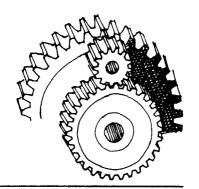
Productivity Reports



Productivity increased in many industries in 1983

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Productivity, as measured by output per employee hour, increased in 1983 in more than three-quarters of the industries for which the Bureau of Labor Statistics regularly publishes data. Productivity gains were unusually large in many industries and were in contrast to 1982 when productivity declined in almost half of the industries measured. The widespread gains in 1983 are consistent with the increase in the nonfarm business sector of the economy, which grew 3.5 percent.

Table 1 shows productivity trends in industries measured by the Bureau and includes new measures introduced for additional industries: refrigeration and heating equipment, internal combustion engines, machine tool accessories, and wood kitchen cabinets.¹

Changes by industry

Manufacturing. The steel industry, one of the more important industries included, had a record productivity increase of 27.7 percent, compared with a record productivity decline of 18.8 percent in 1982. Steel output was up 14.7 percent in 1983, as demand increased, especially from the motor vehicle and appliance markets, and employee hours declined 10.2 percent as the industry continued its consolidations and plant closings. The motor vehicles industry, another important industry covered, had a large productivity gain of 14.2 percent which was based on a steep increase in output of 30.6 percent, while employee hours were up 14.3 percent. Demand for motor vehicles increased significantly as compared with 1982 when demand was lower and output declined 8.0 percent.

Another manufacturing industry with a large productivity gain was household appliances. Productivity grew 17.6 percent in this key industry, as output was up a sharp 27.4 percent and hours increased 8.4 percent. Demand for household appliances was aided by increased sales of homes, more

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favorable consumer credit, and an increase in personal disposable income in 1983.

Other manufacturing industries with unusually large productivity gains included: synthetic fibers (21.5 percent), gray iron foundries (17.4 percent), hydraulic cement (15.9 percent), copper rolling and drawing (14.9 percent), brick and structural clay tile (12.4 percent), primary aluminum (12.1 percent), electric lamps (11.9 percent), aluminum rolling and drawing (11.1 percent), and paints (10.5 percent). All of these industries, except two, had output gains of more than 10 percent in 1983.

Conversely, a small number of manufacturing industries had productivity declines in 1983. Noteworthy was machine tools in which productivity dropped a steep 29.9 percent as output fell 43.5 percent.

Mining. All of the mining industries recorded large gains in productivity in 1983. Iron mining (usable ore) posted the largest gain—41.2 percent—of all the measures. Output was up 7.7 percent in this industry while hours fell off sharply. Coal mining had a productivity increase of 13.9 percent, as output fell 6.4 percent and hours dropped 17.7 percent. Copper mining (recoverable metal) had a productivity gain of 10.8 percent, as output fell 9.5 percent and hours declined even more. In nonmetallic minerals, productivity was up 7.9 percent, as output grew due to the increased construction activity in 1983.

Transportation and utilities. Productivity was up in most transportation and utility industries. In railroads (revenue traffic), productivity advanced sharply by 23.0 percent. Output grew 6.8 percent, as commodity shipments increased in 1983 and hours continued to decline by 13.1 percent. Air transportation had a large productivity gain of 9.9 percent, as output grew 8.5 percent and hours declined slightly. Productivity grew 2.2 percent in petroleum pipelines as hours fell more than output. However, productivity dropped 6.6 percent in bus carriers, with output dropping 11.7 percent and hours falling 5.5 percent.

