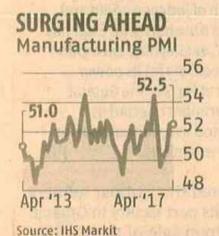
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## Factory output expands for 4th month in April: PMI survey



Factory activities maintained growth in April on the back of new orders, even as the rate of growth remained unchanged, shows the Nikkei purchasing managers' index (PMI) survey. The April PMI stood at 52.5, the same as in March. The 50-point mark separates expansion from contraction, indicating the health of the sector had improved. The December figure of 49.6 showed a beating due to note ban,

contracting for the first time in 11 months. The manufacturing sector had grown at its fastest pace in five months in March, marking a third straight month of expansion.

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