



Manufacturing growth strengthens in February

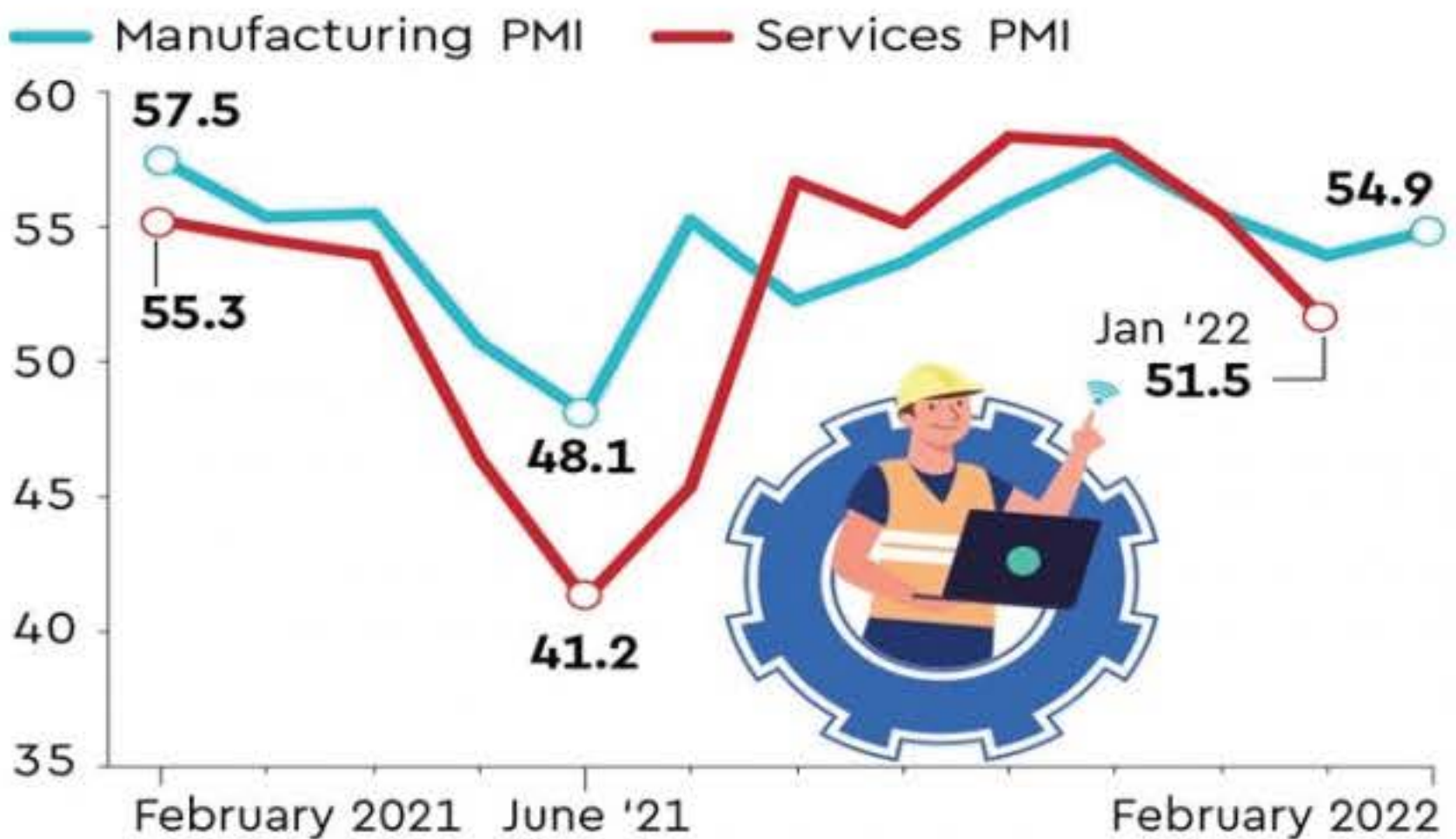
The Nikkei manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI) rose to 54.9 in February from 54 in the previous month.



Manufacturing activities.

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Manufacturing activities grew at a strong pace in February on a rise in new work intakes and output. The Nikkei manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI) rose to 54.9 in February from 54 in the previous month.



Note: Reading below 50 suggests contraction and above it indicates expansion

Source: Nikkei; IHS Markit

Employment fell at the softest pace in three months. Input price inflation moderated to a six-month low and business optimism improved to a four-month high.