

BUSINESS SURVEY REPORT

March - 2006

The Seasonally Adjusted Milwaukee Index went up three to 67 in March. It was 63 a year ago. New Orders Received are down a point to 71 this month. Production rose six points to 73. Backlog declined seven points to 60. Supplier Lead Times are up two to 42.

Blue Collar Employment went up two to 64, a very healthy number.

White Collar Employment increased seven points to 59. Inventory Levels did not change. They are still at 65. There was no change in Capital Equipment

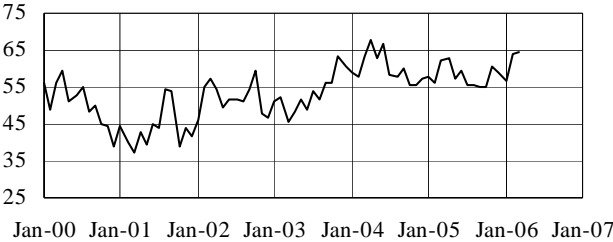
Spending. It is still at 63. A year ago it was at 51. The Level of Purchasing Activities went up three to 76.

The Prices Paid Index increased two points to 65. Twelve items went up and nine declined.

The biggest increase was twelve for Hydraulic Components. This was followed by eleven for Piping and Tubing and Rubber Products.

Chemicals increased ten in March. Copper declined eleven points. Plating dropped nine and Aluminum and Precious Metal are down eight.

Milwaukee Index



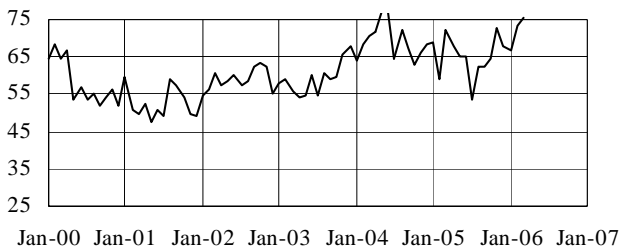
Date	Index
March-2006	65
February-2006	64
January-2006	57
December-2005	59
March-2005	63
March-2004	63
March-2003	45

Commodity Price Index

Aluminum 71	Electronic Components 53	Plastics 63
Casting 69	Forgings 67	Plating 59
Chemicals 73	Fuel 88	Precious Metals 72
Computer Hardware/Software 44	Hydraulic Components 62	Printing Paper 53
Copper, Brass, Bronze 79	Office Supplies 50	Rubber Products 65
Corrugated/Packaging 70	Petroleum Products 85	Stampings 53
Electric Motors/Transformers 62	Piping & Tubing 67	Ferrous (Steel, Stainless) 59

Commentary:
Went up two this month to 65. 12 rose in price.

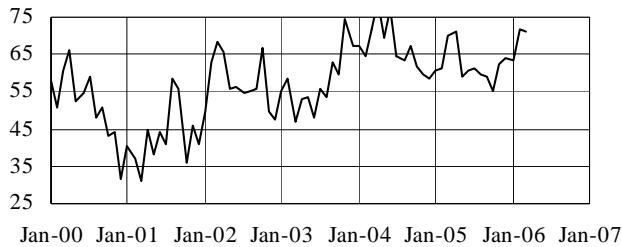
Level of Purchasing Activities



Commentary: A three point increase to 76.

Date	Increase %	Same %	Decrease %	Index
March-2006	60	30	9	76
February-2006	50	46	4	73
January-2006	45	43	12	67
December-2005	48	40	12	68
March-2005	47	50	3	72
March-2004	51	39	10	71
March-2003	30	52	18	56

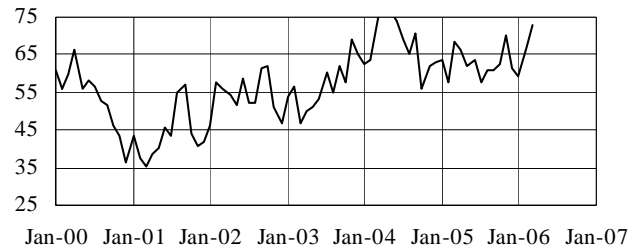
New Orders



Commentary: Down a point to a very healthy 71.

Date	Increase	Same	Decrease	Index
	%	%	%	
March-2006	56	30	14	71
February-2006	57	30	13	72
January-2006	43	41	16	64
December-2005	44	40	16	64
March-2005	58	25	18	70
March-2004	56	32	12	72
March-2003	28	38	34	47

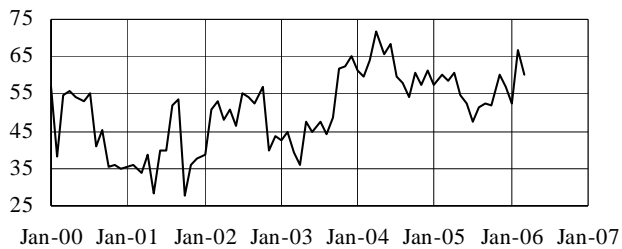
Production



Commentary: A six point increase to 73.

