



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Monday, June 11, 2001

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Industrial capacity utilization rates, first quarter 2001** 2
 Industries lowered their use of production capacity for the third straight quarter to 84.1% in the first quarter of 2001. The rate was down one percentage point from the previous quarter, due in large part to the marked slump in the telecommunications equipment industry.

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MAJOR RELEASES

Industrial capacity utilization rates

First quarter 2001

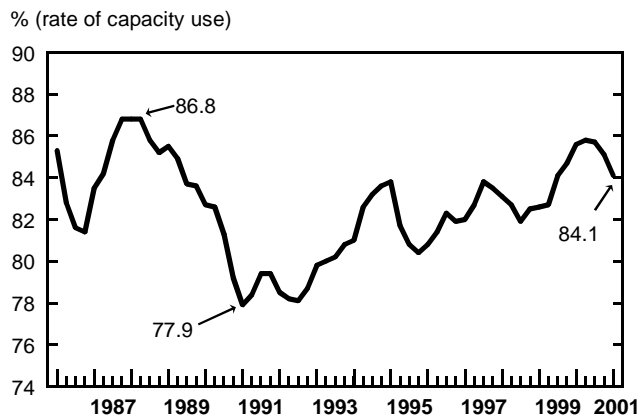
Industries lowered their use of production capacity for the third straight quarter to 84.1% in the first quarter of 2001. The rate was down one percentage point from the previous quarter, due in large part to the marked slump in the telecommunications equipment industry.

Lowered rates were widespread among the industries making up the industrial aggregate — logging and forestry, utilities and more than half of the industry groups in manufacturing. Only mining industries raised their rates, and construction industries held steady. (The rates of capacity use have been revised back to the first quarter of 1999 to incorporate revisions in source data.)

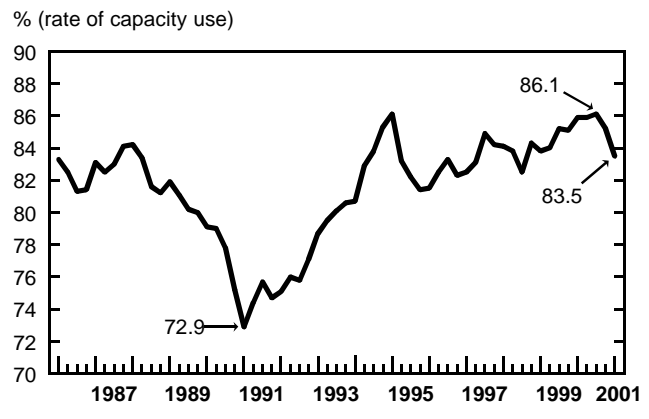
Note to readers

An industry's capacity use is the ratio of its actual output to its estimated potential output. Statistics Canada derives estimates of an industry's potential output from measures of its capital stock. In addition, since 1987 Statistics Canada has been surveying companies for their estimates of annual capacity use, in order to produce survey-based industry measures. A company's measure of its level of operation, as a percentage of potential, takes into account changes in the obsolescence of facilities, capital-to-labour ratios and other characteristics of production techniques. The surveyed rates anchor the calculated quarterly series and ensure they reflect such changes.

Capacity use down a full point



Manufacturing rate fell



Chill in demand for high-tech production cooled rate in manufacturing

For the second quarter in a row, manufacturers lowered their rate of capacity use, operating at 83.5% in the first quarter, down 1.7 percentage points from the fourth quarter of 2000. While the decrease was due principally to drops in two major industry groups, the electrical and electronics group and the transportation equipment group, several other industry groups also posted lower rates. In all, 13 of the 22 manufacturing groups reduced their rates.

The most notable decline in capacity use occurred in the electrical and electronic products group of industries, where the rate plummeted 13.0 percentage points to 83.3%. Production plunged 11.8% in the first quarter, the largest quarterly drop since 1961, the year production statistics for this industry were first recorded. Hardest hit were producers of telecommunications equipment, whose output fell 31.7%.

The other major contributor to the decline in manufacturing was the transportation equipment group, whose rate dropped 2.2 percentage points to 84.8%. Producers of automotive products scaled back production for a second consecutive quarter to reduce inventories.

