Note: We received input from a total of 138 firms. Of those 138 respondents, 135 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 from 59 percent last week), while 22 percent reported increases of more than 5 percent (up from 13 percent). Almost 23 percent reported changes between -5 percent and 5 percent (down slightly). A larger share of manufacturers reported overall decreases relative to nonmanufacturers, while a larger share of nonmanufacturers reported little to no changes. Roughly 4 percent of the firms reported a temporary shutdown (up slightly from last week); none 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 and edged up from -20.5 percent last week to -19.6 percent this week for all firms, rose from -18.3 percent to -11.3 percent for manufacturers, and decreased from -21.5 percent to -23.2 percent for nonmanufacturers.
Note: All 138 respondents answered question 2. Respondents were able to choose as many options as applied.

2. For the week ending June 28, what labor force decisions did your firm make?

Just over 55 percent of the firms reported no changes to their labor force over the past week. More than 17 percent of the firms reported hiring new full- or part-time employees, and 9 percent reported recalling furloughed workers. A larger share of manufacturers indicated hiring new employees or no changes, while a larger share of nonmanufacturers indicated making no changes.

Note: Of the 138 total respondents, 37 answered question 3. Respondents were able to choose as many options as applied.

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

Of the 37 firms above that indicated having hired new employees, recalled workers, or increased the number of temporary workers or contractors, 40 percent indicated no impediments to hiring or recalling workers. The same share indicated expanded unemployment benefits as an impediment. Firms also noted a fear of infection (35 percent) and a lack of childcare (27 percent) as impediments. A larger share of manufacturers indicated expanded unemployment benefits as an impediment relative to nonmanufacturers, while a larger share of nonmanufacturers noted a fear of infection relative to manufacturers.