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中国经济评论: PMI 反弹, 但预计 7 月工业生产仍将走弱

China Economics Update: PMI rebounds, but production may weaken in Jul

7 月中国官方制造业 PMI 小幅反弹, 升幅略超市场预期, 且好于我们看 跌的预测。生产、新订单、采购和 价格指标均温和反弹。

反弹显示 G20 会议后制造业信心有 所改善。然而,其他领先指标表明 工业生产的下行压力仍然存在。

在周二的政治局会议上, 中国领导 层评估国内经济下行压力较三个月 前加大。虽然房地产市场调控基调 未变,但政策在下半年稳增长的优 先性提高,将重点支持投资和消费。 我们预计汽车和基建投资的反弹将 支撑经济企稳,缓解出口下滑带来 的压力。

China's Jul PMI rebounded slightly more than consensus had expected and beat our forecast of a decline. Production, new orders, purchases and producer price measures all bounced back moderately.

The rebound implies an improvement in business sentiment in the manufacturing sector after the G20 meeting. However, other indicators suggest persistent downward pressure on IP growth.

At Tuesday's Politburo meeting, China's leadership assessed that downside risks to growth have increased. Although the tightening stance on the housing market has not changed, policymakers have given growth stability a higher priority, with plans to buttress investment and consumption in 2H. We expect the rebound in auto and infrastructure investment to support economic to stability while taking some of the sting out of sliding exports.

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Indicators	Jul 18	1Q19	2Q19	Jun 19	Jul 19 (cons)	Jul 19 (CCBIS)	Jul 19 (actl)
Manufacturing PMI	51.2	49.7	49.6	49.4	49.6	49.3	49.7
Non-manufacturing PMI	54.0	54.6	54.3	54.2	54	-	53.7
- Services PMI	53.0	53.6	53.4	53.4	-	-	52.9
- Construction PMI	59.5	60.6	59.1	58.7	-	-	52.3

Source: Bloomberg, CCBIS estimates



Manufacturing PMI recovered, beating expectations

China's Manufacturing PMI rose 0.3 ppt to 49.7 in Jul, beating the market and our expectations (Bloomberg cons: 49.6; CCBIS: 49.3).

Sub-indexes showed the improvement was led by production and new orders:

- **Production and New Orders indexes picked up** by 0.8 ppt and 0.2 ppt, respectively, together adding nearly 0.3 ppt to the headline PMI (Fig 1). Jul's Production Index was 0.4 ppt higher than the 2Q average. Within the Orders Index, New Export Orders rose 0.6 ppt to 46.9 after declining for two months in a row. Yet the overall trend is still towards cooling compared with 2Q. External demand remains weak indicated by the further slowdown in manufacturing PMIs in major overseas economies. The Import Index improved by 0.6 ppt thanks to warming domestic demand.
- Raw Material Inventory eased slightly while input prices increased after a sharp decline, supported by a slight recovery in domestic demand. The Purchasing Price Index and Producer Price Index rose by 1.7 ppt and 1.5 ppt, respectively. Higher output prices suggest PPI will improve in Jul after falling 0.3% MoM in Jun. We expect flat or possibly slightly higher PPI month over month (Fig 2).
- Business Expectation and Employment indexes also improved. As New Orders and the Business Expectation Index improved after softer readings the previous month, the PMI Employment Index also recovered, rising 0.2 ppt to 47.1, slightly above the average level in 2Q.

Non-manufacturing PMI eased on weaker services and construction activity

Non-manufacturing PMI fell further than expected to 53.7 in Jul from 54.2 in Jun. Service PMI and Construction PMI both eased 0.5 ppt from the previous month. NBS attributed slower expansion in the wholesale and financial sectors mainly to the slowdown in the non-manufacturing sector. While construction production softened due to unfavorable weather, construction business expectations and employment both improved after declines in Jun, suggesting an improving outlook for the sector.

