

# The Daily

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## Statistics Canada

**Friday, June 11, 2010**

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### Releases

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**Industrial capacity utilization rates, first quarter 2010** 2

Canadian industries operated at 74.2% of their production capacity in the first quarter of 2010, up from 71.3% in the fourth quarter of 2009. This was the third consecutive quarterly increase.

Domestic sales of refined petroleum products, April 2010 5

Flows and stocks of fixed residential capital, 2009 5

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**New products and studies** 6

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**Release dates: June 14 to 18, 2010** 7

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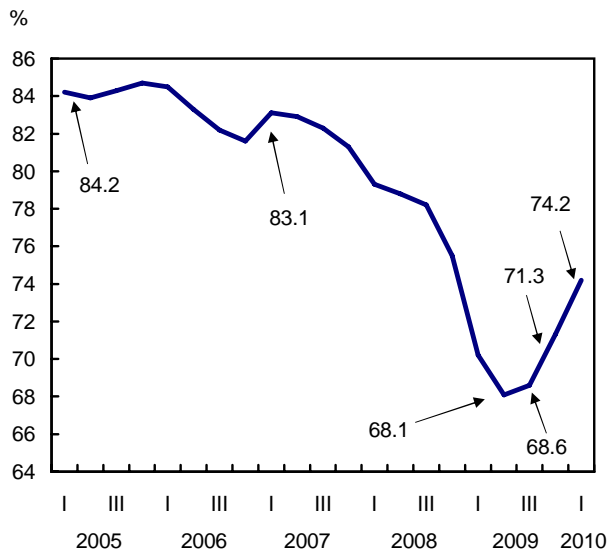
## Releases

### Industrial capacity utilization rates

First quarter 2010

Canadian industries operated at 74.2% of their production capacity in the first quarter of 2010, up from 71.3% in the fourth quarter of 2009. This was the third consecutive quarterly increase.

#### The largest quarterly gains on record for the last two quarters



Prior to these gains, capacity use had been on a downward trend since the first quarter of 2007, when the rate was 83.1%, 8.9 percentage points higher than the rate in the first quarter of 2010.

Increases of 2.7 percentage points in the fourth quarter of 2009 and 2.9 percentage points in the first quarter of 2010 were the largest quarterly gains on record.

The strength recorded by the overall Canadian industries was mainly driven by the manufacturing industry, where the utilization rate rose from 70.7% to 75.0%.

Most non-manufacturing sectors posted gains in capacity use for a second consecutive quarter. In the first quarter of 2010, mining led the growth with an advance of 8.2 percentage points.

#### Note to readers

The industrial capacity utilization rate is the ratio of an industry's actual output to its estimated potential output. The measures of actual output used in the production of the rates of capacity use are the measures of real gross domestic product at factor cost, seasonally adjusted, by industry.

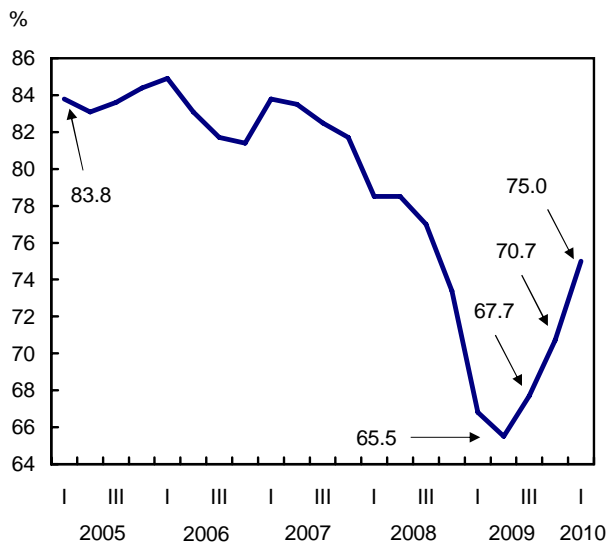
With this release, rates have been revised back to the first quarter of 2008 to reflect the revised source data.

#### Growth in capacity use in manufacturing widespread

Growth of capacity use in manufacturing was widespread, with 20 of the 21 major manufacturing industries advancing.

Capacity use in total manufacturing increased by 4.3 percentage points in the first quarter of 2010 to 75.0%, following gains of 3.0 and 2.2 percentage points in the fourth and third quarters of 2009, respectively.

