

The Daily

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Releases

Industrial capacity utilization rates, first quarter 2008	2
Canadian industries significantly reduced their use of production capacity in the first quarter, pushing the rate to its lowest level in 15 years.	
New Housing Price Index, April 2008	5
Family income and related variables: Sub-provincial data, 2006	6
For-hire motor carriers of freight, all carriers, third quarter 2007	8
Cement, April 2008	8

New products	9
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Releases

Industrial capacity utilization rates

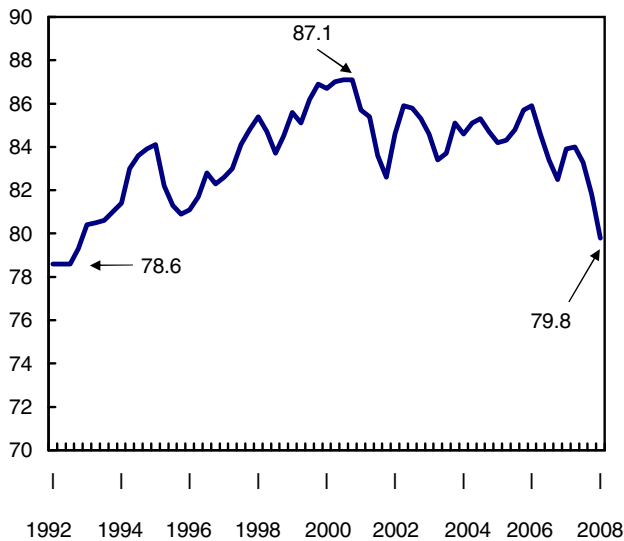
First quarter 2008

Canadian industries significantly reduced their use of production capacity in the first quarter, pushing the rate to its lowest level in 15 years. Most of the sectors that make up the industrial group, particularly the automotive sector, contributed to the decline. Only the oil and gas extraction sector posted an increase in capacity utilization.

In the first quarter, industries operated at 79.8% of their capacity compared with 81.8% in the fourth quarter of 2007. The current rate is 7.3 points below the peak of 87.1% reached in the fourth quarter of 2000.

Industrial capacity utilization falls by two points

percentage (rate of capacity use)



The industrial capacity utilization rate is the ratio of an industry's actual output to its estimated potential output. For this release, the rates have been revised back to the first quarter of 2006 to reflect the revised source data.

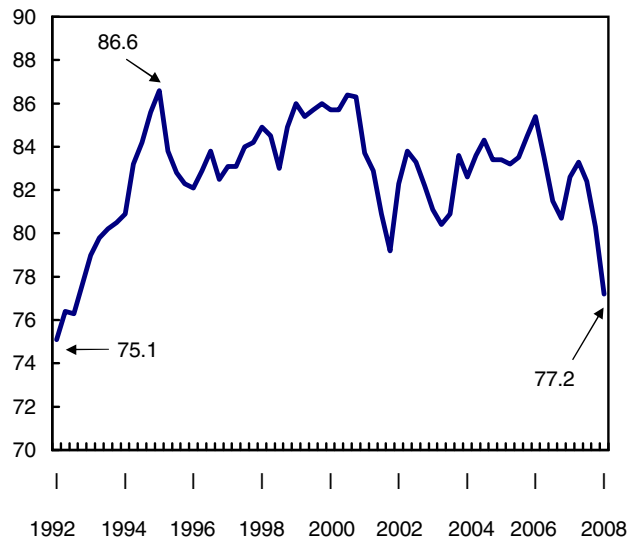
Significant reduction in the rate for the manufacturing sector

In the manufacturing sector, every major group except for leather products posted a reduction in capacity use. The rate fell from 80.3% to 77.2% in the

first quarter and, for the first time since 2001, fell below the 80% mark. The biggest contributors to the rate's decline were the transportation equipment industries; wood products; plastics and rubber products; and non-metallic mineral products manufacturing industries.

