



Statistics in focus

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

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AGRICULTURE

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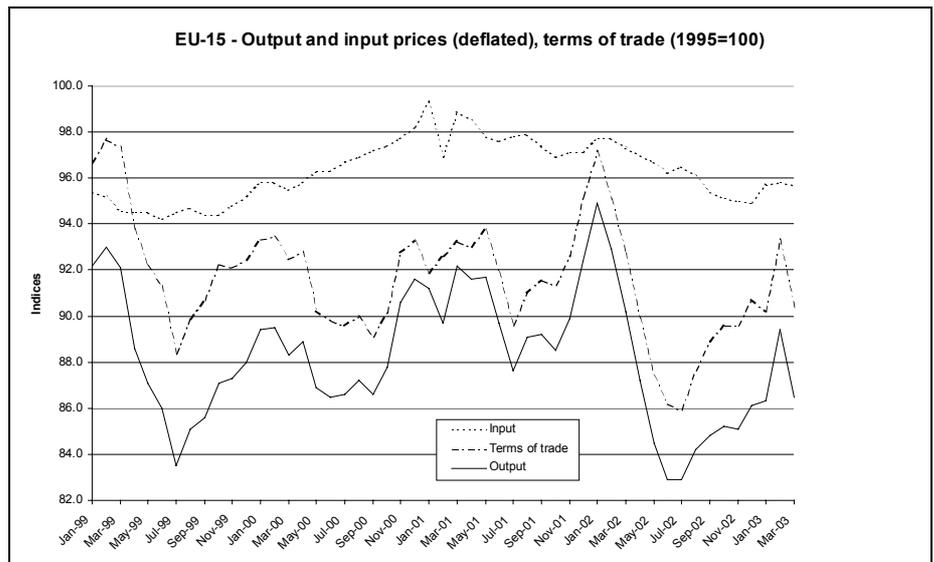
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Agricultural price trends in the EU in the first quarter of 2003

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In the first quarter of 2003, the index of prices of agricultural products in the EU-15 was -5.7% lower in real terms than in the corresponding quarter of 2002 (¹). This decrease in the total output index for the EU-15 was due to a significant fall in the prices of crop products (-7.1%), combined with a fall in the prices of animals and animal products (-4.0%).

Prices fell in all Member States (see Table 2), ranging from -12.7% in Denmark to -1.7% in Portugal. For the fourth successive quarter, no Member State recorded real output price indices that were higher than the corresponding quarters of 2001 and 2002 respectively.



When examined on a month by month basis (see methodological notes for the limitations of this analysis), the EU-15 output price index has been moving in an upwards direction since August 2002 reaching a peak in February 2003, followed by a certain decline in March (see graph above). The overall price development in February and March 2003 mainly reflected the price development of fresh vegetables. A pronounced drop in the prices of flowers, ornamental plants and tree-nursery products contributed to the decline in March.

The real price index for the means of agricultural production, i.e. the input price index, remained below the level of the first quarter 2002 in most of the Member States (-1.9% for the average of EU-15), despite considerably higher energy prices (+10.5%). The agricultural terms of trade were 3.9% lower than in the first quarter of 2002.

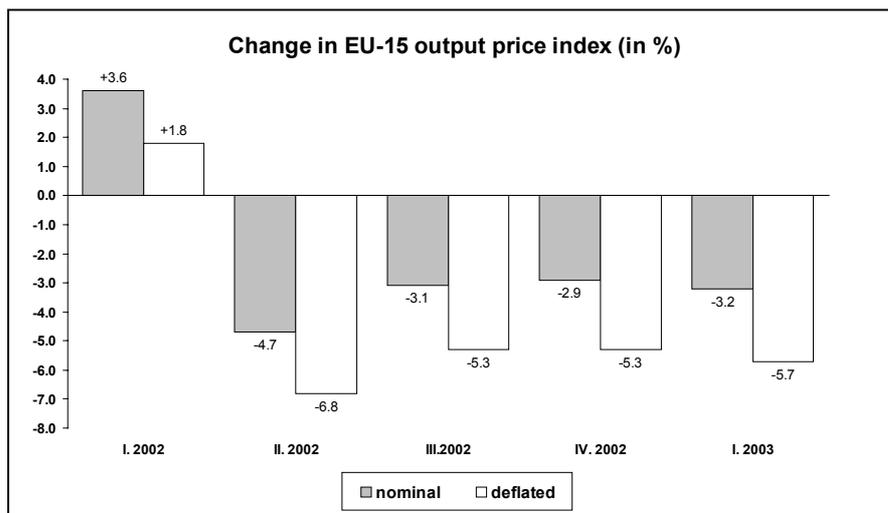
¹ Unless otherwise stated, all index changes referred to in this Statistics in Focus are in real (deflated) terms. See methodological notes.

