

Core sector grows 11.6% in August on low base effect



NEW DELHI: The eight core sectors grew for the sixth consecutive month in August led by robust expansion in [cement](#), electricity, coal and natural gas segments, data showed on Thursday.

The key infrastructure sector spanning coal, crude oil, natural gas, [refinery products](#), [fertilisers](#), [steel](#), cement and electricity grew an annual 11.6% in August, higher than the 9.9% in July. The sector had contracted by 6.9% in August last year. The expansion was also helped by a low base of last year. Growth for the April-August period was at 19.3%.

The eight core sectors account for 40.3% of the Index of Industrial Production and the August numbers augur well for the data of the factory output. Several key indicators have pointed to a sharp overall economic recovery as curbs were lifted across states. Economists forecast the economy to grow by double digits at around 10% in current fiscal.