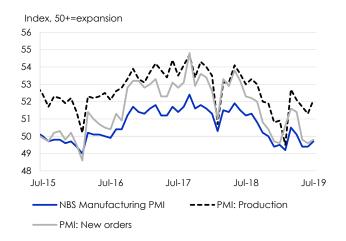
Our view

Although Manufacturing PMI recorded a modest rebound in Jul, other leading indicators still point to sullen growth in the near term. Domestic coal consumption by major power plants slowed in Jul. Korean exports in the first 20 days of Jul contracted, echoing declines in the euro area and US Markit PMIs. We expect actual industrial production growth to remain under downward pressure and weaken slightly in Jul.

The Politburo meeting at the end of Jul indicates China's leadership senses greater downward pressure on growth and has tilted towards giving growth stability a higher priority. However, the meeting sends a clear signal that China will not revert to the housing sector for short-term stimulus, but will instead focus on market liberalization to cultivate long-term growth potential. In 2H, policy support will concentrate on stabilizing manufacturing investment, promoting infrastructure investment and boosting rural consumption. We expect the rebound in auto sales and infrastructure investment to contribute to overall stabilization of China's domestic economy in 2H.

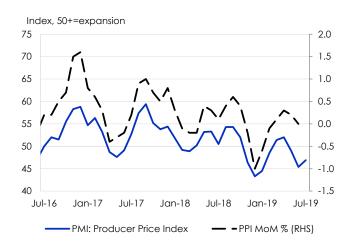


Fig 1. Production and new orders led the recovery in Manufacturing PMI



Source: NBS, CEIC, CCBIS

Fig 2. Output prices improved, suggesting sequential improvement in the PPI



Source: NBS, CEIC, CCBIS

Table 1: PMI breakdown

	Jul-18	2Q18	3Q18	4Q18	1Q19	2Q19	Jun-19	Jul-19
NBS Manufacturing PMI	51.2	51.6	51.1	49.9	49.7	49.6	49.4	49.7
Production	53.0	53.6	53.1	51.6	51.0	51.7	51.3	52.1
New orders	52.3	53.3	52.2	50.3	50.6	50.3	49.6	49.8
Raw materials inventory	48.9	49.3	48.5	47.2	47.6	47.6	48.2	48.0
Employment ,	49.2	49.0	49.0	48.1	47.6	47.0	46.9	47.1
Supplier delivery times	50.0	50.2	49.8	50.1	50.0	50.3	50.2	50.1
New export orders	49.8	50.6	49.1	46.8	46.4	47.3	46.3	46.9
Backlog orders	45.7	45.9	45.9	44.2	44.6	44.3	44.5	44.7
Finished goods inventory	47.1	46.5	47.3	48.0	46.8	47.6	48.1	47.0
Purchases	51.5	52.8	51.6	50.5	49.5	50.4	49.7	50.4
mports	49.6	50.4	49.1	46.9	46.9	47.9	46.8	47.4
Purchasing Price Index	54.3	55.8	57.6	51.0	50.6	51.3	49.0	50.7
Producer Price Index	50.5	52.2	53.0	47.2	48.1	48.8	45.4	46.9
Production and business expectations	56.6	58.3	56.7	54.4	55.2	54.8	53.4	53.6
Large enterprises	52.4	52.7	52.2	50.8	51.3	50.3	49.9	50.7
Medium enterprises	49.9	50.5	49.7	48.4	48.0	49.0	49.1	48.7
Small enterprises	49.3	49.9	49.9	49.2	47.3	48.6	48.3	48.2
NBS Non-manufacturing PMI	54.0	54.9	54.4	53.7	54.6	54.3	54.2	53.7
Services	53.0	53.9	53.3	52.3	53.6	53.4	53.4	52.9
Construction: Business activities	59.5	60.5	60.6	61.9	60.6	59.1	58.7	58.2
Construction: New business	56.4	54.1	53.9	56.4	55.2	54.2	56.0	54.7
Construction: Business expectations	64.1	65.0	65.0	66.3	65.6	62.9	62.6	63.7
PMI Composite Production Index	53.6	54.4	53.8	52.8	53.2	53.2	53.0	53.1



Rating definitions:

Outperform (O) – expected return > 10% over the next twelve months Neutral (N) – expected return between -10% and 10% over the next twelve months Underperform (U) – expected return < -10% over the next twelve months

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