#### Third consecutive quarterly increase in manufacturing



Overall, four industries were major contributors to the higher rate for total manufacturing: transportation equipment, primary metal, chemical, and machinery manufacturing.

The transportation equipment industry operated at 63.6% capacity in the first quarter of 2010, compared with 60.0% in the previous quarter. This was 16.3 percentage points higher than the first quarter of 2009, when the industry's capacity use hit the lowest level on record. Manufacturers of motor vehicles and motor vehicle parts continued to increase production in response to sustained demand for automotive products in both Canada and the United States.

In the primary metal manufacturing industry, the utilization rate rose 9.5 percentage points in the first quarter of 2010 to 86.4%, following another 9.5 percentage point increase in the fourth quarter of 2009. Production of primary metals was up 8.8%, the result of increased iron and steel mills and ferro-alloy production, and alumina and aluminum production and processing.

Capacity use in the chemical manufacturing industry grew from 76.7% to 82.1%, continuing an upward trend that started in the third quarter of 2009. Higher production by pharmaceutical and medicine manufacturers and by petrochemical manufacturers led to a 4.2% production gain in the industry.

Machinery manufacturers used 71.6% of their production capacity, up from 64.8% in the previous quarter. The main contributing factor was a large increase in the production by metalworking machinery manufacturers, and by construction, mining and oil and gas machinery manufacturers.

Printing and related support activities was the only industry among the 21 major manufacturing industries to post a lower first quarter rate. Capacity use in the industry edged down from 63.9% to 63.7%, reflecting a 0.4% reduction in output. This industry had among the lowest utilization rates in manufacturing. Clothing had the lowest rate at 57.2%, 13.0 percentage points lower than in the first quarter of 2009.

## **Non-manufacturing: Capacity use continues to rise in most sectors**

In the non-manufacturing group, capacity use advanced in the mining, construction and forestry and logging sectors. The oil and gas extraction sector used less of its production capacity while the utilization rate of the electric power generation, transmission and distribution sector remained unchanged.

In mining, capacity use rose from 58.0% to 66.2% in the first quarter, following an increase of 7.5 percentage points in the previous quarter. This increase reflects a 14.3% advance in production, largely attributable to substantial output gains in support activities and potash mining.

Capacity use in the construction sector increased from 70.2% to 71.8%, as production in residential construction rose 8.2%.

The oil and gas extraction sector reduced its capacity use by 0.8 percentage points to 76.2% in the first quarter. This reduction was driven mainly by lower crude petroleum extraction activity, which offset higher activity in natural gas facilities.

In the electric power generation, transmission and distribution sector, the utilization rate remained unchanged at 78.4% from the fourth quarter of 2009. Demand for electricity was flat in the first quarter of 2010.

**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 2010 will be released on September 14.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Xiang Zhou (613-951-0457; [xiang.zhou@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:xiang.zhou@statcan.gc.ca)), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

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## Industrial capacity utilization rates

	First quarter 2009 <sup>r</sup>	Fourth quarter 2009 <sup>r</sup>	First quarter 2010	Fourth quarter 2009 to first quarter 2010	First quarter 2009 to first quarter 2010
	utilization rates			percentage point change	
<b>Total industrial</b>	<b>70.2</b>	<b>71.3</b>	<b>74.2</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>4.0</b>
Forestry and logging	75.3	78.4	82.5	4.1	7.2
Mining and oil and gas extraction	73.9	71.0	73.0	2.0	-0.9
Oil and gas extraction	80.4	77.0	76.2	-0.8	-4.2
Mining	59.1	58.0	66.2	8.2	7.1
Electric power generation, transmission and distribution	82.3	78.4	78.4	0.0	-3.9
Construction	71.3	70.2	71.8	1.6	0.5
Manufacturing	66.8	70.7	75.0	4.3	8.2
Food	81.2	80.5	81.3	0.8	0.1
Beverage and tobacco products	68.4	65.5	65.7	0.2	-2.7
Beverage	67.6	63.0	62.7	-0.3	-4.9
Tobacco	73.6	81.5	84.3	2.8	10.7
Textile mills	69.0	68.5	70.6	2.1	1.6
Textile product mills	66.5	69.4	78.4	9.0	11.9
Clothing	70.2	56.4	57.2	0.8	-13.0
Leather and allied products	68.6	60.0	60.2	0.2	-8.4
Wood products	58.9	67.7	75.3	7.6	16.4
Paper	79.2	84.3	88.7	4.4	9.5
Printing and related support activities	68.2	63.9	63.7	-0.2	-4.5
Petroleum and coal products	76.1	75.1	76.4	1.3	0.3
Chemical	69.8	76.7	82.1	5.4	12.3
Plastics and rubber products	64.9	66.7	70.4	3.7	5.5
Plastic products	64.5	66.2	69.3	3.1	4.8
Rubber products	66.5	68.9	75.5	6.6	9.0
Non-metallic mineral products	65.4	70.6	77.1	6.5	11.7
Primary metal	75.5	76.9	86.4	9.5	10.9
Fabricated metal products	66.0	66.0	71.7	5.7	5.7
Machinery	70.7	64.8	71.6	6.8	0.9
Computer and electronic products	80.2	89.1	95.8	6.7	15.6
Electrical equipment, appliance and component	77.0	76.6	80.6	4.0	3.6
Transportation equipment	47.3	60.0	63.6	3.6	16.3
Furniture and related products	73.6	78.4	82.1	3.7	8.5
Miscellaneous manufacturing	85.0	80.7	82.5	1.8	-2.5