Output prices still considerably lower than 12 months ago

After a peak at the start of 2002, output prices fell during the first half of 2002 before picking up again in the second half and in the first two months of 2003. The output price indices of the first quarter 2003 were nevertheless still 5.7% lower than they were in the first quarter of 2002.

The price index for crop products as a whole was 7.1% lower, with significant downward changes recorded for cereals and rice (-10.8%), root crops (-21.3%) and fresh vegetables (-8.0%) (see Table 1). Wine and wine must were the only major product group where prices were above the level of the first quarter 2002 (+1.8%). Most of the Member States observed declines in their overall price index for crop products, ranging from -14.3% in Belgium to -3.0% in Luxembourg (see Table 2). The only rise in this index was observed in Portugal (+0.6%) while there was virtually no change in Ireland.

Concerning animals and animal products, the overall price index for

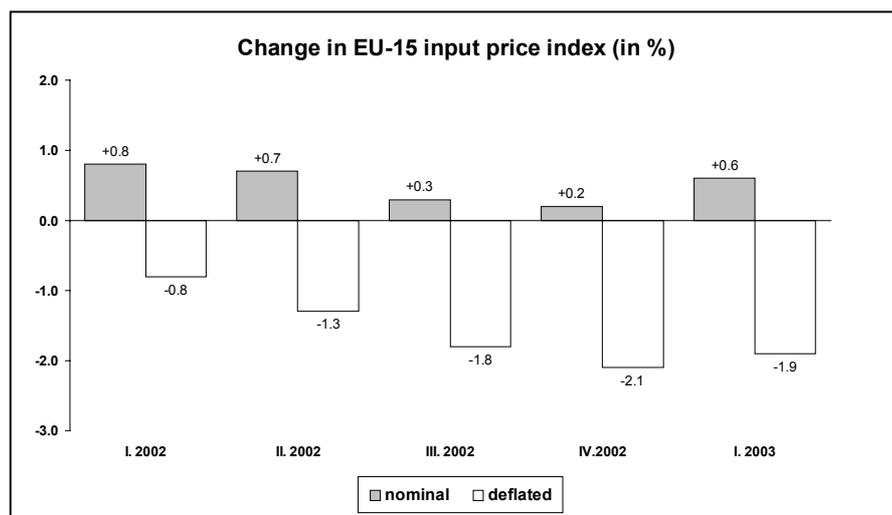


this product group was 4.0% lower than in the first quarter 2002. This development is due mainly to the continued decline in the prices of pigs (-11.0%) and a fall in the prices of milk (-4.7%). Furthermore, prices were also lower for poultry (-3.9%) and sheep and lambs (-3.3%). In contrast, the prices for cattle continued to recover after previous lows (+1.9% for cattle excluding calves, and +12.8% for calves). Compared to the first quarter 2002, there were also price rises for eggs

(+2.5%) and the other animals and animal products (+6.0%).

For animals and animal products together, the output price indices were lower than they were in the first quarter of 2002 in most of the Member States. Declines were ranging from -13.7% in Finland to -3.4% in France. Only four Member States recorded slight increases: Portugal, the United Kingdom (both +0.6%), Italy (+0.2%) and Belgium (+0.1%).

Input prices below previous year's levels despite rise in energy prices



For the purchase prices of the means of agricultural production (combined index Input I and II), the index of the first quarter 2003

remained 1.9% below the level of the corresponding quarter of 2002.

