



FEDERAL RESERVE

statistical release

E. 5

For immediate release
November 19, 1976

REVISION OF MANUFACTURING CAPACITY UTILIZATION RATES

A major revision of the Federal Reserve Board's series for capacity utilization in manufacturing has been completed. The estimates -- including subtotals for primary and advanced processing -- have been revised from 1948 to the present. Manufacturing capacity utilization in the third quarter of 1976 is now estimated at 80.9 per cent, up 10 percentage points from the recent cyclical low in the first quarter of 1975 and almost 7 percentage points below the recent peak in the third quarter of 1973. Both advanced and primary processing industries also remain significantly below their 1973 peak rates.

On the basis of the revised series, utilization rates in manufacturing are considerably higher at the present time than had been indicated by the earlier figures. Most of the upward revision results from the incorporation of new data into the series. However, the new figures do show a somewhat greater rise in utilization rates since the 1975 low in manufacturing output.

A description of the Federal Reserve's manufacturing and materials capacity utilization series will be published in the November Federal Reserve BULLETIN. A more detailed methodological description is scheduled to be published next spring.

MANUFACTURING OUTPUT, CAPACITY, AND UTILIZATION
(seasonally adjusted)

Period	Output Total (1967= 100)	Capacity Total (1967 out- put = 100)	Utilization (Output as Per Cent of Capacity)		
			Total	Primary Processing	Advanced Processing
1973:Q1	127.2	146.1	87.1	91.8	84.5
Q2	129.2	147.5	87.6	92.1	85.2
Q3	130.7	149.0	87.8	92.7	85.0
Q4	131.8	150.4	87.7	93.0	85.0
1974:Q1	130.1	151.8	85.7	90.5	83.0
Q2	131.3	153.1	85.8	90.0	83.4
Q3	132.1	154.4	85.5	89.0	83.6
Q4	124.1	155.7	79.7	80.4	79.3
1975:Q1	111.2	156.8	70.9	69.5	71.5
Q2	112.4	157.7	71.3	70.0	72.1
Q3	119.4	158.6	75.3	75.8	75.0
Q4	122.5	159.5	76.8	78.1	76.1
1976:Q1	126.7	160.4	79.0	80.2	78.2
Q2	129.4	161.3	80.2	81.6	79.3
Q3p	131.2	162.3	80.9	82.4	79.3
September p	131.0	162.6	80.5	82.9	78.3
October e	130.0	162.9	79.8	n.a.	n.a.

Note - Based on data from Federal Reserve, McGraw-Hill Economics Department and Department of Commerce. For description and back data, see Federal Reserve BULLETIN, November 1976.

e - estimated

p - preliminary