

The Daily

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Releases

Industrial capacity utilization rates

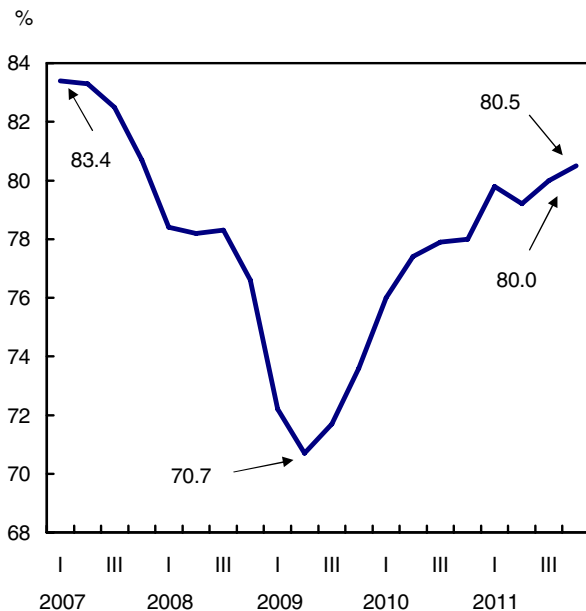
Fourth quarter 2011

Canadian industries operated at 80.5% of their production capacity in the fourth quarter, up slightly from the 80.0% posted in the third quarter. The increase would have been greater if not for the slight decline in the non-manufacturing sector.

With the exception of the second quarter of 2011, which saw a decrease in the capacity utilization rate, the rate has increased steadily since the second quarter of 2009. However, the rate of 80.5% was below that of 83.4% posted in the first quarter of 2007.

The gain of 1.4 percentage points in the fourth quarter for all manufacturing industries was offset by the slight decline posted by the non-manufacturing sector.

Continued upward trend in capacity utilization rate



Manufacturing: Transportation equipment and machinery industries are contributing the most to the rise in capacity utilization

The manufacturing industry operated at 80.4% of its capacity in the fourth quarter, up 1.4 percentage points

Note to readers

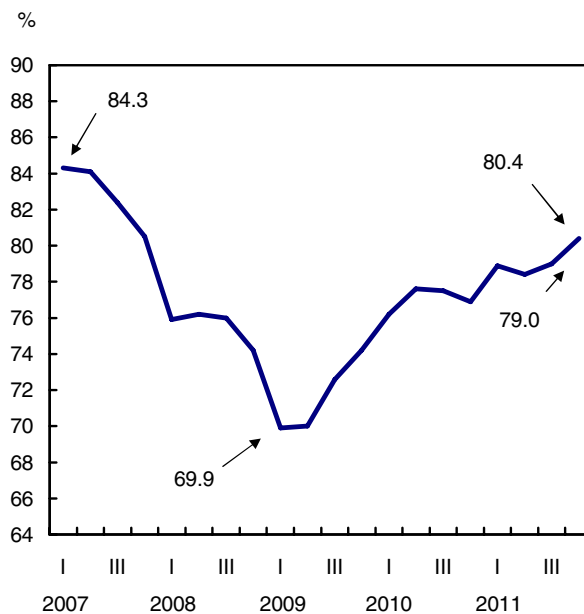
The industrial capacity utilization rate is the ratio of an industry's actual output to its estimated potential output. For most industries, the annual estimates are obtained from the Capital and Repair Expenditures Survey while the quarterly pattern is derived from output-to-capital ratio series, the output being the real gross domestic product at factor cost, seasonally adjusted, by industry.

This program covers all manufacturing and selected non-manufacturing industries.

At the time of this release, rates have been revised back to the first quarter of 2009 to reflect updated source data.

from 79.0% in the previous quarter. The upward trend continued, but the rate of 80.4% reached in the fourth quarter was below the 84.3% rate recorded in the first quarter of 2007.

Strength in the manufacturing industry



The capacity utilization rate rose in the fourth quarter in 12 of the 21 major manufacturing industries, declined in 7 and remained relatively stable in 2.

Among the industries reporting increases, the transportation equipment, machinery, chemical products, plastic products and metal products industries contributed the most to this growth. Capacity use declined in some industries, particularly the paper manufacturing industry and, to a lesser extent, the food, printing and related support activities, and petroleum and coal products industries.

Capacity use in the transportation equipment industry rose from 83.6% in the third quarter to 88.5% in the fourth quarter. This rise is mainly the result of motor vehicle and motor vehicle parts manufacturing and also of aerospace product and parts manufacturing.

