

Developments for short-term statistics in the candidate countries

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Production and turnover index for total industry (excluding construction)

The latest developments for the industrial production index (seasonally adjusted) in the third quarter of 2003 show an increase in output across all candidate countries, while in the EU industrial output remained unchanged. In Lithuania, output grew by 11.5 % during the third quarter of 2003, on the basis of a comparison with the quarter before.

A year on year comparison (based on working day adjusted data) shows that during the third quarter of 2003 Slovenia was the only candidate country, for which data are available, to report a decline in output (-2.6 %), while there was also a reduction of 1.7 % in Cyprus in the second quarter of 2003.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted data						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted data					
	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03
CZ	1.2	0.9	1.5	1.9	0.7	1.9	4.8	4.5	5.1	6.1	5.0	6.2
EE	4.8	2.5	1.5	1.4	4.4	2.2	8.7	8.4	6.7	11.4	9.3	9.8
CY	1.8	-1.9	0.6	-2.1	1.6	:	2.4	-1.1	-1.1	-1.9	-1.7	:
LV	4.0	1.4	2.1	-0.1	2.5	2.7	6.5	6.2	9.6	7.2	6.0	7.4
LT	7.2	-3.0	6.0	9.7	-7.4	11.5	6.3	3.6	1.7	20.3	4.3	20.1
HU	1.1	-0.1	2.6	-0.5	1.7	4.1	1.9	4.5	5.5	3.1	3.7	8.0
MT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
PL	-0.5	3.3	1.2	0.4	3.4	3.3	-0.7	2.9	4.6	4.4	8.5	9.0
SI	-1.0	1.7	-1.8	-1.8	-1.1	2.2	1.6	3.1	1.5	-2.9	-3.0	-2.6
SK	4.4	3.2	1.4	1.0	-0.4	0.7	5.7	9.2	10.0	10.7	5.0	2.5
BG	7.0	2.1	0.8	6.5	1.7	3.2	7.8	8.1	6.3	18.3	11.9	12.6
RO	2.3	1.7	1.2	-3.6	5.0	1.7	4.0	7.7	8.5	1.2	4.3	4.3
TR	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
EU-15	0.6	-0.1	0.1	0.0	-0.5	0.0	-0.9	-0.4	0.7	0.6	-0.6	-0.4

Table 1: Production index for total industry (excluding construction), growth rates (%)

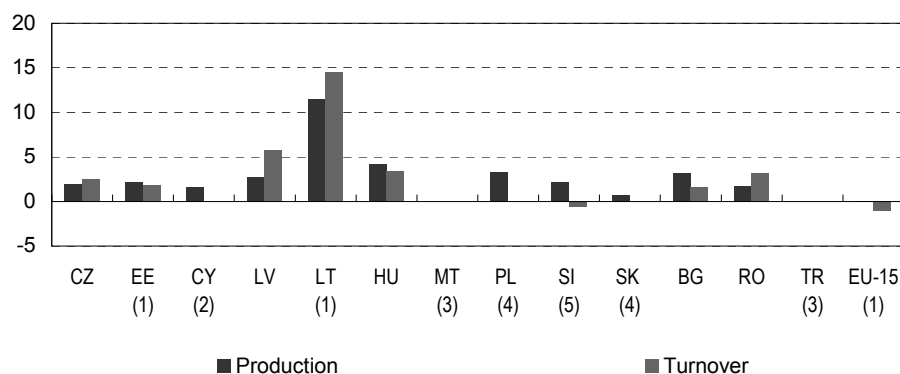


Figure 1: Production and turnover in total industry (excluding construction), seasonally adjusted data, growth rates compared to the previous quarter, Q3-2003 (%)
 (1) Turnover, NACE Section D. (2) Production, Q2-2003; turnover, not available. (3) Not available.
 (4) Turnover, not available. (5) Turnover, NACE Section D, Q2-2003.