In telephone communications, productivity was up 12.7 percent, as output grew 1.7 percent and hours declined 9.8 percent. Electric utilities posted a gain in productivity of 1.7 percent—the first increase in this industry since 1977. On the other hand, gas utilities had a large productivity

sic Code ¹	industry	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983 ²	Percent change 1982–83	Average annual percent change 1978–83
	Mining				:				
1011 1011 1021 1021 111,121 121 14	Iron mining, crude ore Iron mining, usable ore Copper mining, crude ore Copper mining, recoverable metal Coal mining Bituminous coal and lignite mining Nonmetallic minerals, except fuels Crushed and broken stone	116.8 119.2 109.6 107.6 106.4 106.7 104.6 109.0	125.5 125.6 108.8 97.8 99.4 99.6 102.4 108.4	129.0 127.5 99.1 91.3 112.5 112.6 96.2 103.3	139.0 136.8 101.5 97.2 122.2 122.7 95.0 100.7	106.9 104.0 105.8 115.4 119.1 120.0 89.8 98.1	147.3 146.9 126.9 127.9 135.6 136.5 96.9 108.2	37.8 41.2 19.9 10.8 13.9 13.7 7.9 10.3	2.2 1.6 1.9 4.2 5.4 5.5 -2.2 -1.0
	Manufacturing								
2011, 13 2011 2013 2026 203 2033 204	Red meat products Meat packing plants Sausages and other prepared meats Fluid milk Preserved fruits and vegetables Canned fruits and vegetables Grain mill products	98.7 100.9 93.6 108.0 104.4 103.7 100.4	101.7 104.9 94.6 116.3 99.3 101.4 102.2	107.0 109.1 101.8 124.8 101.2 100.6 107.1	107.9 114.2 94.3 129.3 99.6 99.7 112.9	107.7 115.8 89.8 137.0 107.6 106.3 (3)	113.2 124.8 89.9 146.2 (3) (3)	5.1 7.8 0.1 6.7 (3) (3)	2.5 4.1 -1.2 6.0 40.6 40.3 (3)
041 043 044 045 045 047,48	Flour and other grain mill products Cereal breakfast foods Rice milling Blended and prepared flour Wet corn milling Prepared feeds for animals and fowls Bakery products	101.5 101.7 92.7 92.5 102.0 100.8 97.2	98.5 107.6 96.3 91.0 110.8 102.0 94.1	96.7 106.5 111.8 104.8 129.2 106.2 92.3	99.2 110.0 117.9 104.6 143.8 112.6 94.3	(3) 116.9 (3) (3) (3) (3) (3) 100.4	(3) (3) (3) (3) (3) (3) (3)	(3) (3) (3) (3) (3) (3) (3)	(3) 43.1 (3) (3) (3) (3) (3) 40.7
2061,62,63 2061,62 2063 2082 2086 2111,21,31 2111,31	Sugar Raw and refined cane sugar Beet sugar Malt beverages Bottled and canned soft drinks All tobacco products Cigarettes, chewing and smoking tobacco	101.0 100.7 101.2 100.0 104.5 102.8 103.8	109.1 107.3 110.9 107.4 105.6 102.2 102.1	109.1 107.8 111.7 112.1 109.8 102.2 101.1	111.2 111.1 111.4 113.0 114.3 100.6 98.9	105.7 102.5 110.6 115.8 118.3 100.8 98.6	107.6 112.8 99.0 122.1 126.4 100.6 97.2	1.8 10.0 - 10.5 5.4 6.8 - 0.2 - 1.4	0.7 1.3 -0.3 3.6 3.9 -0.5 -1.3
