices than seen in the previous month.

By sector			
	Construction	Manufacturing	Services
'14 Oct	52.4	48.7	51.2
Nov	53.7	47.9	48.5
Dec	51.4	48.0	49.4



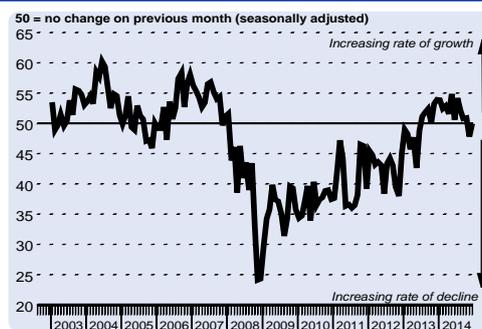
New Export Business*

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

Northern Ireland Companies

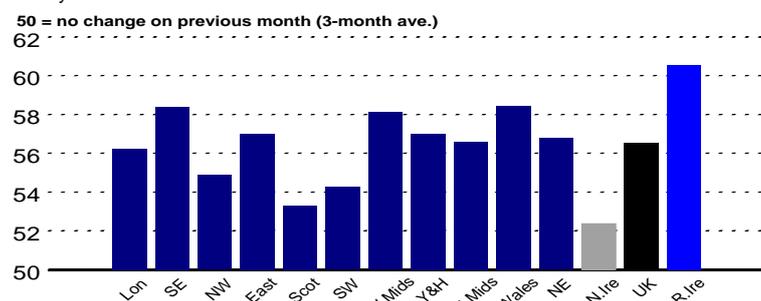
		Higher %	Same %	Lower %	Net +/-	Index 50=no chg	S.Adj'd Index
2014	Jul	20.2	64.9	14.9	5.2	52.6	54.2
	Aug	17.8	64.6	17.6	0.2	50.1	52.2
	Sep	17.5	68.5	14.0	3.5	51.8	50.8
	Oct	15.4	68.3	16.3	-0.9	49.6	50.9
	Nov	15.9	59.5	24.6	-8.7	45.7	47.8
	Dec	17.0	63.6	19.4	-2.3	48.8	50.0

New export orders were unchanged during December, following a modest decline in the previous month. Where new business from abroad rose, this was linked to growth in the Republic of Ireland.



Regional Comparisons: Output / Business Activity

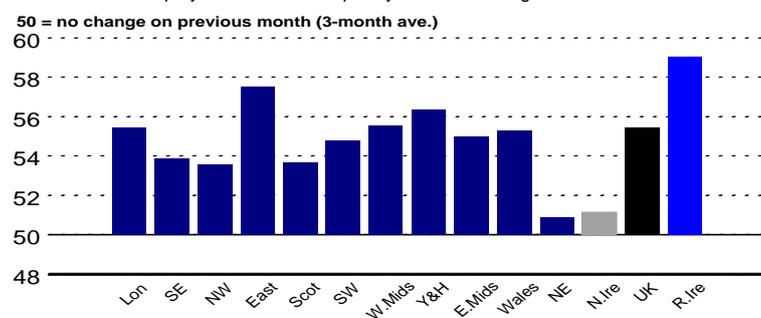
The graph below shows the regional PMI Output Indexes for the UK. An average of the latest three months is used (see also the table to the right). Output growth was recorded across all 12 UK regions on average in the final quarter of 2014. Wales posted the fastest rate of expansion, followed by the South East. Northern Ireland and Scotland experienced the slowest rises in business activity, while the Republic of Ireland posted steep growth of activity.



	Share of UK GVA, 2012 (National Statistics)	Last 12 months	PMI Output Index Latest 3 months	Latest month
London	(22.8%)	58.4	56.2	56.7
South East	(14.9%)	59.1	58.4	56.3
North West	(9.6%)	57.5	54.9	54.1
East of England	(8.6%)	58.6	57.0	55.6
Scotland	(7.8%)	54.8	53.3	52.8
South West	(7.5%)	57.5	54.3	55.0
West Midlands	(7.2%)	58.5	58.1	55.7
Yorks & Humber	(6.9%)	57.7	57.0	55.3
East Midlands	(5.9%)	58.1	56.6	56.3
Wales	(3.5%)	58.8	58.5	56.9
North East	(3.1%)	59.1	56.8	56.9
N.Ireland	(2.2%)	57.3	52.4	49.8
UK	(100.0%)	58.2	56.5	55.4
Rep. of Ireland	n/a	59.7	60.6	61.1

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 registered in all UK regions monitored by the survey on average in the fourth quarter of 2014. East of England companies indicated the sharpest pace of job creation, while the North East posted the weakest rise in payroll numbers. Meanwhile, the Republic of Ireland saw employment rise more quickly than all UK regions.



	Share of UK GVA, 2012 (National Statistics)	Last 12 months	PMI Employment Index Latest 3 months	Latest month
London	(22.8%)	55.8	55.4	54.8
South East	(14.9%)	55.2	53.9	53.8
North West	(9.6%)	56.2	53.6	54.4
East of England	(8.6%)	56.9	57.5	56.7
Scotland	(7.8%)	53.8	53.7	54.4
South West	(7.5%)	55.4	54.8	53.9
West Midlands	(7.2%)	54.9	55.6	55.4
Yorks & Humber	(6.9%)	56.4	56.4	55.0
East Midlands	(5.9%)	54.6	55.0	54.0
Wales	(3.5%)	53.7	55.3	55.2
North East	(3.1%)	51.8	50.9	51.4
N.Ireland	(2.2%)	53.9	51.2	50.1
UK	(100.0%)	55.9	55.5	55.0
Rep. of Ireland	n/a	57.6	59.0	59.8

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 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

Ulster Bank is a member of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group. Ulster Bank acts as a full service institution to its customer base, providing an extensive range of retail banking, business banking, investment banking and capital markets services to corporate, personal and institutional clients.

Our focus is firmly centred on our customers. Every business customer benefits from access to a dedicated, professional and highly trained relationship manager. Their role is to gain a genuine understanding of our customers' business needs and provide dedicated financial information and assistance.

We work together to achieve business success, no matter how simple or complex our customers' requirements. A combination of size, financial strength

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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preparation of this publication, no representation or warranty is made or given in respect of its contents and no responsibility is accepted for the consequences of any reliance placed on it by any person.

Ulster Bank Northern Ireland Purchasing Managers Index (PMI)

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

December 2014 Survey Update

Issued 12th January 2015

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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.

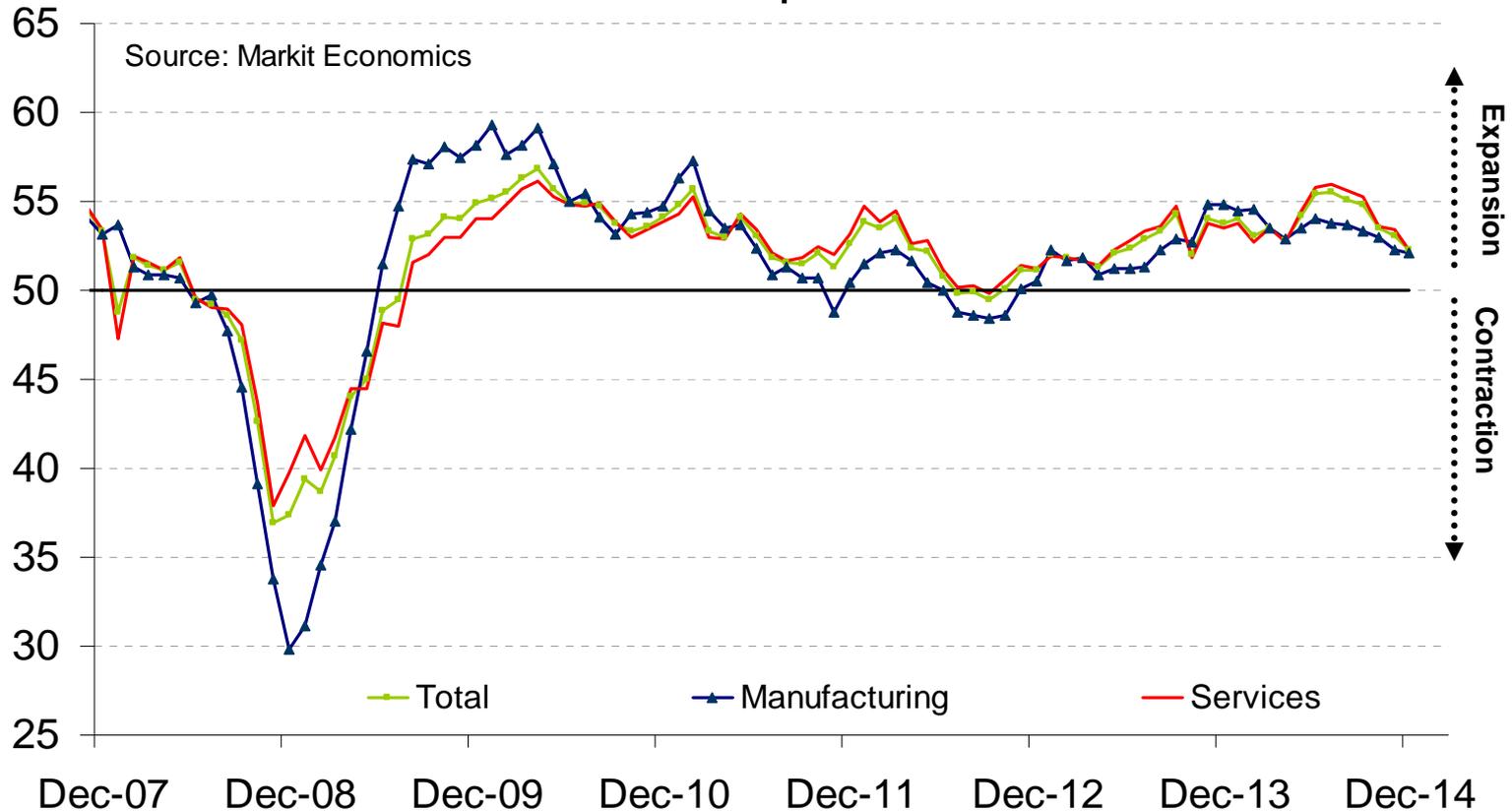
Index numbers are calculated from the percentages of respondents reporting an improvement, no change or decline on the previous month. These indices vary from 0 to 100 with readings of 50.0 signalling no change on the previous month. Readings above 50.0 signal an increase or improvement; readings below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

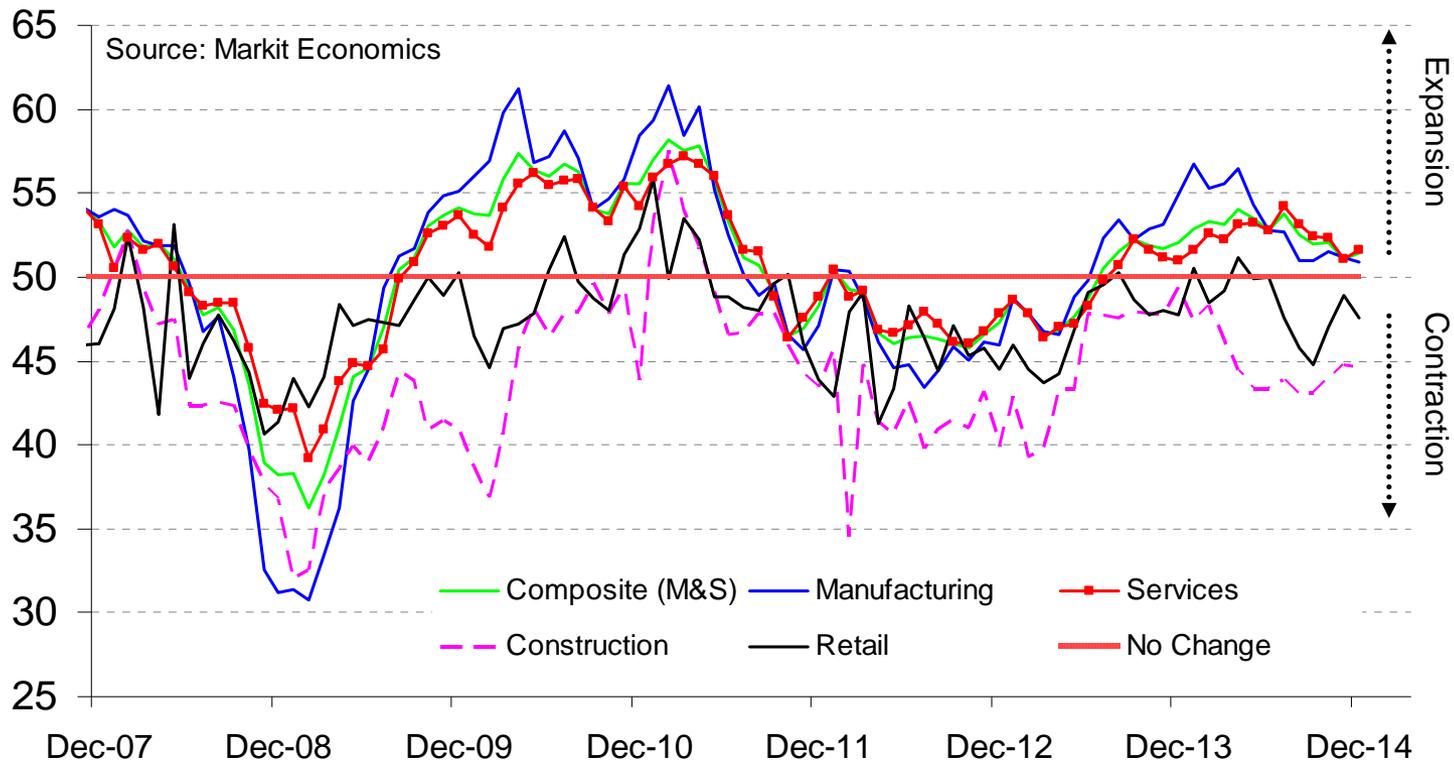
Global output growth eases to a 14-month low

Global Output - PMI

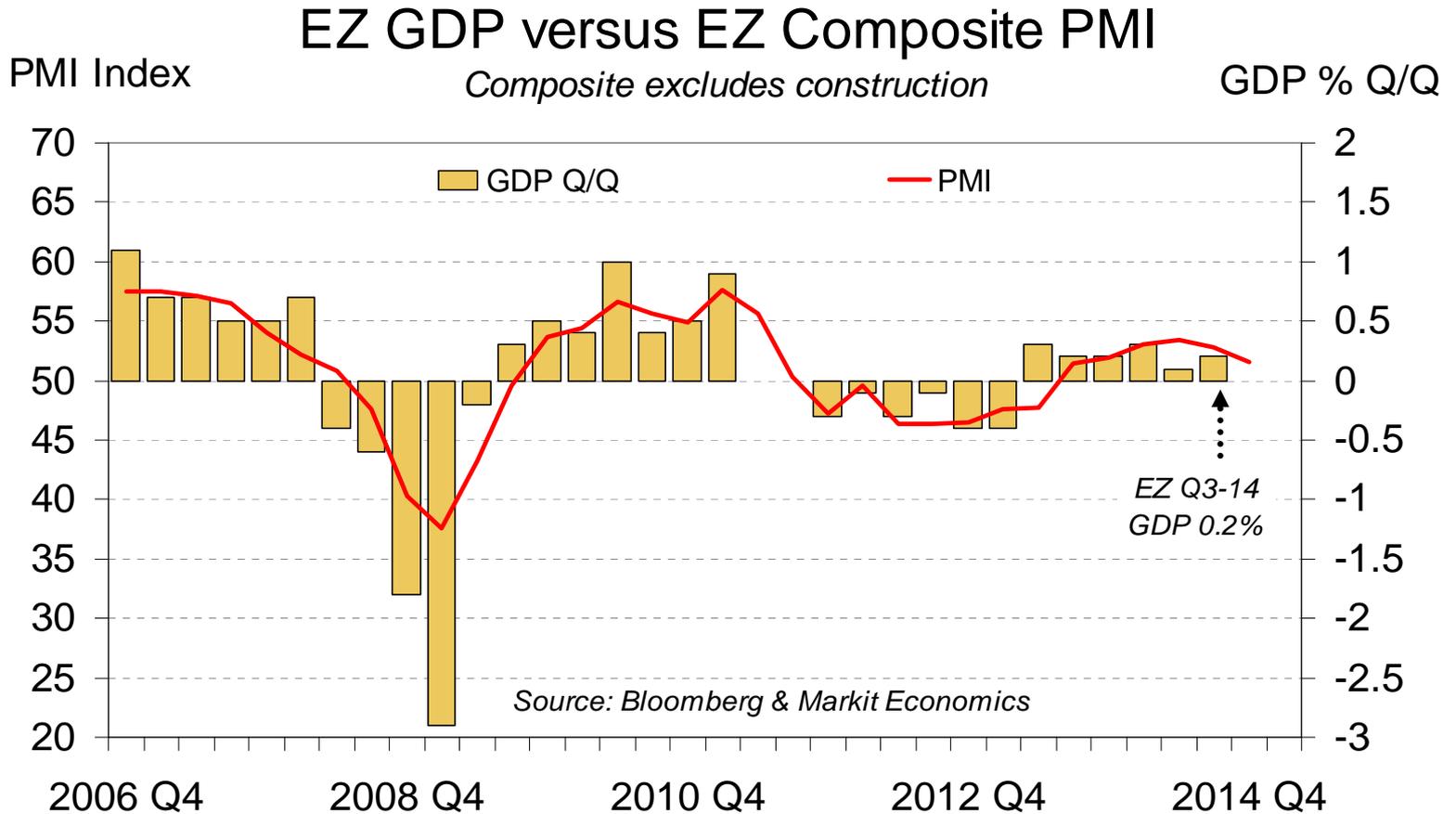


Eurozone manufacturing sector growth eases with retail & construction output still contracting

Eurozone PMIs: Output

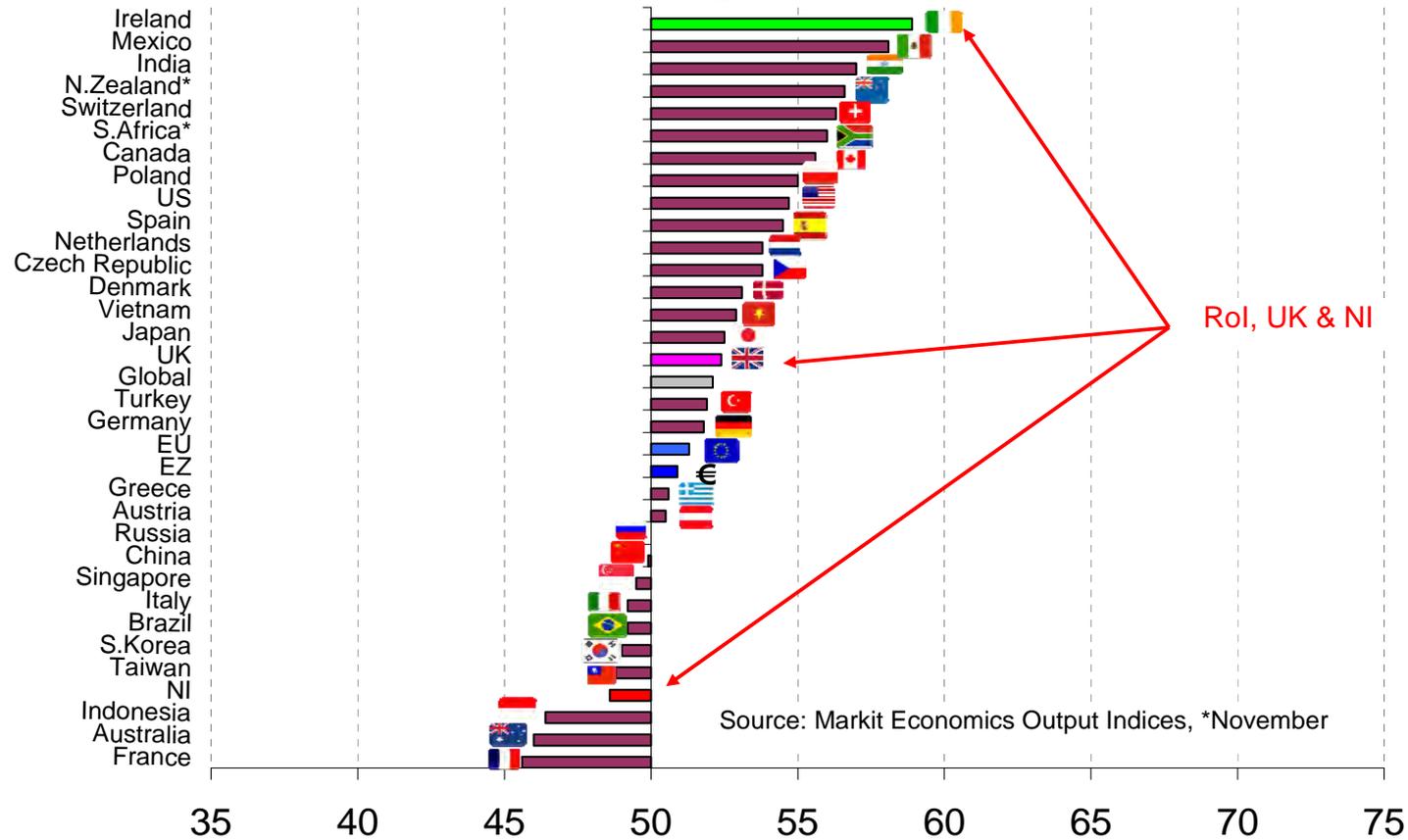


The Eurozone's composite PMI signals economic growth easing in Q4



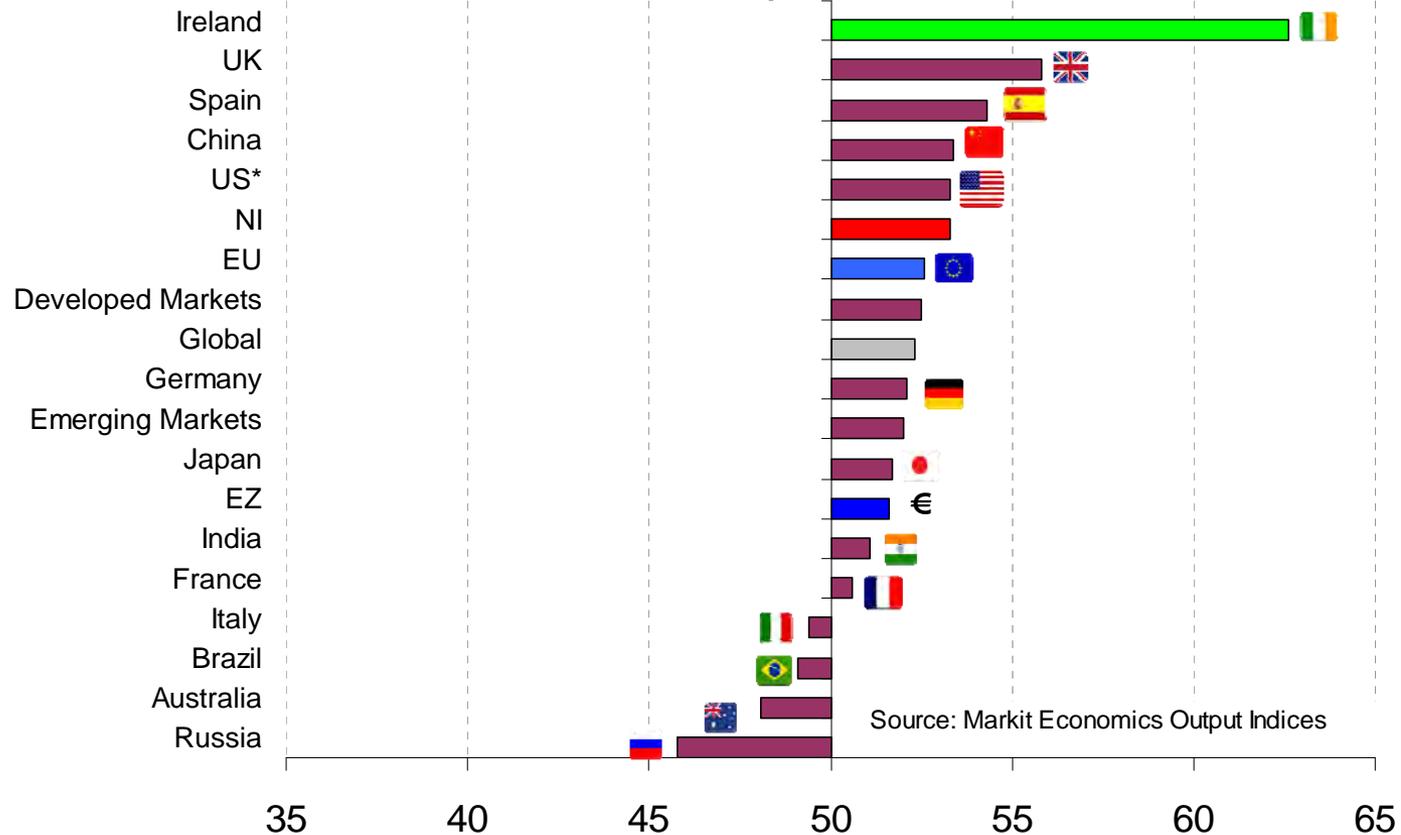
Top, middle and near the bottom describes the relative manufacturing output performance of the RoI, UK & NI