Date	Increase	Same	Decrease	Index
	%	%	%	
March-2006	57	32	11	73
February-2006	40	53	7	67
January-2006	34	50	16	59
December-2005	42	40	19	62
March-2005	48	43	10	69
March-2004	59	34	7	76
March-2003	21	51	28	47

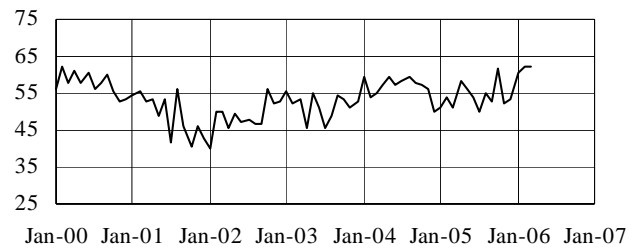
Backlog



Commentary: Down seven. Now at 60. With Production up and no increase in orders it is natural.

Date	Increase	Same	Decrease	Index
	%	%	%	
March-2006	39	43	18	60
February-2006	47	40	13	67
January-2006	27	50	23	52
December-2005	35	44	21	57
March-2005	33	53	15	59
March-2004	43	43	15	64
March-2003	17	45	38	39

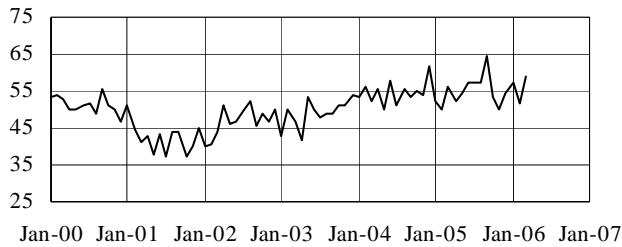
Capital Expenditures



Commentary: No change. Still at a healthy 63.

Date	Increase	Same	Decrease	Index
	%	%	%	
March-2006	32	61	7	63
February-2006	25	75	0	63
January-2006	26	70	5	60
December-2005	17	74	10	54
March-2005	10	82	8	51
March-2004	18	74	8	55
March-2003	17	72	11	53

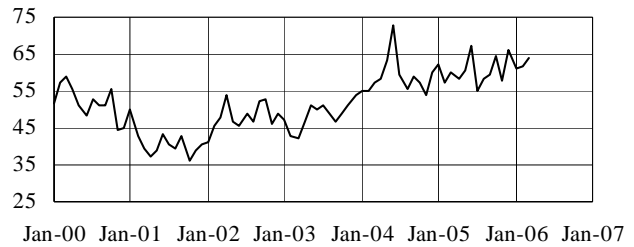
White Collar Employment



Commentary: A seven point rise to 59 this month.

Date	Increase	Same	Decrease	Index
	%	%	%	
March-2006	23	73	5	59
February-2006	10	83	7	52
January-2006	21	72	7	57
December-2005	16	77	7	55
March-2005	15	83	3	56
March-2004	12	80	7	52
March-2003	9	77	15	47

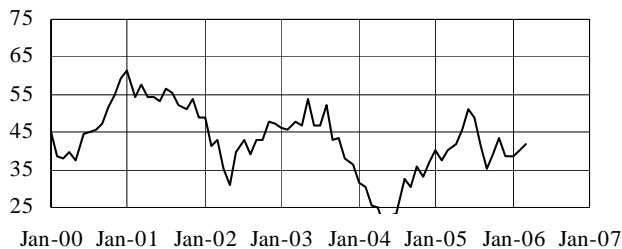
Blue Collar Employment



Commentary: Up two points to 64. A good number.

Date	Increase	Same	Decrease	Index
	%	%	%	
March-2006	39	50	11	64
February-2006	27	70	3	62
January-2006	30	64	7	61
December-2005	33	67	0	66
March-2005	25	70	5	60
March-2004	25	65	10	58
March-2003	9	67	24	42

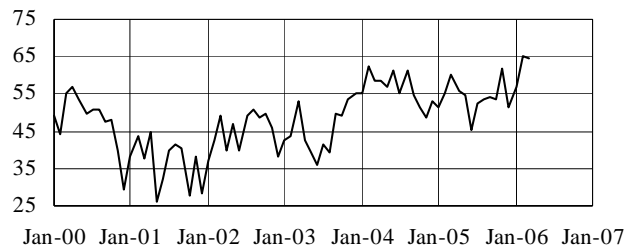
Supplier Lead Times



Commentary: Up two to 42. Still could be a lot better.

Date	Increase	Same	Decrease	Index
	%	%	%	
March-2006	18	80	2	42
February-2006	20	80	0	40
January-2006	26	72	2	38
December-2005	23	77	0	38
March-2005	25	70	5	40
March-2004	51	46	2	26
March-2003	13	79	9	48

Inventory Levels



Commentary: No change. It is still at 65.

Date	Increase	Same	Decrease	Index
	%	%	%	
March-2006	48	34	18	65
February-2006	47	37	17	65
January-2006	32	50	18	57
December-2005	33	37	30	51
March-2005	38	45	18	60
March-2004	37	44	20	59
March-2003	33	41	26	53