Statistics in focus

INDUSTRY, TRADE AND SERVICES

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Output price index for total industry (excluding construction)

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, gross data						Year on year growth rates, gross data					
	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03
CZ	-0.6	-0.7	0.5	0.1	-0.7	-0.2	-0.5	-1.0	-0.8	-0.6	-0.7	-0.3
EE	2.4	-0.2	0.2	0.1	-0.7	-0.5	:	:	:	2.6	-0.5	-0.8
CY	1.4	1.1	1.0	1.2	-0.3	1.4	1.1	2.7	4.8	4.7	3.0	3.3
LV	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.8	0.2	0.3	-0.2	0.4	0.8	1.4	1.6
LT	1.0	-0.9	-0.5	1.9	-2.9	0.0	-0.9	-1.1	-0.1	1.5	-2.4	-1.6
HU	1.5	1.0	1.9	0.0	0.4	2.7	1.1	1.4	2.8	4.4	3.4	5.1
MT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
PL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
SI	1.0	0.5	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.3	5.6	5.1	4.0	3.0	2.6	2.4
SK	1.2	-0.1	-0.2	7.6	0.8	-0.1	1.9	2.1	2.2	8.5	8.1	8.1
BG	1.4	0.8	1.8	3.8	-3.0	1.5	0.5	0.7	4.0	8.0	3.3	4.1
RO	5.9	5.4	4.5	5.8	4.7	3.0	25.9	24.0	22.6	23.3	21.9	19.1
TR	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
EU-15	0.1	0.2	0.5	1.4	-0.7	0.0	-0.8	-0.1	1.0	2.2	1.4	1.2

Table 2: Output prices of the domestic market for total industry (excluding construction), price changes (%)

Looking at quarter on quarter price changes in the industrial economies of the candidate countries in the third quarter of 2003, most countries for which data are available reported an increase in output prices, except the Czech Republic, Estonia and Slovakia. In Lithuania, industrial prices remained unchanged, as they did in the EU.

Romania and Hungary reported much faster price increases than the other candidate countries, as prices rose by 3.0 % and 2.7 % respectively. The only other candidate countries to record price increases in excess of 1 % were Bulgaria (1.5 %) and Cyprus (1.4 %).

Price changes between the third quarters of 2002 and 2003 among the main industrial groupings (MIGs) showed falling prices in the capital goods sector of Estonia (-9.6 %) for the third consecutive quarter. In Romania, output prices for energy rose by 14.7 % during the third quarter of 2003, the highest increase for this MIG, with a double-digit gain also recorded in Hungary (10.4 %). There were also high price increases for capital and intermediate goods in Romania, which were well above the general levels recorded in the other candidate countries.

