

Metals fall takes shine off manufacturing

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Total manufacturing volume fell in the March 2013 quarter, Statistics New Zealand said today.

After adjusting for price changes and seasonal variations, the volume of total manufacturing sales fell 0.6 percent. A fall in metal product manufacturing led this decrease.

"This is the first seasonally adjusted decrease in total manufacturing volume since the September 2011 quarter," industry and labour statistics manager Blair Cardno said.

"The fall occurred despite a rise in meat and dairy product manufacturing, the largest manufacturing industry. Increased meat exports reflected this rise," Mr Cardno said.

Of the 13 manufacturing industries, six were down in the March 2013 quarter.

The largest movements this quarter were:

- metal product manufacturing, **down** 6.2 percent
- transport equipment; machinery and equipment manufacturing, **down** 4.2 percent
- petroleum and coal product manufacturing, **up** 5.9 percent.

The trend for the manufacturing sales volume, which gives a longer-term picture of movements, has been rising since late 2011, but now appears to be flattening.

In current prices, the total manufacturing sales value rose 0.2 percent (\$49 million) to a seasonally adjusted \$22.9 billion.

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