2121 2251,52 2281 2421 2431 2434 2435,36	Cigars Hosiery Nonwool yarn mills Sawmills and planing mills, general Milwork Wood kitchen cabinets Veneer and plywood	98.2 101.4 104.2 101.4 90.4 100.5 101.7	103.7 106.5 103.9 96.7 92.3 96.4 94.6	110.3 105.3 99.8 101.8 93.9 102.1 102.7	112.5 118.9 103.2 104.5 96.9 99.3 106.7	118.3 110.3 119.6 117.6 87.0 88.7 110.5	129.1 107.1 (³) 118.6 (³) (³) (³)	9.1 -2.9 (³) 0.9 (³) (³) (³)	5.2 1.4 42.7 4.1 4-0.3 4-2.2 42.9
1435 1436 151 1511,17 1512 1514 1515	Hardwood veneer and plywood Softwood veneer and plywood Household furniture Wood household furniture Upholstered household furniture Metal household furniture Mattresses and bedsprings	100.7 102.1 104.6 104.9 108.8 97.4 101.4	97.8 93.4 101.3 101.5 104.9 89.9 102.6	104.1 102.7 99.7 97.1 101.9 93.1 111.9	100.3 111.8 102.6 97.0 110.1 97.9 113.7	100.8 116.6 105.0 98.8 116.2 108.6 104.2	(3) (3) 113.4 (3) (3) (3) (3)	(3) (3) 8.0 (3) (3) (3) (3)	40.3 44.6 1.6 4-1.6 41.8 43.1 41.6
252 2521 2522 2611,21,31,61 2643 2651 2653	Office furniture Wood office furniture Metal office furniture Paper, paperboard and pulp mills Paper and plastic bags Folding paperboard boxes Corrugated and solid fiber board boxes	100.1 100.7 99.9 103.2 99.9 102.8 103.5	107.3 110.7 104.8 105.4 97.6 101.4 107.1	112.5 109.2 114.4 105.2 94.0 97.1 111.3	109.1 99.4 114.7 104.4 91.7 98.6 110.2	108.6 97.4 115.4 106.2 94.5 96.8 113.0	(3) (3) (3) 115.8 (3) 97.8 118.8	(3) (3) (3) 9.0 (3) 1.0 5.1	41.8 4-1.7 43.9 1.7 4-1.7 -1.1 2.4
:823,24 :834 :841 :844 :851 :911	Synthetic fibers Pharmaceutical preparations Soaps and detergents Cosmetics and other toiletries Paints and allied products Petroleum refining Tires and inner tubes	105.2 99.0 105.2 99.3 104.7 101.3 108.8	115.0 106.4 104.0 93.1 105.7 94.9 109.5	115.7 107.3 108.4 82.5 102.1 94.2 105.6	120.9 106.1 105.9 74.9 101.5 83.7 123.2	109.0 109.6 99.5 81.9 108.0 82.5 134.8	132.4 (3) (3) (3) (3) 119.3 86.9 147.7	21.5 (3) (3) (3) 10.5 5.3 9.6	3.0 42.0 4-0.9 4-5.9 2.1 -3.7 6.8
079 114 1221 1241 125 1251,53,59 1251	Miscellaneous plastics products Footwear Glass containers Hydraulic cement Structural clay products Clay construction products Brick and structural clay tile	100.8 102.5 101.4 101.3 102.6 102.6 96.5	94.8 100.2 106.7 96.0 96.1 92.1 85.8	95.7 99.1 112.0 87.0 97.8 94.8 85.6	98.5 95.6 118.7 91.1 100.9 98.4 85.2	111.2 97.3 117.8 95.3 105.3 107.6 92.5	(3) 102.0 120.0 110.5 113.9 115.1 104.0	(³) 4.8 1.9 15.9 8.2 7.0 12.4	42.4 -0.4 3.5 1.3 2.4 3.1 1.7
253 255 271,72 273 31 321	Ceramic wall and floor tile Clay refractories Concrete products Ready-mixed concrete Steel Gray iron foundries	115.3 102.9 98.6 103.1 108.3 102.1	111.8 109.1 94.6 99.9 106.9 96.8	120.3 108.0 93.2 93.1 102.9 90.8	126.5 109.0 92.5 95.4 112.0 92.5	132.1 98.0 96.8 90.4 90.9 95.3	(3) 107.9 (3) (3) (3) 116.1 111.9	(3) 10.1 (3) (3) (3) 27.7 17.4	44.0 -0.2 40.6 4-3.0 -0.2 1.2

