TEMPE, AZ — Economic activity in the manufacturing sector expanded in January for the second consecutive month, and the overall economy grew for the 44th consecutive month, according to the latest **ISM** data.

The report, issued today, shows the PMI index of manufacturing rose 290 basis points over December to 53.1%, indicating expansion in manufacturing for the second consecutive month. New Orders rose 360 basis points to 53.3%, indicating growth in new orders.

"Manufacturing is starting out the year on a positive note, with all five of the PMI's component indexes — new orders, production, employment, supplier deliveries and inventories — registering above 50 percent in January," said ISM spokesman Bradley J. Holcomb.

Two of the manufacturing industries reporting contraction in January were Computer & Electronic Products and Chemical Products.

MANUFACTURING AT A GLANCE
JANUARY 2013

Index	Series		
Index			
Jan	Series		
Index			
Dec	Percentage		
Point			
Change			
Direction	Rate		
of			
Change			
Trend*			
(Months)			
PMI™	53.1	50.2	+2.9

New Orders	53.3	49.7	+3.6
Production	53.6	52.6	+1.0
Employment	54.0	51.9	+2.1
Supplier Deliveries	53.6	53.7	-0.1
Inventories	51.0	43.0	+8.0
Customers' Inventories	48.5	47.0	+1.5
Prices	56.5	55.5	+1.0
Backlog of Orders	47.5	48.5	-1.0
Exports	50.5	51.5	-1.0

Imports	50.0	51.5	-1.5
OVERALL ECONOMY	Growing	Faster	44
Manufacturing Sector	Growing	Faster	2

*Number of months moving in current direction

Indexes reflect newly released seasonal adjustment factors.