



## China Logistics Prosperity Index

August 2016

### **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 54.8 in July, down from 55.5 in June.<sup>1</sup> 9 of the 12 sub-indices were in the expansionary zone in July.

#### **1. Growth in logistics activities decelerates**

The business volume index fell from 55.5 in June to 54.8 in July, showing a deceleration in growth in logistics activities. Meanwhile, the new orders index went down from 56.8 in June to 54.8 in July, indicating that new orders for logistics services have increased at a slower pace.

The employment index came in at 49.1 in July, the same as in June. The index has been below the critical 50-mark since June, showing a continuous drop in employment in the logistics industry. The capacity utilization index moderated to 55.9 in July, still above 50. Logistics enterprises have continued to see enhanced utilization of their facilities.

#### **2. Higher inventory levels in warehouses**

The inventory turnover index rose markedly to 55.9 in July from 52.1 in June, pointing to faster inventory turnover. Meanwhile, the average inventory index went up from 53.3 in June to 55.3 in July, indicating higher inventory levels in warehouses in the month.

#### **3. Faster turnover of cash**

The cash flow index stayed above 50, registering 51.8 in July. The July reading indicates faster turnover of cash for the logistics enterprises surveyed.

#### **4. Logistics enterprises reduce their service charges**

The operating cost index dropped from 54.2 in June to 52.7 in July, indicating that costs on logistics enterprises have increased at a slower pace. Meanwhile, the logistics service charges index fell from the neutral level of 50.0 in June to 48.9 in July, indicating that logistics enterprises have reduced their service charges recently.

The operating profit index went down from 52.2 in June to 47.5 in July, indicating that profits made by logistics enterprises have started to decrease lately.

#### **5. Logistics enterprises are less optimistic about business outlook**

The fixed asset investment index went down to 50.8 in July from 56.5 in June, indicating that growth in fixed asset investment by logistics enterprises has decelerated sharply. Meanwhile, the business expectations index dropped from 60.9 in June to 58.6 in July. Enterprises in the logistics industry have become less optimistic about the business outlook for the next three months.

<sup>1</sup> 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.



## **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 46,800 people across 40 economies worldwide, generating total revenue of over US\$24.65 billion in 2014. Fung Holdings (1937) Limited, a privately held business entity headquartered in Hong Kong, is the major shareholder of the Fung group of companies.

Please visit [www.funggroup.com](http://www.funggroup.com) for more about the Fung Group.

