

Chicago Business Barometer™ - Climbed to 57.7 in February

February 2026 Chicago Report™

- The Chicago Business Barometer™, produced with MNI, climbed 3.7 points to 57.7 in February. Extending January's strong increase, it saw a second consecutive month in expansionary territory after a run of twenty-five months below the key 50 mark.
- The rise was driven by increases in Production, Employment, New Orders and Supplier Deliveries. A decline in Order Backlogs provided some offset.
- Production strengthened 9.0 points to the highest level since November 2023, and marking two months above 50.
- Employment grew 7.7 points to the highest level since October 2021. The index is in expansionary territory for the first time since November 2023.
- New Orders rose 2.9 points to the strongest level since January 2022.
- Supplier Deliveries nudged 1.4 points higher, remaining strong and uninterrupted.

- Order Backlogs slipped 4.5 points, now back in contractionary territory after one month above 50.
- Prices Paid ticked up 2.4 points, partially unwinding January's sharp decrease.
- Inventories dropped 8.0 points, also back in contractionary territory after one month above 50.
- The survey ran from February 1 to February 11.

For more details on the Chicago Business Barometer™, including the subindices and historical data, please contact sales@marketnews.com

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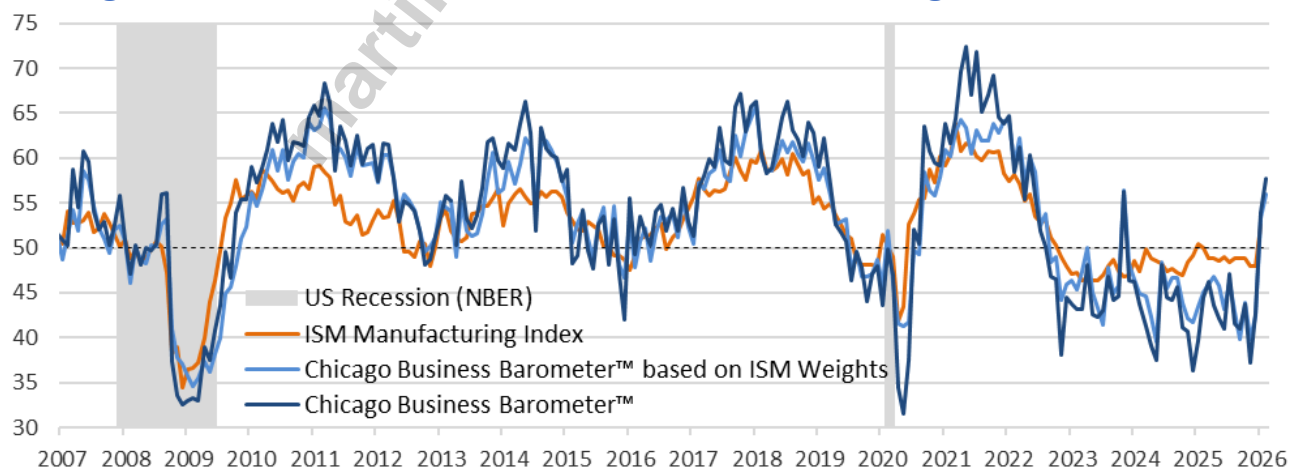
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Embargoed until 9:45 am, Eastern Time, February 27, 2026
Next Release: March 31, 2026