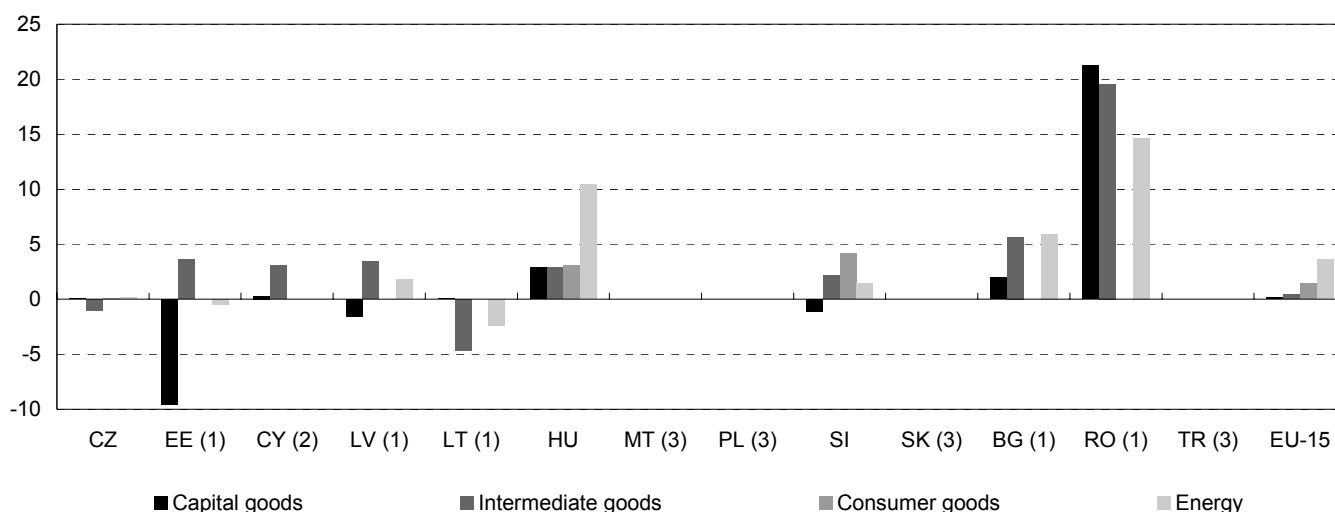


Figure 2: Output prices of the domestic market, gross data, price changes, compared to the same quarter of the previous year, Q3-2003 (%)

(1) Consumer goods, not available. (2) Energy and consumer goods, not available. (3) Not available.

Labour input indicators for total industry (excluding construction)

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted data						Year on year growth rates, gross data					
	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03
CZ	-0.1	-0.5	-0.7	1.6	-0.7	-1.0	-1.5	-2.0	-2.7	-1.8	-2.3	-2.8
EE	-0.2	-0.7	-0.5	2.6	-1.2	:	-0.7	1.1	2.1	1.2	0.2	:
CY	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
LV	0.1	0.1	0.2	1.1	1.1	:	-0.1	-0.2	-0.7	1.5	2.9	:
LT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
HU	-1.2	-0.8	-0.2	-0.9	0.0	-0.3	-2.6	-2.5	-1.6	-3.0	-1.9	-1.4
MT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
PL	-0.7	-0.9	-0.8	0.1	-0.8	:	-6.1	-5.2	-3.8	-2.8	-2.5	:
SI	0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.7	-0.8	-0.4	0.7	1.0	1.3	-0.9	-2.1	-2.2
SK	3.9	0.4	1.0	-3.8	2.2	1.4	1.5	0.4	0.8	1.4	-0.3	0.7
BG	-1.6	2.0	-0.3	3.3	-1.3	:	-4.0	-0.2	-1.7	3.8	3.7	:
RO	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
TR	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
EU-15	-0.7	-0.6	-0.7	-0.3	-0.7	-0.7	-3.0	-2.9	-3.0	-2.2	-2.2	-2.3

Table 3: Employment index for total industry (excluding construction), growth rates (%)

During the third quarter of 2003 (subject to data availability), the industrial employment index increased in just one of the candidate countries on the basis of a quarter on quarter comparison, namely, Slovakia (1.4 %). The corresponding figure for the EU was a 0.7 % reduction in industrial employment. The remaining candidate countries also reported declining employment levels, ranging from -0.3 % in Hungary to -1.0 % in the Czech Republic.

For the four countries having provided data for the third quarters of 2002 and 2003, figure 3 shows that industrial employment decreased in the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovenia between the third quarters of 2002 and 2003, while rising by 0.7 % in Slovakia. Wages and salaries continued to grow for the three candidate countries that reported falling levels of industrial employment. Nevertheless, in the Czech Republic and Slovenia, the latest growth rates of wages and salaries were slightly lower than those registered between the second quarters of 2002 and 2003.