Generalized decline in the rate in the manufacturing sector

percentage (rate of capacity use)



In the transportation equipment manufacturing industry, the rate fell from 83.2% to 77.2%. Automotive products manufacturers, who were affected by plant closures because of retooling and a strike by a US auto parts supplier, played a large part in the 6.2% decline in production and in the drop in the rate during the first quarter.

Wood products manufacturers continued to experience difficulties in the first quarter. Production fell 7.6% because of the weak residential construction market in the United States, and the capacity use rate settled at 64.8%, down from 70.8% in the fourth quarter of 2007. This was the lowest level in 17 years.

Plastic and rubber products manufacturers saw their rate fall from 72.7% to 68.0%. Auto production cutbacks had a negative impact on the manufacturing of plastic products for motor vehicles. The production of plastic and rubber products declined 4.2%.

The rate for manufacturers of non-metallic mineral products declined 6.7 points to 72.2%. The dip in production of cement and glass products used in

construction was at the root of the 5.9% reduction in the production of non-metallic mineral products.

Weaker demand also had an impact on heavily export-oriented industries such as chemical products, fabricated metal products and machinery manufacturers. Consequently, these industries reduced their capacity utilization in the first quarter.

Rate decline in most of the other sectors

In the forestry and logging sector, capacity utilization fell 2.8 points to 77.0%. Weak demand for wood products was at the root of a 5.2% drop in production in this sector.

In the mining sector, the rate fell from 77.5% in the fourth quarter to 75.8% in the first quarter. The decline in output of non-metallic mines was a significant factor in the 1.6% drop in production in this sector.

In the electrical power sector, capacity use leveled off at 86.8%, down 1.4 points from the fourth quarter. Production in the electrical power sector fell 1.0% from January to March.

In the construction sector, the weak increase in production was unable to offset the growth in production capacity, and the rate slipped from 84.9% to 84.0%.

Only the oil and gas extraction sector posted an increase in capacity use from 80.9% to 81.7%. This was attributed to an increase in crude oil production, given that natural gas production fell in the first quarter.

Available on CANSIM: table 028-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2821.

Data on industrial capacity utilization rates for the second quarter of 2008 will be released on September 12.

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

□

Industrial capacity utilization rates

	First quarter 2007 ^r	Fourth quarter 2007 ^r	First quarter 2008	First quarter 2007 to first quarter 2008	Fourth quarter 2007 to first quarter 2008
	%			% point change	
Total industrial	83.9	81.8	79.8	-4.1	-2.0
Forestry and logging	85.4	79.8	77.0	-8.4	-2.8
Mining and oil and gas extraction	81.7	80.0	80.1	-1.6	0.1
Oil and gas extraction	82.5	80.9	81.7	-0.8	0.8
Mining	79.5	77.5	75.8	-3.7	-1.7
Electric power generation, transmission and distribution	85.9	88.2	86.8	0.9	-1.4
Construction	88.3	84.9	84.0	-4.3	-0.9
Manufacturing	82.6	80.3	77.2	-5.4	-3.1
Food	80.3	78.9	78.6	-1.7	-0.3
Beverage and tobacco products	74.9	71.7	69.1	-5.8	-2.6
Beverage	77.1	72.0	68.6	-8.5	-3.4
Tobacco	62.3	70.0	72.6	10.3	2.6
Textile mills	70.9	65.9	63.7	-7.2	-2.2
Textile product mills	85.5	78.9	77.2	-8.3	-1.7
Clothing	75.0	69.0	65.2	-9.8	-3.8
Leather and allied products	81.0	84.3	84.9	3.9	0.6
Wood products	81.3	70.8	64.8	-16.5	-6.0
Paper	89.2	86.3	85.3	-3.9	-1.0
Printing and related support activities	72.0	80.7	77.6	5.6	-3.1
Petroleum and coal products	84.8	78.4	76.2	-8.6	-2.2
Chemical	78.5	77.7	75.6	-2.9	-2.1
Plastics and rubber products	74.8	72.7	68.0	-6.8	-4.7
Plastic products	73.3	71.1	66.2	-7.1	-4.9
Rubber products	81.2	80.0	76.4	-4.8	-3.6
Non-metallic mineral products	82.0	78.9	72.2	-9.8	-6.7
Primary metal	90.2	92.4	91.8	1.6	-0.6
Fabricated metal products	82.5	82.3	80.5	-2.0	-1.8
Machinery	82.9	82.5	80.7	-2.2	-1.8
Computer and electronic products	88.2	86.5	84.8	-3.4	-1.7
Electrical equipment, appliance and component	79.5	75.2	72.0	-7.5	-3.2
Transportation equipment	86.8	83.2	77.2	-9.6	-6.0
Furniture and related products	84.2	77.4	74.2	-10.0	-3.2
Miscellaneous manufacturing	85.9	83.6	81.8	-4.1	-1.8