Higher production of agricultural, construction, and mining and oil and gas field machinery drove up the capacity use rate in the machinery industry by 3.7 percentage points to 82.3%.

The capacity use rate for the chemical products industry was up from 77.2% in the third quarter to 78.8% in the fourth quarter, mostly as a result of the increase in pharmaceutical and medicine manufacturing.

The plastic products industry operated at 74.9% of its capacity, up 3.2 percentage points from the third quarter. The rise was primarily the result of increased production of plastic parts for motor vehicles.

In the metal products manufacturing industry, capacity use rose from 77.3% to 78.8% as a result of increased architectural and structural metals manufacturing.

Lower production in pulp, paper and paperboard mills reduced capacity use in the paper manufacturing industry from 89.9% to 86.4% from the third quarter to the fourth quarter.

Non-manufacturing sector: Slight decline

In the non-manufacturing sector, the oil and gas extraction industry was the only one to experience increased capacity use in the fourth quarter, with its rate rising from 88.2% to 90.3%. The construction industry operated at 77.4% of its capacity, unchanged from the third quarter. Capacity use declined in the electric power generation, transmission and distribution industry and in the mining and quarrying industry.

Increased natural gas extraction is the primary reason for the 2.1 percentage point rise in the capacity utilization rate of the oil and gas extraction industry to 90.3%.

The 2.9 percentage point decline in the capacity utilization rate in the electric power generation, transmission and distribution industry can be traced to reduced demand for electricity.

A significant reduction in potash extraction is the main reason for the decline in capacity use in the mining and quarrying industry from 68.9% to 65.0%.

Available without charge in CANSIM: table 028-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2821.

Data on industrial capacity utilization rates for the first quarter of 2012 will be released on June 14.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Luc Provençal (613-951-1960; luc.provençal@statcan.gc.ca), Investment, Science and Technology Division.

□

Industrial capacity utilization rates

	Fourth quarter 2010 ^r	Third quarter 2011 ^r	Fourth quarter 2011	Third quarter to fourth quarter 2011	Fourth quarter 2010 to fourth quarter 2011
	%			percentage point change	
Total industrial	78.0	80.0	80.5	0.5	2.5
Forestry and logging	86.1	93.3	92.4	-0.9	6.3
Mining and oil and gas extraction	78.7	81.3	81.1	-0.2	2.4
Oil and gas extraction	85.1	88.2	90.3	2.1	5.2
Mining	66.0	68.9	65.0	-3.9	-1.0
Electric power generation, transmission and distribution	88.0	90.0	87.1	-2.9	-0.9
Construction	76.1	77.4	77.4	0.0	1.3
Manufacturing	76.9	79.0	80.4	1.4	3.5
Food	78.7	79.3	79.0	-0.3	0.3
Beverage and tobacco products	68.2	70.5	71.3	0.8	3.1
Beverage	69.2	71.2	72.4	1.2	3.2
Tobacco	61.3	65.9	64.0	-1.9	2.7
Textiles	66.9	69.1	69.5	0.4	2.6
Textile mills	68.5	70.8	73.7	2.9	5.2
Textile product mills	65.0	67.0	64.6	-2.4	-0.4
Clothing	78.7	76.2	76.1	-0.1	-2.6
Leather and allied products	80.7	73.6	69.3	-4.3	-11.4
Wood products	72.2	71.6	73.0	1.4	0.8
Paper	89.5	89.9	86.4	-3.5	-3.1
Printing and related support activities	70.8	71.7	70.9	-0.8	0.1
Petroleum and coal products	81.3	79.6	78.8	-0.8	-2.5
Chemical	75.0	77.2	78.8	1.6	3.8
Plastics and rubber products	70.3	74.4	77.3	2.9	7.0
Plastic products	68.6	71.7	74.9	3.2	6.3
Rubber products	77.8	85.7	87.2	1.5	9.4
Non-metallic mineral products	74.4	77.3	77.2	-0.1	2.8
Primary metal	78.0	82.6	82.8	0.2	4.8
Fabricated metal products	76.6	77.3	78.8	1.5	2.2
Machinery	73.2	78.6	82.3	3.7	9.1
Computer and electronic products	91.2	88.8	90.5	1.7	-0.7
Electrical equipment, appliance and component	77.8	73.5	74.3	0.8	-3.5
Transportation equipment	78.0	83.6	88.5	4.9	10.5
Furniture and related products	76.2	74.0	75.5	1.5	-0.7
Miscellaneous manufacturing	82.7	82.1	77.9	-4.2	-4.8

