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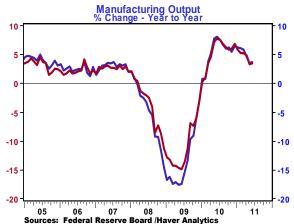
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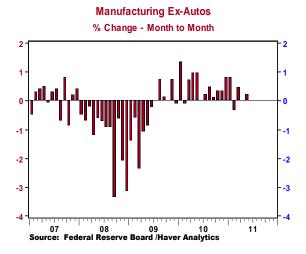
June Industrial Production / Capacity Utilization

- Industrial production increased 0.2% in June, coming in slightly below the consensus expected gain of 0.3%. Including revisions to prior months, production rose 0.1%. Output is up 3.4% in the past year.
- Manufacturing, which excludes mining/utilities, was unchanged in June. Auto production fell 2.0% in June. Non-auto manufacturing increased 0.1%. Auto production is up 2.5% versus a year ago while non-auto manufacturing has risen 3.8%.
- The production of high-tech equipment increased 0.6% in June and is up 10.0% versus a year ago.
- Overall capacity utilization was unchanged at 76.7% in June. Manufacturing capacity use was unchanged at 74.4%.

Implications: Industrial production grew modestly in June but is going to surge sharply in July as automakers start to recover from the supply-chain disruptions coming from Japan. In the past three months, auto and light truck assemblies have dropped at a 39% annual rate, resulting in razorthin inventories and slower sales (as auto companies and dealers curbed The reversal of that problem is going to generate eyeincentives). grabbing and positive headlines in the next few months. Since the multiple disasters that hit Japan, we have been following manufacturing production *excluding autos* to assess the underlying trend – even though some of these manufacturers were also temporarily hurt by the supplychain problems. That production increased 0.1% in June, the most since the disasters hit in March, and was up 3.8% versus a year ago. In addition, we expect business investment in equipment to accelerate. Corporate profits and cash on the balance sheets of non-financial companies are at record highs. Meanwhile, companies can fully expense these purchases for tax purposes through year-end. In other news this morning on the manufacturing sector, the Empire State index, a measure of manufacturing activity in New York, increased to -3.8 in July from -7.8 in June. This is a smaller gain than the consensus expected but we expect better regional survey numbers where the auto industry is more prominent. Brian S. Wesbury – Chief Economist Robert Stein, CFA – Senior Economist Strider Elass – Economic Analyst Andrew Hull – Economic Analyst

Industrial Production % Change - Year to Year





Industrial Production Capacity Utilization All Data Seasonally Adjusted	Jun-11	May-11	Apr-11	3-mo % Ch annualized	6-mo % Ch. annualized	Yr to Yr % Change
Industrial Production	0.2%	-0.1%	-0.1%	0.0%	1.1%	3.4%
Manufacturing	0.1%	0.0%	-0.4%	-1.3%	2.7%	4.1%
Motor Vehicles and Parts	-2.0%	-0.4%	-6.5%	-30.5%	2.9%	2.5%
Ex Motor Vehicles and Parts	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.9%	2.2%	3.8%
Mining	0.6%	0.7%	0.3%	6.3%	2.7%	6.1%
Utilities	0.9%	-2.0%	1.3%	0.8%	-7.8%	-1.5%
Business Equipment	-0.7%	1.2%	-0.2%	0.8%	5.0%	7.7%
Consumer Goods	0.0%	-0.2%	-0.1%	-1.3%	-0.6%	1.4%
High-Tech Equipment	0.6%	0.5%	0.2%	5.2%	6.6%	10.0%
Total Ex. High-Tech Equipment	0.1%	0.0%	-0.2%	-0.4%	0.9%	3.1%
				3-mo Average	6-mo Average	12-mo Average
Cap Utilization (Total)	76.7	76.7	76.8	76.7	76.8	76.3
Manufacturing	74.4	74.4	74.4	74.4	74.5	73.7

Source: Federal Reserve Board

This report was prepared by First Trust Advisors L. P., and reflects the current opinion of the authors. It is based upon sources and data believed to be accurate and reliable. Opinions and forward looking statements expressed are subject to change without notice. This information does not constitute a solicitation or an offer to buy or sell any security.