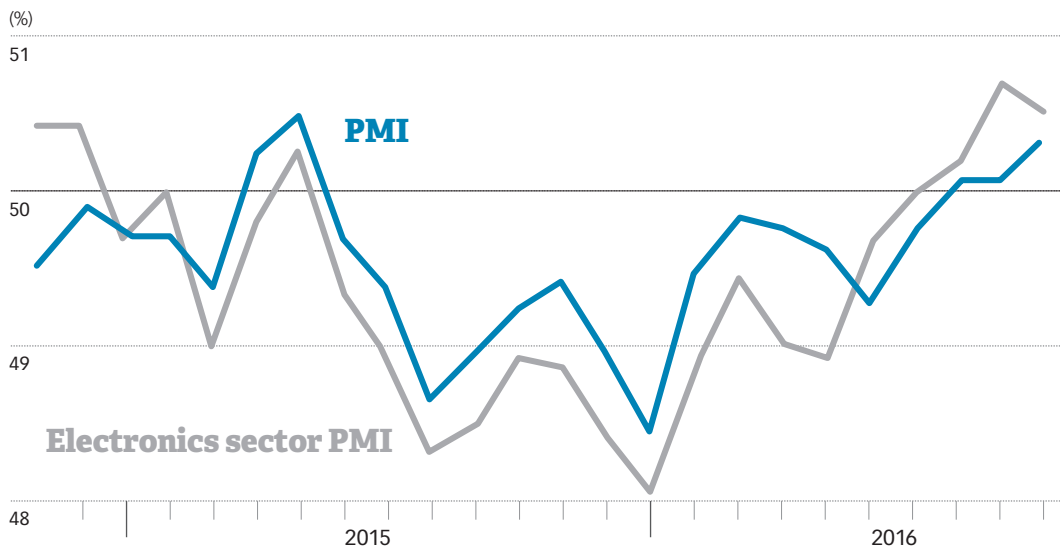


Manufacturing sector expands for 3rd month

Turning in a slightly better reading than expected, Singapore's purchasing managers' index (PMI) rose 0.2 point to 50.2 in November – marking the third month of expansion. According to a Bloomberg poll, the market had expected last month's PMI to remain unchanged from October's reading of 50. **BY KELLY TAY**



Source: SIPMM

Note: A reading above 50 denotes growth, while one under 50 reflects a contraction in the manufacturing sector. *Bloomberg poll

50.0
OCTOBER

50.2
NOVEMBER

50.0
NOVEMBER
FORECAST*

November's stronger expansion was due to small improvements in new orders, new exports, and factory output, said the Singapore Institute of Purchasing and Materials Management (SIPMM) on Friday. Still, it added that manufacturing employment "remained in the doldrums", with the index recording 24 months of contraction readings.

Meanwhile, the electronics PMI recorded a dip of 0.3 point in November. However, at 50.5, this was still the fourth month of expansion for the sector. "Both the electronics inventory index and finished goods index posted a faster rate of expansion, indicating an accumulation of inventory and finished goods, which do not bode well for the electronics sector going forward," said SIPMM.