

Supplemental Report:

Manufacturers Look Back at Fallout from Sandy

Supplementary questions in the June 2013 *Empire State Manufacturing Survey* focused on the short-term and medium-term effects of Superstorm Sandy on respondents' business. Similar questions had been asked in the early part of November 2012, immediately after the storm; the current set of questions enabled respondents to assess any effects that extended beyond early to mid-November.

A large majority, 60 percent, of firms based in the New York City area—which also includes Long Island and the Lower Hudson Valley up to Putnam and Orange counties—said that they were shut down or severely crippled

for at least five full days because of the storm; another 24 percent reported the same effects for one to four days. In contrast, virtually none of the firms based in upstate New York reported that their operations were severely affected. Respondents were also asked how many weeks it took for business to return to “normal levels”; the average length of time reported by downstate firms was nearly two and a half weeks. Among upstate firms, nearly 90 percent indicated that business did not fall below normal levels at all after the storm; 5 percent indicated that it took one to two weeks for business to return to normal, while another 5 percent said it took at least three weeks.

Firms were also asked to assess the medium-term effect of Sandy on revenues. Considerably more than a third of firms in the New York City area said that their overall revenues during the past seven months were adversely affected by the storm. For those firms that reported a negative effect on revenue, the average shortfall was estimated to be the equivalent of about seven days' worth of business.

Finally, when asked to assess the total amount of physical damage caused by the storm, more than a third of downstate firms reported some damage, and the median dollar estimate among those respondents was \$35,000. None of the upstate firms reported any such damage. ■

Supplemental Report, *continued*

QUESTION 1

For how many days, if any, was your business shut down or severely crippled?

	June 2013 Survey		November 2012 Survey	
	Percentage of Respondents		Percentage of Respondents	
	N.Y.C. Area (Downstate)	Upstate New York	N.Y.C. Area (Downstate)	Upstate New York
None	16.0	96.5	8.3	93.5
One to four days	24.0	3.5	50.0	6.5
Five days or more	60.0	0.0	41.7	0.0
Average number of days	4.1	0.1	3.4	0.1
Median number of days	5.0	0.0	3.5	0.0

QUESTION 2

How many weeks did it take for your business to return to normal levels?

	Percentage of Respondents	
	N.Y.C. Area (Downstate)	Upstate New York
No disruption	20.0	89.3
One week	32.0	3.6
Two weeks	16.0	1.8
Three weeks or more	32.0	5.4
Average number of weeks	2.4	0.3
Median number of weeks	1.0	0.0

QUESTION 3

Was your revenue during the past seven months lower (or higher) than it otherwise would have been?

	Percentage of Respondents	
	N.Y.C. Area (Downstate)	Upstate New York
Lower because of Sandy	36.0	1.6
No difference	60.0	95.2
Higher because of Sandy	4.0	3.2

QUESTION 4

If lower, how many days of business revenue were lost?

	Days of Revenue	
	N.Y.C. Area (Downstate)	Upstate New York
Average (among those reporting lower revenue)	7.2	N.A.
Median (among those reporting lower revenue)	5.0	N.A.