^r revised



New Housing Price Index

April 2008

New housing prices increased at their slowest pace in more than two and a half years in April, despite strong markets in Saskatchewan, Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia.

Nationally, contractors' selling prices rose 5.2% between April 2007 and April 2008, a slower pace than the year-over-year increase of 6.1% in March.

This was the third consecutive month in which the increase has decelerated, and the slowest rate of growth since September 2005, when year-over-year prices rose by 4.9%.

On a monthly basis, prices were unchanged between March and April.

Regionally, for the 12th straight month, prices rose at the fastest pace in Saskatoon. It led the nation with a year-over-year price increase of 43.7%, although this was slower than the 46.2% gain observed in March.

In Regina, the year-over-year increase was 34.0%, faster than the 27.8% increase in March. Regina's new housing prices rose 7.1% between March and April. Builders reported higher prices as a result of increased material and labour costs, as well as a strong market and continued high demand for new housing.

In Winnipeg, prices rose 14.8% on a year-over-year basis.

In Edmonton, the 12-month growth rate slowed in April to 8.1%, the ninth consecutive month in which the pace of growth has decelerated. On a monthly basis, Edmonton's new housing prices fell 0.6% in April, the fourth straight month in which prices declined.

In Calgary, prices rose 2.5% between April 2007 and April 2008, down from the 5.3% year-over-year increase in March.

Edmonton and Calgary continued to experience slow market conditions. Competition among builders has resulted in lower prices being offered to prospective homebuyers.

A strengthening economy, coupled with increased material and labour costs, has contributed to record increases in Newfoundland and Labrador. Homebuyers in St. John's saw prices rise 16.3%, up from the year-over-year increase of 12.0% in March.

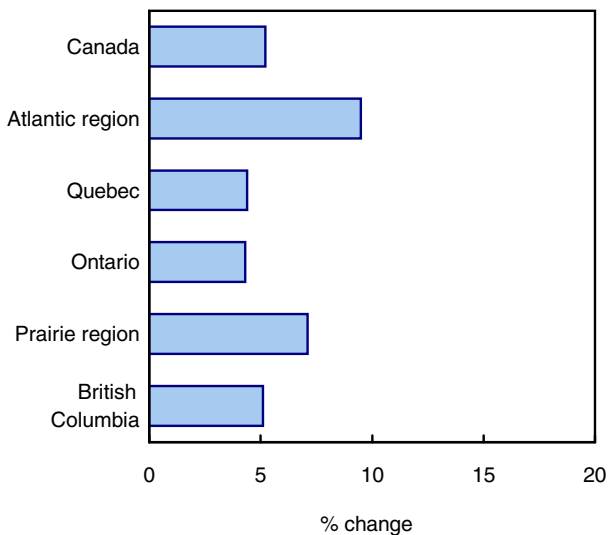
Buyers in Halifax saw an 11.3% gain on a 12-month basis, down from the record setting pace of 12.8% in March.

On the West Coast, the 12-month increase in contractors' selling prices for Vancouver was 5.4%, while Victoria recorded an increase of 1.9%, up from 1.2% in March.

Windsor recorded year-over-year deflation in April, with prices falling 0.2% from April 2007. This continues the downward trend in prices that started 19 months ago.

In Québec, prices increased 5.0% on a yearly basis, while in Montréal, the 12-month growth rate slowed to 4.3%.