<sup>r</sup> revised



## Domestic sales of refined petroleum products

April 2010 (preliminary)

Sales of refined petroleum products in April totalled 8 173.6 thousand cubic metres, up 770.6 thousand cubic metres (+10.4%) from April 2009. (One cubic metre equals a thousand litres.)

The increase in April was led by diesel fuel sales, up 434.6 thousand cubic metres (+24.4%) and motor gasoline, up 259.3 (+7.5%) from April 2009. Of the seven major petroleum product groups, three posted increases compared with the same month a year earlier.

Sales of refined petroleum products in April decreased 212.2 thousand cubic metres (-2.5%) from March.

**Note:** Preliminary domestic sales of refined petroleum products data are not available on CANSIM.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2150.**

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data contact the dissemination officer (toll-free 1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; [energ@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:energ@statcan.gc.ca)), Manufacturing and Energy Division.

### Sales of refined petroleum products

	April 2009 <sup>r</sup>	March 2010 <sup>r</sup>	April 2010 <sup>p</sup>	March to April 2010	April 2009 to April 2010
	thousands of cubic metres			% change	
<b>Total, all products</b>	<b>7 403.0</b>	<b>8 385.8</b>	<b>8 173.6</b>	<b>-2.5</b>	<b>10.4</b>
Motor gasoline	3 469.9	3 582.9	3 729.2	4.1	7.5
Diesel fuel oil	1 778.6	2 091.2	2 213.2	5.8	24.4
Light fuel oil	267.2	312.5	241.0	-22.9	-9.8
Heavy fuel oil	407.6	550.4	407.5	-26.0	0.0
Aviation turbo fuels	501	518.7	462.9	-10.8	-7.6
Petrochemical feedstocks <sup>1</sup>	203.6	374.6	398.8	6.5	95.9
All other refined products	775.3	955.5	720.9	-24.6	-7.0

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

1. Materials produced by refineries that are used by the petrochemical industry to produce chemicals, synthetic rubber and a variety of plastics.

**Note:** Data may not add up to totals as a result of rounding.

## Flows and stocks of fixed residential capital

2009 (revised)

The revised annual fixed residential capital flows and stocks series at the provincial level are now available for 2009.

**Note:** Data have also been revised from 2005 to 2008.

Available on CANSIM: table 030-0002.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 5016 and 5169.**

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Nicole Charron (613-951-0087; [bdp\\_information@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:bdp_information@statcan.gc.ca)), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

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**Release dates: June 14 to 18, 2010**

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(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
14	Hate-motivated crimes reported to police	2008
14	New motor vehicle sales	April 2010
15	Monthly Survey of Manufacturing	April 2010
15	Canadian Community Health Survey	2009
15	Labour productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost	First quarter 2010
17	Wholesale trade	April 2010
17	Canada's international investment position	First quarter 2010
18	Employment Insurance	April 2010
18	Canada's international transactions in securities	April 2010
18	Travel between Canada and other countries	April 2010
18	Leading indicators	May 2010