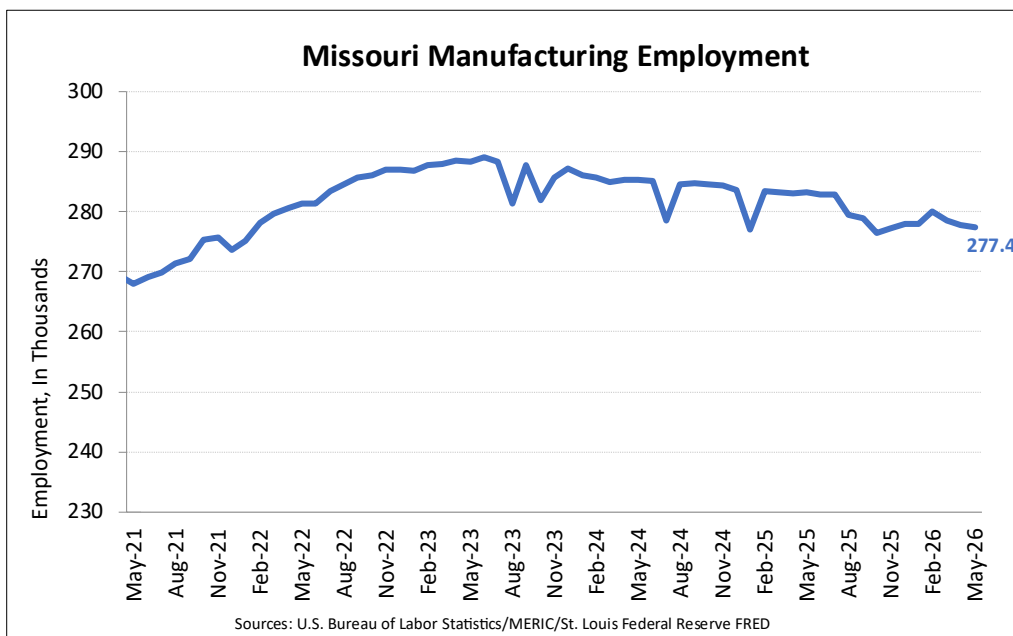


Missouri Manufacturing Indicators is a monthly brief that utilizes several surveys to highlight recent trends in manufacturing economic activity. The latest figures for this brief include:

- Missouri manufacturers employed 277,400 people in May 2026. Over the past year, production jobs declined by 2.0%, while the state’s overall employment increased by 0.1%. Nationally, manufacturing employment contracted by 0.4% over the year.
- The Missouri purchasing management index fell to 50.0 in May 2026 from the previous month, marking a notable drop and pointing to neutral business sentiment overall.
- The new orders index fell in May to 48.8, marking the first time since January that the index declined into contractionary territory. While this is a volatile indicator, a reading below 50 signals a negative outlook for sales in the coming months.
- Missouri manufacturing hourly earnings increased 4.3% over the year, based on a three-month moving average ending in May. Earnings growth in the production sector outpaced the state’s broader private sector (3.3%) and consumer inflation (3.7%) over the same period.

Missouri Manufacturing Employment Declines in May

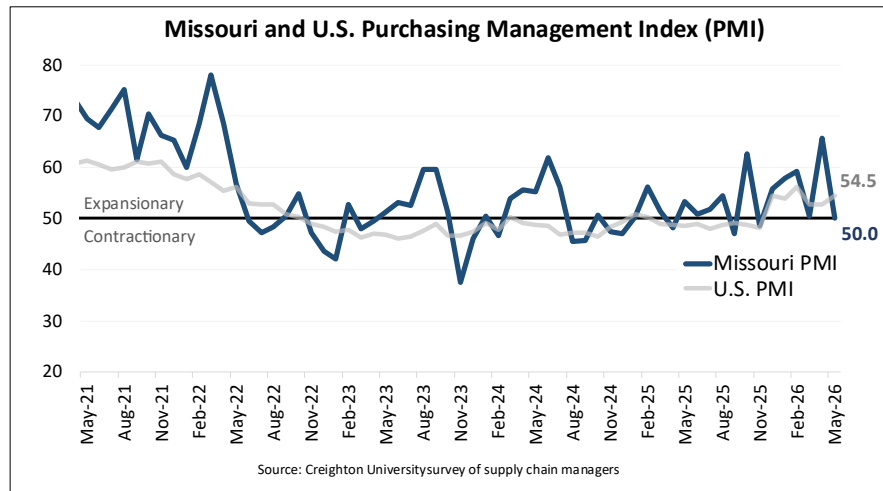
Missouri manufacturers employed 277,400 workers in May 2026, down 400 jobs from the prior month, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Over the past year, Missouri manufacturing jobs decreased by 5,800, representing a 2.0% decline in production jobs. Nationally, manufacturing declined by 0.4%.