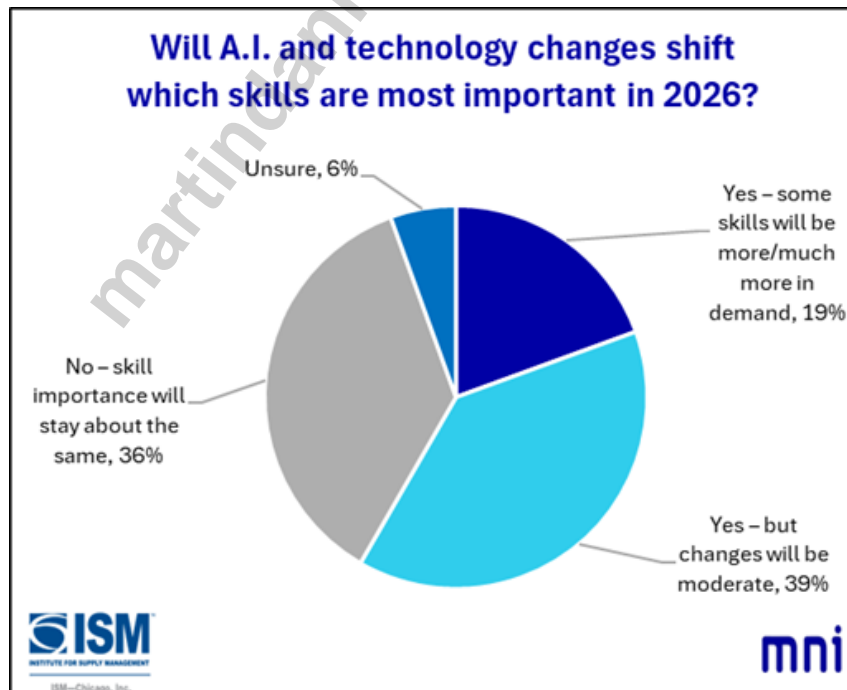
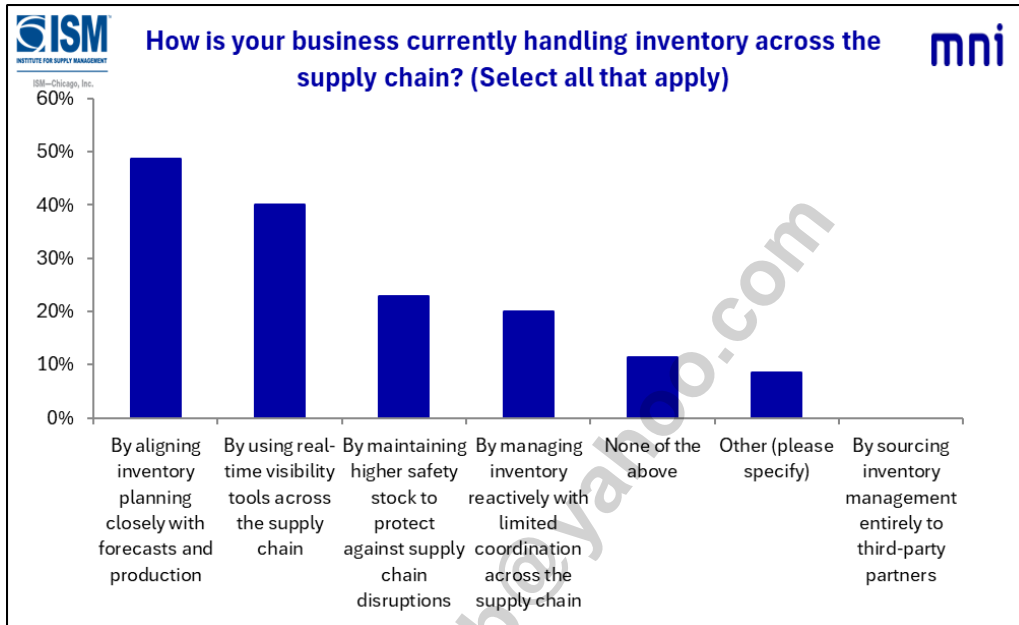
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Chicago Business Barometer™ and ISM Manufacturing Index



Special Questions in February 2026



Chicago Business Barometer™

2026 Publication Calendar

Please see below the upcoming release dates for the Chicago Business Barometer™:

Release Dates

31 st March, 2026	09:45 Eastern Time (E.T.)
30 th April, 2026	09:45 Eastern Time (E.T.)
29 th May, 2026	09:45 Eastern Time (E.T.)
30 th June, 2026	09:45 Eastern Time (E.T.)
31 st July, 2026	09:45 Eastern Time (E.T.)
28 th August, 2026	09:45 Eastern Time (E.T.)
30 th September, 2026	09:45 Eastern Time (E.T.)
30 th October, 2026	09:45 Eastern Time (E.T.)
30 th November, 2026	09:45 Eastern Time (E.T.)
30 th December, 2026	09:45 Eastern Time (E.T.)

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About MNI Indicators

MNI Indicators specializes in producing business and consumer surveys designed to present an advance picture of the economic landscape and highlight changing trends in business and consumer activity. MNI Indicators produces the renowned Chicago Business Barometer™, a key leading indicator of the US economy. MNI Indicators is part of Market News International, Inc., a leading provider of news and intelligence.

Notes to Editors

Production: MNI Indicators, part of Market News International Inc.

Date range: Monthly since 1946

Release Date: Last working day of the month

Bloomberg ticker: <CHPMINDX>

Collection method: Survey data is collected online each month from manufacturing and non-manufacturing firms in the Chicago area. Respondents are purchasing/supply-chain professionals, primarily drawn from the membership of the ISM-Chicago (Institute for Supply Management – Chicago).

Calculation method: Respondents are asked their opinion on whether a particular business activity has increased, decreased or remained the same compared with the previous month. E.g. Is Production Higher/Same/Lower compared with a month ago?

A diffusion indicator is then calculated by adding the percentage share of positive responses to half the percentage of those respondents reporting no change. The three questions related to Buying Policy are measured in days and are not diffusion indicators. The Chicago Business Barometer™ and all sub-indicators are then seasonally adjusted. An indicator reading above 50 shows expansion compared with a month earlier while below 50 indicates contraction. A result of 50 is neutral. The farther an indicator is above or below 50, the greater or smaller the rate of change.

Headline indicator: The Chicago Business Barometer™ is a weighted composite indicator made up of five sub-indicators, namely New Orders, Production, Employment, Order Backlogs and Supplier Deliveries. It is designed to predict future changes in U.S. gross domestic product (GDP).

Other indicators: The survey also asks companies about changes in their input prices, inventories and lead times to source production material, MRO supplies and capital equipment.

For more information please contact us at info@mni-indicators.com or visit www.marketnews.com