

# BUSINESS SURVEY REPORT

## December - 2007

The Milwaukee Index increased two points to 62 in December. A year ago it was at 58. New Orders Received is up five points to 66 this month. Production rose five points to 75.

Backlog is down one to 57. Supplier Lead Times increased three to 43.

Blue Collar Employment went down three to 58. White Collar

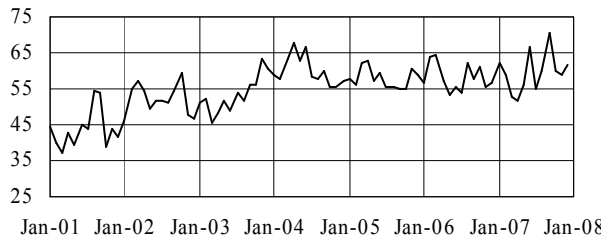
Employment went up four points to 54. Inventory Levels dropped five points to 47. Capital Equipment is still rising. It is up three to 71 this

month. The Level of Purchasing Activities went up a point to 74.

The Prices Paid Index went down four points to 57 this month. Eight increased, one

stayed the same and twelve declined in price. Fuel went down thirty-eight followed by Petroleum at twenty. Aluminum is down nine-

### Milwaukee Index



Date	Index
December-2007	62
November-2007	59
October-2007	60
September-2007	70
December-2006	57
December-2005	59
December-2004	57

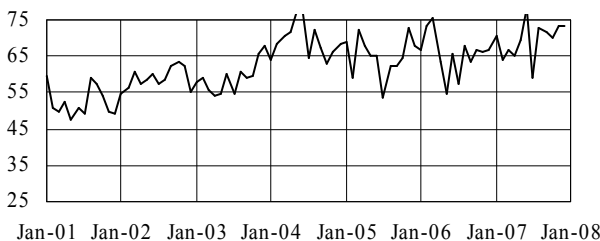
teen points. Corrugated Packaging went up eleven points. Ferrous is up ten and Piping and Tubing is up eight.

### Commodity Price Index

Aluminum 44	Electronic Components 61	Plastics 74
Casting 59	Forgings 50	Plating 50
Chemicals 74	Fuel 48	Precious Metals 70
Computer Hardware/Software 44	Hydraulic Componenets 58	Printing Paper 56
Copper, Brass, Bronze 45	Office Supplies 56	Rubber Products 57
Corrugated/Packaging 75	Petroleum Products 68	Stampings 44
Electric Motors/Transformers 56	Piping & Tubing 58	Ferrous (Steel, Stainless) 57

**Commentary:** Down four to 57 this month. Only eight are above 50.

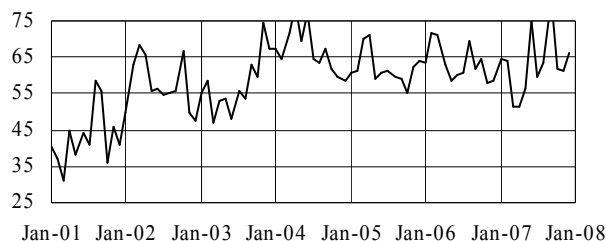
### Level of Purchasing Activities



Date	Increase %	Same %	Decrease %	Index
December-2007	56	35	9	74
November-2007	57	33	10	73
October-2007	48	44	8	70
September-2007	46	50	4	71
December-2006	43	47	10	67
December-2005	48	40	12	68
December-2004	43	51	6	69

**Commentary:** Up a point to 74. We are still handling a lot of paper.

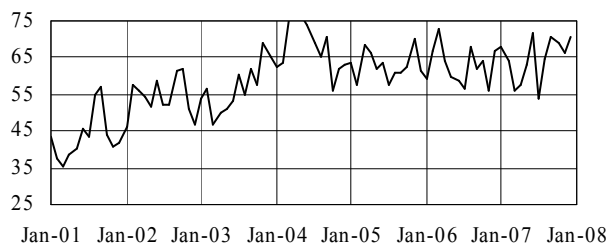
## New Orders



**Commentary:** A nice five point increase to 66.

Date	Increase %	Same %	Decrease %	Index
December-2007	50	32	18	66
November-2007	45	32	23	61
October-2007	46	31	23	62
September-2007	72	17	10	81
December-2006	37	43	20	58
December-2005	44	40	16	64
December-2004	34	49	17	59

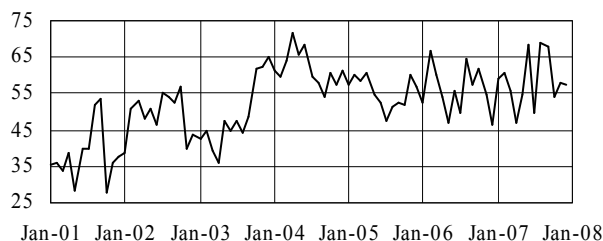
## Production



**Commentary:** Up five to 71. Very robust.

Date	Increase %	Same %	Decrease %	Index
December-2007	53	35	12	71
November-2007	45	42	13	66
October-2007	58	23	19	69
September-2007	52	38	10	71
December-2006	50	33	17	67
December-2005	42	40	19	62
December-2004	34	57	9	63