PMIs: Manufacturing Output December 2014

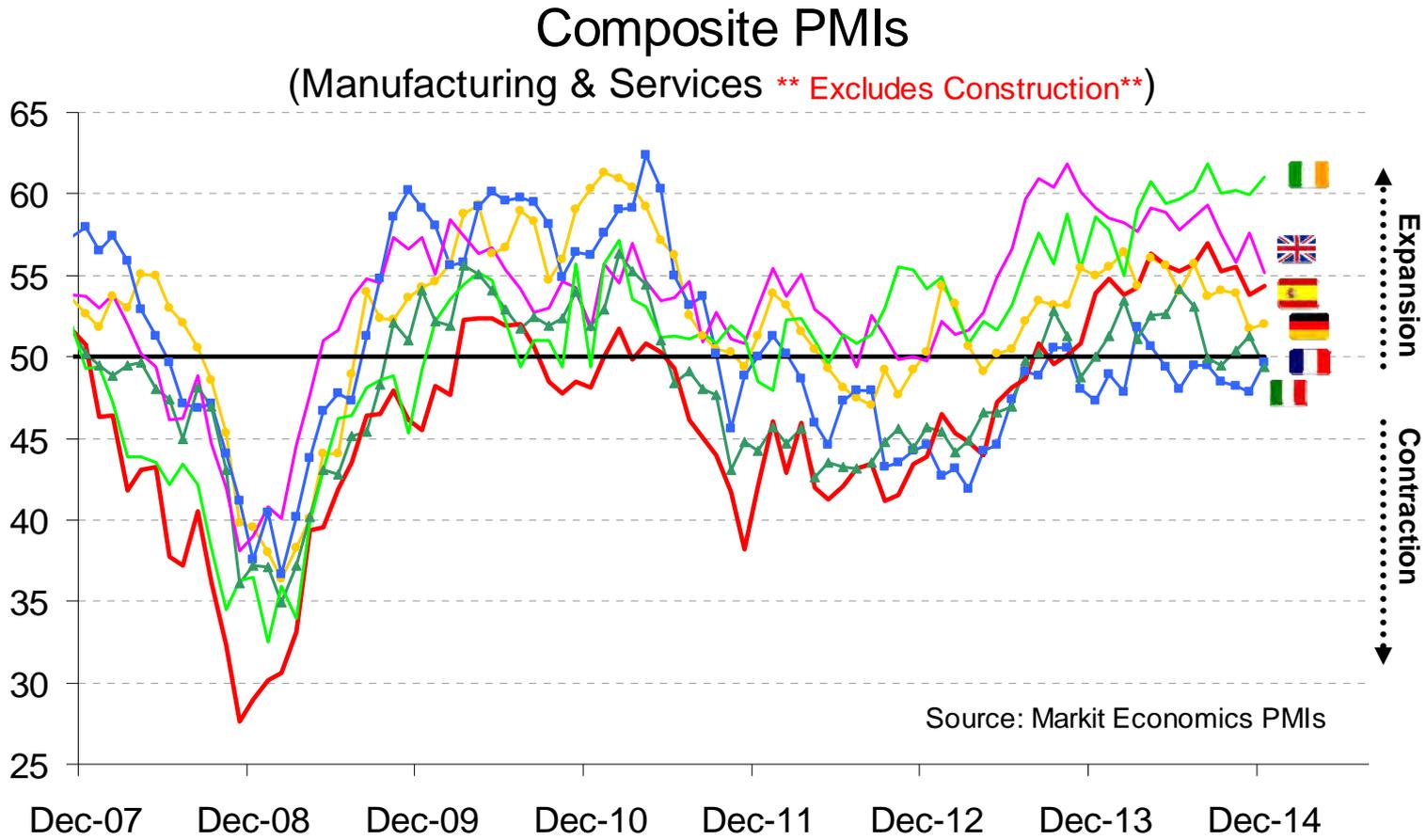


The Republic of Ireland, UK & Spain posted the fastest rates of service sector output growth in December

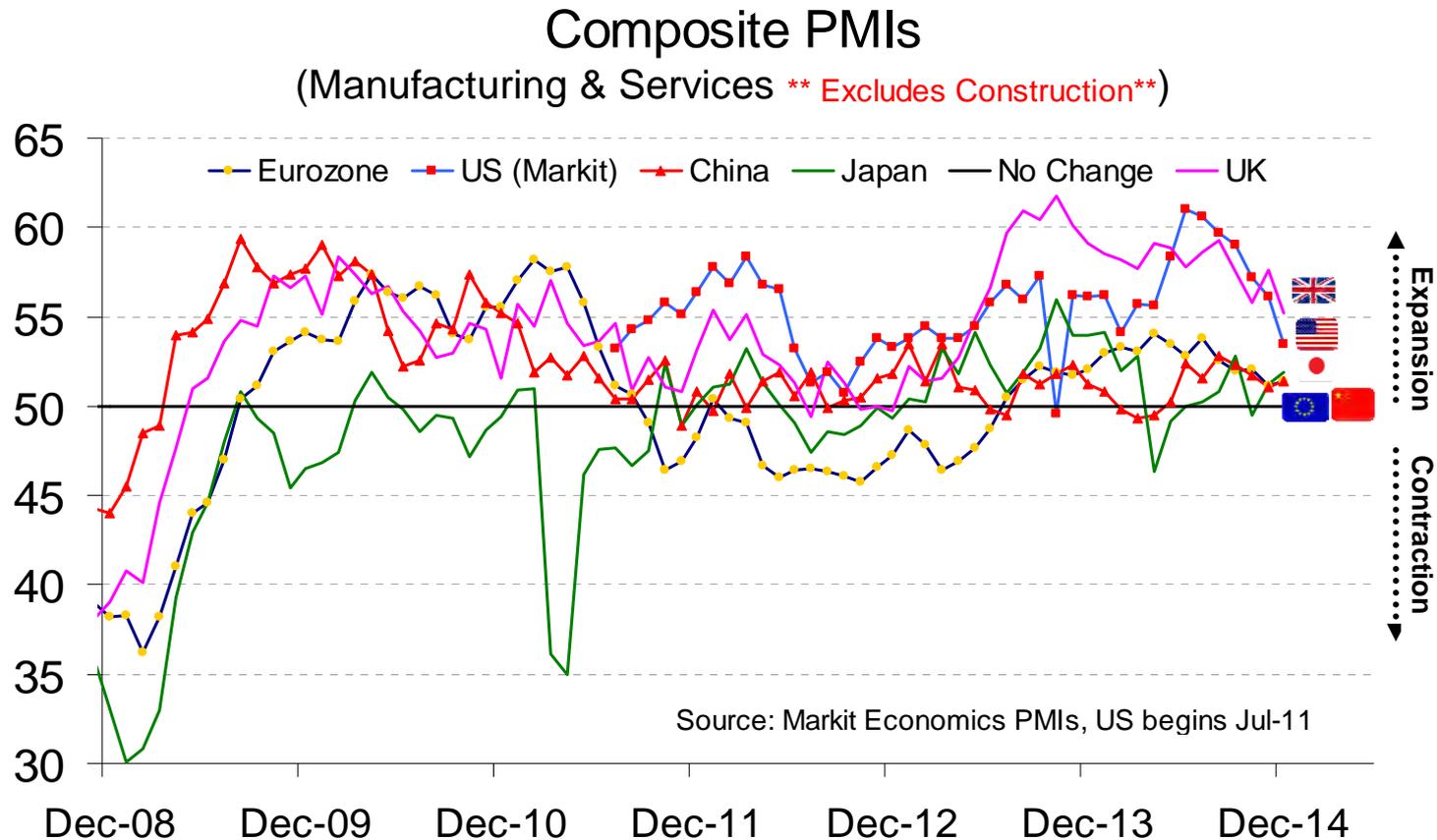
PMIs: Services Output December 2014



Ireland, Spain & Germany post an acceleration in growth in December, with Italy & France still in contraction mode

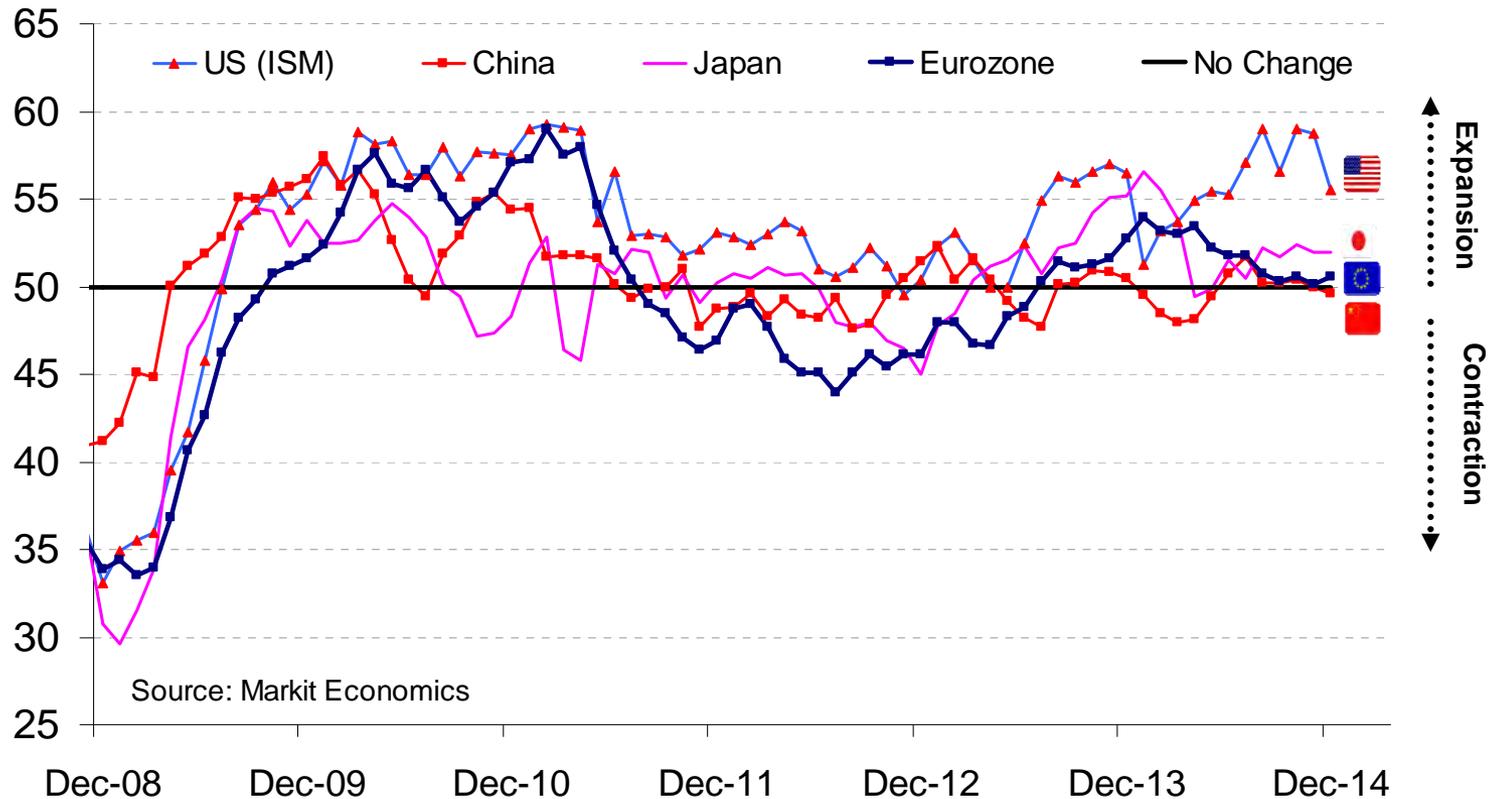


The US & UK Composite PMIs post a marked slowdown in December with Japan reporting a pick-up in activity

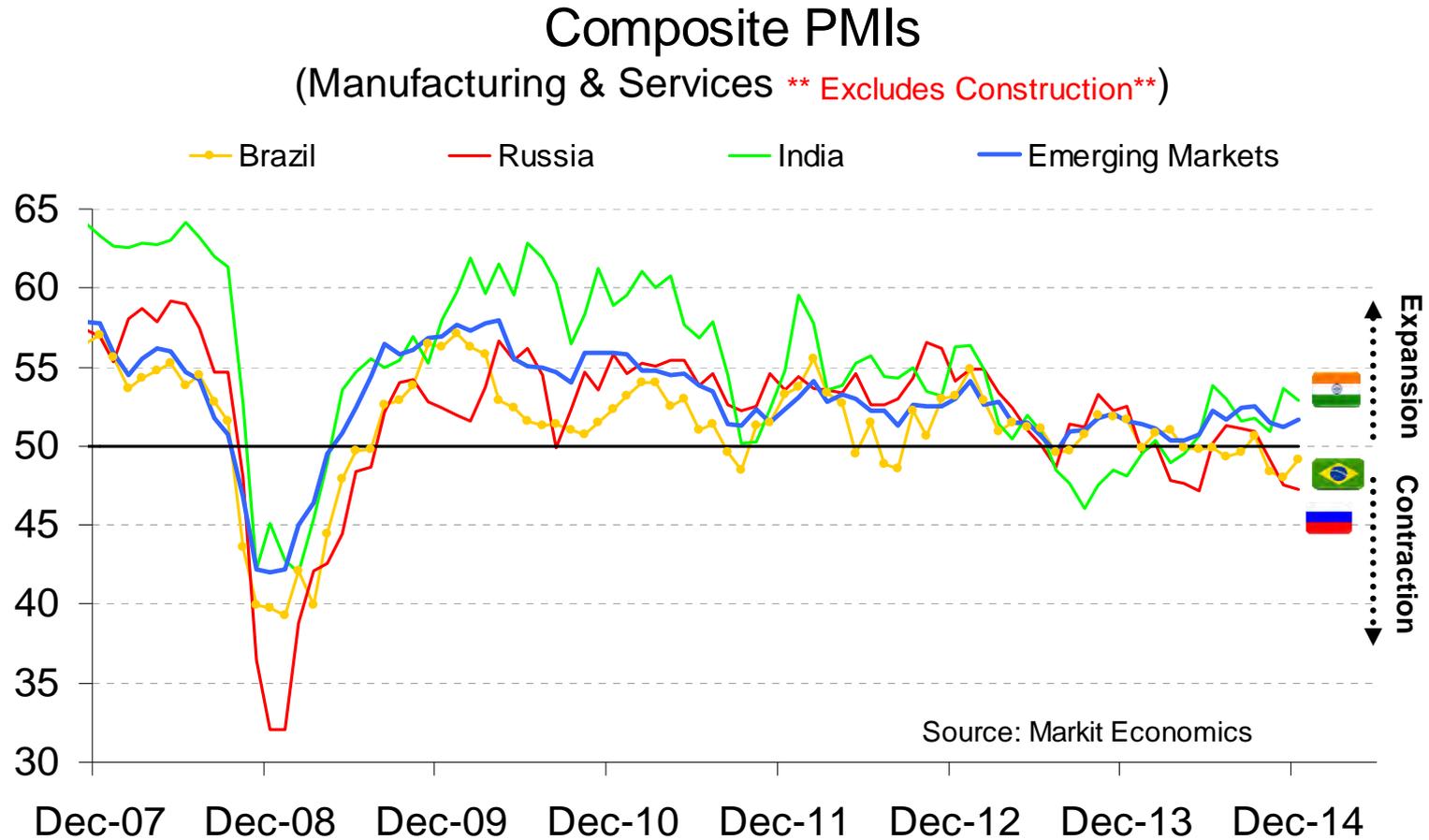


The US continues to enjoy a robust manufacturing recovery whilst the EZ continues to flirt with stagnation

Manufacturing PMIs

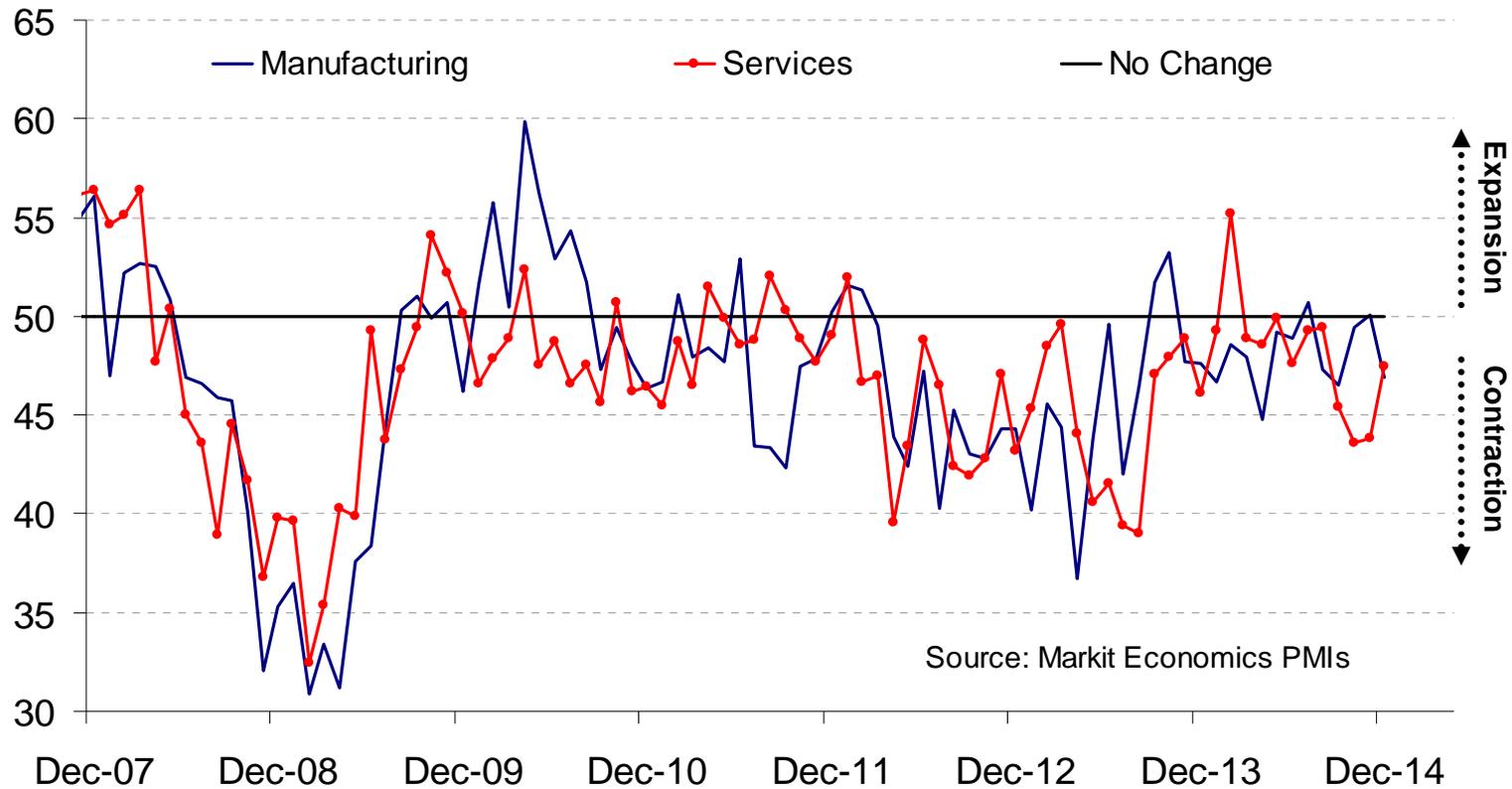


Emerging markets growth rises to a 3-month high with Brazil & Russia still in contraction mode



