



as production picks up, area manufacturers plan to make at least small additions to stock levels. The step-up in manufacturing could give area factory labor a boost as well, as survey respondents plan to increase employment while also lengthening the workweek. Increased capital outlays are projected at better than 1 out of 3 of the firms surveyed.

Prices paid to suppliers have risen again for about one-half of the survey participants in July, and over one-third of the area manufacturers responding to this month's survey report charging higher prices for their finished products. No relief from inflation in the coming months is anticipated as 9 out of 10 of the respondents expect to be paying more for raw materials by January and nearly 7 out of 10 plan price hikes for the goods they sell.

In short, local industrial activity showed a few signs of slipping in July, but has probably, for the most part, remained basically unchanged. Manufacturers are anticipating a general pickup within the next six months, giving area employment a boost in the process.

### BUSINESS OUTLOOK SURVEY

#### SUMMARY OF RETURNS JULY 1981

INDICATOR	July vs. June			Six Months from Now vs. July		
	Decrease	No Change	Increase	Decrease	No Change	Increase
<b>GENERAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS</b>						
What is your evaluation of the level of general business activity?	27.3	54.5	15.9	5.7	15.9	75.0
<b>COMPANY BUSINESS INDICATORS</b>						
New Orders	27.3	46.6	22.7	8.0	14.8	75.0
Shipments	25.0	46.6	23.9	6.8	21.6	68.2
Unfilled Orders	29.5	53.4	10.2	13.6	36.4	44.3
Delivery Time	17.0	71.6	5.7	8.0	58.0	29.5
Inventories	34.1	37.5	23.9	22.7	34.1	39.8
Prices Paid	0.0	43.2	54.5	0.0	9.1	90.9
Prices Received	1.1	58.0	36.4	0.0	29.5	68.2
Number of Employees	10.2	65.9	21.6	6.8	51.1	42.0
Average Employee Workweek	11.4	78.4	8.0	5.7	64.8	29.5
Capital Expenditures				8.0	38.6	46.6

Note: Items may not add to 100 per cent because of omission by respondents.