

Missouri Manufacturing Indicators

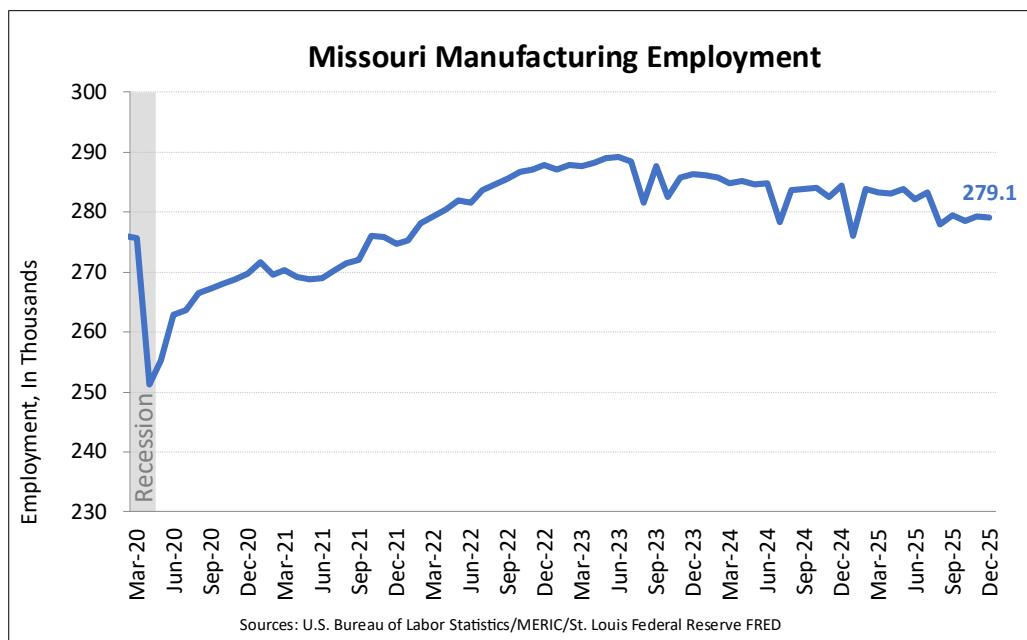
JANUARY 2026

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:

- The Missouri manufacturing sector employed 279,100 people in December 2025. Over the past year, production jobs declined by nearly 2%, in contrast to the state's overall employment growth of 1.8%. U.S. manufacturing employment contracted by 0.5% over the year.
- The Missouri purchasing management index rose to 55.8 in December 2025, up from the prior month, signaling a modest manufacturing expansion outlook.
- Conversely, the new orders index declined to 43.8, marking two months of the indicator in contractionary territory and a cautionary sign for future sales.
- Missouri manufacturing hourly earnings increased 2.7% year over year (two-month moving average ending December 2025). This is a slower growth rate than earlier in the year and in line with inflation, resulting in no real wage growth at the end of 2025.

Missouri Manufacturing Employment Declined in 2025

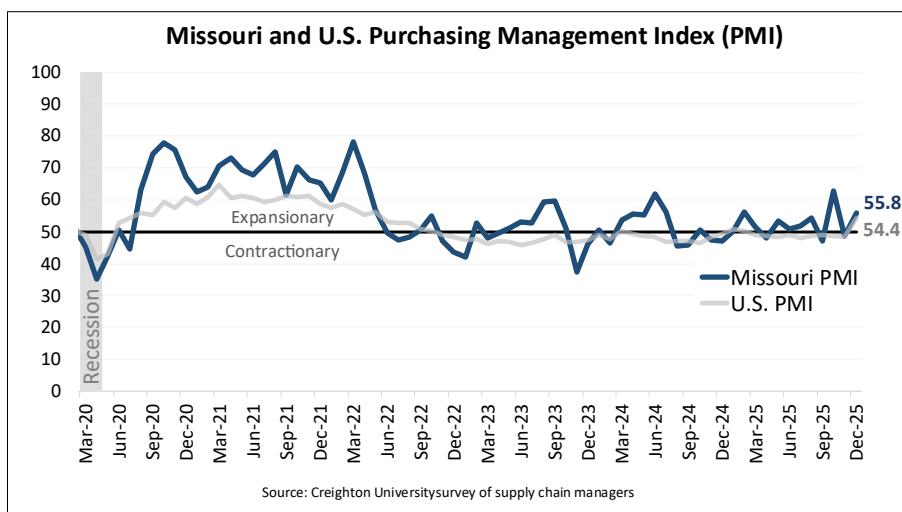
Missouri manufacturers employed 279,100 workers in December 2025, down 100 jobs from November, according to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) estimates. Over the past year, Missouri manufacturing jobs have decreased by 5,300, representing a 1.9% decline in production jobs since December 2024 (U.S. -0.5%).



