



The Daily

Statistics Canada

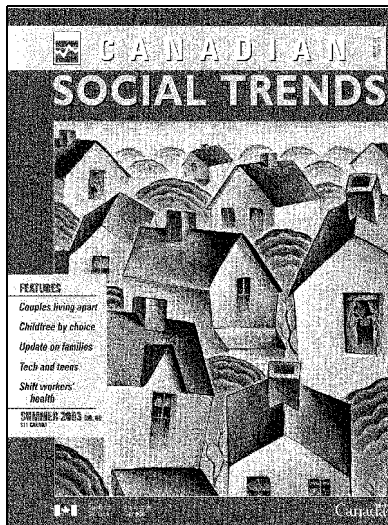
Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Industrial capacity utilization rates, first quarter 2003** 3
 Industrial capacity utilization increased only marginally from January to March in the wake of weakness in American demand and the rising value of the Canadian dollar. Industries operated at 82.8% capacity in the first quarter, up slightly from 82.5% in the fourth quarter of 2002.

(continued on page 2)



Canadian social trends Summer 2003

Each quarter, *Canadian social trends* integrates data from many sources to examine emerging social trends and issues. The summer 2003 issue contains five articles.

The feature article, "Couples living apart," uses data from the 2001 General Social Survey to examine the characteristics of unmarried couples who live in separate residences while maintaining an intimate relationship. "Childfree by choice" looks at the socio-demographic characteristics — marital status, religion, country of birth, education and income — of Canadians aged 20 to 34 who intended to stay childfree at the time of the 2001 General Social Survey. "Update on families" outlines the major changes that have occurred within families and their living arrangements over the last 20 years. "Tech and teens: Access and use" examines Canadian 15-year-old students' use of information and communication technologies at home and at school. Finally, "The health of Canada's shift workers" provides an up-to-date profile of shift workers and studies their physical and mental health.

This issue of *Canadian social trends* also features the latest social indicators as well as information about Statistics Canada's products and services.

The summer 2003 issue of *Canadian Social Trends*, no. 69 (11-008-XIE, \$8/\$27; 11-008-XPE, \$11/\$36) is now available. See *How to order products*. For more information, contact Warren Clark (613-951-2560; cstsc@statcan.ca), Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division.

OTHER RELEASES

New Housing Price Index, April 2003	6
Couples living apart, 2001	7

NEW PRODUCTS

MAJOR RELEASES

Industrial capacity utilization rates

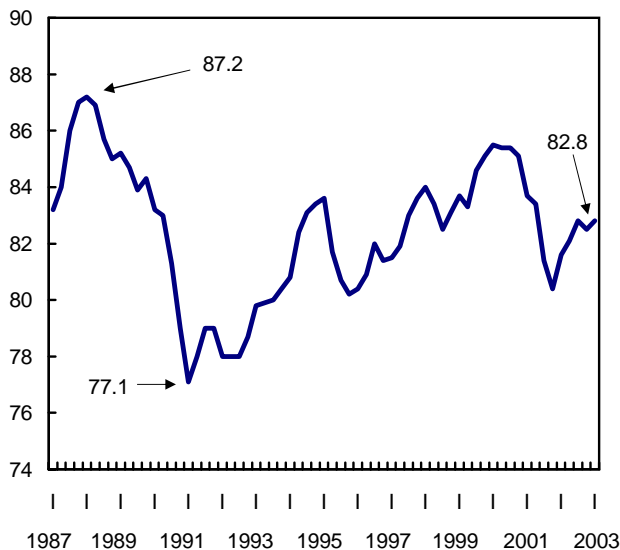
First quarter 2003

Industrial capacity utilization increased only marginally from January to March in the wake of weakness in American demand and the rising value of the Canadian dollar. Industries operated at 82.8% capacity in the first quarter, up slightly from 82.5% in the fourth quarter of 2002.

Contributing to the slight increase was domestic demand, supported by personal spending and investment in residential construction.

