## Comments on Current Economic Indicators, Policy & Events United States

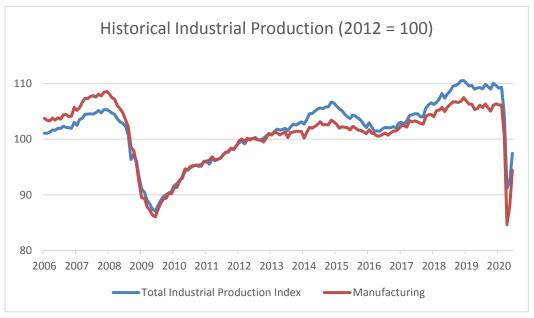
July 15, 2020

## June Industrial Production: Growth for Second Straight Month

Rohan Kumar\*

Industrial Production continued to recover in June, with a 5.4% MoM gain (DE 3.9%; Consensus 4.4%). It marks the second consecutive increase, following the 1.4% MoM rise in May. However, the indicator was still down 10.82% YoY in June, compared with a 15.36% YoY fall for May, due to significant contractions in March and April. **Details** 

- Capacity Utilization increased to 68.6% in June (DE 67%; Consensus 67.8%) from 65.1% in May. For the Manufacturing sector, Capacity Utilization rose from 62.3% to 66.9%.
- Manufacturing Production rose 7.2% MoM for June, after a 3.8% rise in May, but
  was still down 11.2% YoY. A 105% MoM increase in production for Motor Vehicles
  and Parts led the monthly Manufacturing gains. Production for Motor Vehicles and
  Parts rallied 120% MoM in May as well, but despite the continued gains the June
  reading was still 24.6% below levels from a year ago.
- Durable Manufacturing improved 11.6% MoM, while Nondurable rose 3.4%.
   Production of Machinery rose for the second straight month in June, with a 6.4%
   MoM gain, yet was still down 15.8% YoY.
- Mining Production continued to fall in June but less severely, with a 2.9% MoM reduction following the 6.1% fall in May. Production for Utilities rose 4.2% MoM after falling 3.5% in May.



Sources: Federal Reserve, Decision Economics, Inc. (DE)

## **Perspective**

The rebound in Industrial Production for June is a positive sign, yet the indicator still fell at an annual rate of 42.6% for the second quarter. Capacity Utilization is improving but remains substantially below its long-term average. Production is trending in the right direction but will require consistent gains to fully recover. While the indicator should continue to increase moving forward, looming Pandemic risks and potential business restrictions could curtail the recovery. For GDP, this release implies a stark contraction for the second quarter despite upward forces for June, followed by a rebound in third quarter.