The price index for goods and

services for current consumption in agriculture (Input I) declined by 2.3%, despite considerably higher energy prices (+10.5%) (see Table 3). In particular, the prices for animal feedingstuffs and fertilisers continued to be below corresponding 2002 figures (-6.5% and -4.2% respectively). The price index for goods and services contributing to agricultural investment (Input II) was down (-0.4%) mainly because of lower prices for machinery and other equipment (-0.4%).

Across Member States, (see Table 4), changes in the price index for the means of agricultural production ranged from -6.0% in to +0.8% in Greece.

Terms of trade continue below previous year's levels

The agricultural terms of trade for the European Union as a whole (EU-15), calculated by dividing the real output price index by the real input price index, were 3.9% lower in the first quarter of 2003 than in the corresponding quarter of 2002. This fall is thus a combination of the fall in the output index of 5.7%, mitigated by the fall in the input index of 1.9%.

Across Member States, increases in the terms of trade were observed only in Portugal (+4.4%) and Italy (+0.6%), with the range of decreases in all other Member States going from -0.4% in the United Kingdom to -11.2% in Finland.

	(%)				
	I.2002	II.2002	III.2002	IV.2002	I.2003
B	-1.5	-10.9	-5.3	-6.7	-5.5
DK	-6.7	-11.2	-10.1	-6.7	-7.9
D	-0.1	-7.3	-7.4	-5.8	-4.7
EL	+15.8	+0.8	-0.9	-2.8	-7.2
E	+7.3	-7.1	-6.5	-6.4	-7.1
F	+2.4	-6.0	-3.4	-3.7	-3.6
IRL	-2.4	-6.2	-6.9	-6.2	-6.5
I	+3.1	-2.5	+1.1	+1.2	+0.6
L	-0.8	-3.7	-4.3	-3.7	-1.6
NL	+3.6	-4.5	-2.8	-4.7	-8.6
A	+1.1	-8.2	-6.6	-7.7	-8.2
P	-8.5	-8.6	-2.2	+4.2	+4.4
FIN	+4.7	-1.6	-4.2	-7.8	-11.2
S	-2.2	-3.7	-3.9	-4.4	-5.7
UK	+0.5	-5.9	-4.0	-2.4	-0.4
EUR-12	+3.2	-5.3	-3.4	-3.4	-4.2
EU-15	+2.6	-5.5	-3.6	-3.3	-3.9

➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Type of Index

The indices, from which the rates of change reported here were calculated, are Laspeyres type indices with base year 1995. That is, for the purposes of aggregation (over products or services within a Member State and across Member States) the sub-indices were weighted by the values of sales or purchases in 1995. That year is also the reference year, i.e. 1995=100. For most items (exceptions being fruit and vegetables) the same weights are used for each month of the year.

Deflation

The EU agricultural price indices, output and input, are available in Eurostat's NewCronos

database (PRAG domain) in both nominal and deflated form. By using the deflated indices it is possible to avoid the distortions in the nominal prices indices caused by different inflation rates in the Member States. The nominal agricultural price indices are deflated by means of the consumer price index for each Member State. The terms "deflated" and "real" are used synonymously in this report.

Month-by-month comparisons

The calculation of the monthly indices of fruits and vegetables on the basis of variable monthly baskets limits the meaningfulness of month-by-month comparisons of the price indices of total output. The monthly movement in the index is not a pure price

trend but the combination of the price trend and the change in the structure of the weights. Strictly spoken, only a comparison of the indices for one period with those for the corresponding period in other years is meaningful. The advantage of the method of variable monthly baskets is that it allows for the calculation of monthly indices without having to extrapolate prices or indices over long periods, when prices are not available for certain months.

EUR-12 or Eurozone

The Eurozone comprises: Belgium, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Finland.