In the wood industries, production fell 1.0 % in the first quarter, as sawmills sharply reduced activity in March, the last month of the Canada-U.S. Softwood Lumber Agreement. The resulting drop in capacity use

was 1.4 percentage points, bringing the level to 83.2% for the first quarter.

Capacity use in the furniture and fixture industry group fell 2.9 percentage points to 81.0%, as production declined in February and March. Part of this decline can be attributed to a few manufacturers transferring some production outside the country.

The rate of capacity use in the paper and allied products industries dropped 1.8 percentage points to 91.1%, as producers of pulp and newsprint cut production in the first quarter.

Among manufacturing industries whose rate of capacity use rose was the chemicals and chemical products group (+6.0 percentage points to 89.6%). Manufacturers of pharmaceutical products were the major contributors to the rise; recently they have stepped up output to meet rising domestic and export demand. Production of pharmaceuticals in the first quarter was 36% higher than in the first quarter of 2000.

Increased output from refineries led the rate for the petroleum and coal industries to increase 2.1 percentage points to 95.6%.

Only mining industries up in non-manufacturing

Increased oil and gas activity led to higher rates of capacity use in both the mining and quarrying and the petroleum and natural gas segments of the mining sector. Drilling and rigging activities were the major

force behind the 2.1-percentage-point increase in the rate for mining and quarrying industries to 94.4%. The 0.5-percentage-point rise to 69.7% in the crude petroleum and natural gas industries was due to an expansion of oil and gas extraction. This was the second consecutive quarterly increase in the rate for oil and gas.

In utilities, the rate of capacity use fell 0.6 percentage points in the first quarter, as the rates for both electric power and gas distribution systems fell. The rate for electric power dropped 0.1 percentage points to 87.2%. Output in the heating-oriented gas distribution industry dropped, as warmer-than-usual January weather reduced demand. Other factors, such as high prices for natural gas and plant shutdowns, also figured in the reduction. As a result, the rate of capacity use in gas distribution systems fell 4.5 percentage points to 75.4%.

In logging and forestry industries, the rate fell 1.8 percentage points to 76.6%, while the rate for construction industries was 90.9%, the level maintained since the second quarter of 2000.

Available on CANSIM: table 280001 and matrix 3140.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Susanna Wood (613-951-0655) or Richard Landry (613-951-2579), Investment and Capital Stock Division. □

Industrial capacity utilization rates

	First quarter 2000 ^r	Fourth quarter 2000 ^r	First quarter 2001	First quarter 2000 to first quarter 2001	Fourth quarter 2000 to first quarter 2001
	percentage point change				
Total non-farm goods-producing industries	85.6	85.1	84.1	-1.5	-1.0
Logging and forestry	85.0	78.4	76.6	-8.4	-1.8
Mining (including milling), quarrying and oil wells	76.4	76.9	78.0	1.6	1.1
Mining (including milling) and quarrying	89.4	92.3	94.4	5.0	2.1
Crude petroleum and natural gas	69.6	69.2	69.7	0.1	0.5
Manufacturing	85.9	85.2	83.5	-2.4	-1.7
Durable goods	88.7	86.3	82.7	-6.0	-3.6
Wood	87.2	84.6	83.2	-4.0	-1.4
Furniture and fixture	82.4	83.9	81.0	-1.4	-2.9
Primary metal	93.3	87.5	86.1	-7.2	-1.4
Fabricated metal products	86.3	81.6	82.6	-3.7	1.0
Machinery	83.1	78.6	79.5	-3.6	0.9
Transportation equipment	90.7	87.0	84.8	-5.9	-2.2
Electrical and electronic products	92.5	96.3	83.3	-9.2	-13.0
Non-metallic mineral products	84.7	76.8	74.5	-10.2	-2.3
Other manufacturing	82.7	77.9	78.0	-4.7	0.1
Non-durable goods	82.1	83.7	84.6	2.5	0.9
Food	80.1	81.4	82.0	1.9	0.6
Beverages	83.6	82.1	84.6	1.0	2.5
Tobacco products	75.7	79.3	73.3	-2.4	-6.0
Rubber products	93.9	90.7	92.4	-1.5	1.7
Plastic products	85.6	82.8	79.7	-5.9	-3.1
Leather and allied products	71.8	69.9	69.4	-2.4	-0.5
Primary textile	79.3	81.4	80.5	1.2	-0.9
Textile products	84.0	77.6	72.9	-11.1	-4.7
Clothing	83.4	83.9	84.0	0.6	0.1
Paper and allied products	92.7	92.9	91.1	-1.6	-1.8
Printing, publishing and allied	80.5	80.5	80.3	-0.2	-0.2
Refined petroleum and coal products	91.0	93.5	95.6	4.6	2.1
Chemical and chemical products	75.7	83.6	89.6	13.9	6.0
Construction	92.1	90.9	90.9	-1.2	0.0
Electric power and gas distribution systems	84.9	86.4	85.8	0.9	-0.6
Electric power	86.0	87.3	87.2	1.2	-0.1
Gas distribution	77.1	79.9	75.4	-1.7	-4.5