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

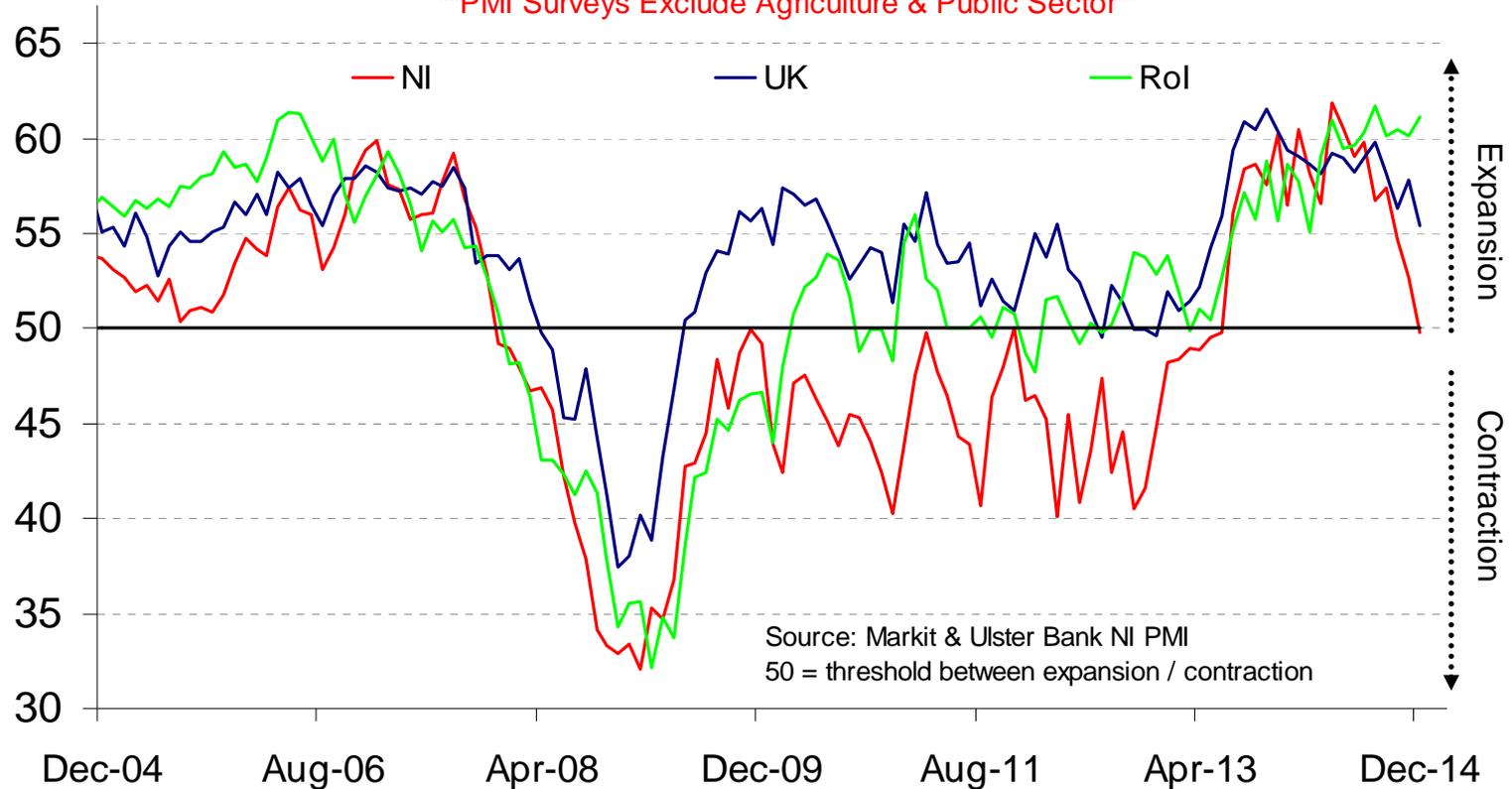
Australia - PMI



NI records its first month of contraction, albeit marginal, since mid-2013

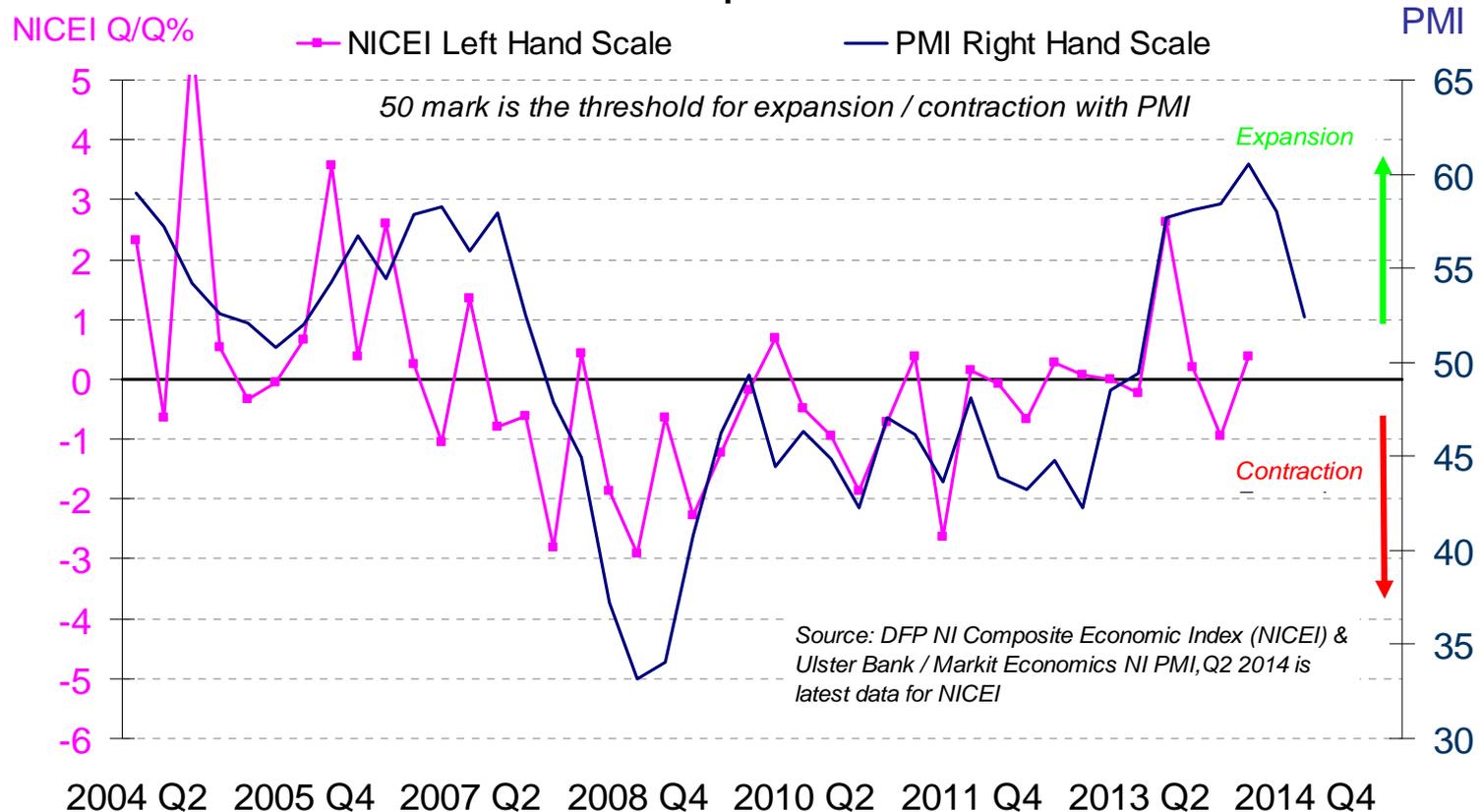
Private Sector Business Activity - PMIs

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



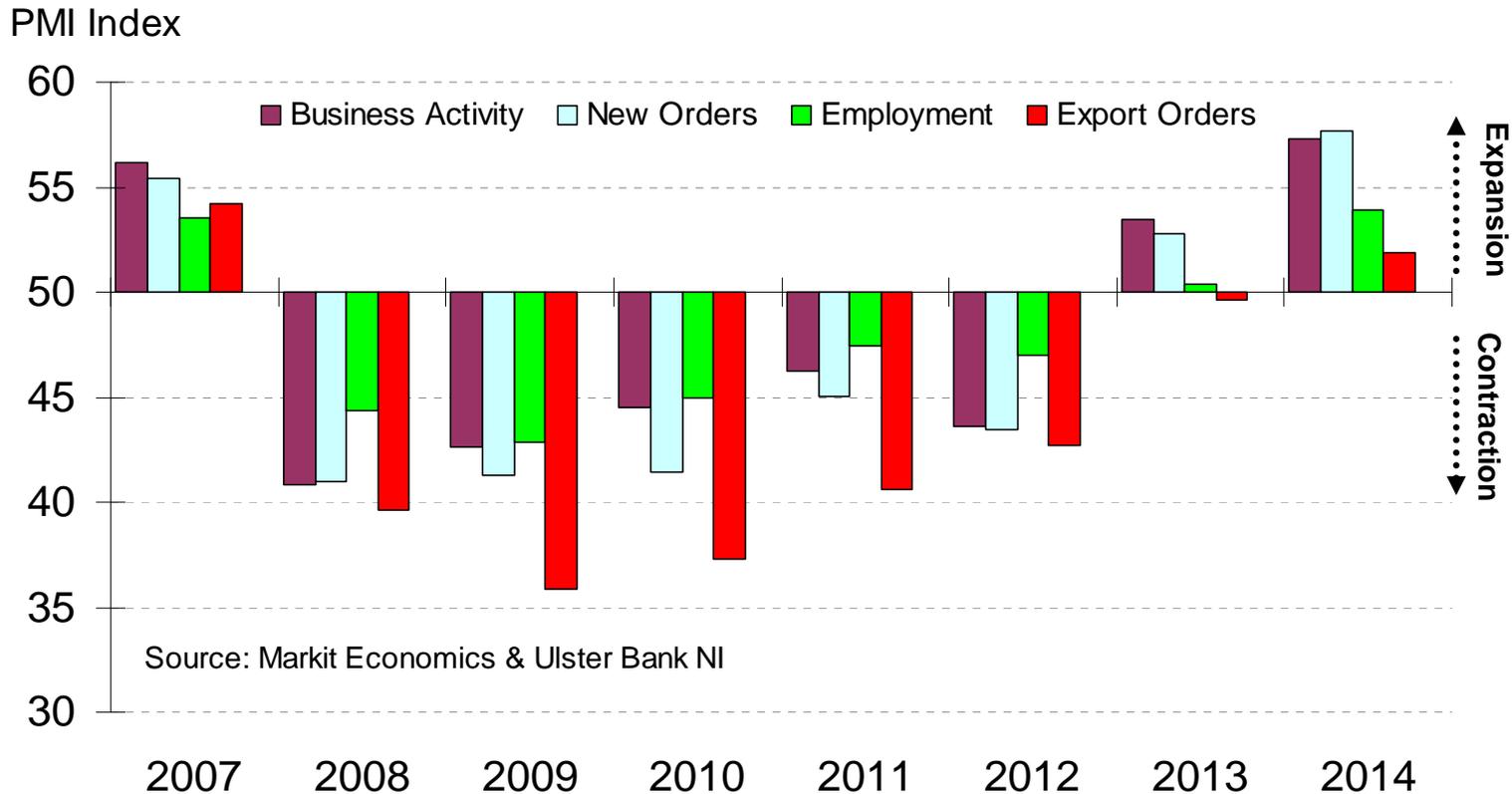
PMI suggests growth in DFP's private sector composite index *(combines indices for construction, services, agriculture & industrial production)* throughout 2014

NI Private Sector Output Index Versus NI PMI



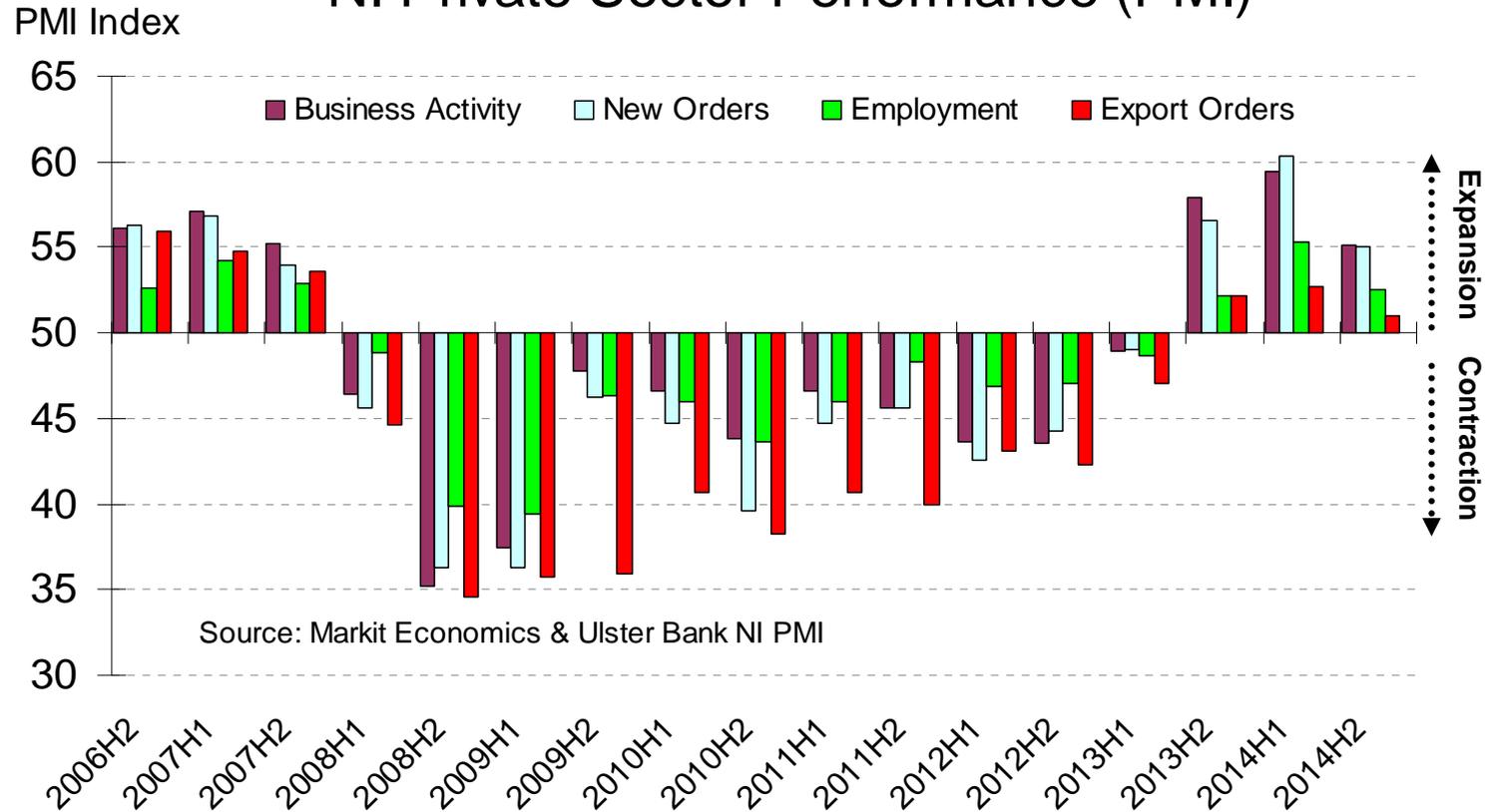
2014 was the first year in 7 years that business activity, new orders, employment & export orders all expanded

NI Private Sector Performance (PMI)



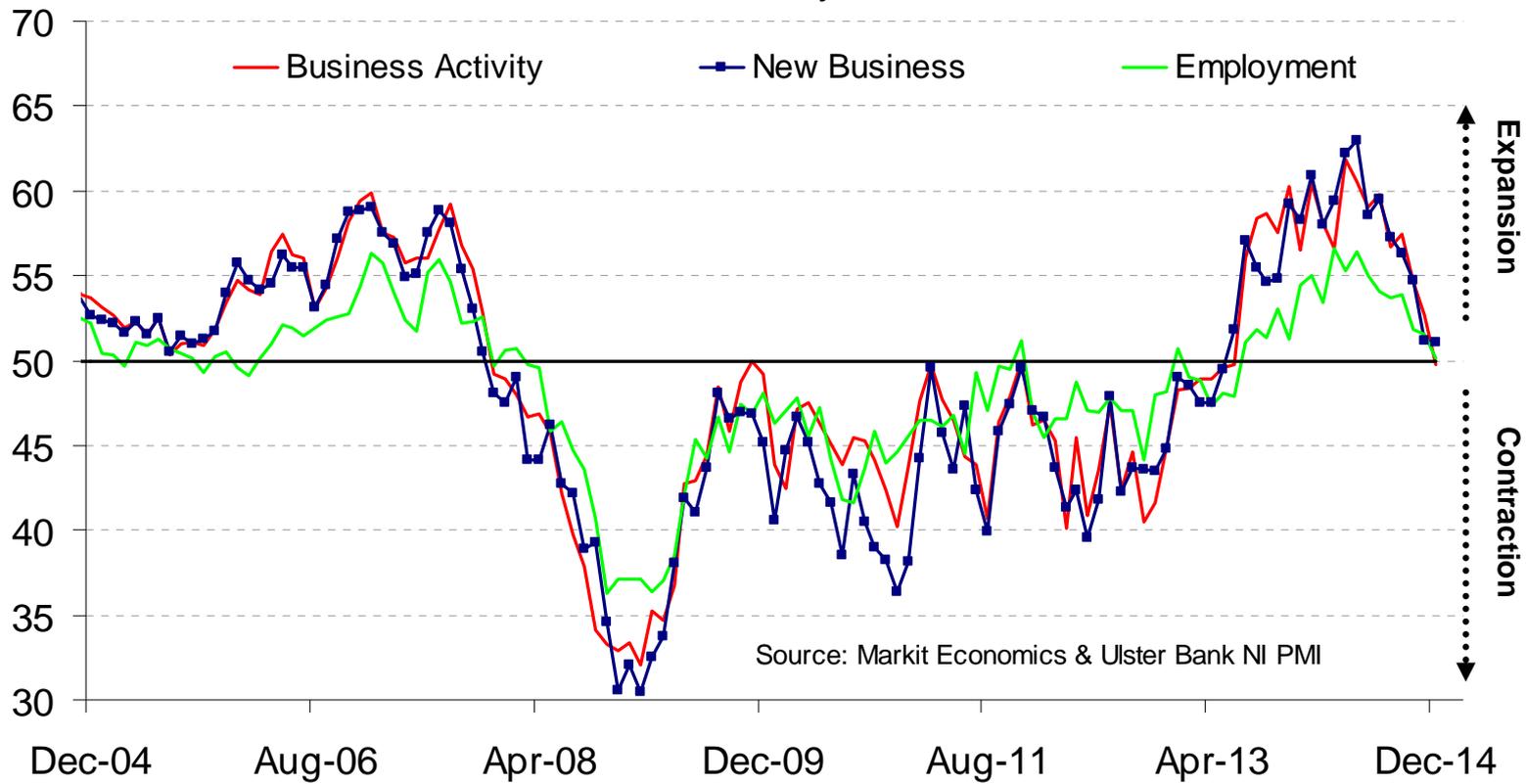
NI's recovery took hold in H2 of 2013 with all indicators improving in H1 2014 but easing in H2 2014

NI Private Sector Performance (PMI)



The pace of growth in output, new orders & employment continued to slow in December

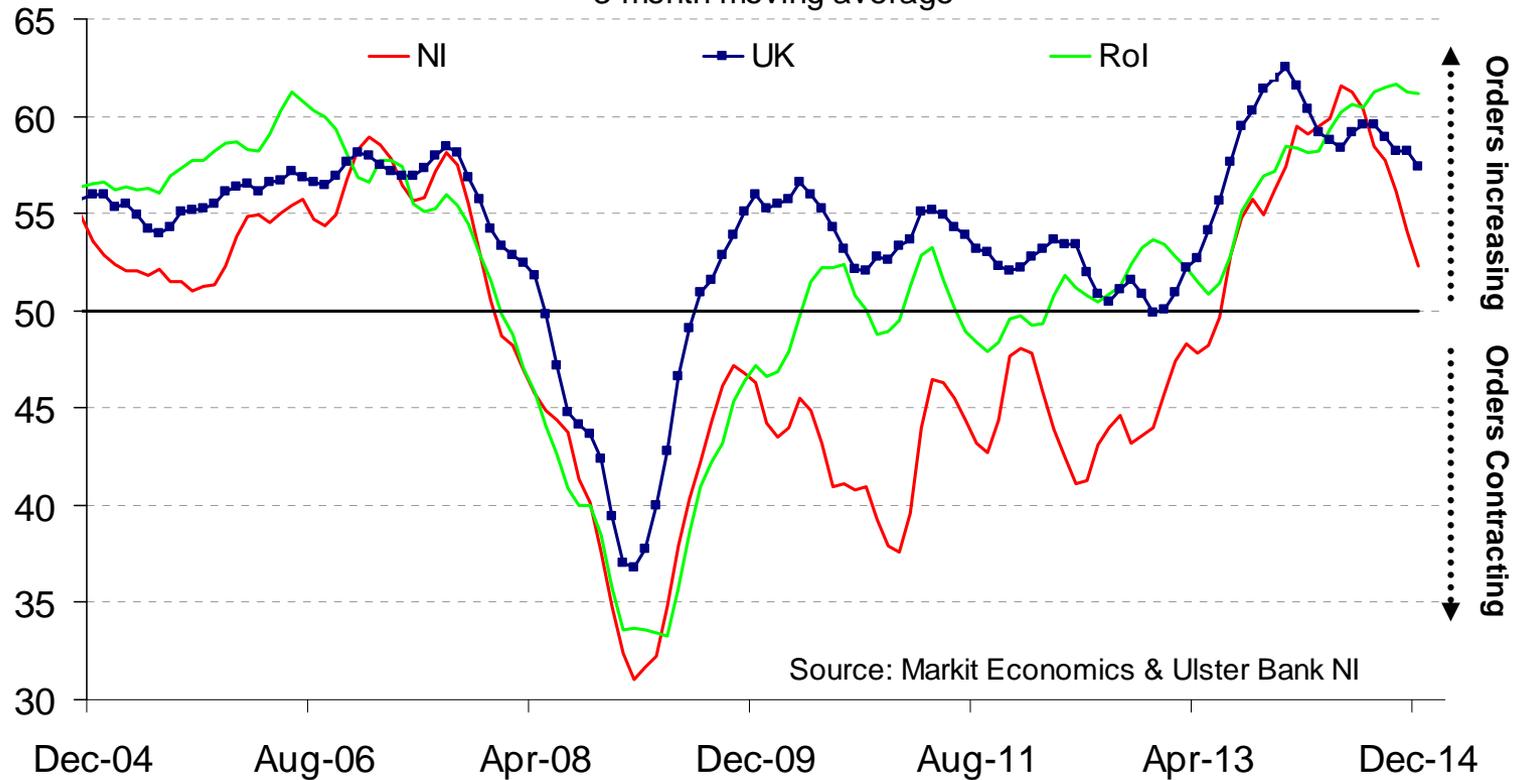
NI Private Sector Activity Monthly



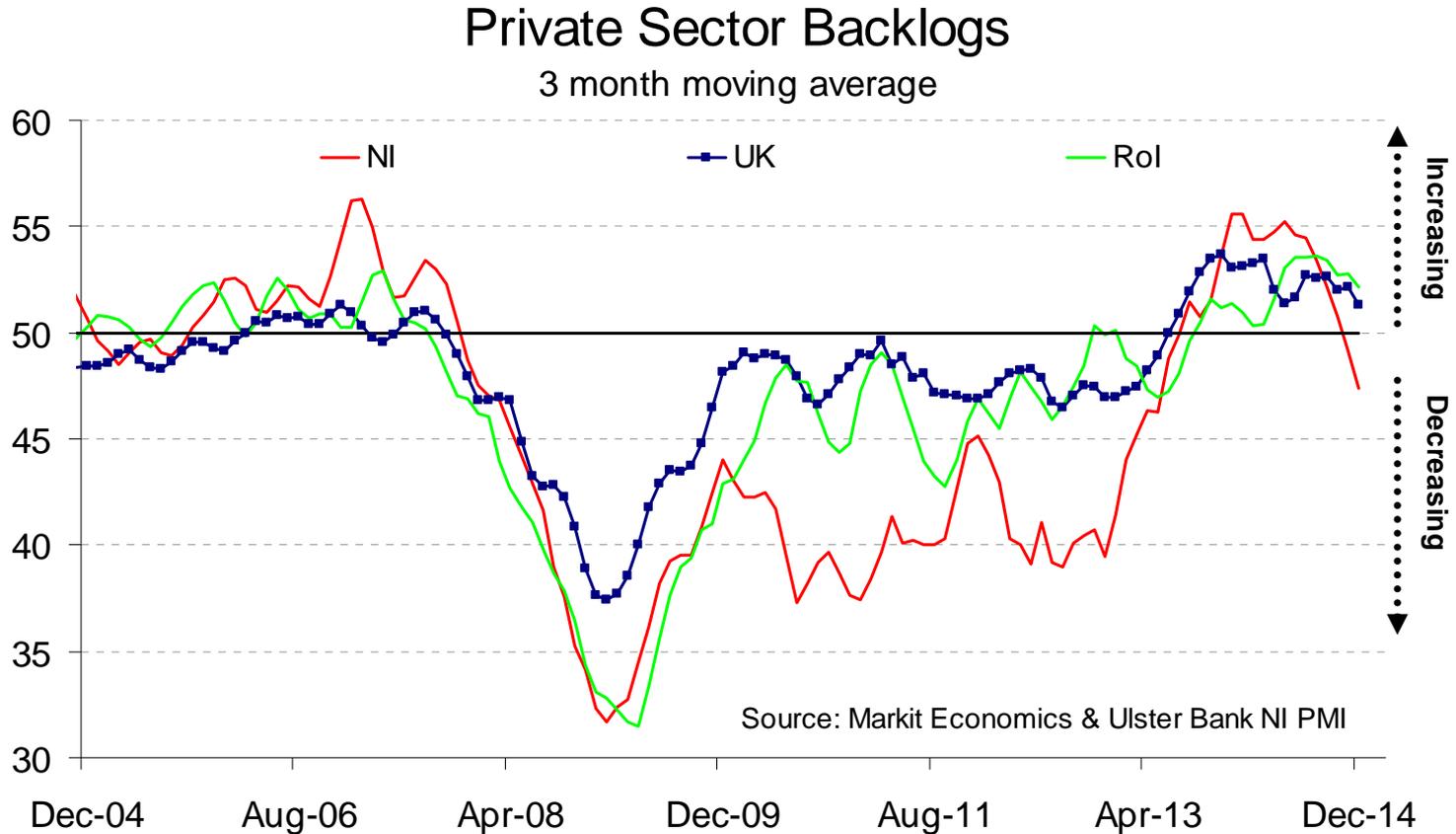
NI order books are growing at their weakest rate in 19 months but are still increasing

Private Sector New Orders

3 month moving average

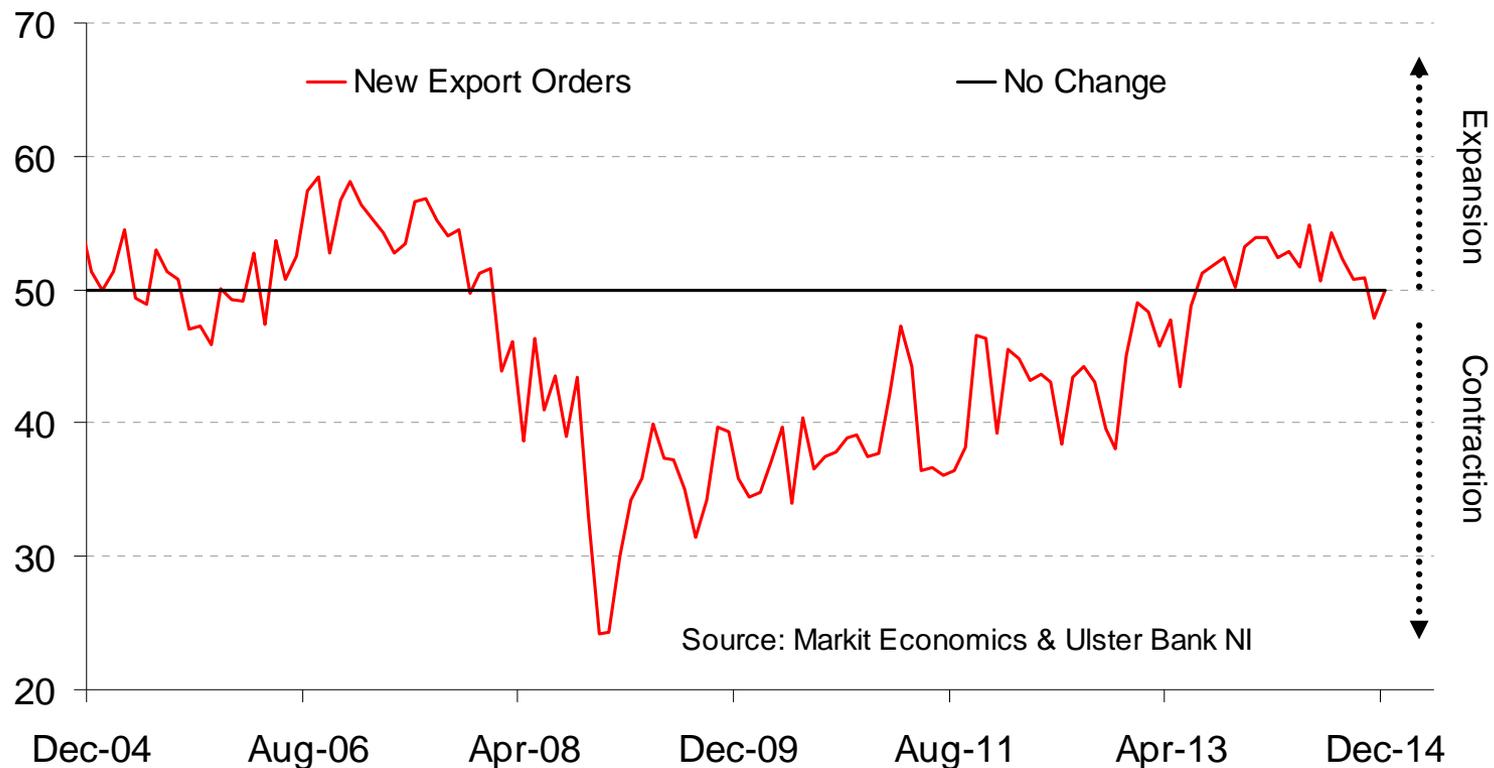


Backlogs of work continue to grow in the UK & RoI but NI posts a 3rd month of contraction as activity slows