Percentage change from the same month of the previous year



Available on CANSIM: table 327-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2310.

The first quarter 2008 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-XWE, free) will be available in July.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact our Client Services Section (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; prices-prix@statcan.ca), Prices Division. □

New Housing Price Indexes

	April 2008	April 2007 to April 2008	March to April 2008
	(1997=100)	% change	
Canada total	158.4	5.2	0.0
House only	168.1	4.9	-0.1
Land only	139.5	6.2	0.2
St. John's	154.1	16.3	3.6
Halifax	148.2	11.3	0.0
Charlottetown	119.4	2.0	0.1
Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton	115.8	2.6	0.0
Québec	154.0	5.0	1.0
Montréal	159.2	4.3	-0.1
Ottawa-Gatineau	166.4	3.2	0.1
Toronto and Oshawa	145.8	4.6	0.1
Hamilton	152.9	3.2	-0.1
St. Catharines-Niagara	157.0	4.9	0.5
Kitchener	142.2	3.0	0.2
London	141.7	4.6	0.6
Windsor	103.8	-0.2	0.4
Greater Sudbury and Thunder Bay	110.8	5.4	0.0
Winnipeg	174.5	14.8	0.1
Regina	238.3	34.0	7.1
Saskatoon	241.6	43.7	0.4
Calgary	251.0	2.5	-0.8
Edmonton	241.5	8.1	-0.6
Vancouver	124.7	5.4	0.1
Victoria	119.0	1.9	-0.3

Note: View the census subdivisions that comprise the metropolitan areas online.

Family income and related variables: Sub-provincial data 2006

Data on family income and related variables derived from personal income tax returns filed in the spring of 2007 are now available for various sub-provincial geographies.

In general, the tax-based data show that between 2005 and 2006, the largest percentage increases in median total family income occurred mainly in census metropolitan areas (CMA) and census agglomerations associated with primary industries, particularly in Alberta and British Columbia.

Total family income includes employment income, investment income, government transfers, pension income and other income. The median is the point where half of the families' incomes are higher and half are lower.

Among CMAs, the largest increases in the median total family income were found in Calgary for couple families, lone-parent families and people not in census families. Large increases were also found for all these groups in Edmonton, Vancouver and Kelowna.

Among census agglomerations, the largest increases in median total family income for couple

families were found in Grande Prairie (+8.6%), Lloydminster (+8.4%), and Camrose (+8.0%).

Lone-parent families had the largest increases in median total income in Okotoks (+18.1%), Fort St. John (+17.9%), and Dawson Creek (+17.5%). For people not in census families, the fastest increases were in Fort St. John (+11.6%), followed by Grande Prairie (+11.2%) and Okotoks (+11.1%).

Note: Couple families consist of a married couple and the children, if any, of either or both spouses or a couple living common law and the children, if any, of either or both partners, all living in the same dwelling. A lone parent family consists of a lone parent of any marital status with at least one child living in the same dwelling. This definition of families has been traditionally known as a census family. It differs from the definition of economic families which has been used recently for release of 2006 Census and Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics data.

Income data in this release are after receipt of government transfers and before the payment of income tax. Income data are also available after the payment of tax. All figures for previous years have been adjusted for inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index.

All data in this release have been tabulated according to the 2006 Standard Geographical Classification used for the 2006 Census.

Available on CANSIM: tables 111-0004 to 111-0026, 111-0032 to 111-0035 and 111-0043.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4105.

Data for census *Family Income* (13C0016, various prices) and *Seniors' Income* (89C0022, various prices), data for income of individuals including *Neighbourhood Income and Demographics* (13C0015, various prices),

Labour Income Profiles (71C0018, various prices) and *Economic Dependency Profiles* (13C0017, various prices) are available for letter carrier routes, census tracts, urban forward sortation areas (the first three characters of the postal code), cities, towns, federal electoral districts, census agglomerations, census divisions, census metropolitan areas, economic regions, provinces, territories and Canada.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-652-8443; 613-951-9720; fax: toll-free 1-866-652-8444 or 613-951-4745; saadinfo@statcan.ca), Small Area and Administrative Data Division.