^r Revised figures.



OTHER RELEASES

New Housing Price Index

April 2001

The New Housing Price Index rose 0.3% from March to April. On an annual basis, this index of contractors' selling prices increased 2.7%.

Monthly rises occurred in 12 of the 21 urban centres surveyed. The largest advance was in the Regina Census Metropolitan Area, where the index was up 2.0% from March. Higher prices for labour and building materials, in particular insulation, drywall and lumber, were among the reasons for the increase.

New Housing Price Index

(1992=100)

	April 2001	April 2000 to April 2001	March to April 2001
	% change		
Canada total	105.5	2.7	0.3
House only	108.1	3.5	0.4
Land only	103.4	1.0	0.1
St. John's	99.5	2.1	-
Halifax	117.7	2.1	-
Charlottetown	107.1	1.8	-0.1
Saint John—Moncton—Fredericton	92.9	-1.5	-
Québec	104.4	2.1	-
Montréal	113.0	5.3	0.4
Ottawa—Hull	119.1	15.0	0.5
Toronto	108.8	2.4	0.2
Hamilton	107.1	1.1	0.5
St. Catharines—Niagara	108.4	1.8	-
Kitchener—Waterloo	108.4	2.9	0.5
London	104.0	3.1	1.0
Windsor	106.4	-0.1	0.1
Sudbury—Thunder Bay	97.0	-1.7	-0.1
Winnipeg	119.3	2.8	0.1
Regina	135.8	3.3	2.0
Saskatoon	119.7	3.3	-
Calgary	134.1	2.1	0.1
Edmonton	112.9	1.2	0.4
Vancouver	83.3	-0.2	0.1
Victoria	72.3	0.1	-

- Nil or zero.

Higher prices for building materials also contributed to the increase in London, where the index was 1.0% higher than in March. Notable advances were also seen in Ottawa—Hull, Hamilton and Kitchener—Waterloo.

Charlottetown and Sudbury—Thunder Bay posted slight decreases (-0.1%) and seven urban centres registered no change from March to April.

On a year-over-year basis, Ottawa—Hull continued to post the country's largest increase (+15.0%) for new homes, followed by Montréal, Regina and Saskatoon. Four urban centres registered year-over-year decreases; the largest drop was in Sudbury—Thunder Bay (-1.7%).

Available on CANSIM: table 3270005 and matrix 9921.

The second quarter 2001 issue of *Construction price statistics* (62-007-XPB,\$24/\$79) will be available in September. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Susie Boyd (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca) or Susan Morris (613-951-2035; [morrus@statcan.ca](mailto:morrisus@statcan.ca)), Prices Division. ■

Aircraft movement statistics

April 2001 (preliminary)

Aircraft movement statistics for the 43 Nav Canada air traffic control towers are now available for April. These airports saw 424,756 take-offs and landings in April, up 1.0% from April 2000.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, or data quality of this release, contact Jim Hines (613-951-0134; fax: 613-951-0010; aviationstatistics@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Farm product prices

April 2001

Farm product prices for April 2001 are now available.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gail-Ann Breese (204-983-3445; fax: 613-951-3868), Agriculture Division. ■

Community component of National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth

February 2000

Data for the community component of the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth for the communities of Coquitlam/Fraser North Prince Albert, Winnipeg, Prince Edward Island and southwestern Newfoundland are now available. No public microdata file will be produced.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Lecily Hunter (613-951-0597; lecily.hunter@statcan.ca), Statistics Canada, or Sarah Connor (819-953-8110; sarah.connor@spg.org), Human Resources Development Canada. ■

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MAJOR RELEASES



- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Discards the stereotypes on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 45 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was noticeably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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