

Industrial Revolution

The Industrial Revolution, sometimes divided into the First Industrial Revolution and Second Industrial Revolution, was a transitional period of the global economy toward more widespread, efficient and stable manufacturing processes, succeeding the First Agricultural Revolution.

Beginning in Great Britain around 1760, the Industrial Revolution had spread to continental Europe and the United States by about 1800.[1] This transition included going from hand production methods to machines; new chemical manufacturing and iron production processes; the increasing use of water power and steam power; the development of machine tools; and the rise of the mechanised factory system.

Output greatly increased, and the result was an unprecedented rise in population and the rate of population growth. The textile industry was the first to use modern production methods,[2]:40 and steel production became the dominant industry in terms of employment, value of output, and capital invested.