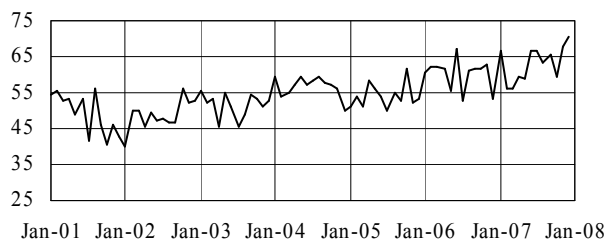
## Backlog



**Commentary:** Down a point to 57.

Date	Increase %	Same %	Decrease %	Index
December-2007	35	44	21	57
November-2007	29	58	13	58
October-2007	27	54	19	54
September-2007	43	50	7	68
December-2006	27	40	33	47
December-2005	35	44	21	57
December-2004	37	49	14	61

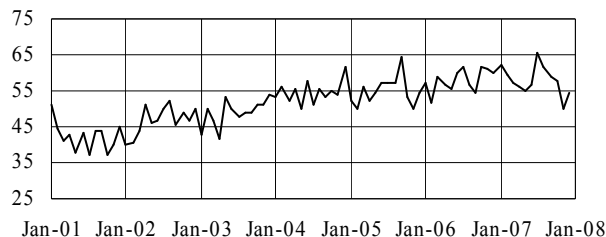
## Capital Expenditures



**Commentary:** Still growing. Up three to 71. Very healthy.

Date	Increase %	Same %	Decrease %	Index
December-2007	41	59	0	71
November-2007	35	65	0	68
October-2007	31	58	12	60
September-2007	34	62	3	66
December-2006	17	73	10	53
December-2005	17	74	10	54
December-2004	6	88	6	50

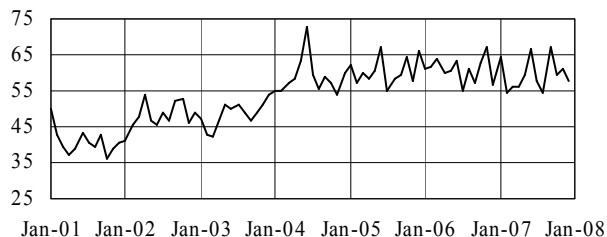
## White Collar Employment



**Commentary:** A nice four point increase to 54.

Date	Increase %	Same %	Decrease %	Index
December-2007	15	79	6	54
November-2007	6	87	6	50
October-2007	24	68	8	58
September-2007	24	69	7	59
December-2006	20	80	0	60
December-2005	16	77	7	55
December-2004	24	76	0	62

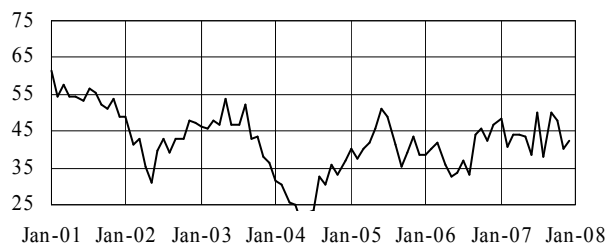
## Blue Collar Employment



**Commentary:** Down three points to 58 this month.

Date	Increase %	Same %	Decrease %	Index
December-2007	22	72	6	58
November-2007	32	58	10	61
October-2007	23	73	4	60
September-2007	38	59	3	67
December-2006	17	79	3	57
December-2005	33	67	0	66
December-2004	23	74	3	60

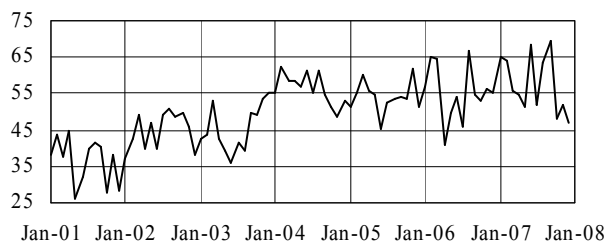
## Supplier Lead Times



**Commentary:** A nice three point increase to 43. Still too low.

Date	Increase %	Same %	Decrease %	Index
December-2007	21	74	6	43
November-2007	26	68	6	40
October-2007	15	73	12	48
September-2007	7	86	7	50
December-2006	13	80	7	47
December-2005	23	77	0	38
December-2004	29	69	3	37

## Inventory Levels



**Commentary:** Down five to 47. Normal year end activity.

Date	Increase %	Same %	Decrease %	Index
December-2007	32	29	38	47
November-2007	30	43	27	52
October-2007	27	42	31	48
September-2007	50	39	11	70
December-2006	33	43	23	55
December-2005	33	37	30	51
December-2004	29	49	23	53