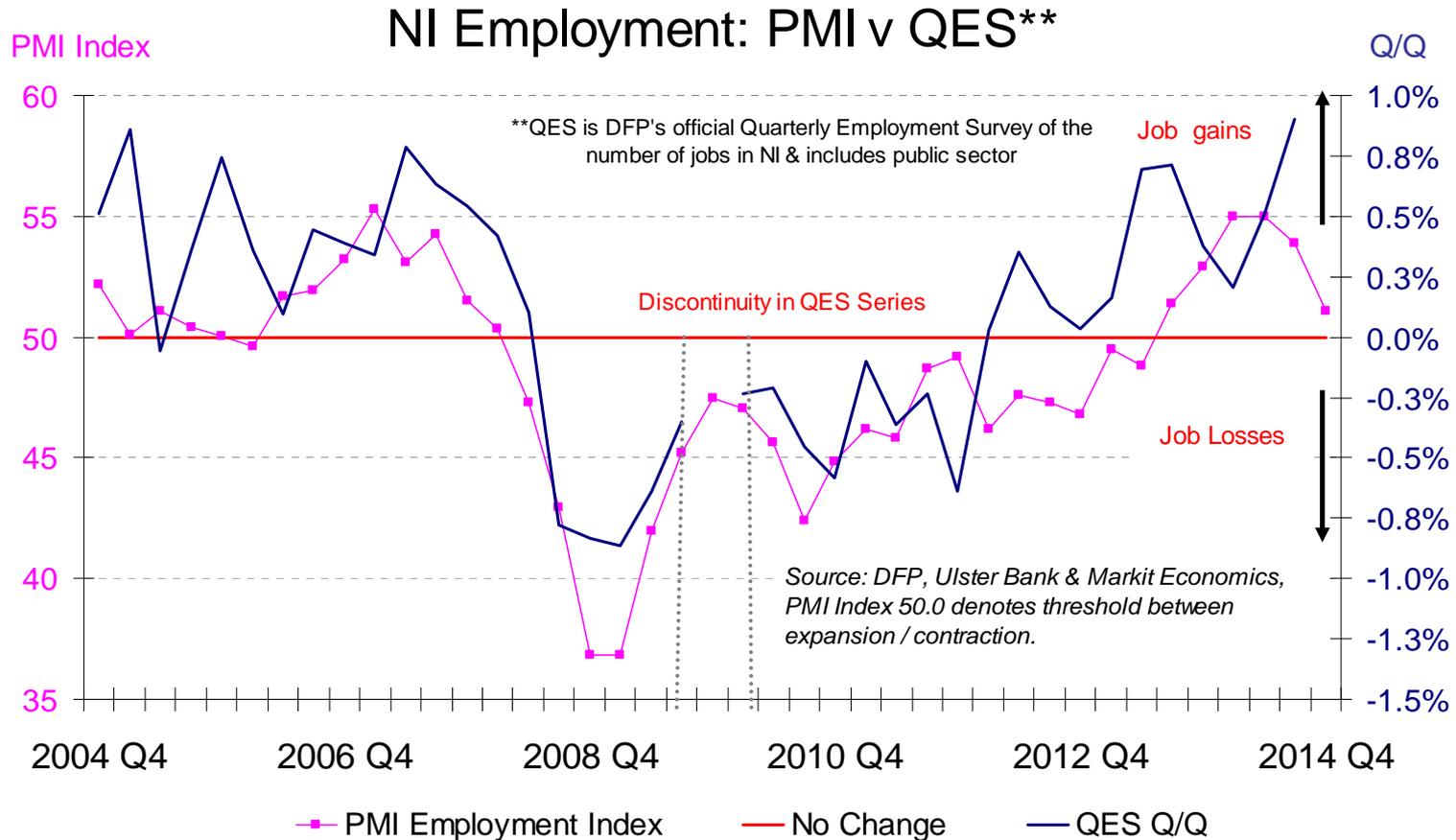


Export orders flat in December following November's first monthly decline in 17 months

NI New Export Business

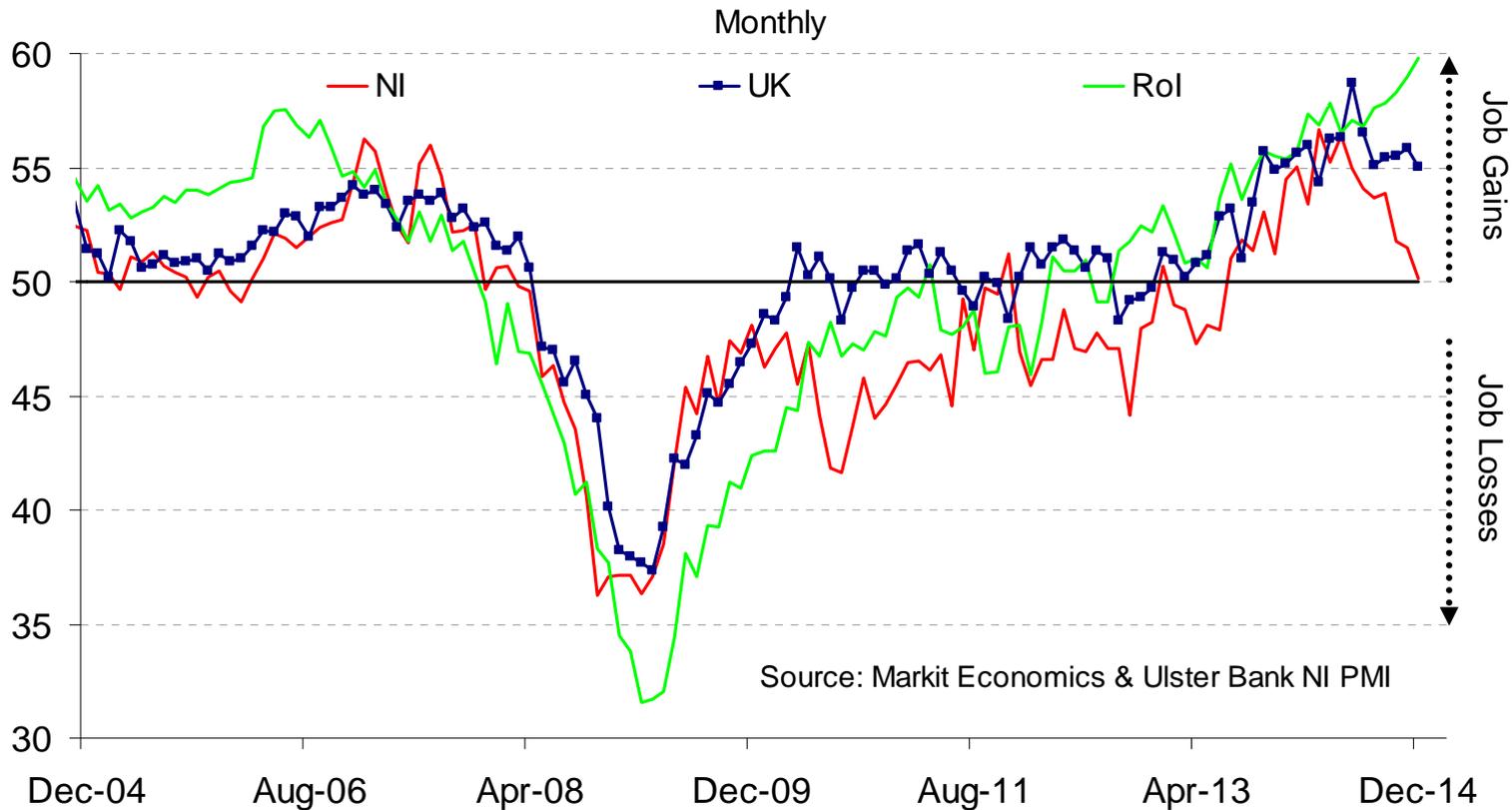


PMI signals the fastest rate of jobs growth in 7 years in Q2 with the pace of job creation easing in Q3/Q4



Job creation accelerates at a record rate in the RoI but the pace of jobs growth slows to an 18-mth low for NI

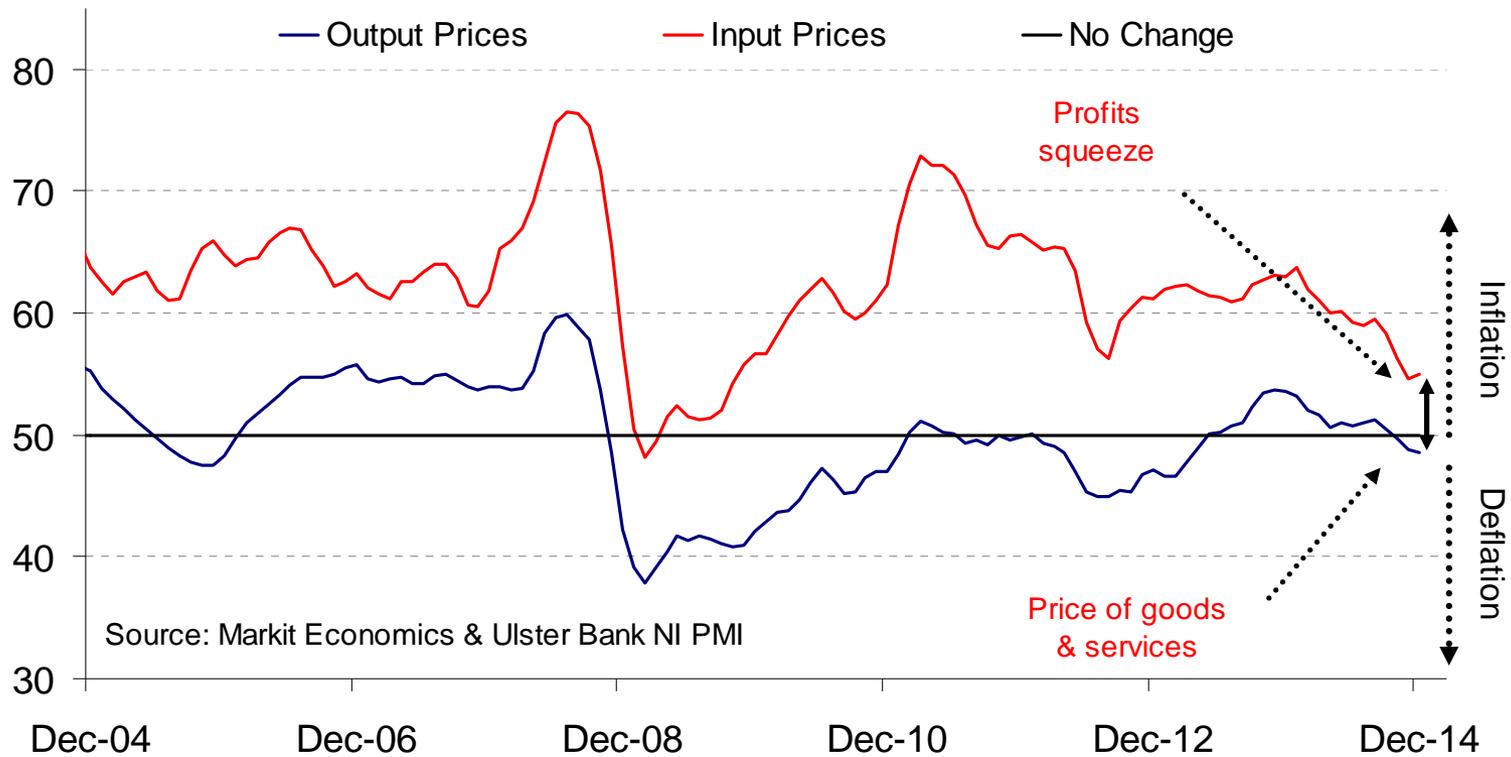
Private Sector Employment Levels



Inflationary pressures relatively subdued with output prices falling

NI Private Sector Profit Squeeze

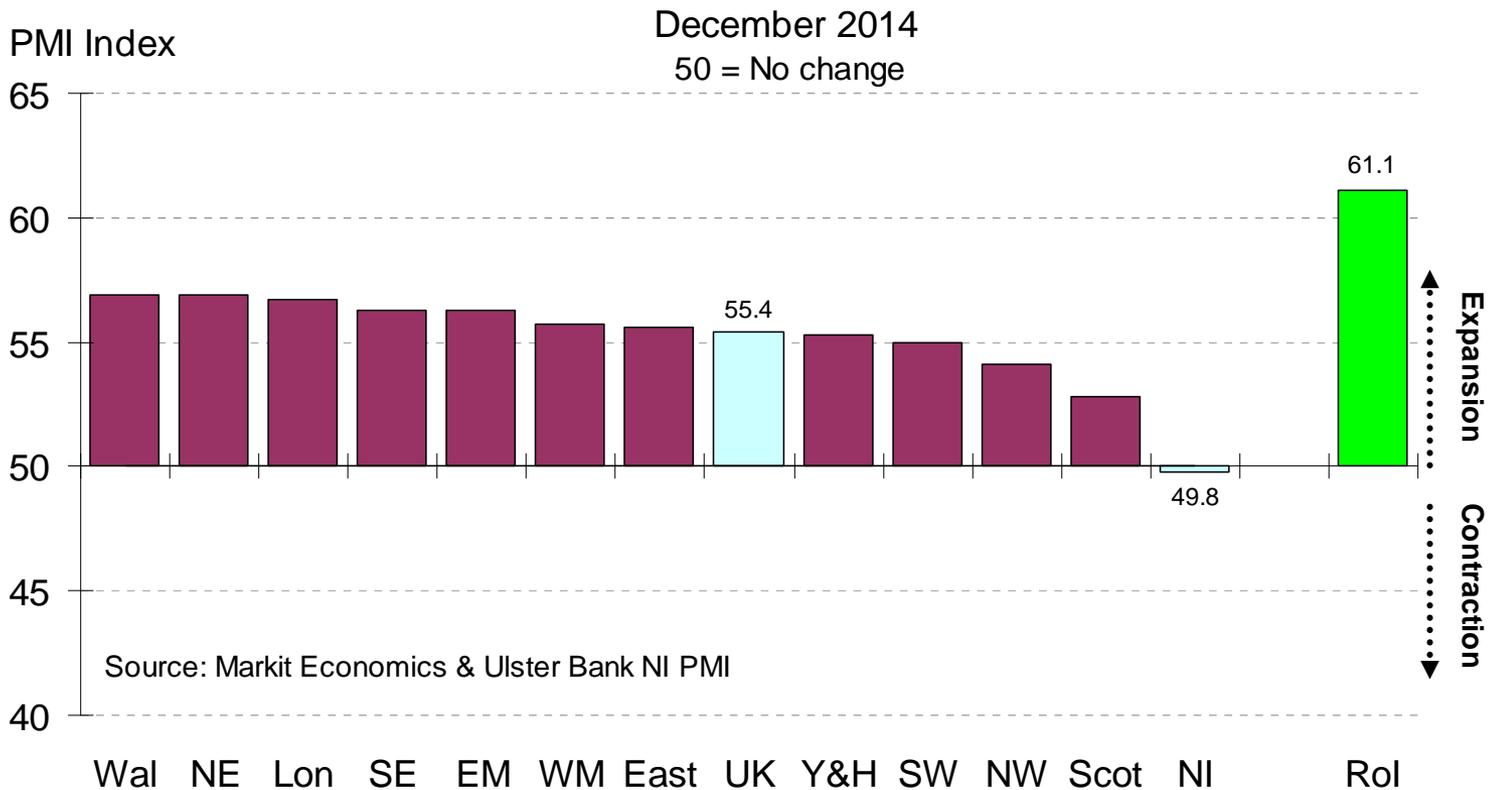
3 Month Moving Average



*Regional
Comparisons*

NI was the only UK region to see a contraction in output in December with the strongest growth rate posted in the Rol

Output / Business Activity



Most of the UK regions & the RoI posted strong rates of growth in Q4 but NI is at the foot of regional league table

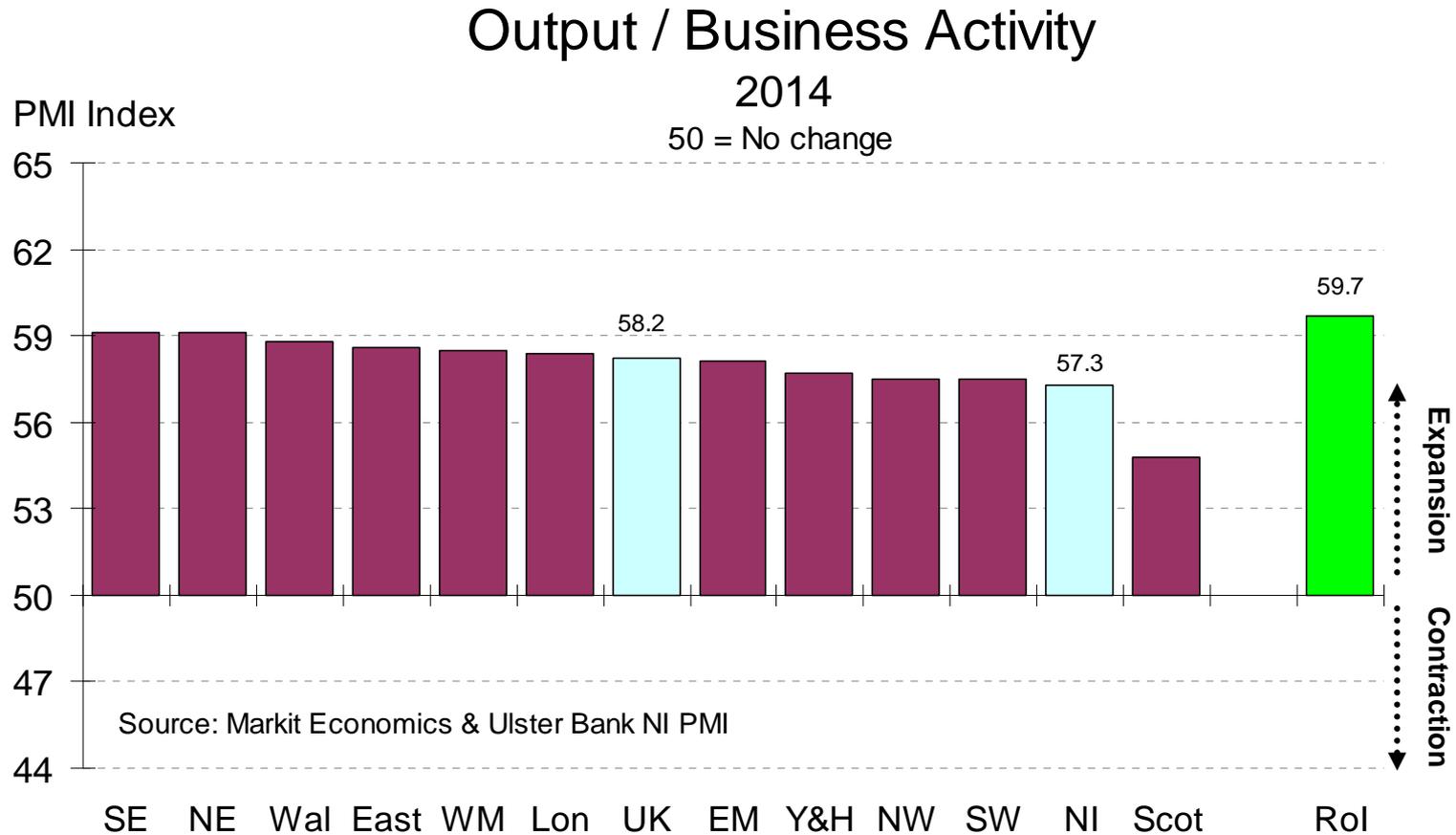
Output / Business Activity

Q4 2014

50 = No change



The RoI reported the fastest rate of growth in business activity in 2014 with Scotland posting the slowest rate



NI posts the weakest rate of jobs growth within the UK in December with the Rol reporting the strongest rate

Employment Levels

December 2014

50 = No change



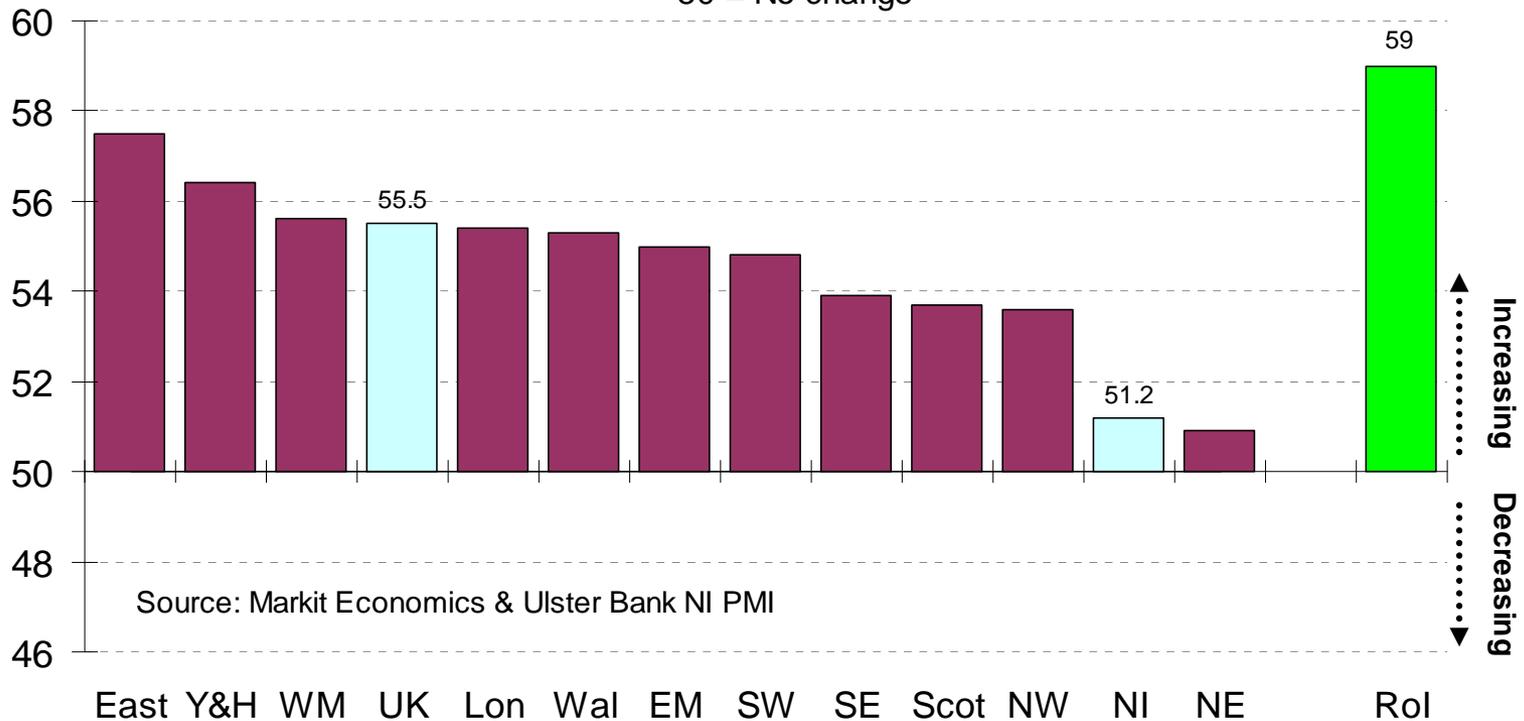
NI and the North East of England post the weakest rates of employment creation within the UK in Q4

Employment Levels

Q4 2014

50 = No change

PMI Index



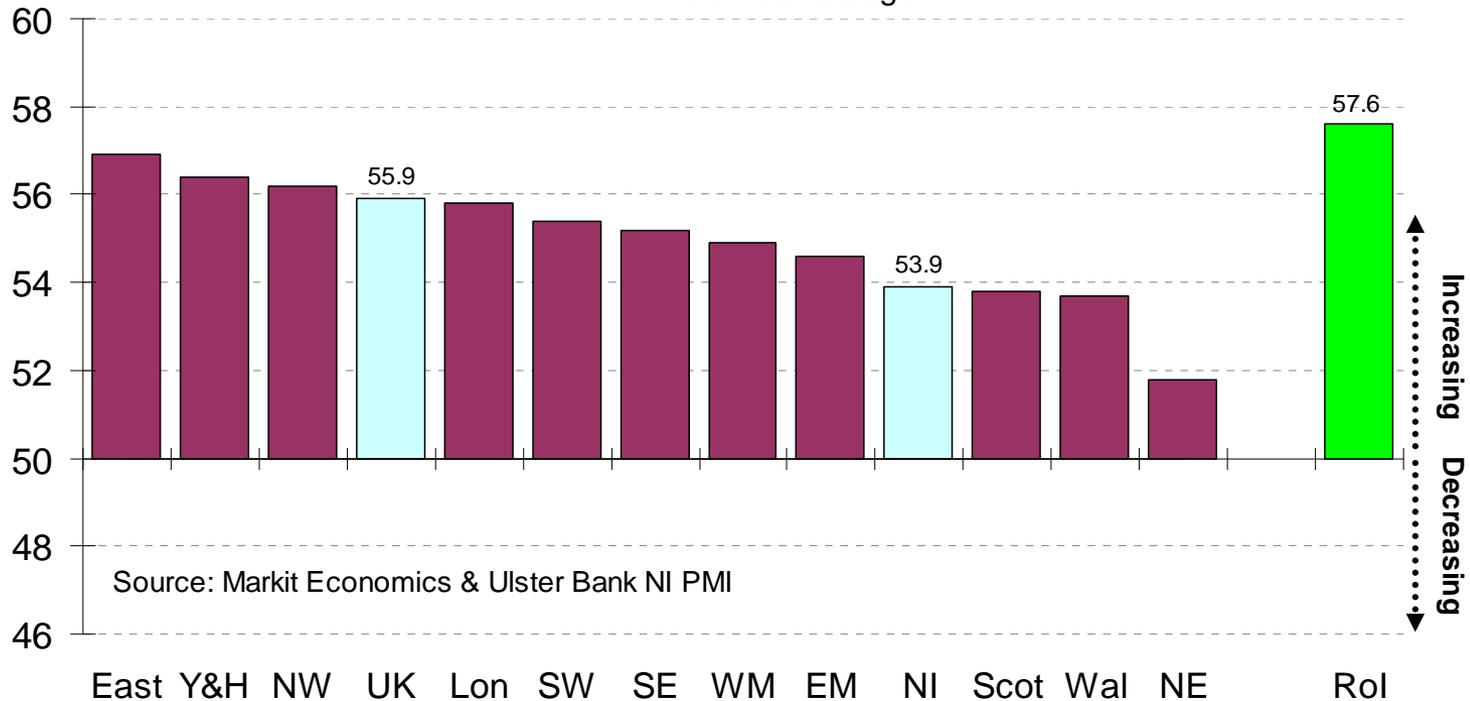
Wales & the North East posted the weakest rates of jobs growth in 2014 with the Rol reporting the strongest rates