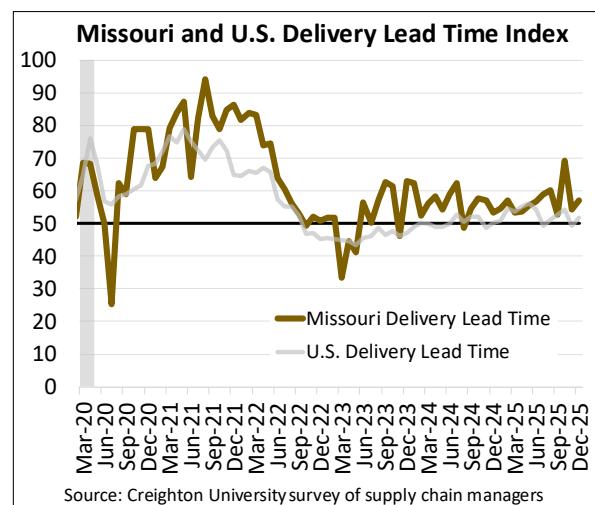
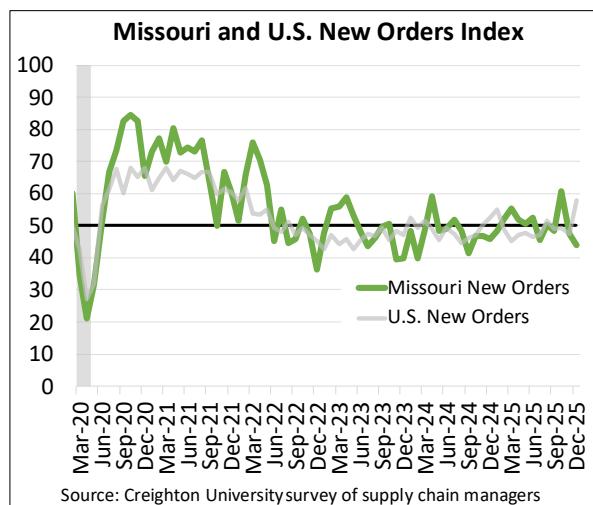
Missouri Purchasing Management Index Up in December

Creighton University produces a monthly purchasing management index (PMI) that averages several key indices to track 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 pointing toward a contractionary period. The index is a leading indicator of manufacturing activity and mirrors the national Institute of Supply Management (ISM) survey methodology.

- In December 2025, Missouri's PMI increased to 55.8, a positive move into expansionary territory. Overall, 2025 has seen the index hover between slightly contractionary and expansionary readings, similar to the national index.



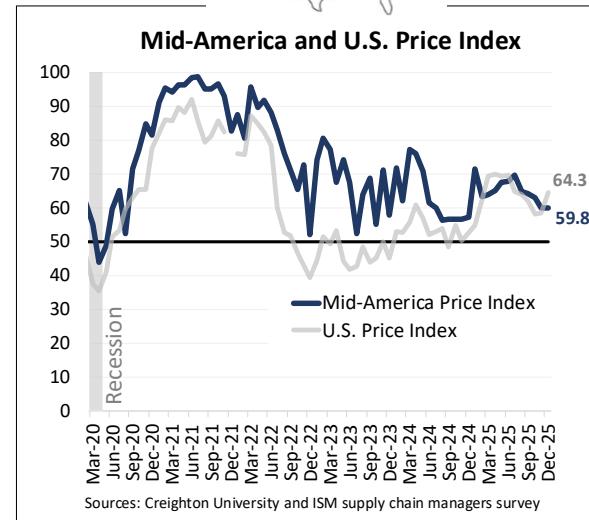
- The Missouri new orders index was 43.8 in December, marking a significant decrease over the prior two months. This is a volatile index, so data should be used with caution, but contractionary orders bear watching over the coming months.
- Elevated Missouri supplier delivery lead times have continued to climb. The December index for Missouri (57.1) remains higher than the national index.



Mid-America Manufacturers See Wholesale Prices

Decrease Slightly in August

According to the Creighton University survey, the Mid-America wholesale price index decreased to 59.8 in December, lower than the national index (64.3). From 2020-24, Mid-America producers generally saw higher input prices than the U.S. average. However, in 2025, those higher price levels began to track more closely with national trends.



Missouri Manufacturing Earnings Growth Loses

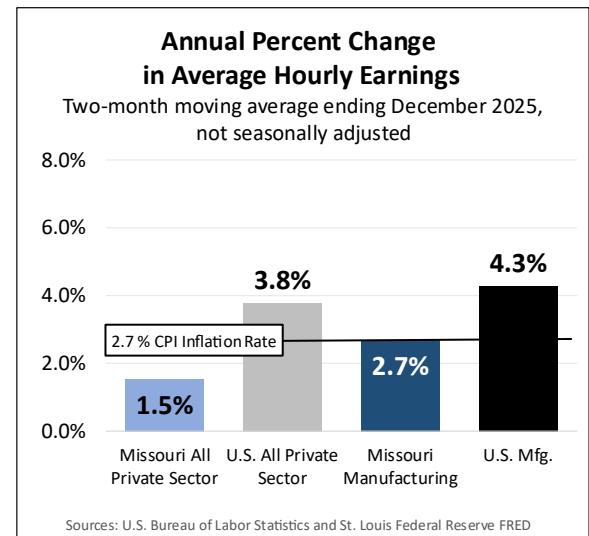
Momentum Late in 2025

Missouri manufacturing employees earned an average of \$36.49 per hour over the two months ending in December 2025, a 2.7% increase from a year earlier. These figures are based on gross payrolls divided by total hours worked, using preliminary data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Nationally, average hourly earnings for manufacturing workers rose by 4.3% over the same period, reaching \$36.02. The second half of 2025 saw Missouri manufacturing earnings growth slow relative to U.S. levels, ending a two-year trend in which state producers outpaced the national average in earnings growth.

However, Missouri's manufacturing wage growth did outpace the state's broader private sector, where average hourly earnings increased by 1.5% over the year. Nationally, private sector earnings increased at a much higher rate of 3.8%.

With inflation running at 2.7% year over year, wage growth in Missouri's manufacturing sector merely kept pace with the consumer price index (CPI) by the end of 2025, while wage gains across the broader private sector failed to match rising prices. As a result, real earnings growth for Missouri workers in the latter part of 2025 was stagnant at best and likely declined for much of the workforce.



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