

The latest quarterly survey by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (Ficci) on manufacturing for Q4FY24 projected future investment outlook as steady. Industry respondents have, however, flagged availability of raw material and their escalating prices, uncertainty in global demand, shortage of skilled labour, market volatility, increased power costs. unutilised capacities, and high bank interest rates as some of the major constraints going forward.

According to the survey, 85 per cent of the respondents in the current quarter (Q4FY24) are expecting a higher number of orders compared to 73 per cent in 03FY24. The hiring outlook, too, is expected to remain stable with around 40 per cent looking at hiring

additional workforce in the next three months.

The Ficci survey has suggested the extension of Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles (Fame) subsidy for electric vehicles for at least five years till the ecosystem and supply chain matures. "Current digital process on Fame and processing of Fame subsidy claims are time-consuming. often extending between five and six months. Streamlining this process would benefit original equipment manufacturers," it said.

The survey has drawn responses from over 400 manufacturing units from both large and small and medium enterprises (SME) segments with a combined annual turnover of over ₹3.4 trillion. RUCHIKA CHITRAVANSHI

| <b>AVER</b> | AGE | CAPA | CITY | UTIL | ISATI | ON |
|-------------|-----|------|------|------|-------|----|
|             |     |      |      |      |       |    |

| ndustry respondents in % | (Expectat                                  |
|--------------------------|--|
| 77                       | Capital goods & construction equipment     |
| 73                       | Chemicals, fertiliser<br>& pharmaceuticals |
| 65                       | Electronics & electricals                  |
| 70                       | FMCG                                       |
| 66                       | Machine tools                              |
| 75                       | Metals & metal products                    |
| 74                       | Miscellaneous                              |
| 90                       | Paper & paper products                     |
| 75                       | Textile, apparel & technical textile       |
| 75                       | Automotive & components                    |
| 73                       | Grand total                                |

## GROWTH FXPFCTATIONS

| FOR Q4FY24*                             |          |
|---|----------|
| Automotive & auto components            | Moderate |
| Capital goods & construction equipment  | Moderate |
| Chemicals, fertiliser & pharmaceuticals | Moderate |
| Electronics & electricals               | Strong   |
| FMCG                                    | Moderate |
| Machine tools                           | Strong   |
| Metals & metal products                 | Moderate |
|   |          |

Miscellaneous

\*Very Strong > 20%; Strong 10-20%; Moderate 5-10%; Low < 5%

Textile, apparel & technical textile

Paper & paper products

Source: Ficci survey

Moderate

Moderate

Moderate