Employment Levels

2014

50 = No change

PMI Index

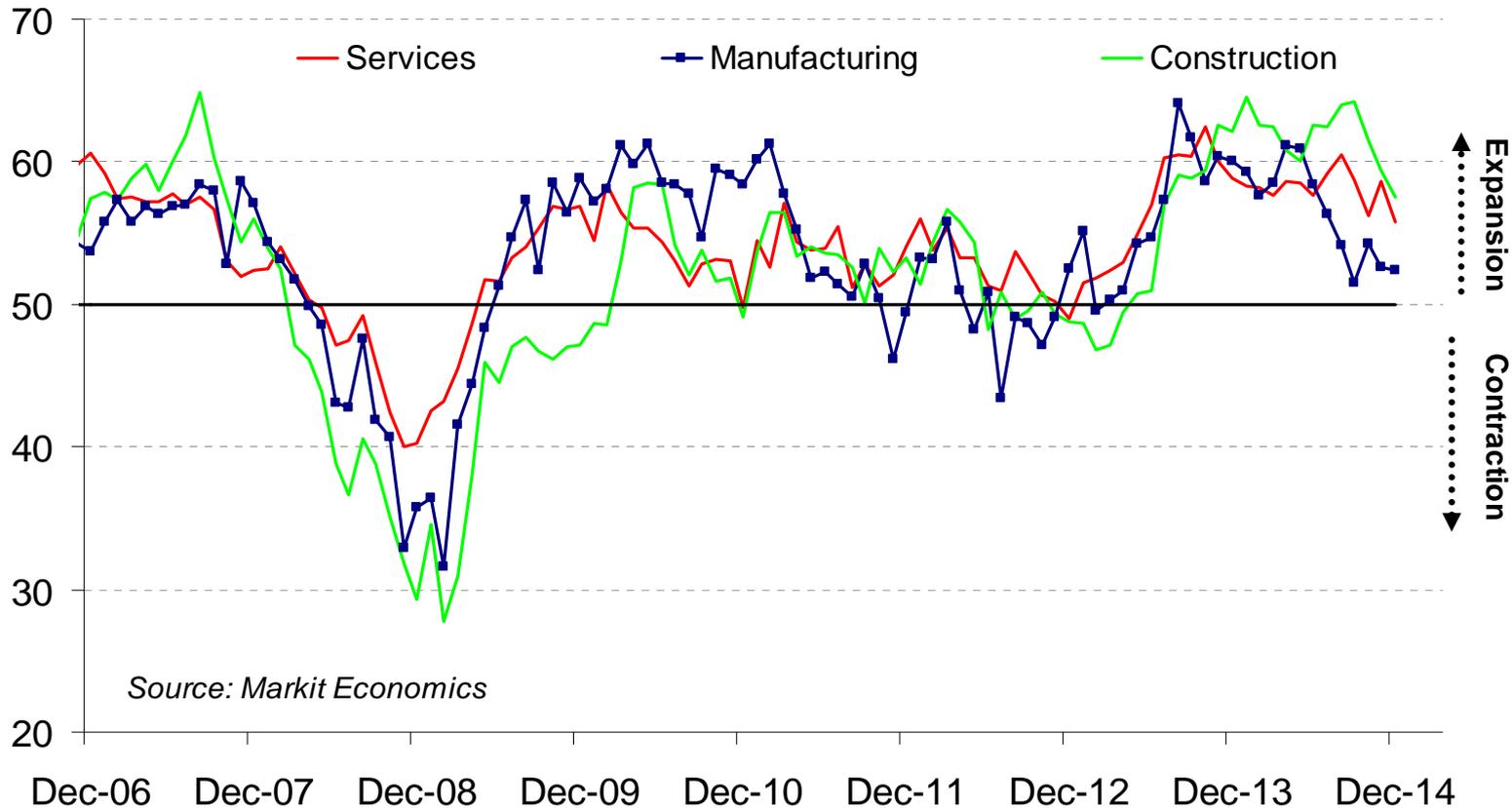


Source: Markit Economics & Ulster Bank NI PMI

Sectoral Comparisons

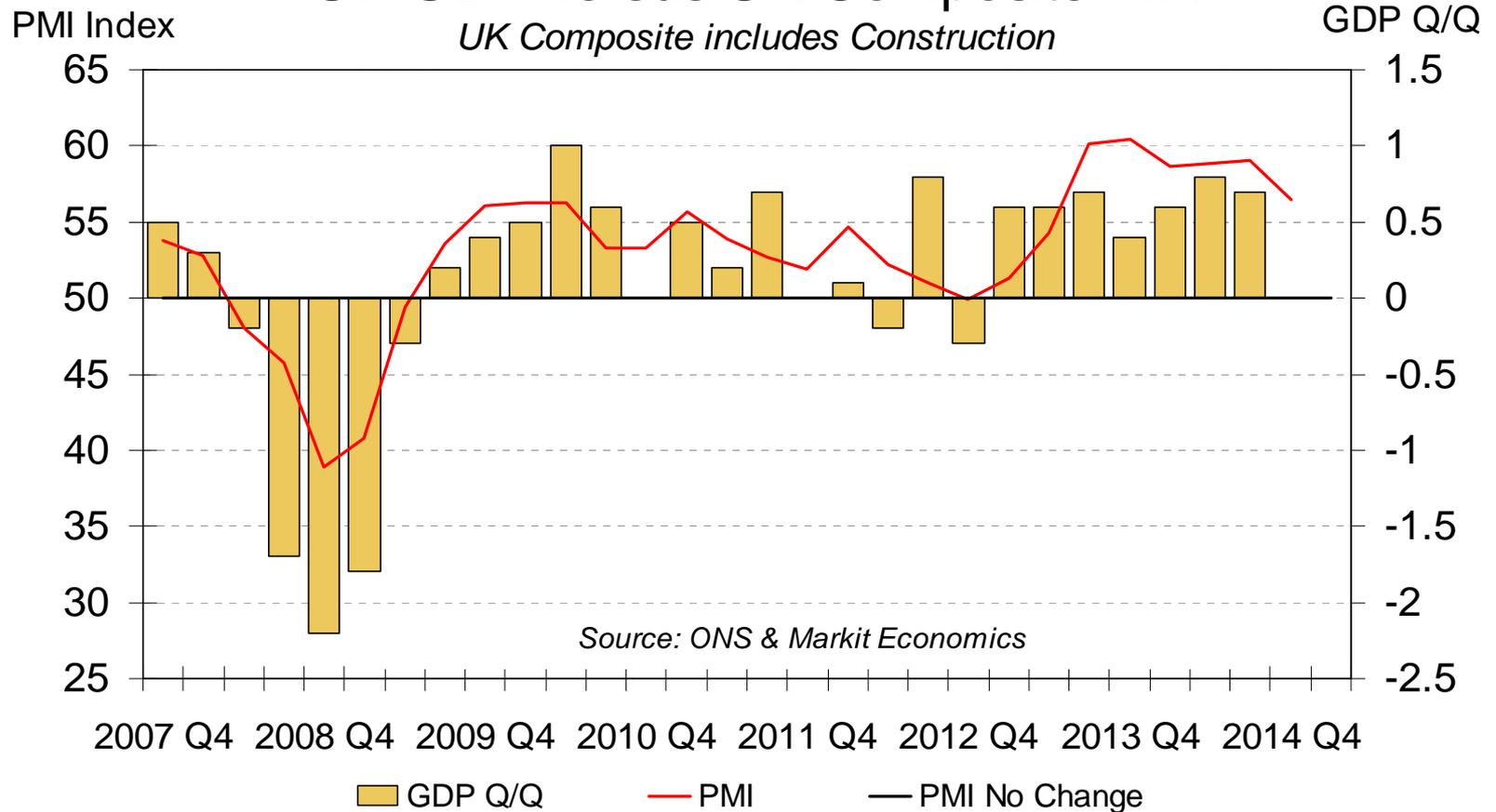
Slowdown in business activity across all sectors although rates of growth remain strong in services & construction

UK Business Activity / Output - PMIs

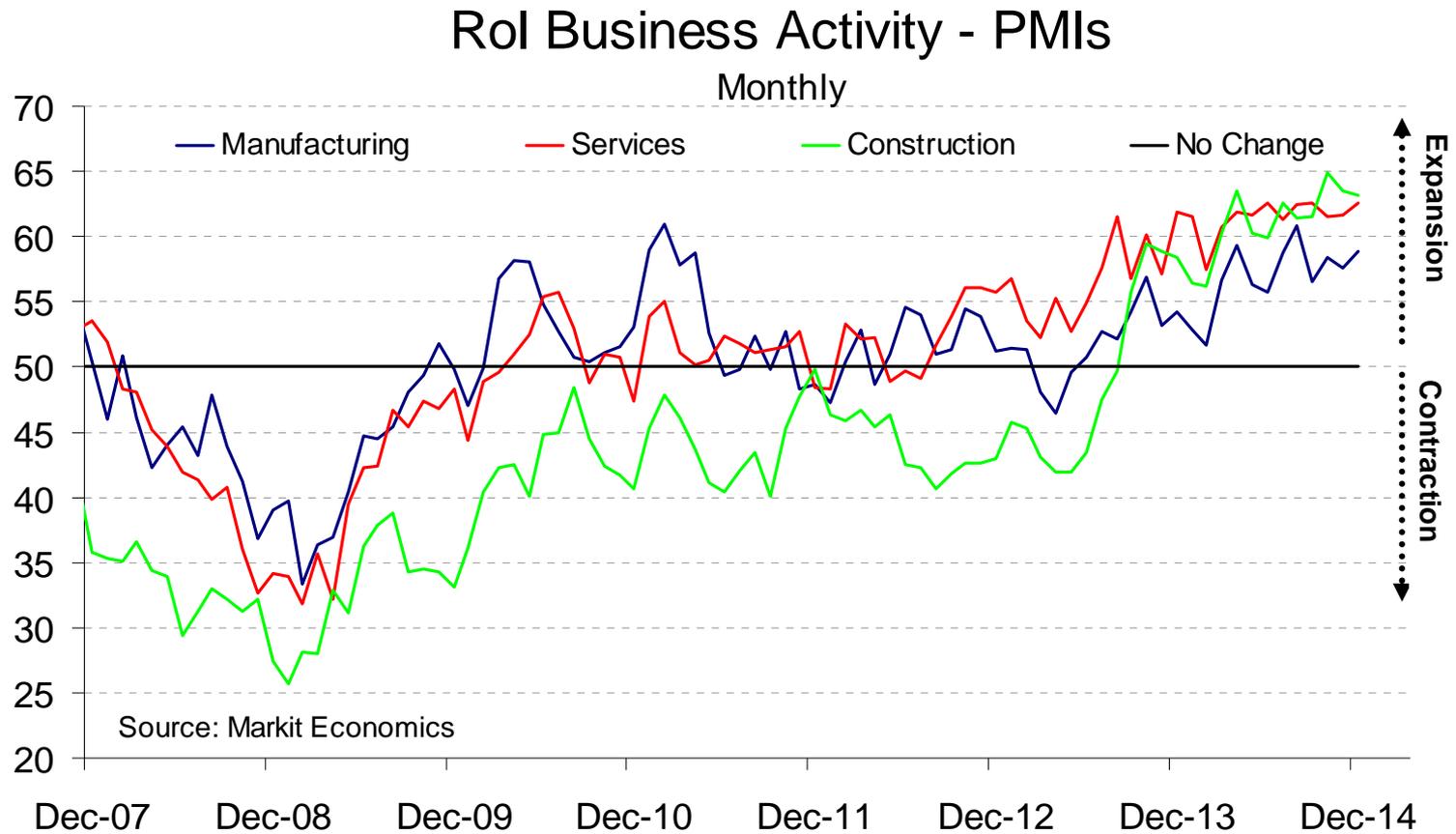


UK posts strong rates of economic growth between Q1-13 & Q3-14 with further strong growth expected in Q4-14

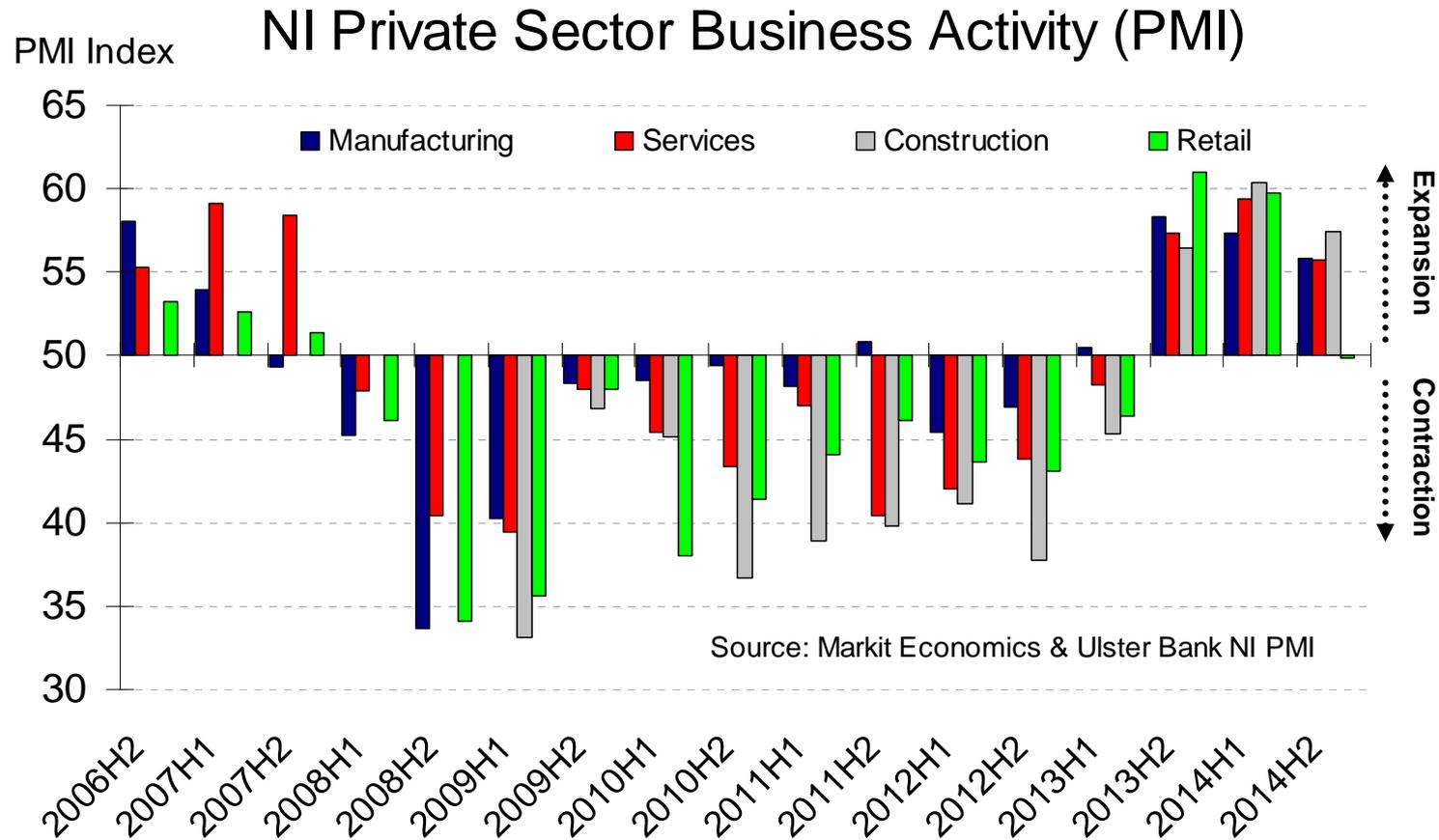
UK GDP versus UK Composite PMI



Rol output growth remains robust across all sectors



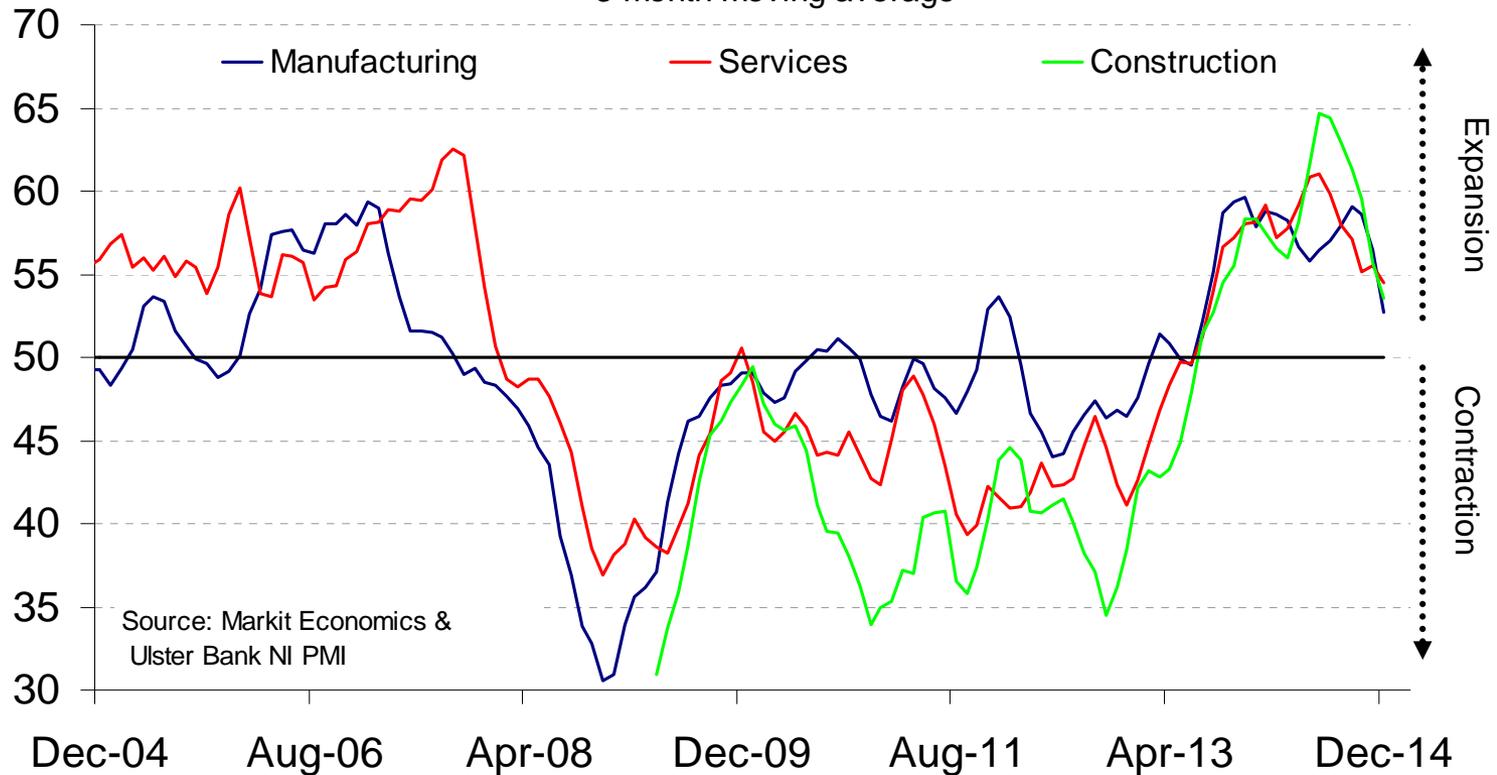
All sector's experienced weaker growth in the second half of the year relative to H1-14



All sectors have posted similar rates of output growth over the last 3 months

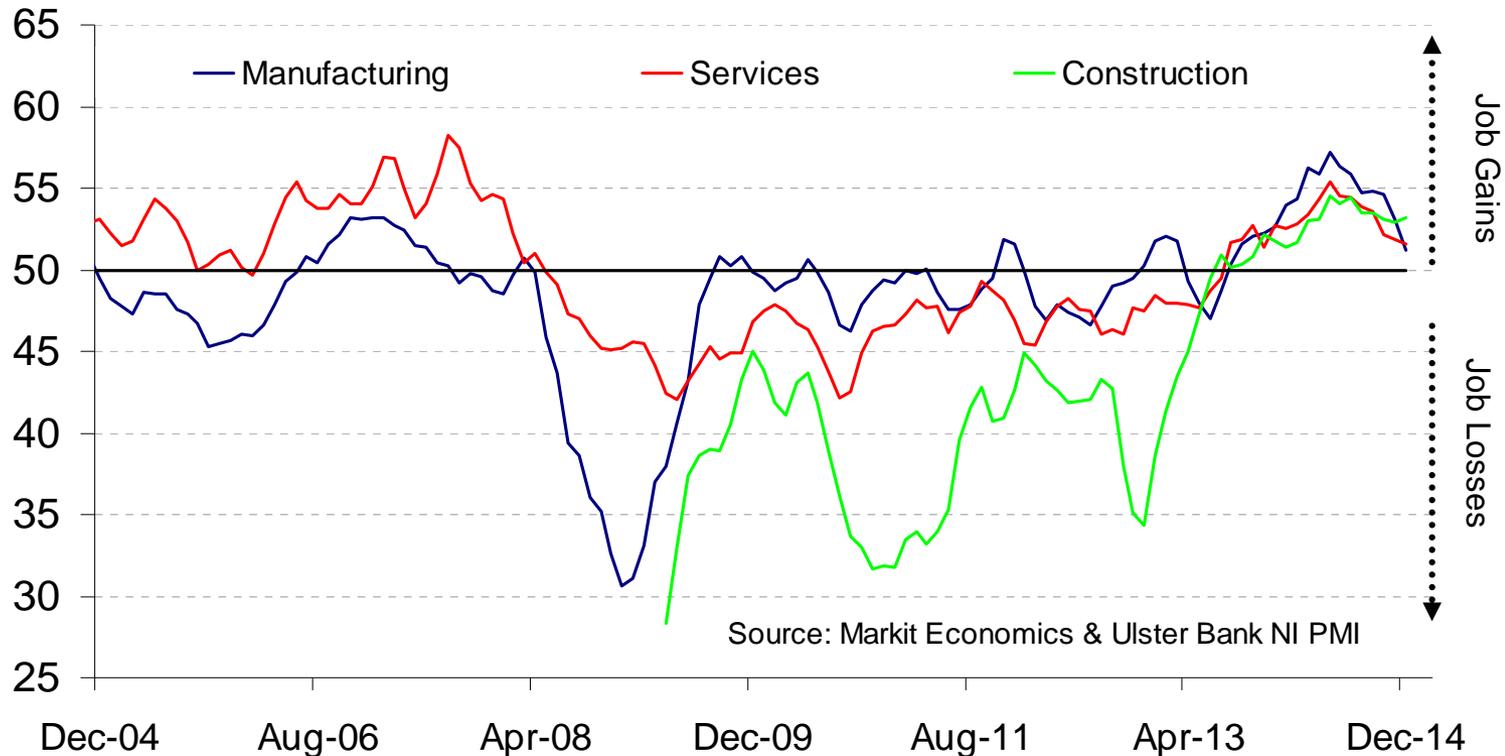
Northern Ireland Private Sector Output

3 month moving average



...with manufacturing & services firms reporting an easing in rates of employment growth

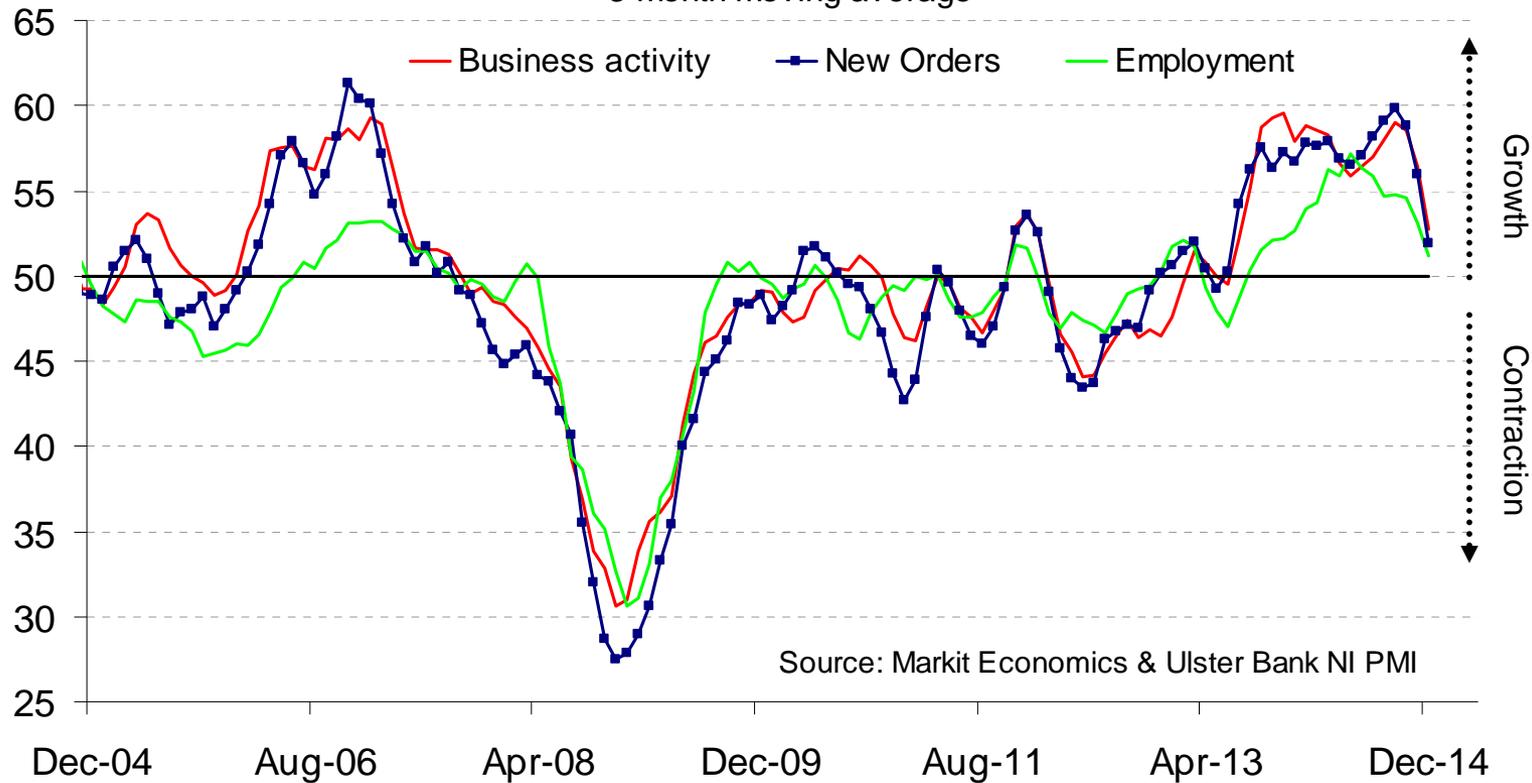
NI PMI - Employment Index
3 month moving average