Small gain in capacity use

% (rate of capacity use)



Weakness in American demand and increased value of the Canadian dollar in the first quarter led to a decline in exports. In some sectors, a slowdown in sales and increased production resulted in a noticeable increase in stock. Manufacturers increased their stock by \$3.8 billion as a result of the slowdown in exports.

Despite a continued increase of business profits in the first quarter, April's Business Conditions Survey found that manufacturers were concerned about a decline in the level of new orders and unfilled orders, and expected to reduce production in the next three months. Worldwide uncertainty and the increased value of the Canadian dollar were cited as leading factors in this decision.

Capacity use improved in the forestry and logging, mining, construction and electric power sectors and

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.

remained steady in manufacturing and in oil and gas extraction. (Capacity utilization rates were revised back to the first quarter of 2001 to include revisions in source data).

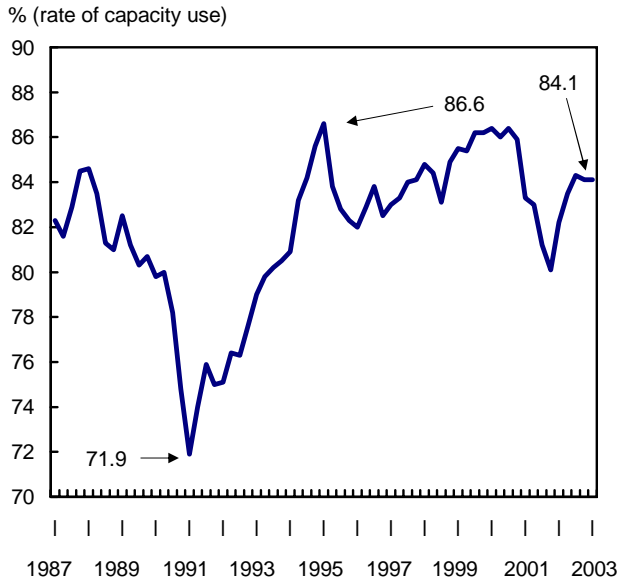
Exports shape manufacturing sector performance

In the manufacturing sector, the capacity utilization rate held steady at 84.1%, the same as in the fourth quarter of 2002. Of the 21 groups that comprise this sector, 12 showed a decline in the rate. The declines in computer and electronic products, transportation equipment and machinery were offset by increases in fabricated metal products, non-metallic mineral products, wood products and paper.

Production of computer and electronic products fell 1.2 % in the first quarter. Increased production by makers of semi-conductors and other components and audio-video devices failed to make up for the drop in communications equipment, computers and peripheral equipment and electronic products. Manufacturers in computer and electronic products used 62.7% of capacity in the first quarter, down from 64.8% in the fourth quarter of 2002 and far below the peak of 99.6% in the third quarter of 2000.

Capacity utilization for manufacturers of transportation equipment fell 0.4 percentage points to 88.0%. Manufacture of heavy vehicles fell 25.9% in the first quarter as American demand dropped sharply in the wake of new standards for pollution emissions in the United States that came into effect in the third quarter of 2002. Production in the aerospace industry declined 5.3% because of weak foreign demand; in March, orders fell to the lowest level in four years. Terrorism threats, the war in Iraq and a significant drop in business travel were the cause of persistent problems in the sector.

Manufacturing levels off



In the machinery industry, the rate fell from 81.6% to 80.7%. Varying results in the production of components in this industry led to a reduction of 1.5% in industry production.

In contrast, manufacturers of fabricated metal products increased capacity utilization by 1.9 points to 85.7% in the first quarter. This was the highest rate for this industry since the fourth quarter of 1999, when it had reached 86.7%. Increased production by the majority of components in the fabricated metal product manufacturing sector led to an increase of 1.8% in production for the industry.