Table 1. Continued—Indexes of output per employee hour in selected industries, 1978-83, and percent changes 1982-83 and 1978-83

sic Code ¹	Industry	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983²	Percent change 1982–83	Average annual percent change 1978—83
3331,32,33	Primary copper, lead, and zinc Primary copper Primary aluminum Copper rolling and drawing Aluminum rolling and drawing Metal cans Hand and edge tools	96.5	106.5	103.7	118.6	121.8	131.6	8.0	6.1
3331		99.4	113.3	105.3	124.4	119.9	124.6	3.9	4.3
3334		99.6	99.7	100.0	103.8	103.0	115.5	12.1	2.5
3351		100.2	98.8	94.9	99.2	107.6	123.6	14.9	3.9
3353,54,55		104.6	101.5	101.9	99.4	105.1	116.8	11.1	1.8
3411		102.3	103.6	102.6	108.1	119.0	130.0	9.2	4.9
3423		100.6	104.3	99.0	95.8	95.1	(³)	(³)	4-2.0
3441 3494 3498 3519 352 3523	Fabricated structural metal Valves and pipe fittings Fabricated pipe and fittings Internal combustion engines, n.e.c. Farm and garden machinery Farm machinery	100.4 100.9 100.7 105.4 101.0 98.4	102.0 104.3 90.1 98.8 103.3 100.2	101.9 101.4 89.9 94.8 96.3 94.0	98.3 103.5 93.1 94.4 98.6 98.0	101.4 100.4 89.8 87.0 98.5 95.0	(3) (3) (3) (3) (3) (3) (3)	(3) (3) (3) (3) (3) (3)	4-0.2 4-0.2 4-1.9 4-4.2 4-1.0 4-0.9
3524	Lawn and garden equipment Construction machinery and equipment Machine tools Metal cutting machine tools Metal forming machine tools Machine tool accessories	108.6	113.9	107.0	101.3	106.8	(3)	(3)	4-1.5
3531		105.8	100.3	97.4	96.1	89.0	(3)	(3)	4-3.8
3541,42		102.5	101.9	98.7	96.5	93.2	65.3	- 29.9	-7.0
3541		103.6	103.1	100.9	99.3	95.1	64.5	- 32.2	-7.2
3542		99.9	98.4	92.4	88.0	87.6	67.9	- 22.5	-6.4
3545		104.0	101.7	100.3	103.7	91.5	(3)	(3)	4-2.3
3561,63	Pumps and compressors Pumps and pumping equipment Ball and roller bearings Air and gas compressors Refrigeration and heating equipment Transformers	103.3	102.5	101.3	102.7	97.7	(3)	(3)	4-1.1
3561		101.1	100.7	99.2	100.6	94.9	(3)	(3)	4-1.3
3562		105.6	105.3	94.7	93.4	82.8	87.6	5.8	-4.7
3563		106.1	106.1	105.5	106.8	107.3	(3)	(3)	40.3
3585		100.6	102.2	95.0	101.1	101.7	(3)	(3)	40.1
3612		103.4	108.5	110.8	107.1	102.6	99.3	-3.2	-1.1
3613	Switchgear and switchboard apparatus Motors and generators Major household appliances Household cooking equipment Household refrigerators and freezers Household laundry equipment	102.4	102.7	102.6	98.4	103.5	101.8	-1.6	-0.1
3621		98.6	97.9	94.9	97.7	100.1	94.4	-5.7	-0.3
3631,32,33,39		100.5	108.9	105.9	108.1	110.5	129.9	17.6	3.9