Table 1

**Index of producer prices of agricultural products:
Rates of change for EU-15**

(% changes compared to corresponding quarter in the previous year)

		I. 2002	II. 2002	III. 2002	IV. 2002	I. 2003
NOMINAL INDICES						
0	TOTAL	3.6	-4.7	-3.1	-2.9	-3.2
1	CROP PRODUCTS	12.6	-1.5	-0.4	-2.4	-4.5
11	Cereals and rice	1.8	-5.5	-9.6	-8.5	-8.6
12	Root crops	14.7	-2.6	-11.8	-14.5	-19.7
13	Fruit	12.3	3.8	1.3	6.4	2.5
14	Fresh vegetables	36.2	-9.9	3.6	-5.9	-5.4
15	Wine must and wine	-1.5	0.2	1.9	3.1	4.4
16	Olives and olive oil	9.7	6.2	3.0	-1.0	-3.4
17	Seeds	0.3	-3.0	-6.1	-5.6	-5.5
18	Flowers etc.	3.0	4.6	5.0	2.4	-0.3
19	Other crop products	9.2	5.7	1.9	-0.2	-4.9
2	ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS	-5.3	-8.2	-5.8	-3.6	-1.7
21	Animals	-9.3	-10.8	-5.6	-2.7	-1.1
21 A	Calves	0.6	-9.1	1.1	6.5	15.6
21 B	Cattle excluding calves	8.6	7.5	8.9	7.7	4.2
21 C	Pigs	-20.0	-23.5	-16.1	-11.4	-8.8
21 D	Sheep and lambs	-0.6	-2.7	0.9	-6.8	-0.5
21 E	Poultry	-11.5	-6.9	-6.4	-2.5	-1.3
21 F	Other animals	-25.4	-23.0	-10.0	3.6	9.4
22	Milk	-0.5	-5.4	-7.9	-5.8	-2.4
23	Eggs	0.5	-1.9	1.4	7.0	5.0
24	Other animal products	20.3	10.1	11.9	-1.3	-16.8
DEFLATED INDICES						
0	TOTAL	1.8	-6.8	-5.3	-5.3	-5.7
1	CROP PRODUCTS	10.4	-3.9	-2.8	-5.0	-7.1
11	Cereals and rice	0.2	-7.6	-11.5	-10.6	-10.8
12	Root crops	12.8	-4.3	-13.4	-16.2	-21.3
13	Fruit	10.4	1.2	-1.5	3.1	-0.5
14	Fresh vegetables	33.0	-12.3	1.0	-8.5	-8.0
15	Wine must and wine	-3.0	-1.7	0.0	0.8	1.8
16	Olives and olive oil	7.1	2.7	-0.2	-4.3	-6.4
17	Seeds	-1.8	-5.5	-8.4	-8.1	-7.9
18	Flowers etc.	1.0	2.2	2.4	-0.2	-2.8
19	Other crop products	7.9	3.5	-0.4	-3.0	-7.7
2	ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS	-6.8	-10.1	-7.7	-5.8	-4.0
21	Animals	-10.7	-12.6	-7.4	-4.9	-3.5
21 A	Calves	-1.3	-11.1	-1.2	4.1	12.8
21 B	Cattle excluding calves	6.9	5.4	6.8	5.5	1.9
21 C	Pigs	-21.2	-25.1	-17.8	-13.4	-11.0
21 D	Sheep and lambs	-2.3	-5.1	-1.5	-9.2	-3.3
21 E	Poultry	-12.6	-8.8	-8.3	-4.9	-3.9
21 F	Other animals	-25.1	-23.2	-10.2	0.7	6.0
22	Milk	-2.0	-7.2	-9.7	-8.0	-4.7
23	Eggs	-1.0	-4.0	-0.8	4.6	2.5
24	Other animal products	17.6	6.7	8.4	-4.7	-19.8

Table 2

**Index of producer prices of agricultural products:
Rates of change by Member State**

(% changes compared to corresponding quarter in the previous year)