Median total income for couple families, lone-parent families and persons not in census families by census metropolitan area

	2006		2005 to 2006		2006		2005 to 2006		2006		2005 to 2006	
	Couple families		Lone-parent families		Persons not in census families							
	\$	% change	\$	% change	\$	% change						
Canada	70,400	2.1	33,000	7.9	22,800	2.1						
Abbotsford	64,600	2.9	28,600	6.5	21,300	2.5						
Barrie	78,400	1.2	34,000	5.7	25,400	0.3						
Brantford	72,400	0.7	29,600	3.7	22,900	0.0						
Calgary	90,700	6.9	42,200	13.1	31,700	7.8						
Edmonton	87,300	5.7	38,900	12.1	28,800	7.5						
Greater Sudbury	78,800	3.0	31,500	8.8	22,600	2.7						
Guelph	84,200	0.3	39,900	4.1	28,300	0.7						
Halifax	75,500	1.6	31,000	6.2	23,900	1.7						
Hamilton	79,300	0.4	35,900	6.5	25,000	0.5						
Kelowna	68,400	5.2	32,600	11.4	23,700	6.2						
Kingston	76,400	1.5	33,300	4.4	24,200	0.3						
Kitchener	79,400	0.1	36,000	3.9	26,400	0.0						
London	76,000	1.0	33,300	5.2	25,000	1.6						
Moncton	65,500	1.9	29,900	3.9	21,500	2.2						
Montréal	67,400	0.9	34,500	5.8	21,200	0.2						
Oshawa	87,500	0.6	38,700	5.8	28,200	0.1						
Ottawa-Gatineau	89,000	1.4	39,400	6.5	28,600	0.3						
Peterborough	69,900	1.4	31,200	3.5	22,300	1.4						
Québec	72,400	1.3	39,000	2.7	23,100	1.7						
Regina	82,300	3.6	32,800	6.4	25,400	4.4						
Saguenay	65,400	1.1	32,700	4.1	19,000	2.6						
Saint John	68,300	2.4	27,900	5.7	20,600	2.3						
Saskatoon	76,600	4.3	30,300	9.5	24,000	5.5						
Sherbrooke	62,600	0.6	32,600	1.0	19,300	1.2						
St. Catharines-Niagara	69,000	0.5	32,600	5.2	23,000	1.0						
St. John's	72,200	2.7	28,200	5.8	19,300	2.8						
Thunder Bay	77,200	0.9	32,000	3.0	23,300	1.0						
Toronto	71,200	-0.2	35,600	9.4	22,900	-0.6						
Trois-Rivières	63,000	1.6	31,300	3.2	18,400	1.7						
Vancouver	68,600	3.4	34,700	12.8	24,100	4.2						
Victoria	77,900	3.9	37,000	7.8	27,200	4.1						
Windsor	79,000	-2.1	31,900	5.1	24,500	-0.8						
Winnipeg	72,000	2.1	32,500	5.1	23,700	2.7						

Note: Go online to view the census subdivisions that comprise the census metropolitan areas.

For-hire motor carriers of freight, all carriers

Third quarter 2007

There were an estimated 3,551 for-hire trucking companies based in Canada with annual revenue of \$1 million or more in the third quarter of 2007, down slightly from the third quarter of 2006.

These companies generated operating revenue of \$7.1 billion in the third quarter of 2007, down 1.9% from the third quarter of 2006 as a result of lower revenue earned from transborder shipments. Operating expenses (\$6.7 billion) recorded a smaller decline. As a result, the operating ratio (operating expenses divided by operating revenues) deteriorated somewhat, moving from 0.93 to 0.94.

Available on CANSIM: table 403-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2748.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-500-8400; fax: 613-951-0009; transportationstatistics@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Cement

April 2008

Data on cement are now available for April.

Available on CANSIM: tables 303-0060 and 303-0061.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2140.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (toll-free 1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

New products

Canada's Balance of International Payments, First quarter 2008, Vol. 56, no. 1
Catalogue number 67-001-XWE
 (free).

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

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