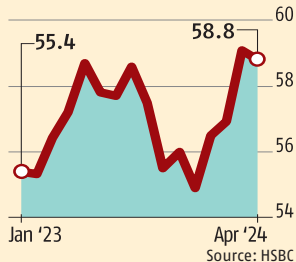


Manufacturing PMI eases in April

ROBUST DEMAND

PMI-manufacturing
(<50 denotes contraction)



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New Delhi, 2 May

Indian manufacturing slowed down a bit in April but growth stayed robust to signal the second-best improvement in the sector's health in three and a half years, said a private business on Thursday.

The headline Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), released by HSBC, slipped to 58.8 in April from a 16-year high of 59.1 recorded in March. "Firms experienced a sharp upturn in new business intakes and scaled up production accordingly.

With sales expected to remain positive, buying levels were raised, and input stocks were increased to one of the greatest extents seen in over 19 years of data collection. Cost pressures ticked higher, though they remained historically mild, pushing up charge inflation to the strongest since January," said the survey. A figure above 50 in the index denotes expansion and that below signifies contraction.

Indian manufacturers reported robust demand from Indian and foreign clients in April when total new orders rose sharply. The pace of

expansion was the second strongest since 2021.

"Growth was spurred by healthy demand trends and successful marketing campaigns. Other sources of sales gains cited by firms were Asia, Australia, Europe, and the Americas. New export orders increased markedly in April, albeit at a softer rate than that seen for total sales, suggesting that the domestic market remained the main driver of growth," the survey said. The April manufacturing PMI matches the flash estimate for the month at 59.1 released earlier.