Manufacturing continues to report a marked slowdown in output, orders & employment

NI Manufacturing Activity - PMI

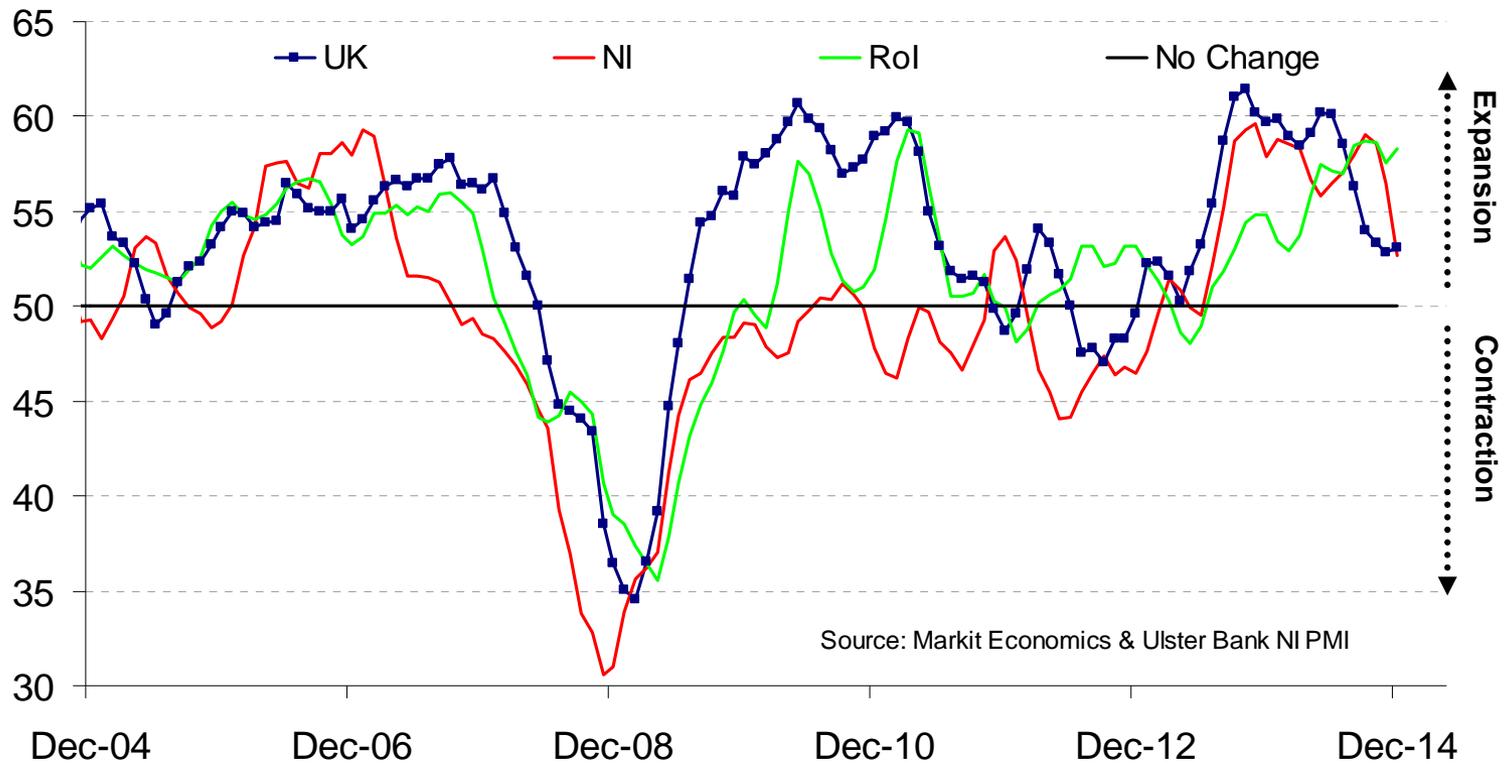
3 month moving average



Rol firms continue to post strong rates of growth in output while the growth rates have eased markedly in the UK & NI

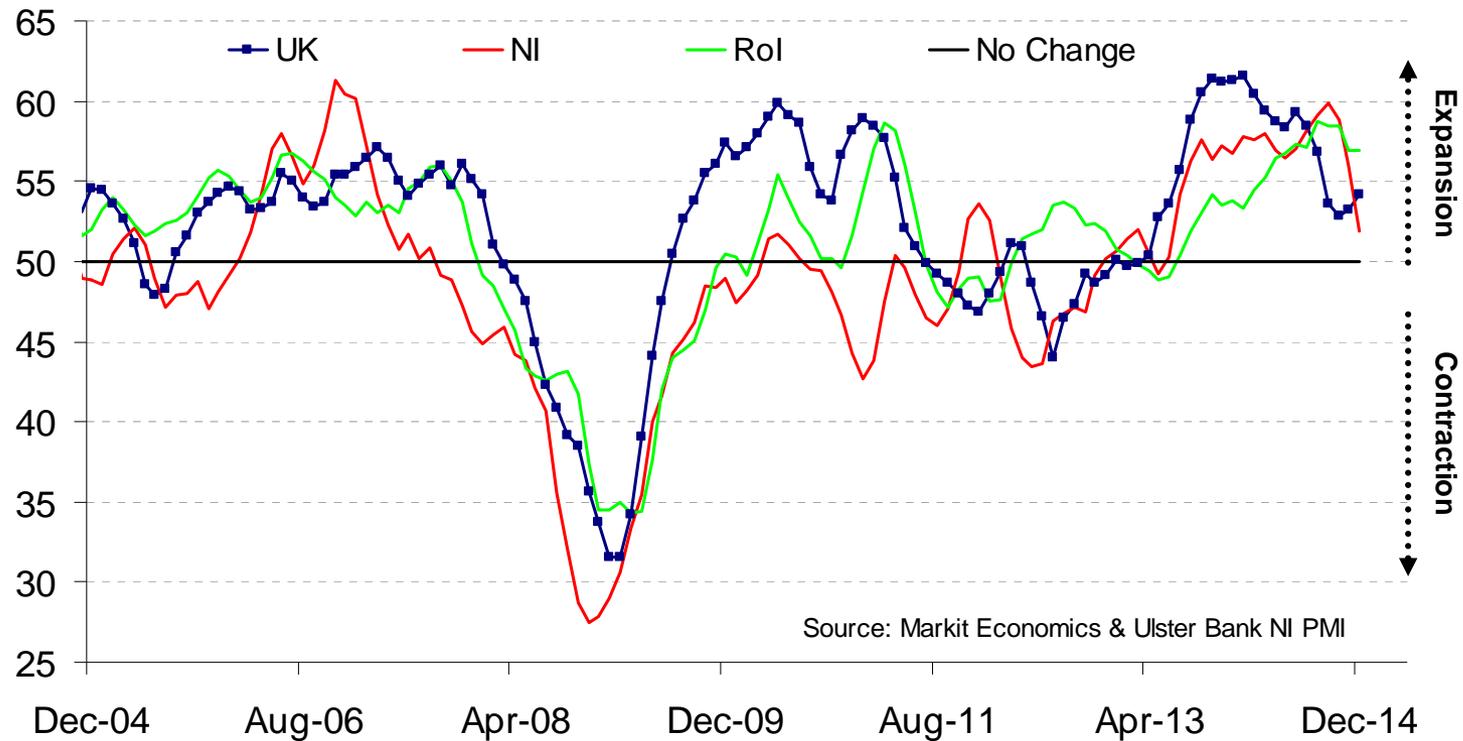
Manufacturing Output

3 month moving average



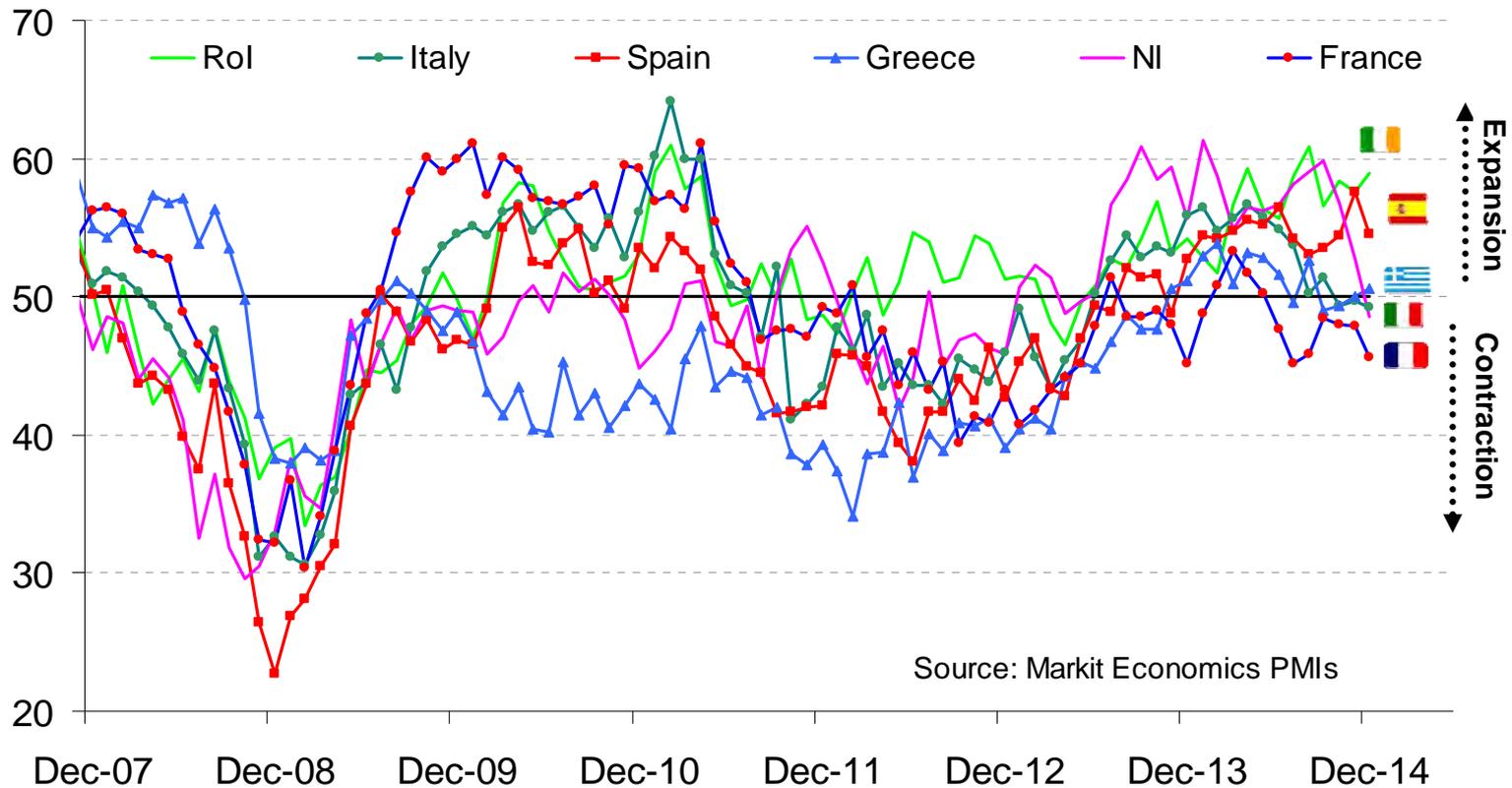
Slowdown in new orders growth is most marked amongst NI manufacturing firms

Manufacturing New Orders 3 month moving average



Until recently, NI had been outperforming most of its European competitors

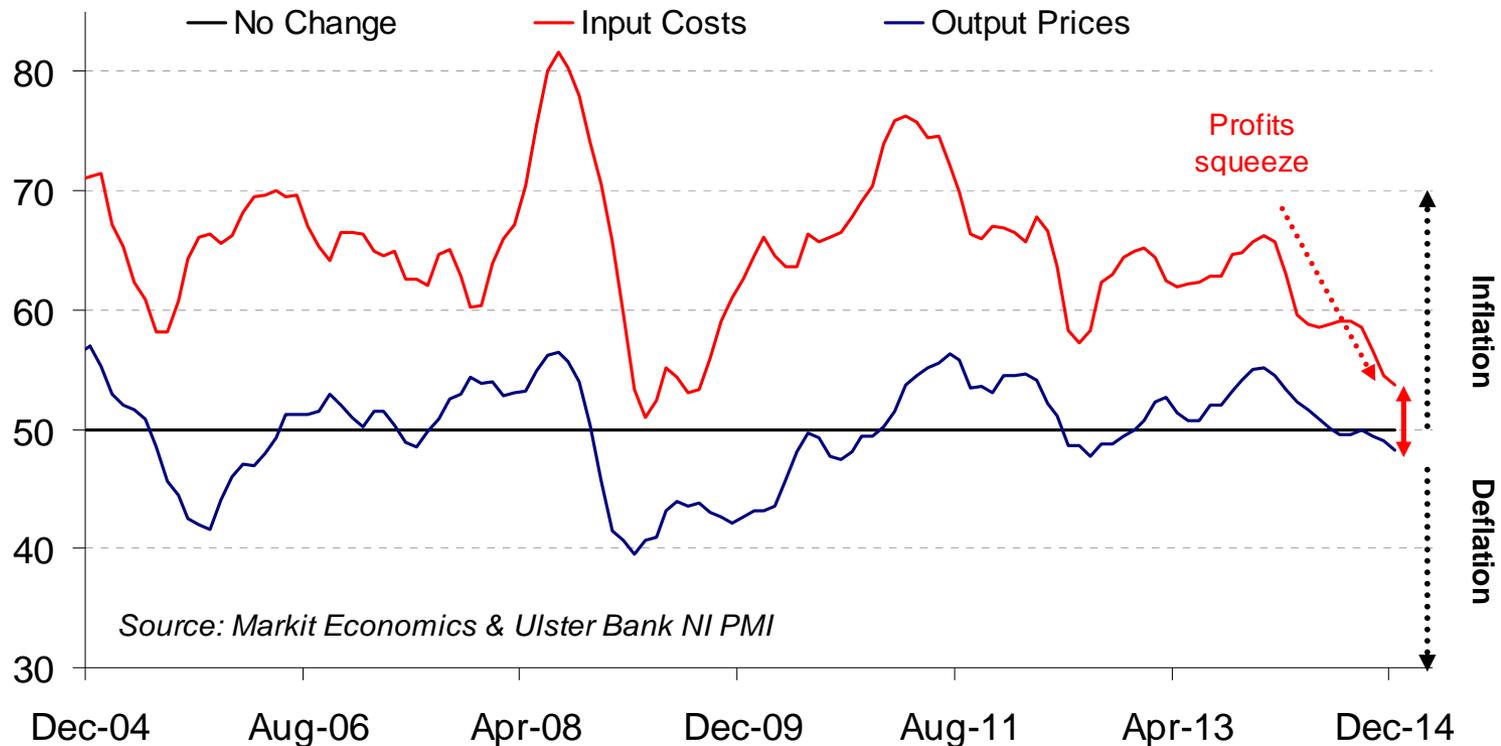
Manufacturing Output - PMI



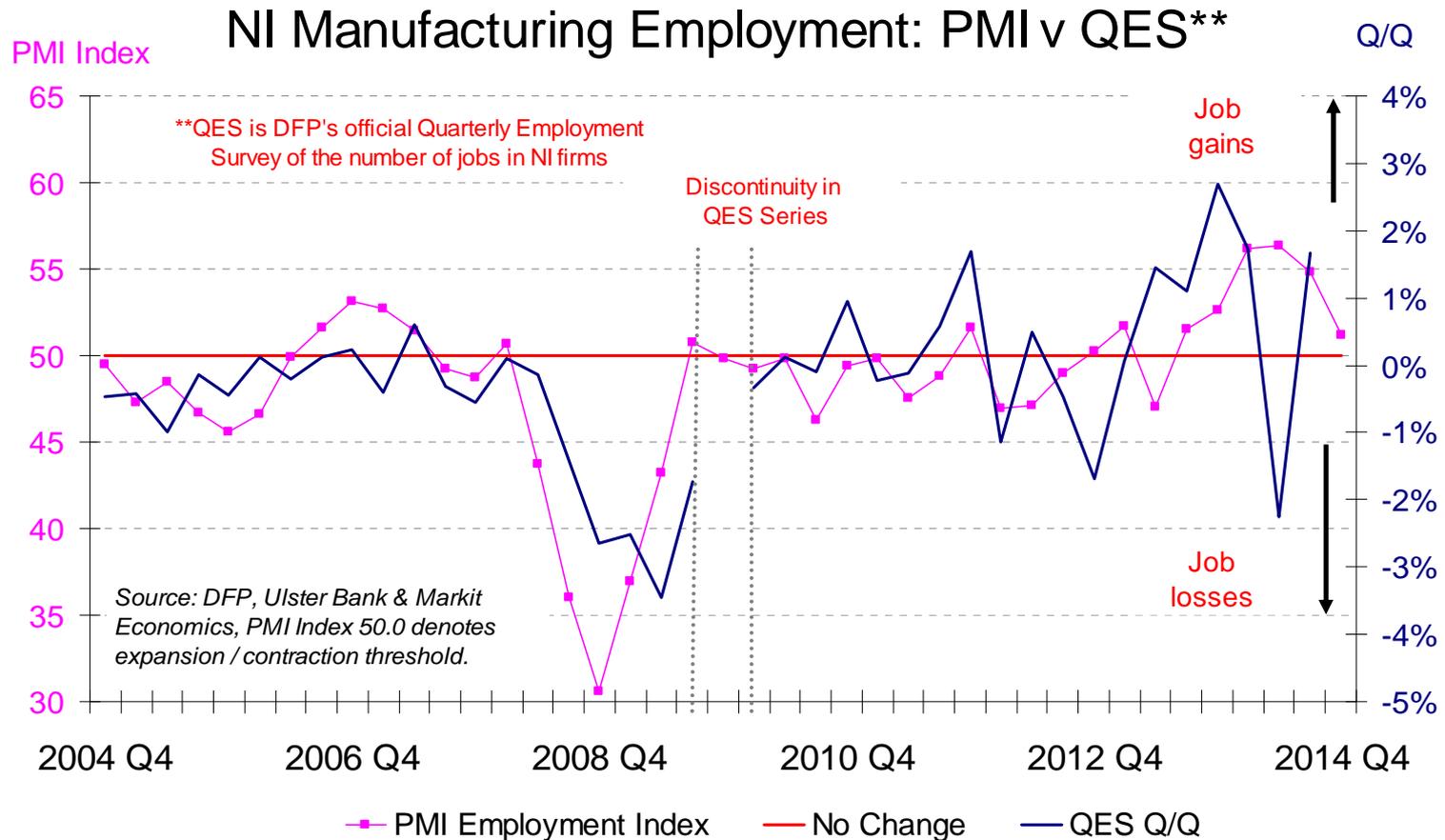
Input cost inflation picked up in December from a 5½ year low. Output prices fell for a 3rd month in a row

NI Manufacturing Input & Output Inflation

3 month moving average



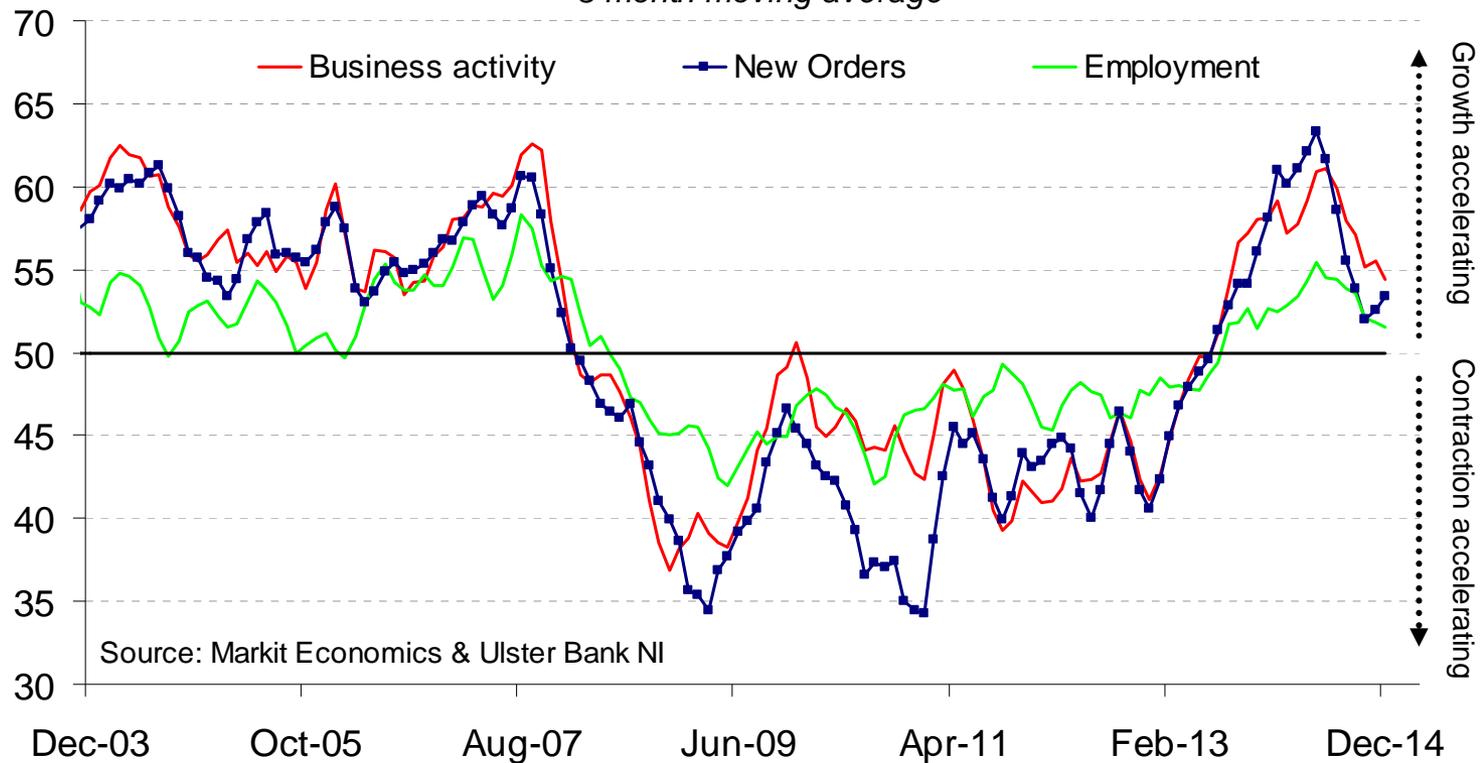
The PMI is signalling a moderation in manufacturing employment growth in Q3/Q4 following record high in Q2