^r revised

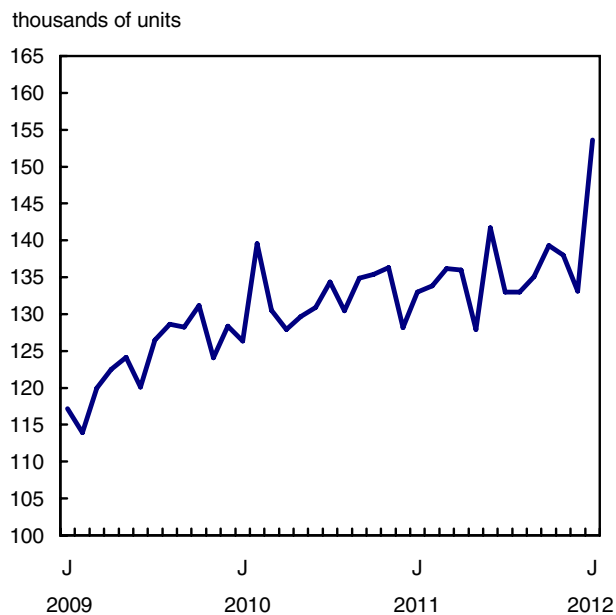


New motor vehicle sales

January 2012

The number of new motor vehicles sold in January rose 15.4% to 153,623 units. A significant factor in January's growth was the resumption of supply for certain models of passenger cars.

New motor vehicle sales up in January



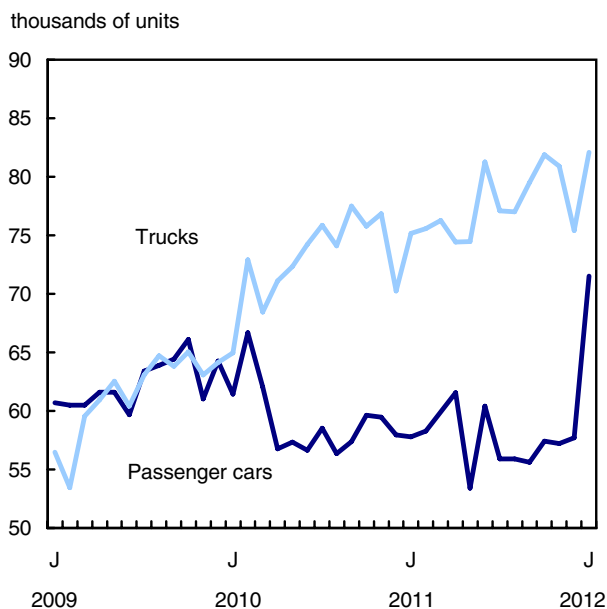
Preliminary industry data indicate that the number of new motor vehicles sold in February fell 7%.

Sales grow for both passenger cars and trucks

Passenger car sales rose 23.9% to 71,539 units, mainly reflecting higher sales of lower-cost vehicles. North-American built passenger cars led the growth, rising 28.5%. Sales of overseas-built passenger cars (+16.8%) rose for a fifth consecutive month.

Sales of trucks (which include minivans, sport-utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans and buses) increased 8.8% in January, offsetting declines in November and December.

Passenger car sales up in January



Sales increase most in Ontario and Quebec

New motor vehicle sales were up in every province in January.

Ontario (+23.7%) reported the largest increase in the number of new motor vehicles sold—the fifth increase in six months.

Sales of new motor vehicles in Quebec (+9.8%) grew for the fifth consecutive month.

Among the Western provinces, Alberta (+16.3%) registered the largest increase in unit sales. January's gain more than offset declines in November and December.

The largest increase in units sold among the Atlantic provinces was in Nova Scotia (+11.0%).

Available without charge in CANSIM: table 079-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2402.

The January 2012 issue of *New Motor Vehicle Sales* (63-007-X, free) will soon be available.

Data on new motor vehicle sales for February will be released on April 17.

For more information or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; retailinfo@statcan.gc.ca). To enquire about the

concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jason Aston (613-951-0746), Distributive Trades Division.