	Total				Crop products				Animals and animal products			
	II. 2002	III. 2002	IV. 2002	I. 2003	II. 2002	III. 2002	IV. 2002	I. 2003	II. 2002	III. 2002	IV. 2002	I. 2003
NOMINAL INDICES												
B	-10.4	-5.6	-5.8	-4.8	-2.9	-5.0	-12.9	-13.0	-15.4	-6.0	-0.9	1.5
DK	-10.1	-11.7	-9.6	-10.3	-2.9	-3.0	-3.4	-9.0	-13.0	-15.3	-12.3	-11.0
D	-7.4	-7.7	-6.0	-3.8	-1.6	-4.1	-3.4	-3.1	-10.4	-9.5	-7.2	-4.3
EL	2.8	2.0	1.2	-2.8	4.7	4.1	3.2	-4.0	-1.6	-2.6	-3.4	0.2
E	-5.7	-5.1	-4.7	-5.1	-1.5	-2.8	-4.3	-7.1	-10.6	-7.5	-5.2	-2.1
F	-5.5	-3.4	-3.4	-2.7	-4.3	-3.2	-4.7	-4.1	-6.9	-3.6	-1.9	-1.1
IRL	-4.1	-5.3	-4.4	-3.6	0.3	1.1	5.1	4.9	-4.7	-6.3	-5.8	-4.8
I	-0.9	2.3	2.0	0.5	2.7	5.0	1.5	-0.7	-7.3	-2.4	3.1	3.0
L	-3.0	-3.4	-2.5	-0.1	10.4	3.4	0.4	0.4	-6.2	-5.0	-3.2	-0.2
NL	-3.8	-1.9	-3.6	-7.6	1.4	1.0	-1.4	-8.5	-9.8	-5.3	-6.3	-6.1
A	-7.7	-5.6	-7.1	-7.4	-1.7	2.1	-1.1	-7.6	-10.1	-8.6	-9.3	-7.4
P	-12.0	-6.5	1.2	2.2	-13.2	-5.8	0.7	4.6	-13.2	-5.8	0.7	4.6
FIN	-1.4	-4.0	-6.6	-8.9	-0.5	-0.3	-0.3	-1.9	-1.8	-5.7	-9.4	-12.1
S	-1.5	-2.8	-2.9	-2.6	-2.8	-1.7	-4.0	-4.3	-0.9	-3.3	-2.3	-1.7
UK	-5.9	-5.1	-5.6	-2.9	-13.1	-7.2	-12.8	-11.7	-3.4	-5.0	-2.6	2.2
EUR-12	-4.4	-2.7	-2.5	-3.1	-0.7	0.1	-1.7	-4.0	-8.7	-5.6	-3.4	-1.7
EU-15	-4.7	-3.1	-2.9	-3.2	-1.5	-0.4	-2.4	-4.5	-8.2	-5.8	-3.6	-1.7
DEFLATED INDICES												
B	-11.5	-6.7	-6.9	-6.2	-4.1	-6.0	-14.0	-14.3	-16.5	-7.1	-2.1	0.1
DK	-11.9	-13.7	-11.9	-12.7	-4.9	-5.2	-5.9	-11.5	-14.8	-17.3	-14.6	-13.3
D	-7.5	-7.8	-6.3	-4.7	-1.6	-4.2	-3.8	-3.9	-10.4	-9.6	-7.6	-5.1
EL	-1.0	-1.8	-2.5	-6.4	0.8	0.3	-0.5	-7.6	-5.3	-6.1	-6.9	-3.5
E	-8.6	-8.0	-8.0	-8.6	-4.6	-5.8	-7.6	-10.5	-13.4	-10.4	-8.4	-5.6
F	-7.1	-5.0	-5.2	-4.9	-5.9	-4.8	-6.6	-6.3	-8.4	-5.2	-3.8	-3.4
IRL	-8.5	-9.3	-8.6	-8.2	-4.3	-3.2	0.5	0.0	-9.0	-10.2	-9.9	-9.3
I	-3.3	-0.3	-0.9	-2.3	0.3	2.3	-1.4	-3.4	-9.5	-4.8	0.2	0.2
L	-4.5	-5.4	-5.1	-3.4	8.7	1.3	-2.3	-3.0	-7.6	-7.0	-5.8	-3.5
NL	-7.5	-5.5	-6.9	-10.3	-2.5	-2.7	-4.8	-11.2	-13.2	-8.8	-9.5	-8.9
A	-9.2	-7.2	-8.6	-9.0	-3.2	0.5	-2.7	-9.2	-11.5	-10.1	-10.8	-8.9
P	-14.9	-9.9	-2.8	-1.7	-16.1	-9.2	-3.3	0.6	-16.1	-9.2	-3.3	0.6
FIN	-3.3	-5.7	-8.2	-10.5	-2.4	-2.0	-2.0	-3.6	-3.7	-7.3	-10.9	-13.7
S	-3.3	-4.3	-4.4	-5.4	-4.5	-3.2	-5.5	-7.0	-2.6	-4.8	-3.8	-4.5
UK	-6.8	-6.1	-7.1	-4.4	-14.0	-8.2	-14.2	-13.0	-4.4	-6.0	-4.2	0.6
EUR-12	-6.7	-5.0	-5.0	-5.6	-3.1	-2.4	-4.4	-6.6	-10.6	-7.6	-5.6	-4.2
EU-15	-6.8	-5.3	-5.3	-5.7	-3.9	-2.8	-5.0	-7.1	-10.1	-7.7	-5.8	-4.0