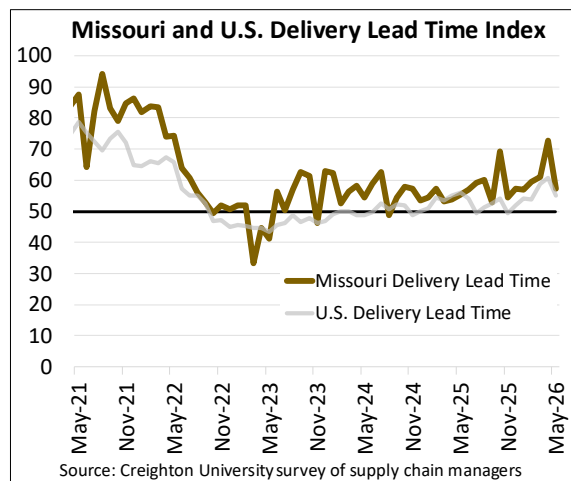
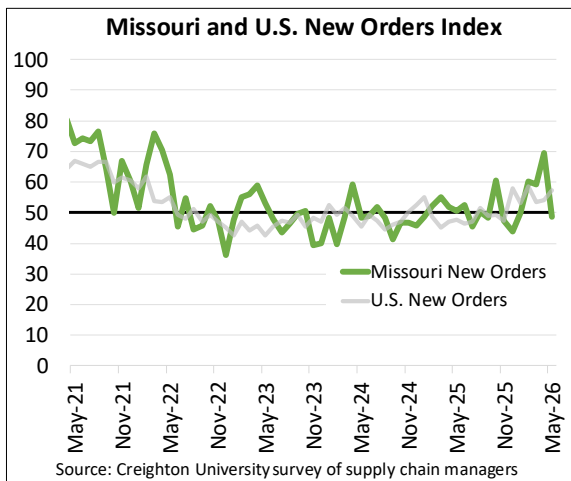
Missouri Purchasing Management Index Down in May

Creighton University produces a monthly purchasing management index (PMI) that averages several key indices to track industry trends, including new orders, production, and inventories. The index ranges from 0 to 100, with values above 50 indicating an expansionary outlook for manufacturing over the next three to six months, and values below 50 indicating a contractionary outlook. The index is a leading indicator of manufacturing activity and mirrors the methodology of the National Institute of Supply Management (ISM) survey.

- In May 2026, Missouri’s PMI declined to 50.0, a downward move to neutral territory for the month and slightly below the U.S. level (54.5). Over the past year, the index has hovered between slightly contractionary and expansionary readings, similar to the national index.

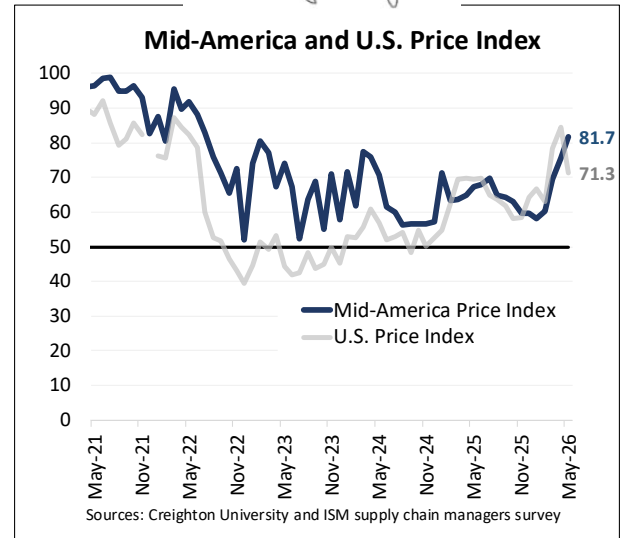


- The Missouri new orders index was 48.8 in May, marking the first time since January that the index fell into contractionary territory. This is a volatile indicator, so data should be used with caution, but declining orders are a negative sign for sales in the coming months.
- Missouri supplier delivery lead times dropped in May, indicating that manufacturers are receiving inputs at a quicker pace than the prior month. At 57.3, Missouri’s index is slightly above the national reading.



Mid-America Manufacturers Continue to See Elevated Wholesale Prices

According to the Creighton University survey, the Mid-America wholesale price index increased to 81.7 in May. This is a continued increase from the months before and is higher than the national index. Wholesale prices in the Mid-America region have increased every month in 2026.

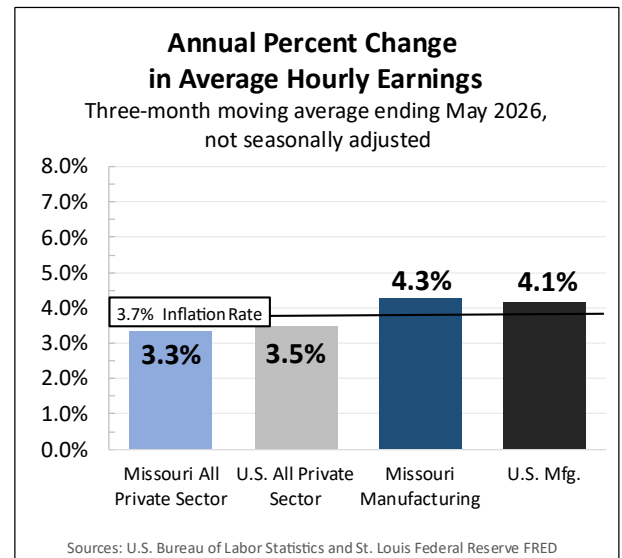


Missouri Manufacturing Workers See Faster Earnings Growth Compared to U.S. Employees

Missouri manufacturing employees earned an average of \$38.82 per hour over the three months ending in May 2026, a 4.3% increase from a year earlier. These figures are based on gross payrolls divided by total hours worked, using data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Nationally, average hourly earnings for manufacturing workers rose by 4.1% over the year, reaching \$36.69. Missouri manufacturing earnings growth has largely matched U.S. gains so far in 2026.

Missouri’s manufacturing wage growth outpaced the state’s broader private sector, where average hourly earnings increased by 3.3% over the year. Nationally, private sector earnings increased at a slightly higher rate of 3.5%.

With an annual consumer price index (CPI) increase of 3.7%, earnings growth in Missouri’s manufacturing sector slightly outpaced inflation in recent months. However, pay gains across the broader private sector have failed to keep pace with rising prices in 2026.



Author: Alan Spell, Assistant Extension Professor, alan.spell@missouri.edu