The non-metallic mineral product manufacturing industry continued to benefit from vigorous residential construction. Increased production by glass, glass product and gypsum product manufacturers contributed to an increase of 3.4% in production for this industry from January to March. As a result, the industry rate grew from 86.1% in the fourth quarter of 2002 to 89.4% in the first quarter of 2003. This is the sixth consecutive quarterly increase and the highest utilization rate for this industry.

Manufacturers of wood products increased capacity utilization by 0.6 points to reach a peak of 99.2%.

Increased production of millwork for the housing market more than compensated for a drop in sawmill production, which was affected by imposition of import duties and a slowdown in residential construction south of the border.

Paper manufacturers achieved a rate of 93.5%, up 0.6 points from the fourth quarter of 2002. Industry production grew by 0.4 points as a result of increased production of converted paper products. Pulp and newsprint producers faced with low prices reduced production in the first quarter.

Advances in all other sectors except oil and gas extraction

The construction sector operated at 84.7% of production capacity in the first quarter, up 0.6 percentage points from the fourth quarter of 2002. Increased investment in residential construction led to an increase of 1.3% in production, and housing starts almost reached the heights set at the end of the most recent housing boom at the end of the 1980s.

Mining sector capacity utilization rate increased from 81.2% in the fourth quarter of 2002 to 84.1% in the first quarter of 2003. Drilling activities strongly contributed to a production increase of 3.8% for the sector. Oil and gas extraction production showed a very small increase of 0.1% and capacity utilization held steady at 66.8% in the first quarter.

Energy demand increased in the first quarter because of a particularly severe winter. Electric power production increased 0.8% and the rate reached 89.1%, compared with 88.6% in the fourth quarter of 2002.

Despite trade barriers still imposed by the United States, the forestry and logging sector showed an increase of 5.1% in production. Capacity utilization rate for the sector was 83.5%, up from 79.3% in the fourth quarter of 2002.

Available on CANSIM: table 028-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2821.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Mychèle Gagnon (613-951-0994) or Richard Landry (613-951-2579), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

Industrial capacity utilization rates

	First quarter 2002 ^r	Fourth quarter 2002 ^r	First quarter 2003	First quarter 2002 to first quarter 2003	Fourth quarter 2002 to first quarter 2003
	Percentage point change				
Total industrial	81.6	82.5	82.8	1.2	0.3
Forestry and logging	69.3	79.3	83.5	14.2	4.2
Mining and oil and gas extraction	72.9	71.5	72.4	-0.5	0.9
Oil and gas extraction	68.6	66.8	66.8	-1.8	0.0
Mining	81.8	81.2	84.1	2.3	2.9
Electric power generation, transmission and distribution	87.6	88.6	89.1	1.5	0.5
Construction	85.6	84.1	84.7	-0.9	0.6
Manufacturing	82.2	84.1	84.1	1.9	0.0
Food	82.4	80.7	80.6	-1.8	-0.1
Beverage and tobacco products	81.0	77.9	77.4	-3.6	-0.5
Beverage	84.1	82.2	82.6	-1.5	0.4
Tobacco	72.9	66.0	63.2	-9.7	-2.8
Textile mills	77.8	74.8	74.4	-3.4	-0.4
Textile product mills	76.3	79.1	77.1	0.8	-2.0
Clothing	78.9	85.2	82.9	4.0	-2.3
Leather and allied products	72.7	67.9	67.1	-5.6	-0.8
Wood products	87.7	98.6	99.2	11.5	0.6
Paper	86.5	92.9	93.5	7.0	0.6
Printing and related support activities	74.1	70.2	71.3	-2.8	1.1
Petroleum and coal products	96.8	95.2	92.2	-4.6	-3.0
Chemical	79.0	84.1	84.2	5.2	0.1
Plastics and rubber products	87.4	88.6	89.1	1.7	0.5
Plastic products	88.0	88.7	89.0	1.0	0.3
Rubber products	85.9	88.5	89.5	3.6	1.0
Non-metallic mineral products	82.9	86.1	89.4	6.5	3.3
Primary metal	89.5	93.5	93.6	4.1	0.1
Fabricated metal products	81.7	83.8	85.7	4.0	1.9
Machinery	77.9	81.6	80.7	2.8	-0.9
Computer and electronic products	68.5	64.8	62.7	-5.8	-2.1
Electrical equipment, appliance and component	72.1	72.8	73.6	1.5	0.8
Transportation equipment	87.5	88.4	88.0	0.5	-0.4
Furniture and related products	81.4	82.3	82.1	0.7	-0.2
Miscellaneous manufacturing	80.8	84.2	83.6	2.8	-0.6

^r Revised figures.