3631		100.3	108.5	103.4	104.9	114.8	144.3	25.7	5.9
3632		98.4	112.2	114.3	117.2	115.2	127.5	10.7	4.1
3633		102.3	108.2	102.2	104.0	106.1	118.0	11.2	1.9
3639	Household appliances, n.e.c. Electric lamps Lighting fixtures Radio and television receiving sets Motor vehicles and equipment Instruments to measure electricity	104.0	104.3	101.6	103.9	101.3	121.1	19.5	2.0
3641		103.0	106.2	104.7	108.8	111.0	124.2	11.9	3.2
3645,46,47,48		100.6	95.0	93.9	89.4	92.6	(³)	(3)	4-2.2
3651		113.1	118.2	116.4	132.8	157.9	(³)	(3)	48.2
371		99.7	98.5	92.2	95.0	99.7	113.9	14.2	2.1
3825		100.3	99.0	106.3	109.1	114.7	(³)	(3)	43.7
	Other								
401 401 4111,31,414 PT 4213 PT 4213 PT 4511,21, PT	Railroad transportation-revenue traffic Railroad transportation-car miles Class I bus carriers Intercity trucking ⁶ Intercity trucking—general freight ⁶ Air transportation ⁶	104.5 102.8 96.7 99.8 98.6 109.3	104.7 102.9 98.3 98.6 96.6 113.1	107.3 107.9 100.8 94.3 87.9 106.2	111.5 107.6 90.9 98.7 92.5 104.9	115.8 110.1 90.0 93.3 86.8 114.7	142.4 128.9 84.1 (3) (3) 126.0	23.0 17.1 -6.6 (3) (3) (3) 9.9	5.5 3.9 3.0 4-1.3 4-2.9 2.1
4612,13	Petroleum pipelines Telephone communications Gas and electric utilities Electric utilities Gas utilities Retail food stores ⁷	101.7	101.7	93.0	86.0	89.2	91.2	2.2	-2.9
4811		105.8	110.8	118.1	124.4	129.1	145.5	12.7	6.2
491,492,493		98.2	97.6	96.2	94.4	89.5	88.4	-1.2	-2.3
491,493 PT		96.8	95.4	94.0	93.0	89.3	90.8	1.7	-1.5
492,493 PT		101.4	103.4	102.1	98.1	89.9	82.6	-8.1	-4.2
54		95.7	98.0	100.8	98.2	96.9	97.1	0.2	(⁵)
5511	Franchised new car dealers Gasoline service stations? Apparel and accessory stores? Men's and boys' clothing stores? Women's ready-to-wear stores? Family clothing stores?	98.6	94.6	99.5	96.6	97.4	102.2	4.9	0.7
5541		104.3	109.5	107.9	110.8	118.0	121.5	3.0	2.9
56		110.0	112.0	116.4	122.0	123.8	125.2	1.1	2.9
5611		105.4	110.0	110.0	120.9	121.3	125.2	3.2	3.6
5621		111.3	115.0	116.2	125.5	139.0	147.8	6.3	6.1
5651		96.4	99.6	109.6	113.3	116.2	118.1	1.6	4.4
5661	Shoe stores ⁷ Eating and drinking places ⁷ Drug and proprietary stores ⁷ Commercial banking Hotels, motels, and tourist courts ⁷ Laundry and cleaning services ⁷	108.7	111.2	107.7	110.8	106.0	104.6	-1.3	-0.9
58		99.3	99.2	99.4	96.8	96.1	98.4	2.4	-0.5
5912		102.3	102.9	105.6	105.8	105.6	104.8	-0.8	0.6
602		101.2	99.3	92.7	91.8	96.2	(3)	(3)	4-1.8
7011		103.1	102.4	98.6	96.2	93.6	94.3	0.7	-2.1
721		100.6	94.1	87.8	85.1	88.6	88.1	-0.6	-2.5

