



China Logistics Prosperity Index

April 2018

China Federation of Logistics & Purchasing 中國物流與採購聯合會

China Federation of Logistics & Purchasing (CFLP) is the logistics and purchasing industry association approved by the State Council. CFLP's mission is to push forward the development of the logistics industry and the procurement businesses of both government and enterprises, as well as the circulation of factors of production in China. The government authorizes the CFLP to produce industry statistics and set industry standards. CFLP is also China's representative in the Asian-Pacific Logistics Federation (APLF) and the International Federation of Purchasing and Supply Management (IFPSM).

The China Logistics Prosperity Index 中國物流業景氣指數

The China Logistics Prosperity Index (LPI), first launched in March 2013, provides an early indication each month of logistics activities in the Chinese logistics sector. The LPI is useful as a fore-indicator of economic and business conditions in China. It is published by China Federation of Logistics & Purchasing (CFLP). The Fung Business Intelligence Centre is responsible for drafting and disseminating the English LPI report.

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The business volume index of China Logistics Prosperity Index (LPI) came in at 53.4 in March, up from 50.0 in February.¹ 10 of the 12 sub-indices were in expansionary zone in March.

1. Growth acceleration in logistics activities

The business volume index rose by 3.4 pts from the previous month to 53.4 in March, indicating an acceleration in the growth of logistics activities in the month. This was due largely to resumption of production and construction activities in China after the Chinese New Year holidays. Meanwhile, the new orders index went up from 50.4 in February to 52.5 in March, showing that the new orders for logistics services have increased at a faster pace recently.

The employment index went up markedly from 45.0 in February to 50.7 in March, above the critical 50-mark. The March figure indicates a recent rebound in the employment in the logistics sector. In the meantime, the capacity utilization index also rose above the critical 50-mark, registering 51.4 in March. Logistics enterprises have seen enhanced utilization of their facilities lately.

2. Increase in inventories in warehouses

The inventory turnover index was 50.7 in March, above 50, pointing to a faster inventory turnover. Meanwhile, the average inventory index rose from 48.2 in February to 52.1 in March, above the critical 50-mark, indicating an increase in inventories in warehouses in the month.

3. Faster turnover of cash

The cash flow index came in at 50.6 in March, above 50. The latest reading indicates a faster turnover of cash for the logistics enterprises surveyed.

4. Costs on logistics enterprises rebound

The operating cost index went up to 52.7 in March from 48.0 in February, indicating that the costs on logistics enterprises have rebounded recently. Meanwhile, the logistics service charges index remained below 50, registering 49.4 in March. The service charges of logistics enterprises have continued to decrease lately.

The operating profit index improved from 46.8 in February to 51.4 in March, indicating an increase in profits of logistics enterprises in March.

5. Logistics enterprises are optimistic about business outlook

The fixed asset investment index went up from 47.3 in February to 50.0 in March, indicating that the fixed asset investment by logistics enterprises has stabilized recently. Meanwhile, the business expectations index remained high at 61.0 in March, showing that logistics enterprises have been optimistic about the business outlook for the next three months.

¹ From May 2014 onwards, the 'composite index' of the LPI is no longer used as an indicator for the overall performance of the logistics sector. Instead, the business volume index is now used as the overall indicator. The business volume index indicates the direction and rate of change in business volume of the logistics sector.

China Logistics at a Glance – March 2018

	LPI and sub-indices	Index	Index Compared with the Previous Month	Direction
1	Business Volume	53.4	Higher	Expanding
2	New Orders	52.5	Higher	Expanding
3	Average Inventory	52.1	Higher	Expanding
4	Inventory Turnover	50.7	Higher	Accelerating
5	Cash Flow	50.6	Higher	Accelerating
6	Capacity Utilization	51.4	Higher	Rising
7	Logistics Service Charges	49.4	Higher	Falling
8	Operating Profit	51.4	Higher	Rising
9	Operating Cost	52.7	Higher	Rising
10	Investment in Fixed Asset	50.0	Higher	Unchanged
11	Employment	50.7	Higher	Expanding
12	Business Expectations	61.0	Lower	Optimistic

For the Chinese version, please refer to the website of China Federation of Logistics & Purchasing at <http://www.clic.org.cn>

About China Logistics Prosperity Index, LPI:

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Every month questionnaires are sent to over 300 logistics enterprises all over China. The data presented herein is compiled from the enterprises' responses about their logistics activities and inventory situations. No data of individual enterprises should be disclosed. The LPI should be compared to other economic data sources when used in decision-making.

Over 300 logistics enterprises in China are surveyed. The sampling of the enterprises involves the use of Probability Proportional to Size Sampling (PPS), which means the selection of enterprises surveyed is largely based on each sub-sector's contribution to the operating revenue of the logistics sector, and the representation of each geographical region.

There are 12 sub-indicators in the survey: Business Volume, New Orders, Average Inventory, Inventory Turnover, Cash Flow, Capacity Utilization, Logistics Service Charges, Operating Profit, Operating Cost, Investment in Fixed Asset, Employment and Business Expectations. An index reading above 50 indicates an overall positive change in a sub-indicator; below 50, an overall negative change.

About the Organisations:

China Federation of Logistics & Purchasing

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Fung Business Intelligence

Fung Business Intelligence collects, analyses and interprets market data on global sourcing, supply chains, distribution, retail and technology.

Headquartered in Hong Kong, it leverages unique relationships and information networks to track and report on these issues with a particular focus on business trends and developments in China and other Asian countries. Fung Business Intelligence makes its data, impartial analysis and specialist knowledge available to businesses, scholars and governments around the world through regular research reports and business publications.

As the knowledge bank and think tank for the Fung Group, a Hong Kong-based multinational corporation, Fung Business Intelligence also provides expertise, advice and consultancy services to the Group and its business partners on issues related to doing business in China, ranging from market entry and company structure, to tax, licensing and other regulatory matters.

Fung Business Intelligence was established in the year 2000.

The Fung Group

The Fung Group is a privately held multinational group of companies headquartered in Hong Kong whose core businesses are trading, logistics, distribution and retailing. The Fung Group employs over 39,900 people across 40 economies worldwide, generating total revenue of over US\$22.5 billion in 2016. Fung Holdings (1937) Limited, a privately held business entity headquartered in Hong Kong, is the major shareholder of the Fung group of companies.

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