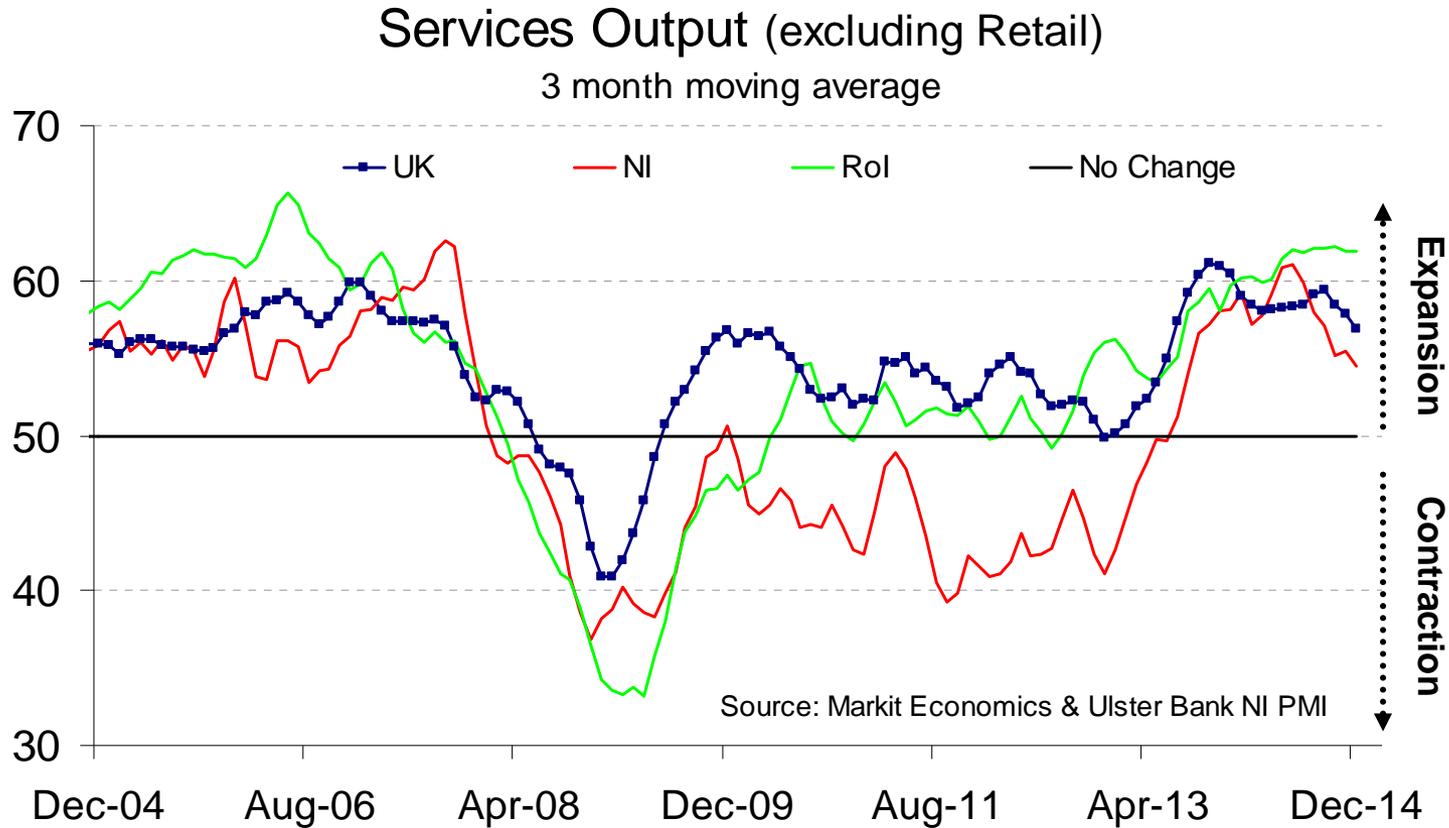
Service sector experiences a slowdown in its rates of growth in output & employment

NI Service Sector (excludes Retail)

3 month moving average



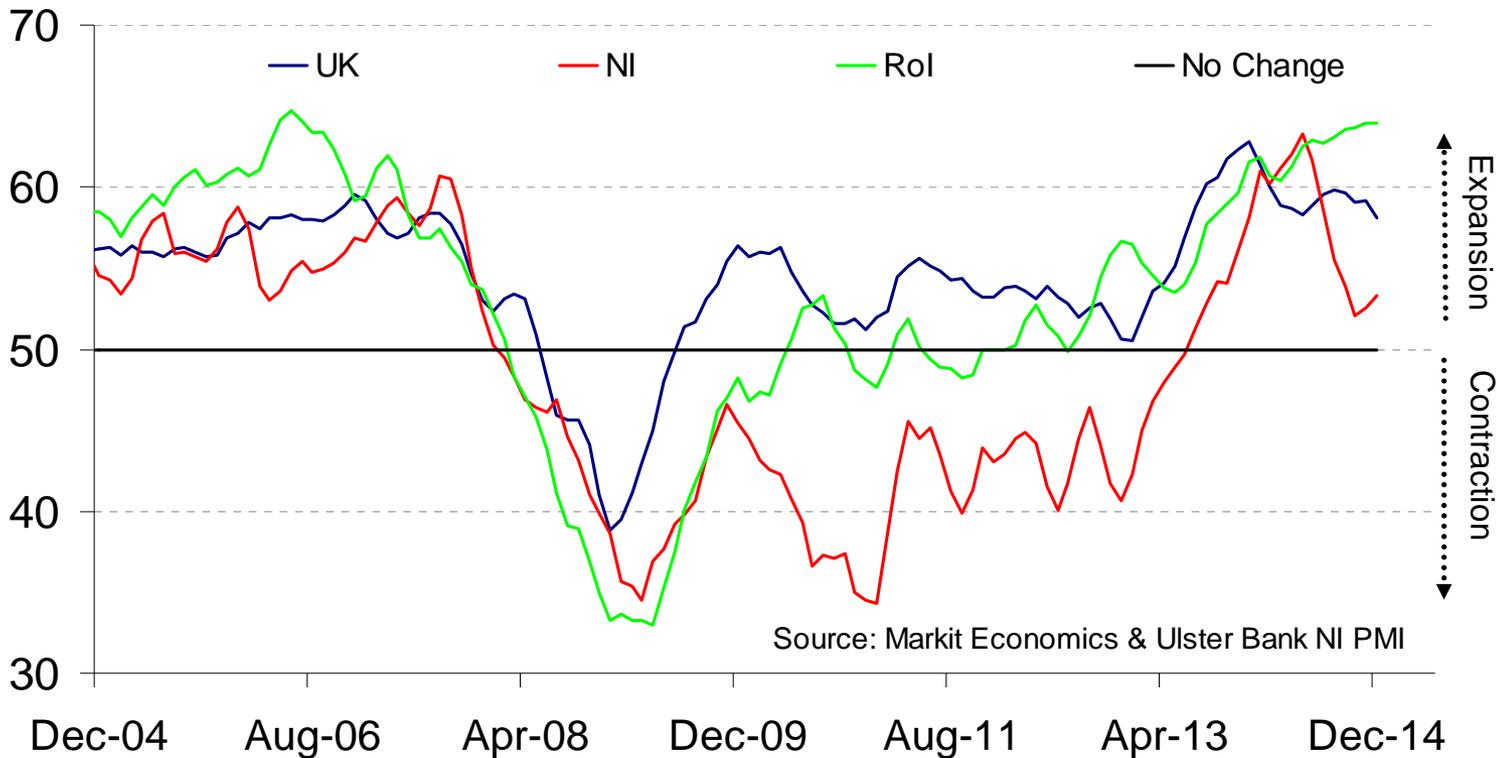
Rol firms report strong rates of growth in December. UK & NI firms have seen their rates of growth ease in recent months



NI firms report a marked slowdown in the rate of new orders growth in Q3 & Q4

Services New Orders (excluding Retail)

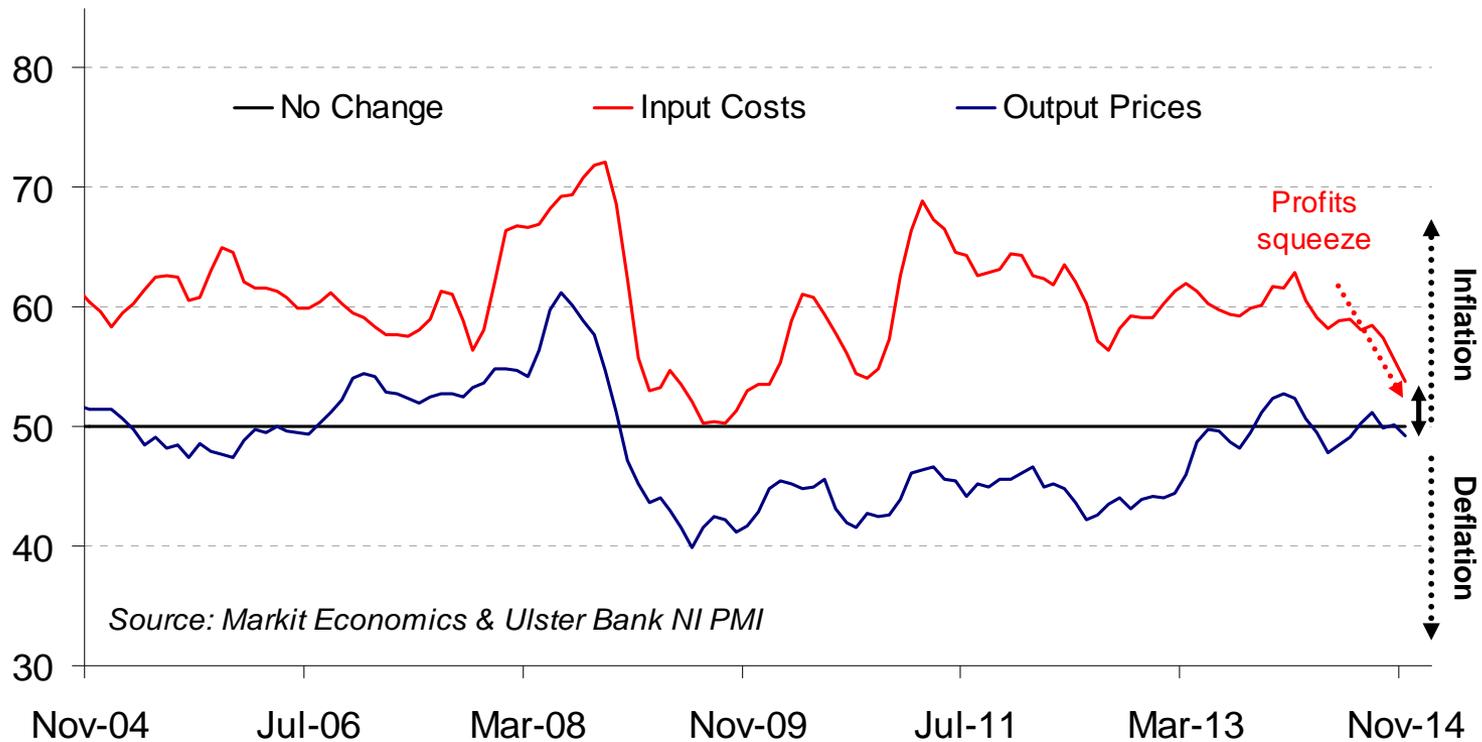
3 month moving average



NI's services firms saw a pick up in input cost inflation in December but it remains well below long-term average

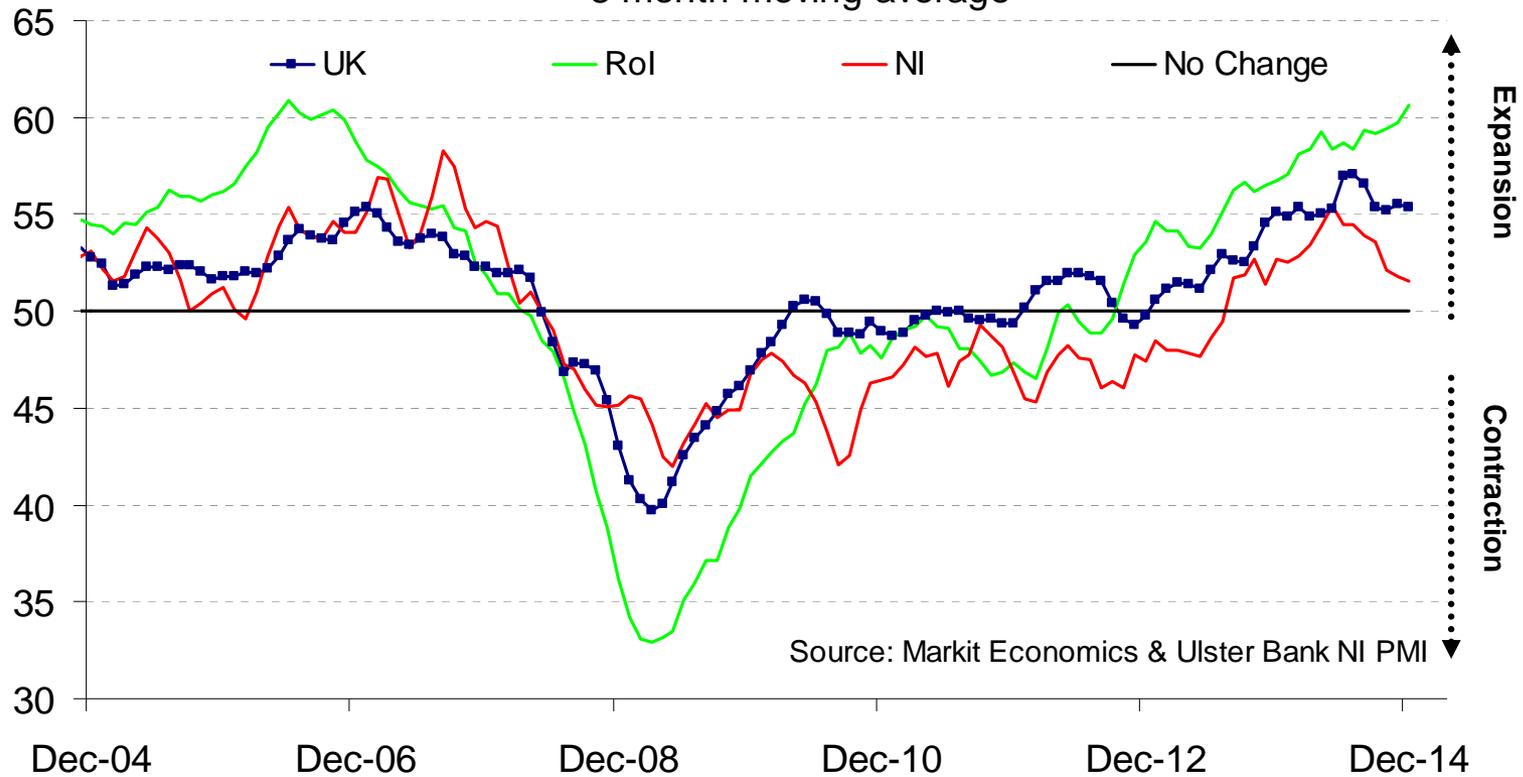
NI Services Input & Output Inflation

3 month moving average



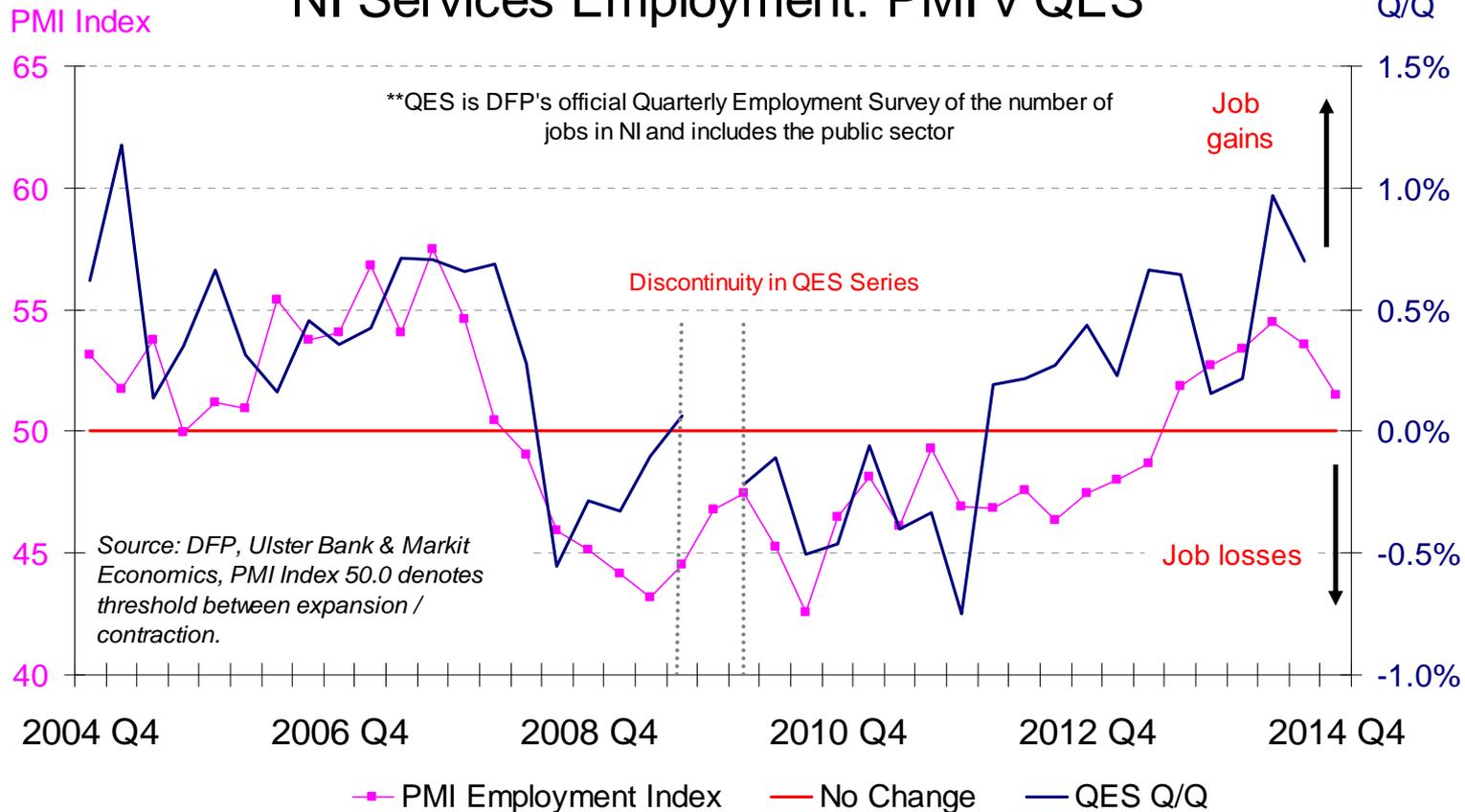
Service sector employment growth slowing in NI, stabilising in UK and accelerating in the RoI

Services Employment 3 month moving average



In Q2 the services PMI showed its fastest rate of jobs growth since Q4 2007. Pace of job creation eases in Q3/Q4

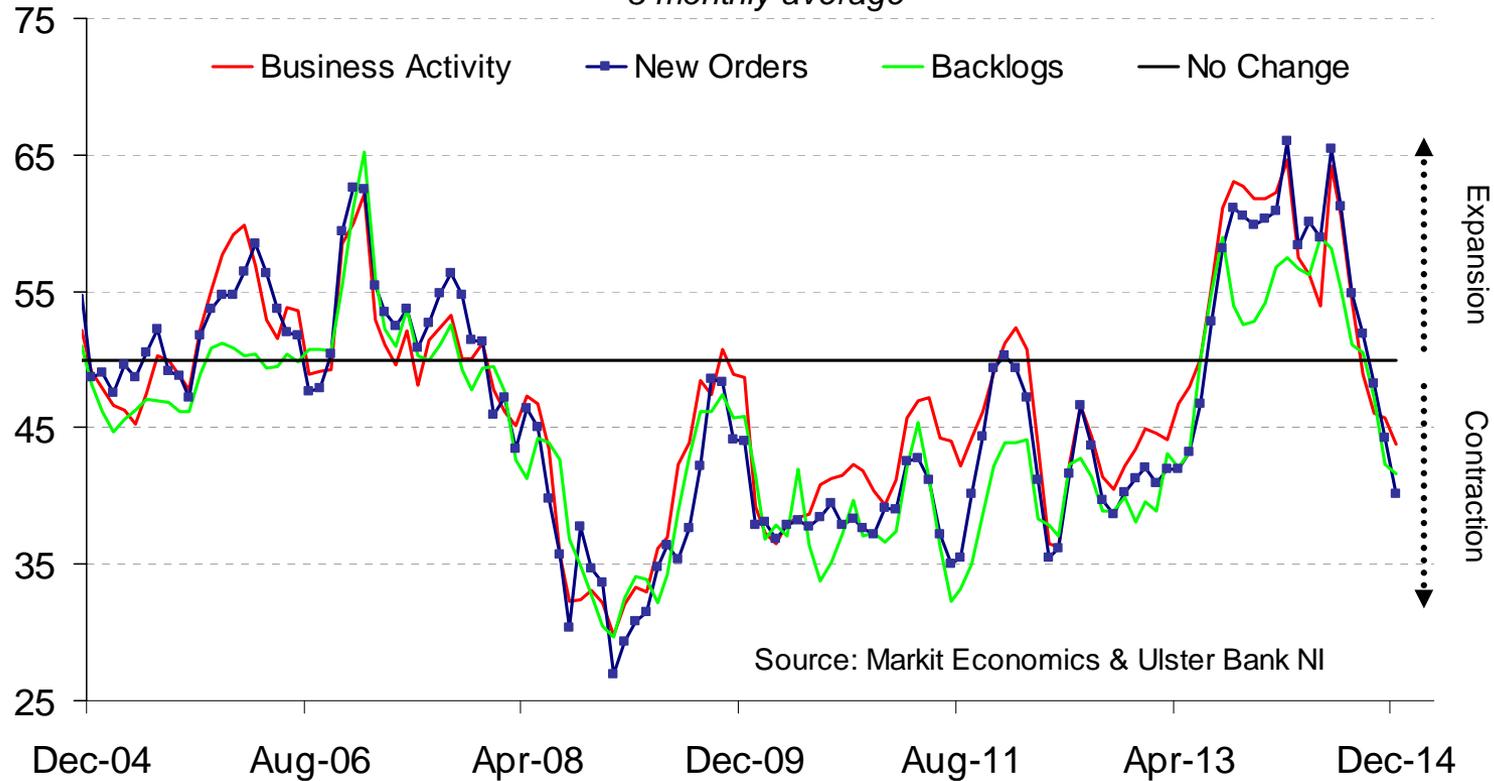
NI Services Employment: PMI v QES**



NI retailers reporting a sharp contraction in sales in Q3 & Q4 after a bumper Q2 (boosted by Giro D'Italia)

Northern Ireland Retail PMI

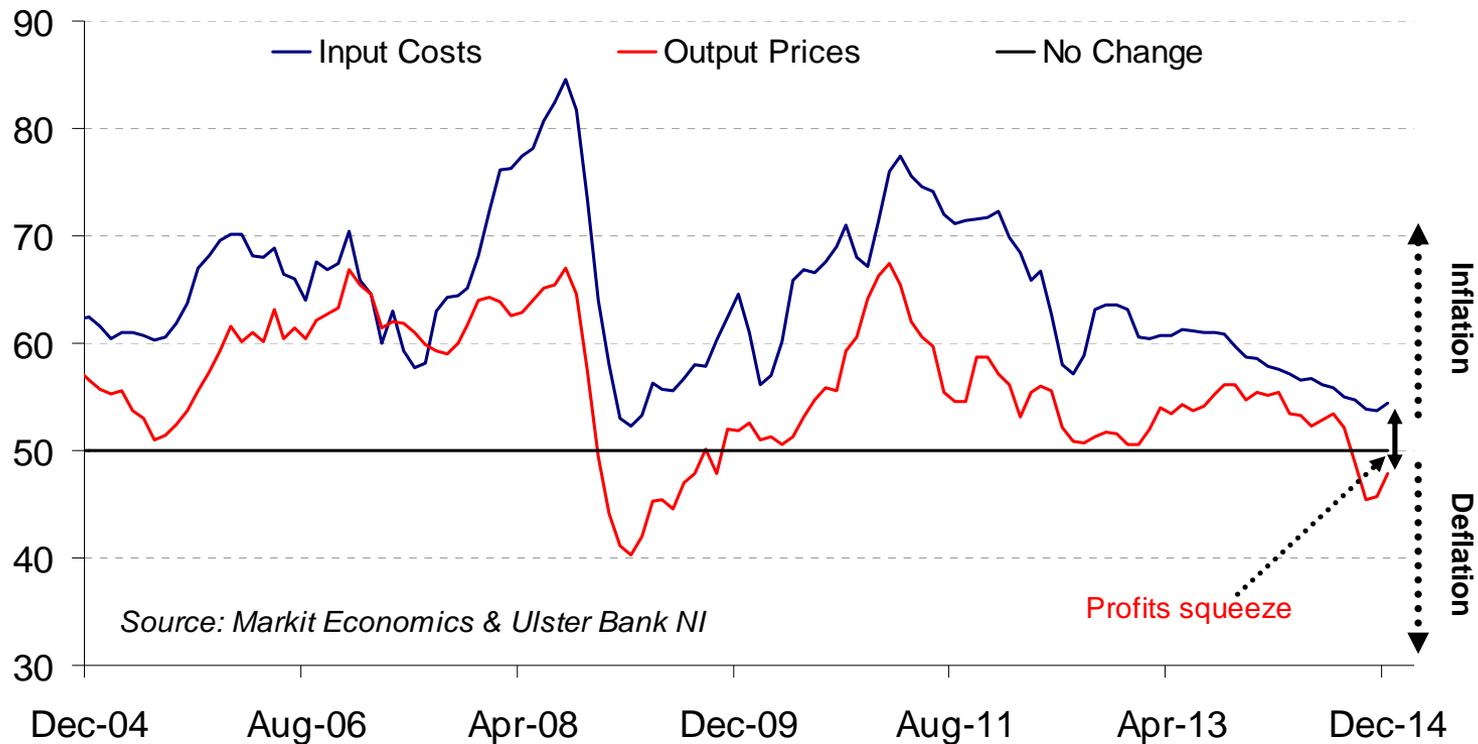
3 monthly average



Local retailers report heavy discounting with output prices recently falling at their fastest rate since mid-2009