New motor vehicle sales – Seasonally adjusted

	January 2011	December 2011 ^r	January 2012 ^p	January 2011 to January 2012	December 2011 to January 2012
	number of vehicles			% change	
New motor vehicles	132,963	133,139	153,623	15.5	15.4
Passenger cars	57,799	57,721	71,539	23.8	23.9
North American ¹	34,938	35,359	45,431	30.0	28.5
Overseas	22,861	22,362	26,108	14.2	16.8
Trucks, vans and buses	75,164	75,418	82,084	9.2	8.8
New motor vehicles					
Newfoundland and Labrador	2,762	2,719	2,936	6.3	8.0
Prince Edward Island	432	511	566	31.0	10.8
Nova Scotia	3,798	3,926	4,358	14.7	11.0
New Brunswick	3,222	3,318	3,441	6.8	3.7
Quebec	35,466	36,082	39,618	11.7	9.8
Ontario	49,031	47,015	58,145	18.6	23.7
Manitoba	3,920	4,116	4,399	12.2	6.9
Saskatchewan	4,264	4,432	4,764	11.7	7.5
Alberta	17,088	18,105	21,054	23.2	16.3
British Columbia ²	12,980	12,915	14,342	10.5	11.0

^r revised

^p preliminary

1. Manufactured or assembled in Canada, the United States or Mexico.

2. Includes Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Note: Figures may not add to totals because of rounding.

New motor vehicle sales – Not seasonally adjusted

	January 2011	December 2011 ^r	January 2012 ^p	January 2011 to January 2012
	number of vehicles			% change
New motor vehicles	86,320	117,863	100,444	16.4
Passenger cars	32,183	45,646	40,585	26.1
North American ¹	18,983	29,073	26,345	38.8
Overseas	13,200	16,573	14,240	7.9
Trucks, vans and buses	54,137	72,217	59,859	10.6
New motor vehicles				
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,546	1,965	1,700	10.0
Prince Edward Island	239	403	345	44.4
Nova Scotia	2,303	3,112	2,776	20.5
New Brunswick	2,047	2,654	2,159	5.5
Quebec	19,905	28,142	22,411	12.6
Ontario	31,588	42,477	37,454	18.6
Manitoba	2,564	3,859	2,902	13.2
Saskatchewan	3,131	4,272	3,716	18.7
Alberta	13,124	17,965	16,217	23.6
British Columbia ²	9,873	13,014	10,764	9.0

^r revised

^p preliminary

1. Manufactured or assembled in Canada, the United States or Mexico.

2. Includes Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Note: Figures may not add to totals because of rounding.

Steel wire and specified wire products

January 2012

Data on steel wire and specified wire products production are now available for January.

Available without charge in CANSIM: table 303-0047.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2106.

The January 2012 issue of *Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire* (41-019-X, free) will soon be available.

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.gc.ca), Manufacturing and Energy Division. ■

Legal aid

2010/2011

Data on resource and caseload statistics for legal aid in Canada are now available for 2010/2011. The data summarized in the tables are drawn from the Legal Aid Survey, which is conducted annually on a fiscal year basis (from April 1 to March 31).

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 258-0001 to 258-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3308.

The annual report *Legal Aid in Canada: Resource and Caseload Statistics*, 2010/2011 (85F0015X, free), is now available. From the *Key resource* module of our website, under *Publications*, choose *All subjects*, then *Crime and justice*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or the Media Hotline (613-951-4636), Communications Division. ■

Spectator sports, event promoters, artists and related industries

2010

Data on spectator sports, event promoters, artists and related industries are now available for 2010.

The 2010 edition of *Service Bulletin: Spectator Sports, Event Promoters, Artists and Related Industries*, which contains industry highlights along with financial data including revenues, expenses and operating profit margins, is now available.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 361-0013 and 361-0023.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5132.

The publication *Service Bulletin: Spectator Sports, Event Promoters, Artists and Related Industries*, 2010 (63-246-X, free), is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

For more information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-801-3282; 613-951-4612; servicesind@statcan.gc.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Sharon Marcellus (613-951-2659; sharon.marcellus@statcan.gc.ca), Service Industries Division. ■

New products and studies

Spectator Sports, Event Promoters, Artists and Related Industries, 2010
Catalogue number **63-246-X** (PDF, free; HTML, free)

Legal Aid in Canada: Resource and Caseload Statistics, 2010/2011
Catalogue number **85F0015X** (PDF, free; HTML, free)

Catalogue numbers with an -XWE, -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; -XCB or -XCE are electronic versions on compact disc; -XVB or -XVE are electronic versions on DVD and -XBB or -XBE a database.



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