Table 3

**Index of purchase prices of the means of agricultural production:
Rates of change for EU-15**

(% changes compared to corresponding quarter in the previous year)

	I. 2002	II. 2002	III. 2002	IV. 2002	I. 2003
NOMINAL INDICES					
0 TOTAL	0.8	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.6
GOODS AND SERVICES CURRENTLY					
1 CONSUMED IN AGRICULTURE	0.5	0.2	-0.5	-0.5	0.1
1 Seeds	2.4	2.3	4.7	2.1	1.2
3 Energy	-7.0	-5.4	-3.6	3.1	13.1
4 Fertilizers	-3.8	-4.9	-3.1	-3.3	-1.8
5 Plant protection products	0.5	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2
6 Animal feedingstuffs	1.4	0.8	-2.0	-2.8	-4.0
7 Small tools	-0.2	-0.4	0.1	0.3	1.5
8 Maintenance and repair of plant	3.0	4.0	4.1	3.5	4.5
9 Maintenance and repair of buildings	-1.0	-0.6	-0.2	-0.4	2.6
10 Veterinary services	0.8	1.1	1.1	1.2	2.0
11 General expenses	3.3	3.0	2.1	1.1	0.3
2 AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT	2.1	2.3	2.7	2.6	2.1
12 Machinery	1.5	1.9	2.3	2.1	2.0
13 Buildings	3.3	3.3	3.6	3.6	2.4
DEFLATED INDICES					
0 TOTAL	-0.8	-1.3	-1.8	-2.1	-1.9
GOODS AND SERVICES CURRENTLY					
1 CONSUMED IN AGRICULTURE	-1.1	-1.8	-2.5	-2.7	-2.3
1 Seeds	0.2	-0.5	1.8	-0.9	-1.9
3 Energy	-8.4	-7.2	-5.4	0.9	10.5
4 Fertilizers	-5.3	-6.8	-5.0	-5.5	-4.2
5 Plant protection products	-1.0	-1.9	-2.1	-2.4	-2.7
6 Animal feedingstuffs	-0.3	-1.4	-4.2	-5.3	-6.5
7 Small tools	0.5	-2.0	-1.6	-1.6	-0.8
8 Maintenance and repair of plant	2.7	3.4	3.5	2.7	2.3
9 Maintenance and repair of buildings	0.7	0.9	1.2	0.7	0.3
10 Veterinary services	-0.6	-0.6	-0.6	-0.7	-0.3
11 General expenses	1.7	1.1	0.1	-1.1	-2.1
GOODS AND SERVICES CONTRIBUTING TO					
2 AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.3	-0.4
12 Machinery	-0.1	0.0	0.3	-0.1	-0.4
13 Buildings	1.7	1.2	1.3	1.1	-0.1

Table 4

**Index of purchase prices of the means of agricultural production:
Rates of change by Member State**

(% changes compared to corresponding quarter in the previous year)