OTHER RELEASES

New Housing Price Index

April 2003

The New Housing Price Index (1992=100) advanced 0.4% in April, up from the 0.1% monthly increase registered in March. On a 12-month basis, this index of contractors' selling prices was 4.5% higher than in April 2002.

A favourable housing market and higher prices for construction inputs, such as building materials and labour, pushed prices up nationally.

Monthly rises occurred in 15 of the 21 urban centres surveyed, with the largest gains in Halifax (+1.8%), Victoria (+1.2%), Québec (+0.9%) and London (+0.8%). Home builders in Halifax, Québec and London cited higher prices for building materials and labour; home builders in Victoria noted a favourable housing market along with higher land values.

New Housing Price Indexes (1992=100)

	April 2003	April 2002 to April 2003 % change	March 2003 to April 2003
Canada total	114.3	4.5	0.4
House only	120.0	5.8	0.4
Land only	105.9	1.2	0.1
St. John's	108.6	5.3	0.6
Halifax	127.9	4.5	1.8
Charlottetown	108.5	0.7	0.0
Saint John–Moncton–Fredericton	97.5	3.0	0.0
Québec	118.3	9.6	0.9
Montréal	127.3	6.7	0.2
Ottawa–Gatineau	132.8	3.3	0.0
Toronto	116.3	3.8	0.3
Hamilton	118.3	7.3	0.4
St. Catharines–Niagara	114.3	3.2	0.5
Kitchener–Waterloo	116.8	5.0	-0.1
London	111.9	5.0	0.8
Windsor	107.0	0.0	0.0
Sudbury–Thunder Bay	99.0	1.5	0.1
Winnipeg	126.3	3.9	0.1
Regina	146.5	6.5	0.0
Saskatoon	123.7	1.9	0.4
Calgary	148.3	5.2	0.2
Edmonton	127.8	6.7	0.1
Vancouver	88.3	2.7	0.3
Victoria	78.9	8.4	1.2

Strong monthly advances were also observed in St. John's (+0.6%), St. Catharines–Niagara (+0.5%), Hamilton and Saskatoon (both +0.4%) and Toronto and Vancouver (both +0.3%). Slight increases were

registered in Montréal, Calgary, Sudbury–Thunder Bay, Winnipeg and Edmonton.

A small decrease (-0.1%) was registered in Kitchener–Waterloo because of competitive pricing. Five urban centres registered no change.

For the second consecutive month, Québec registered the largest 12-month increase (+9.6%) for new homes across the country. Victoria (+8.4%) was next, followed by Hamilton (+7.3%).

Note: With the release of the May 2003 New Housing Price Index (NHPI) Statistics Canada will convert the time base of the indexes from 1992=100 to 1997=100.

In the 1997=100 series, the methodology used for aggregating individual price quotes to city, regional and national level indexes will change. Other areas of index methodology will not change.

The new 1997=100 series will be available retroactively from January 1981 in CANSIM table 327-0005 but will have different databank numbers. The 1992=100 based NHPI will continue to appear in table 327-0005; however, the 1992=100 based index will not be updated after April 2003.

The 1997=100 index will be introduced with the May 2003 data but, as stated above, will be available from January 1981. Since the 1997=100 index will be mathematically rebased between January 1981 and April 2003, the index movement between January 1981 and April 2003 will be the same for the 1992=100 and 1997=100 series.