NI Retail Input & Output Inflation

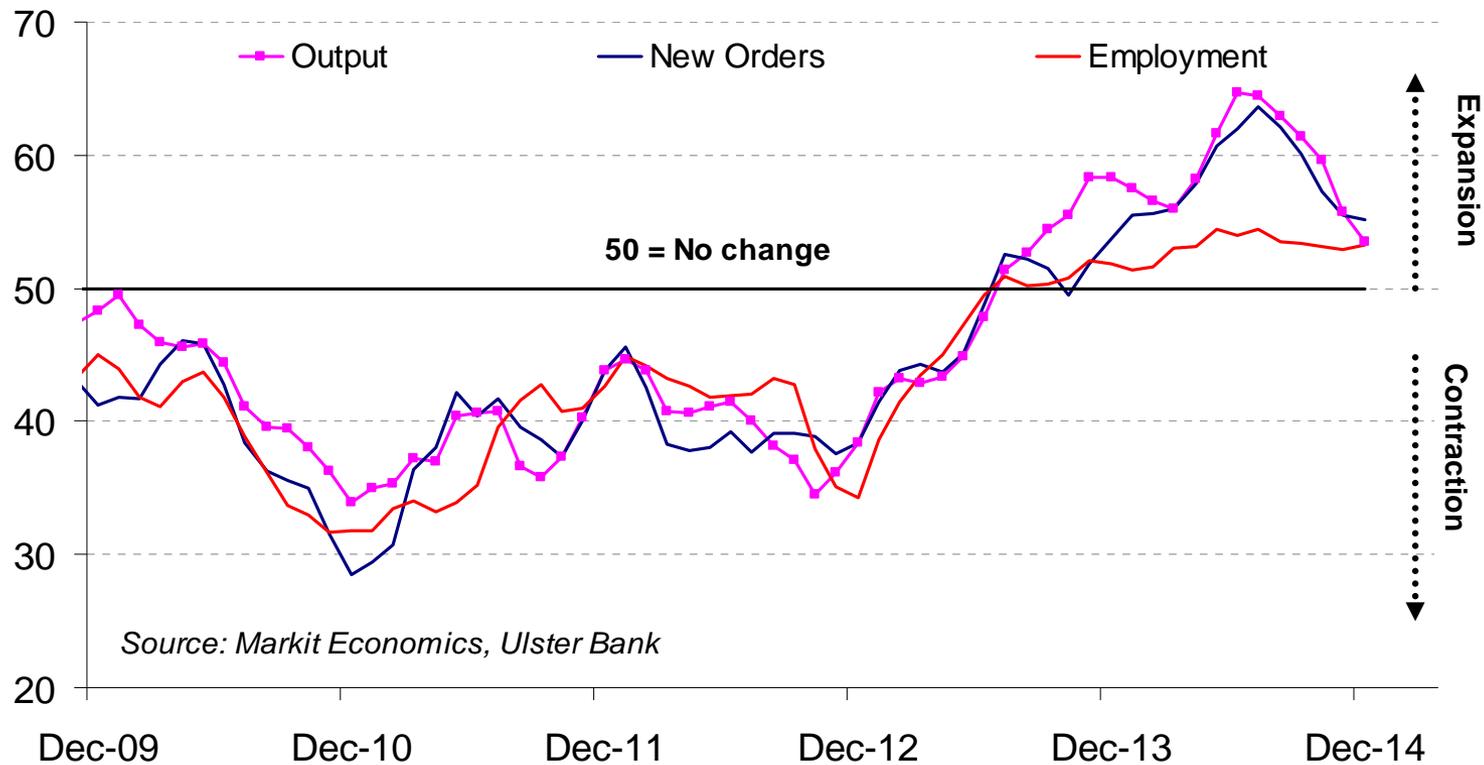
3 month moving average



Following Q2's record rates of growth, NI's construction firms report an easing in their rates of growth in Q3/Q4

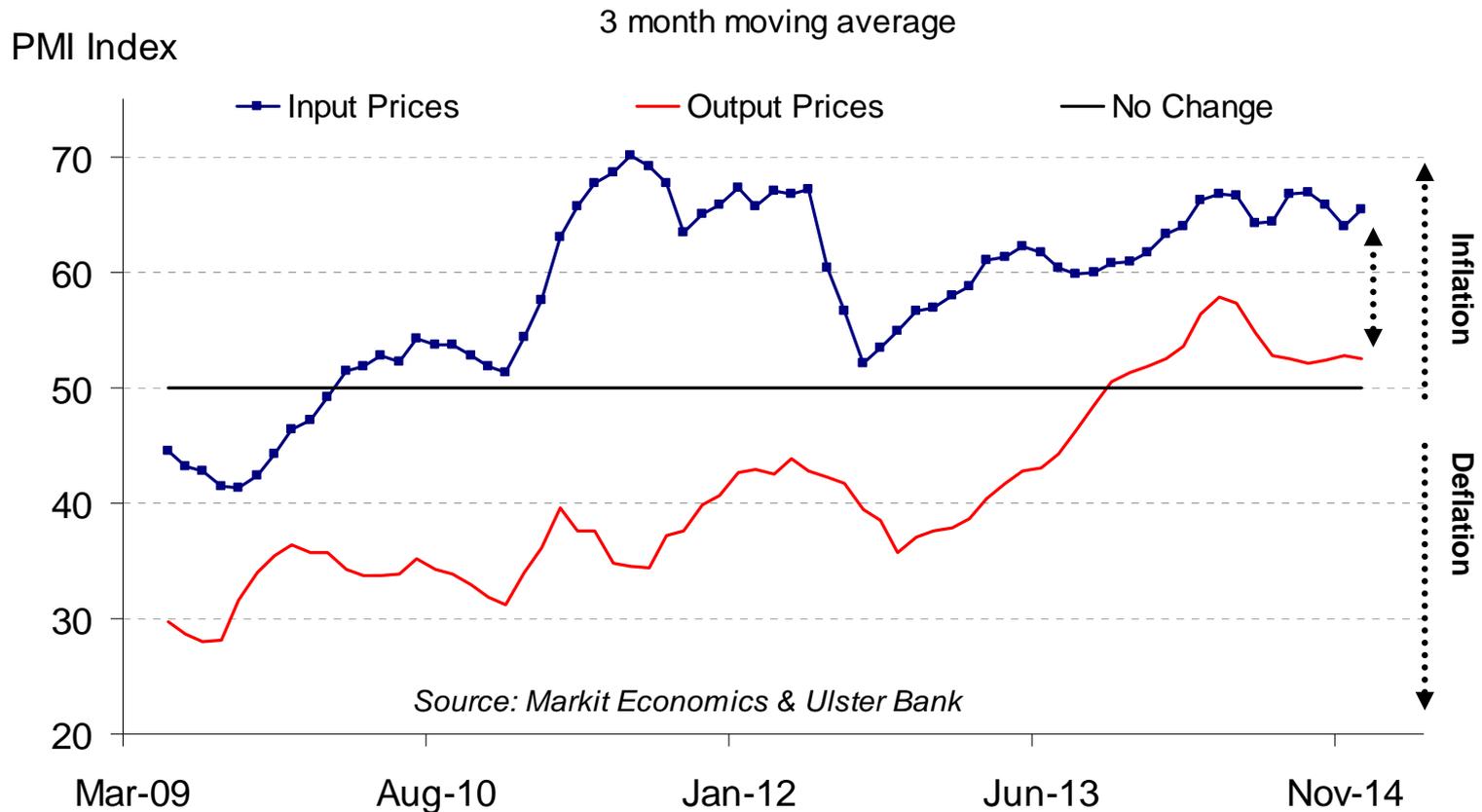
NI Construction PMI

3 month moving average

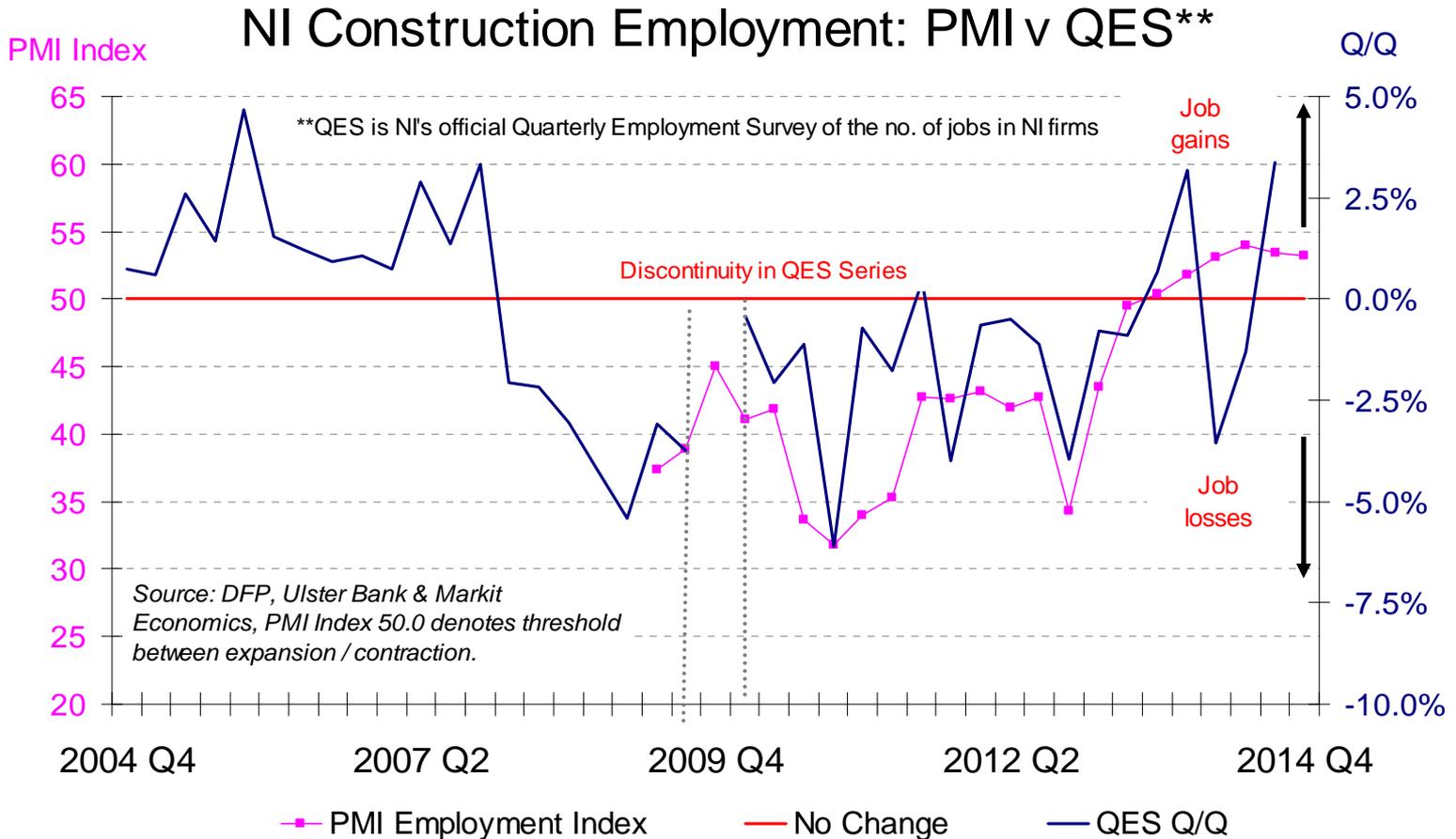


Input cost inflation remains high but construction firms are at least still reporting output price inflation

NI Construction Sector Profits Squeeze



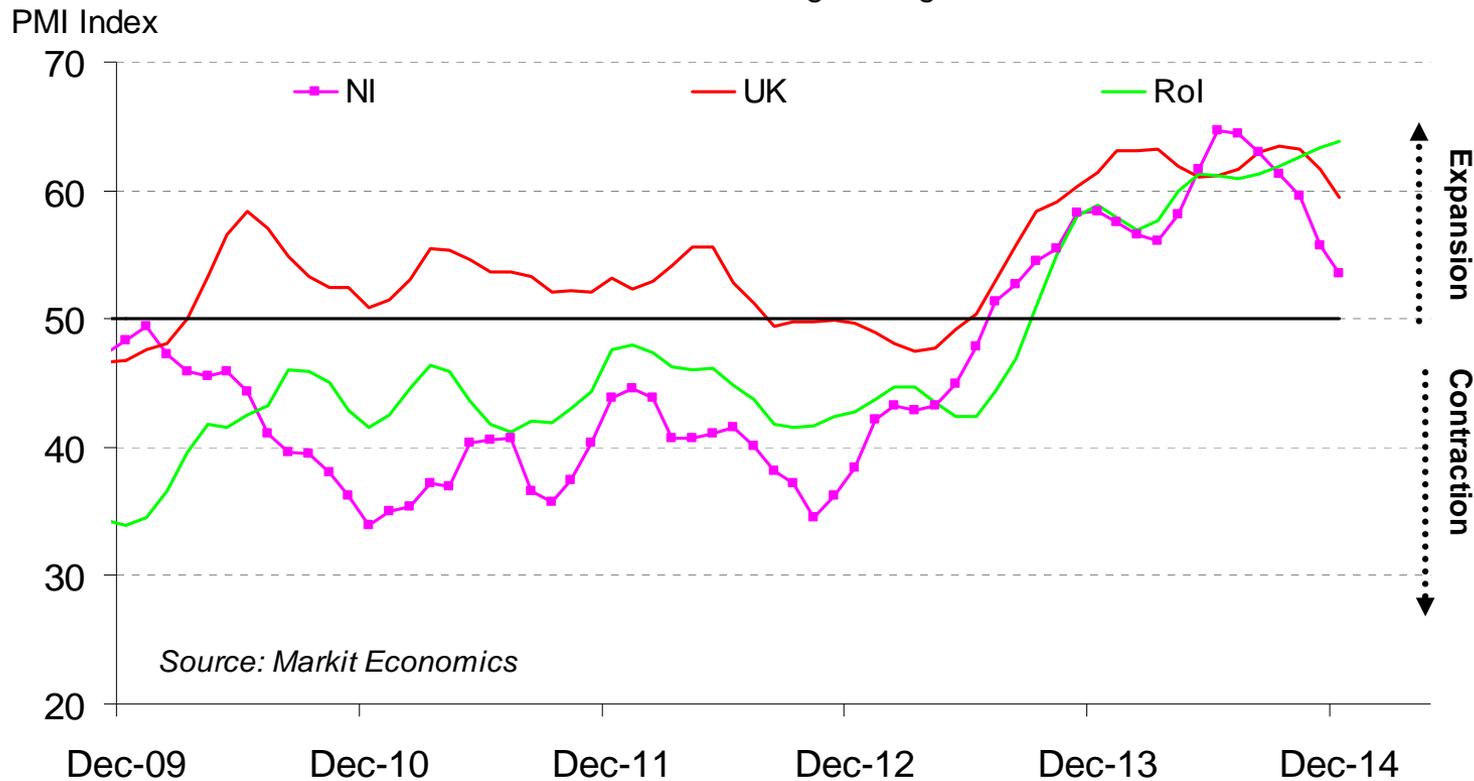
NI's construction PMI posts jobs growth since Q3 2013 but this is largely due to NI firms working outside of NI



Strong rates of output growth amongst UK & RoI firms with pace of growth easing significantly for NI firms

Construction Sector Output - PMI

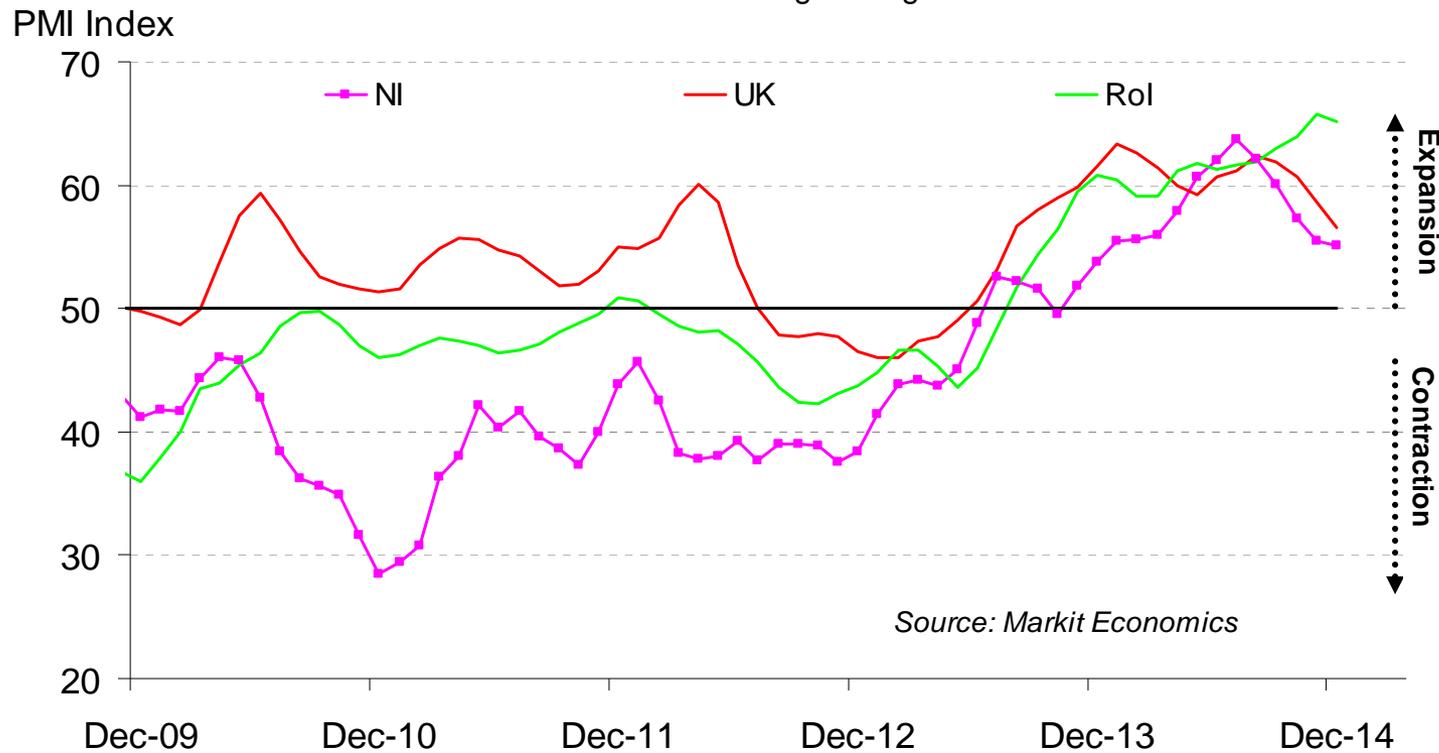
3 month moving average



NI orders growth continues to ease from recent record high with UK growth slowing too. RoI posts robust rates of growth

Construction Sector New Orders - PMI

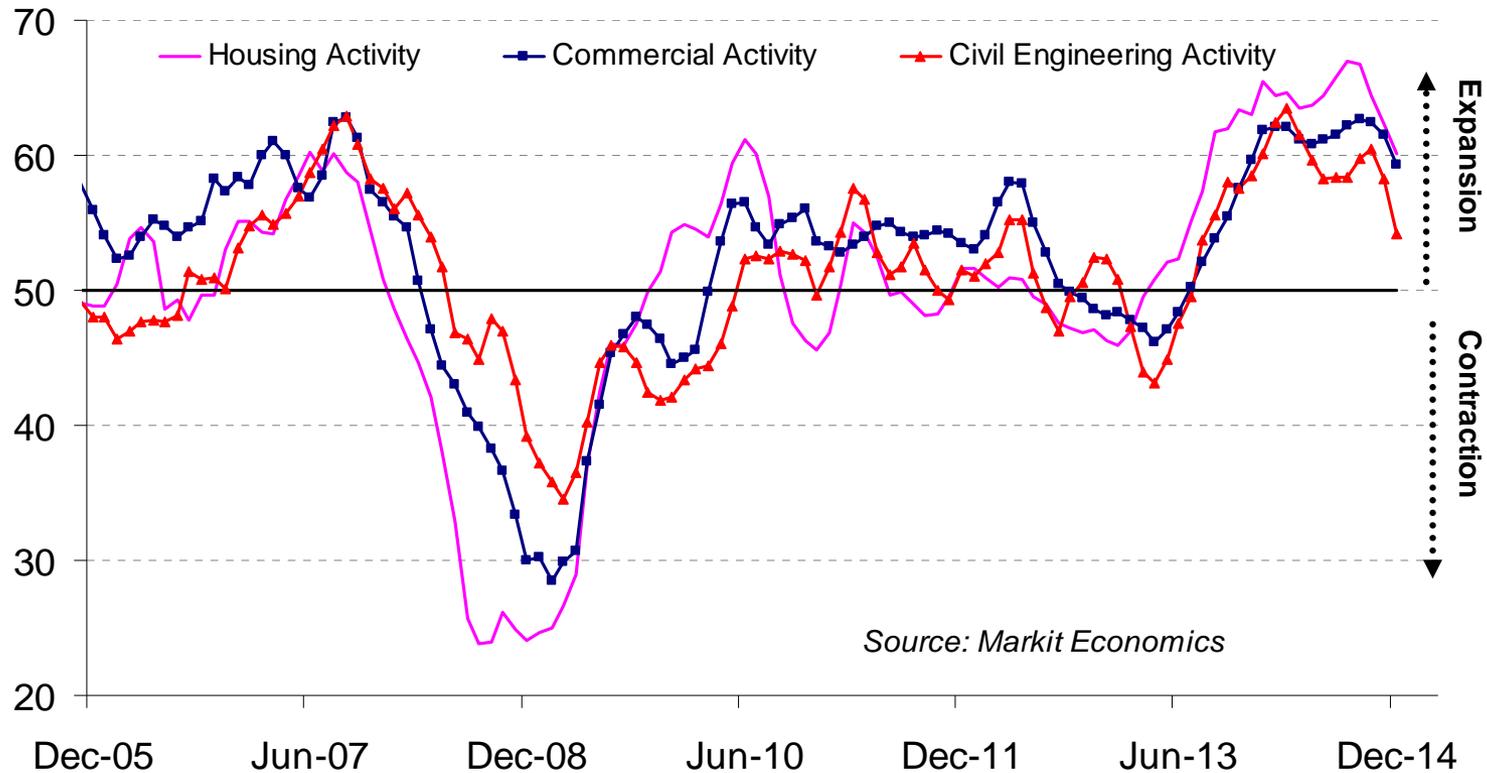
3 month moving average



Opportunities for NI firms. However, slowdown in civil engineering activity

UK Construction Activity - PMIs

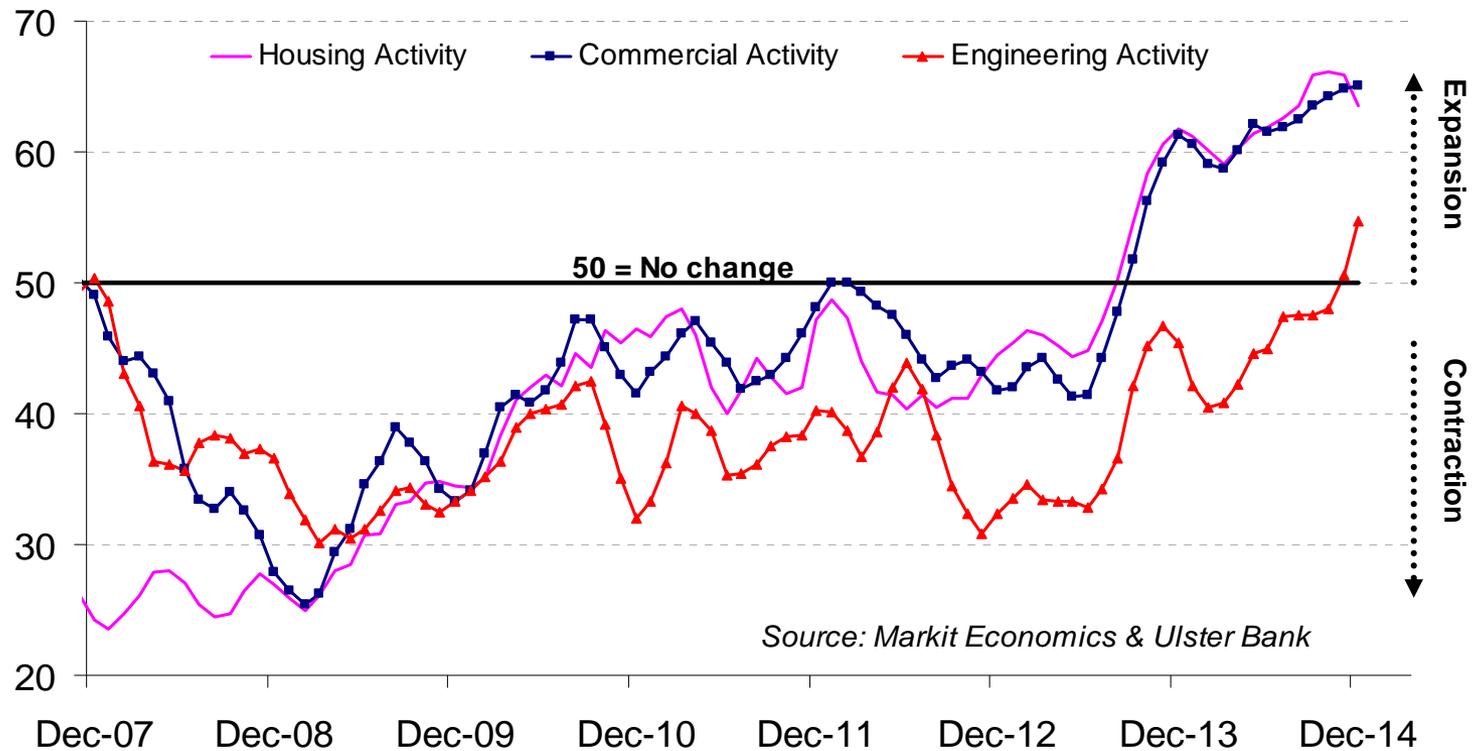
3 month moving average



...with an increasing number of opportunities within the RoI too

Republic of Ireland Construction Activity - PMI

3 month moving average



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