	Total				Consumption goods				Investment goods			
	II. 2002	III. 2002	IV. 2002	I. 2003	II. 2002	III. 2002	IV. 2002	I. 2003	II. 2002	III. 2002	IV. 2002	I. 2003
NOMINAL INDICES												
B	0.5	-0.3	0.9	0.7	0.3	-0.7	0.8	0.6	2.1	2.2	2.1	1.7
DK	1.2	-1.8	-3.1	-2.6	1.3	-2.6	-4.2	-3.6	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2
D	-0.1	-0.4	-0.1	0.9	-0.5	-0.8	-0.6	0.8	1.3	1.1	1.3	1.3
EL	2.0	2.9	4.1	4.7	1.5	2.5	3.9	4.8	3.8	4.4	4.6	3.9
E	1.5	1.5	1.9	2.2	1.4	0.8	1.5	1.8	2.6	6.0	4.6	4.9
F	0.5	0.0	0.3	0.9	0.0	-0.6	-0.3	0.4	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.5
IRL	2.3	1.8	1.9	3.1	1.6	1.0	1.4	3.4	4.7	4.1	3.4	2.4
I	1.6	1.2	0.8	-0.2	0.9	0.2	-0.6	-1.2	2.7	2.9	3.0	1.5
L	0.7	1.0	1.3	1.6	-0.1	0.3	0.7	1.3	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.1
NL	0.7	1.0	1.1	1.1	0.2	0.4	0.7	1.0	3.4	3.7	3.3	1.3
A	0.6	1.1	0.7	0.8	-0.2	0.7	-0.1	0.1	1.7	1.7	1.9	2.0
P	-3.7	-4.3	-2.9	-2.2	-4.5	-5.6	-3.4	-3.2	2.3	5.2	2.2	4.0
FIN	0.2	0.1	1.2	2.6	-0.7	-0.8	0.6	2.5	2.8	2.8	3.1	3.1
S	2.3	1.1	1.6	3.2	2.0	0.5	1.2	3.3	3.5	3.5	3.2	3.0
UK	0.0	-1.1	-3.3	-2.5	-0.2	-1.9	-4.3	-3.5	1.2	1.6	1.8	1.7
EUR-12	0.7	0.5	0.7	1.0	0.2	-0.2	0.1	0.6	2.4	2.8	2.7	2.1
EU-15	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.2	-0.5	-0.5	0.1	2.3	2.7	2.6	2.1
DEFLATED INDICES												
B	-0.7	-1.4	-0.3	-0.7	-0.9	-1.8	-0.4	-0.9	0.8	1.0	0.9	0.2
DK	-0.8	-4.1	-5.6	-5.3	-0.8	-4.8	-6.7	-6.2	-1.0	-1.2	-1.4	-1.5
D	-0.2	-0.5	-0.5	0.0	-0.6	-0.9	-0.9	-0.1	1.2	1.0	0.9	0.4
EL	-1.8	-0.9	0.3	0.8	-2.2	-1.3	0.1	1.0	0.0	0.6	0.8	0.1
E	-1.6	-1.7	-1.6	-1.6	-1.8	-2.3	-2.0	-2.0	-0.6	2.7	1.0	1.0
F	-1.2	-1.6	-1.7	-1.4	-1.6	-2.2	-2.2	-1.9	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.2
IRL	-2.4	-2.5	-2.6	-1.7	-3.1	-3.2	-3.0	-1.5	-0.1	-0.3	-1.1	-2.4
I	-0.7	-1.3	-2.1	-2.9	-1.4	-2.4	-3.4	-3.9	0.3	0.3	0.0	-1.3
L	-0.8	-1.1	-1.4	-1.8	-1.7	-1.7	-2.0	-2.1	0.5	-0.1	-0.6	-1.3
NL	-3.1	-2.7	-2.3	-1.9	-3.7	-3.3	-2.7	-2.0	-0.5	-0.1	-0.2	-1.7
A	-1.0	-0.6	-1.0	-0.9	-1.7	-0.9	-1.7	-1.6	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.3
P	-6.9	-7.8	-6.7	-6.0	-7.7	-9.0	-7.2	-6.9	-1.1	1.4	-1.9	0.0
FIN	-1.8	-1.6	-0.5	0.7	-2.6	-2.5	-1.1	0.6	0.8	1.1	1.4	1.2
S	0.4	-0.4	0.0	0.3	0.1	-1.0	-0.4	0.4	1.6	2.0	1.6	0.1
UK	-1.0	-2.2	-4.9	-4.0	-1.2	-3.0	-5.9	-5.0	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.1
EUR-12	-1.4	-1.7	-1.7	-1.5	-2.0	-2.4	-2.2	-1.9	0.4	0.6	0.3	-0.4
EU-15	-1.3	-1.8	-2.1	-1.9	-1.8	-2.5	-2.7	-2.3	0.3	0.6	0.3	-0.4

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