Note: We received input from a total of 127 firms. Of those 127 respondents, 124 answered question 1.

1. Considering what you had expected before the COVID-19 outbreak, what would you say has been the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated effects on the past week’s new orders or sales?

Nearly 52 percent of all responding firms reported decreases of more than 5 percent in new orders or sales (down slightly from last week), while 18 percent reported increases of more than 5 percent (up slightly). Almost 26 percent reported changes between -5 percent and 5 percent (little changed). A larger share of manufacturers reported overall decreases relative to nonmanufacturers, while a larger share of nonmanufacturers reported increases. Roughly 4 percent of the firms reported a temporary shutdown (unchanged from last week); 1 percent reported a permanent shutdown.

The chart below shows an estimated average percent change in new orders or sales by firm type based on weekly survey responses since the end of March. The average is calculated using the midpoints of the ranges of each answer option for question 1 and likely includes measurement error. The series are dashed leading up to the April 5, 2020, data point because of sample size changes over that time, and the first two weeks should not be directly compared with subsequent weeks.

The estimated average percent change in new orders or sales remained negative but rose from -20.6 percent last week to -18.3 percent this week for all firms, from -18.4 percent to -12.0 percent for manufacturers, and from -21.4 percent to -20.9 percent for nonmanufacturers.
2. For the week ending June 21, what labor force decisions did your firm make?

Just over 60 percent of the firms reported no changes to their labor force over the past week. Nearly 20 percent of the firms reported hiring new full- or part-time employees, and 8 percent reported recalling furloughed workers. A larger share of manufacturers indicated hiring new employees or no changes, while larger shares of nonmanufacturers indicated reductions in temporary workers or contractors and recalling furloughed employees.

3. Were there any impediments to hiring or recalling workers?

Of the 35 firms above that indicated having hired new employees, recalled workers, or increased the number of temporary workers or contractors, almost 46 percent indicated no impediments to hiring or recalling workers. More than 34 percent of the firms noted expanded unemployment benefits, 29 percent noted a fear of infection, and 23 percent indicated a lack of childcare as impediments. Larger shares of nonmanufacturers indicated experiencing the listed impediments, particularly a fear of infection, relative to manufacturers.