

Business activity grew at its second slowest rate in two years

52.8

Firms reported the fourth fastest rate of growth in business activity in the UK regions



Retail and construction activity fell. Retail sales fell for the first time in 32 months



Export orders saw their weakest rate of expansion in 28 months

51.9

The pace of hiring accelerated from September's 22-month low



Firms are raising prices at significantly faster rates than all other UK regions

Business confidence in Northern Ireland slumped to a 20-month low



Firms are the least optimistic of any UK region regarding business activity in the year ahead



All sectors saw a pick-up in price inflation for goods and services, with manufacturing seeing the sharpest rise