To assist users, conversion factors will be available with the May 2003 figures, which will help users link the new series to the old.

For more information, contact Client Services (613-951-9606), Prices Division.

Available on CANSIM: table 327-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2310.

The second quarter 2003 issue of *Capital expenditure price statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$24/\$79) will be available in October. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Perry Kirkpatrick (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539;

infounit@statcan.ca) or Susan Morris (613-951-2035; *morrsus@statcan.ca*), Prices Division. ■

Couples living apart

2001

According to data from the 2001 General Social Survey, 1 in 12 Canadians live in separate homes from their partners.

In 2001, 8% of the Canadian population aged 20 and over were part of such relationships. Although 56% of these people were young adults in their 20s, this type of living arrangement is not just for the young. In 2001, 19% of people in such unions were in their 30s, 14% in their 40s and 11% were aged 50 and over.

Since it is more expensive to maintain two households than one, it might be expected that a two-household arrangement would be chosen more often by those at the upper end of the financial distribution. Yet, 40% of those in this type of relationship had annual personal incomes below \$20,000, and another 34% earned between \$20,000 and \$40,000.

Couples may live apart because of family responsibilities. In 2001, 36% of persons who lived away from their partners lived with their parents. While

many young adults who live in the parental home may do so to save money, others — particularly older individuals — may be living with their parents to provide some form of parental care.

About one-half of couples who live apart expect to live common-law with their current partners at some time in the future. This intention, however, is more typical of the young: while 57% of individuals in their 20s anticipate that their relationship will develop further, the proportion of Canadians aged 50 and older who feel this way is a much lower 26%.

Data in this article come from the 2001 General Social Survey, which interviewed a sample of more than 24,000 Canadians aged 15 and older, living in private households in the 10 provinces.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4501.

The article "Couples living apart" is now available in the summer 2003 issue of *Canadian social trends* (11-008-XIE, \$8/\$27; 11-008-XPE, \$11/\$36). See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Anne Milan (613-951-2756; *anne.milan@statcan.ca*), Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Canadian social trends, Summer 2003, no. 69
Catalogue number 11-008-XIE (\$8/\$27).

Canadian social trends, Summer 2003, no. 69
Catalogue number 11-008-XPE (\$11/\$36).

All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

Catalogue numbers with an -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; -XPB or -XPE are paper versions; -XDB or -XDE are electronic versions on diskette and -XCB or -XCE are electronic versions on compact disc.

How to order products

Order products by phone:

Please refer to the • Title • Catalogue number • Volume number • Issue number • Your VISA or MasterCard number.

In Canada and the United States call: **1-800-267-6677**
From other countries call: **1-613-951-7277**
To fax your order: **1-877-287-4369**
Address changes or account inquiries: **1-800-700-1033**

To order a product by mail write: Statistics Canada, Circulation Management, Dissemination Division, Ottawa, K1A 0T6. Include a cheque or money order payable to **Receiver General of Canada/Publications**. Canadian customers add 7% GST and applicable PST.

To order by Internet: write to order@statcan.ca or download an electronic version by accessing Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca). From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *For sale*.

Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.

Catalogue 11-001-XIE (11-001-XIE) (11-001-XIE) (11-001-XIE)

The Daily
Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
For release at 9:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- Urban transit, 1995 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, 68% of Canadian trips, an average of about 40 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was notably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- High-waged index, May 1997 3
- Short-term Expectations Survey 3
- Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997 12
- EGU indicator, April 1997 12

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

Statistics Canada

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10-H, R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

To access *The Daily* on the Internet, visit our site at <http://www.statcan.ca>. To receive *The Daily* each morning by e-mail, send an e-mail message to listproc@statcan.ca. Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada. © Minister of Industry, 2003. Citation in newsprint, magazine, radio, and television reporting is permitted subject to the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source. Any other reproduction is permitted subject to the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source on all copies as follows: Statistics Canada, *The Daily*, catalogue 11-001-XIE, along with date and page references.