¹As defined in the *Standard Industrial Classification Manual*, 1972 published by the Office of Management and Budget.

Note: Although the output per employee-hour measures relate output to the hours of all employees engaged in each industry, they do not measure the specific contribution of labor, capital, or any other single factor of production. Rather, they reflect the joint effects of many influences, including new technology, capital investment, the level of output, capacity utilization, energy use, and managerial skills, as well as the skills and efforts of the work force. Some of these measures use a labor input series that is based on hours paid and some use a labor input series that is based on plant hours.

n.e.c. = not elsewhere classified.

²Preliminary data.

³Not available.

⁴Percent change, 1978-82.

⁵Rate of change is less than 0.05 percent.

⁶Output per employee.

⁷Output per hour of all persons.

decline of 8.1 percent, as output dropped 10.5 percent in 1983.

Trade and services. Productivity changes were varied among the trade and service industries. Productivity was up 4.9 percent for new car dealers, as output grew 8.5 percent, aided by a sharp increase in new car sales. Productivity grew 3.0 percent in gasoline service stations, as output increased 2.4 percent and hours were down 0.6 percent. Eating and drinking places had a productivity gain of 2.4 percent based on a significant gain in output of 5.9 percent. Although the overall apparel store industry had a productivity gain of 1.1 percent in 1983, one of the component industries, shoe stores, had a decline in productivity of 1.3 percent. Small productivity gains were posted by the hotel and motel industry (0.7 percent) and the retail food store industry (0.2 percent). Conversely, productivity declines occurred in drug stores (-0.8 percent) and laundry and cleaning services (-0.6 percent).

Trends, 1978-83

Except for metal forming machine tools and bus carriers, all the industries measured have recorded average annual gains in productivity over the long term (1947–83 for many of the industries). Over the more recent period (1978–83), however, about 40 percent of the industries recorded declining rates of productivity. In addition, almost three quarters of the industries had lower rates of productivity change during 1978–83 than in the preceding long-term period (1947–78 for many industries). The slowdown in productivity in the more current period matches the trend in the nonfarm business sector of the economy, where productivity grew at the low rate of 0.5 percent per year from 1978 to 1983, compared with a 2.3-percent rate from 1947 to 1978.

Gains. The tires and tubes industry had the highest rate (6.8 percent per year) of productivity gain of all the industries measured during the 1978-83 period. Although output declined 3.6 percent per year in this industry, employee hours fell even more, dropping at a rate of 9.7 percent in the period. The introduction of new, more automatic equipment for tiremaking as well as the closing of a number of old and inefficient plants during the period, allowed the

industry to increase productivity significantly despite the drop in output. The telephone communications industry had the second highest rate of gain at 6.2 percent. Output was up 5.7 percent while hours fell off slightly during the period. Continuing adoption of electronic switching equipment, fiber optic cables, automatic testing equipment, and increasing computerization have aided productivity growth in this industry. Other industries with high rates of growth from 1978 to 1983 include: primary copper, lead, and zinc and women's ready-to-wear clothing stores (both 6.1 percent); fluid milk (6.0 percent); household cooking equipment (5.9 percent); railroad transportation (5.5 percent); and coal mining (5.4 percent).

Declines. Among the many industries with declining productivity rates, the machine tool industries have recorded the largest drops over the 1978-83 period. Metal cutting machine tools declined at a rate of 7.2 percent, as output averaged a 13.9-percent decline and hours fell at a rate of 7.2 percent. Productivity in the metal forming machine tool. industry fell at a 6.4-percent rate based on an average decline of 15.7 percent in output and a 9.9-percent drop in hours. These industries were significantly affected by the economic slowdowns and by increasing imports during the 1978-83 period. Output fell off sharply, leading to steep declines in productivity, because machine tool manufacturers tend to retain highly skilled workers during cyclical downturns. In addition, because demand for machine tools tends to lag in economic recoveries, these industries did very poorly in 1983.

The next largest productivity falloff from 1978 to 1983 was in the ball and roller bearings industry—4.7 percent. Output fell at a 9.9-percent rate as the economic slowdowns cut sharply into industry demand and hours declined at a rate of 5.5 percent. The gas utilities industry also had a large productivity decline of 4.2 percent per year over this period. Although the number of customers in this industry increased, output actually declined at a 2.7-percent rate, due in part to conservation and introduction of more energy efficient equipment, while employee hours increased at a 1.5-percent rate. Other industries with declining rates from 1978 to 1983 included petroleum refining (-3.7 percent), bus carriers (-3.0 percent), and petroleum pipelines (-2.9 percent).

----FOOTNOTE----

manufacturing," this issue, pp. 24-30; and articles on the internal combustion engine and machine tool accessory industries which will appear in forthcoming issues of the *Review*.

¹ For a detailed report on these industries, see Horst Brand and Clyde Huffstutler, "Productivity in making air conditioners, refrigeration equipment and furnaces," *Monthly Labor Review*, December 1984, pp. 11–17; Horst Brand and Norman Bennett, "Productivity trends in kitchen cabinet