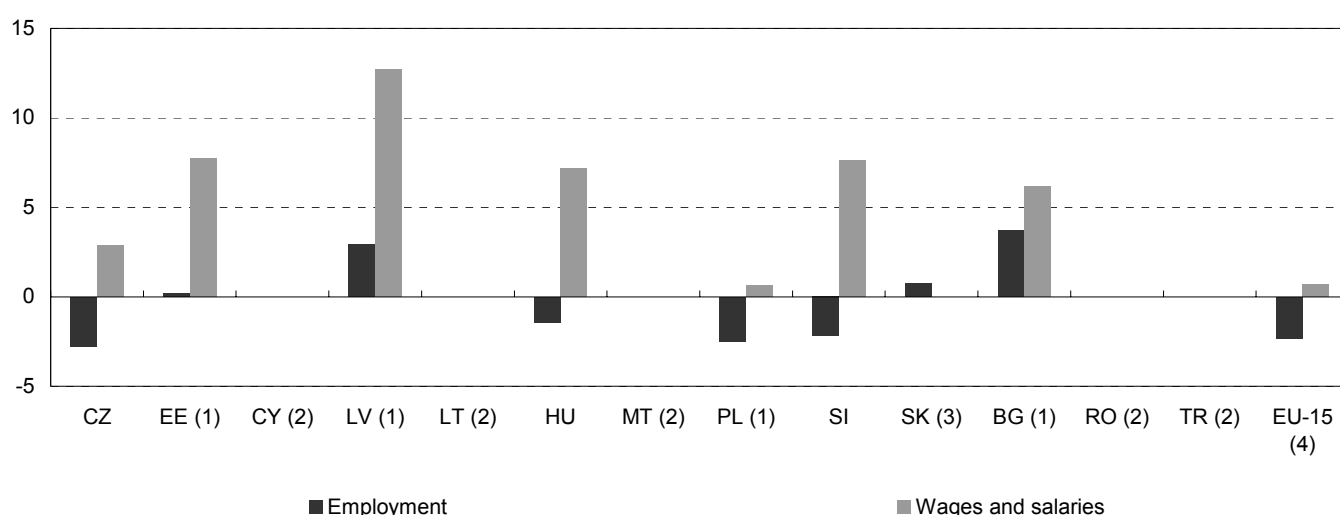


Figure 3: Employment and wages and salaries indices for total industry (excluding construction), gross data, growth rates, compared to the same quarter of the previous year, Q3-2003 (%)

(1) Q2-2003. (2) Not available. (3) Wages and salaries, not available. (4) Wages and salaries, Q2-2003.

Indicators for construction

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, gross data						Year on year growth rates, gross data					
	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03
CZ (1)	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.8	0.6	0.6	2.7	2.3	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.2
EE	1.1	0.5	0.5	1.4	1.1	0.5	4.4	3.8	3.3	3.5	3.5	3.5
CY	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
LV (2)	-0.1	1.2	-0.9	0.9	0.6	0.6	-0.3	0.8	0.3	1.1	1.8	1.2
LT	2.0	1.2	-0.3	-1.9	2.6	1.1	0.1	0.5	1.9	1.0	1.5	1.4
HU	3.5	1.4	2.6	-2.8	2.6	:	7.4	6.9	5.1	4.7	3.8	:
MT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
PL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
SI	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
SK (1)	0.8	1.2	0.7	0.7	1.6	1.3	4.8	4.8	4.4	3.5	4.2	4.4
BG	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
RO	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
TR	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
EU-15	0.5	0.8	0.4	0.8	0.6	:	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.5	2.5	:

Table 4: Construction cost indices for new residential buildings, growth rates (%)

(1) Output price index. (2) Construction costs for one-dwelling buildings.

Following the pattern registered in the second quarter of 2003, construction costs for new residential buildings rose during the third quarter of 2003 (on the basis of a quarter on quarter comparison) for all candidate countries for which data are available. Regarding year on year growth rates, the picture was similar, with increasing construction costs. Slovakia registered the highest growth rates for construction costs during the third quarter of 2003, both on the basis of a quarter on quarter comparison and a year on year comparison (respectively 1.3 % and 4.4 %), although costs rose at a faster pace (2.6 %) between the first and second quarter of 2003 in Hungary.

Among the countries for which data are available, the number of building permits issued for residential buildings rose at a very rapid pace in Lithuania (48.9 %), Poland (42.9 %), the Czech Republic (39.2 %) and Latvia (35.7 %), on the basis of a comparison between the third quarters of 2002 and 2003.

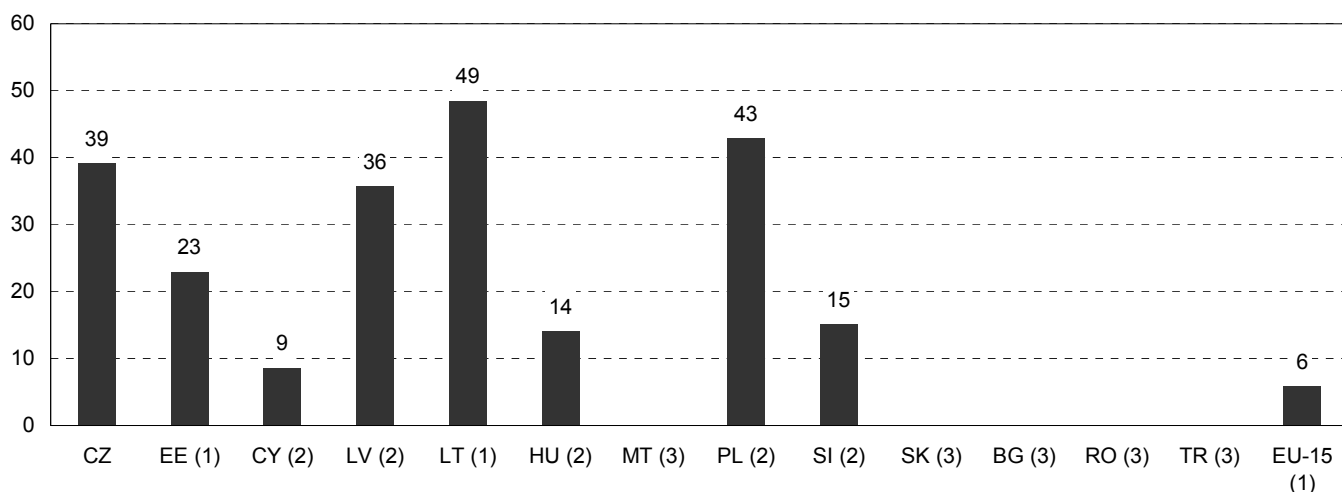


Figure 4: Building permits - number of dwellings authorised for new residential buildings, gross data, growth rates, compared to the same quarter of the previous year, Q3-2003 (%)

(1) Q2-2003. (2) Number of dwellings authorised for one-dwelling buildings. (3) Not available.

Volume of sales in the retail trade sector

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted data						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted data					
	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03
CZ	0.5	-0.1	1.1	1.2	0.9	1.5	3.7	2.6	1.9	2.3	3.9	4.9
EE	3.2	2.6	1.5	-6.2	2.7	2.3	14.9	16.1	14.5	-0.5	0.1	0.7
CY	1.9	-3.0	0.0	0.6	-2.2	:	-0.7	-5.1	-4.2	-0.4	-4.9	:
LV	4.7	3.4	3.9	0.8	4.1	3.8	10.7	17.2	20.1	11.3	12.2	13.8
LT	-3.0	3.0	0.1	5.6	2.3	5.5	7.3	9.5	7.6	5.4	11.4	14.3
HU	2.6	1.1	2.3	1.9	1.7	2.4	10.9	6.9	7.6	10.0	6.8	8.5
MT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
PL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
SI	-1.4	3.2	-0.4	0.3	0.5	3.0	4.3	5.2	1.7	1.5	3.6	3.4
SK	0.6	-1.2	0.6	-4.3	-0.8	-1.9	8.9	3.3	5.6	-6.7	-6.1	-6.4
BG	0.3	0.9	0.7	1.3	1.3	1.1	-0.5	2.2	1.4	3.3	4.6	4.8
RO	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
TR	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
EU-15	0.1	1.0	0.0	0.3	0.3	:	1.2	1.9	1.3	1.4	1.7	:

Table 5: Volume of sales in retail trade (excluding repair), growth rates (%)

Among the countries for which data are available comparing the second and the third quarters of 2003, the volume of retail sales increased in all candidate countries, except Slovakia, where the index fell by 1.9 %. Retail sales fell in Cyprus in the second quarter of 2003 by 2.2 %. The volume of sales grew at a rapid pace in Lithuania (5.5 %) and Latvia (3.8 %), as well as in Slovenia (3.0 %). On the basis of a year on year comparison, Lithuania and Latvia again registered the highest growth rates, with sales volumes for retail trade rising by 14.3 % and 13.8 % respectively between the third quarters of 2002 and 2003.

It is possible to provide a split between the growth rates for the volume of sales between food and non-food products. On a quarter on quarter basis, these indices show an expansion of sales for both food and non-food products in all candidate countries for which data are available, except Slovakia (-6.3 % for food products and -1.5 % for non-food products). Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia registered high growth rates for sales volumes of food products (7.0 %, 6.4 % and 4.3 % respectively).

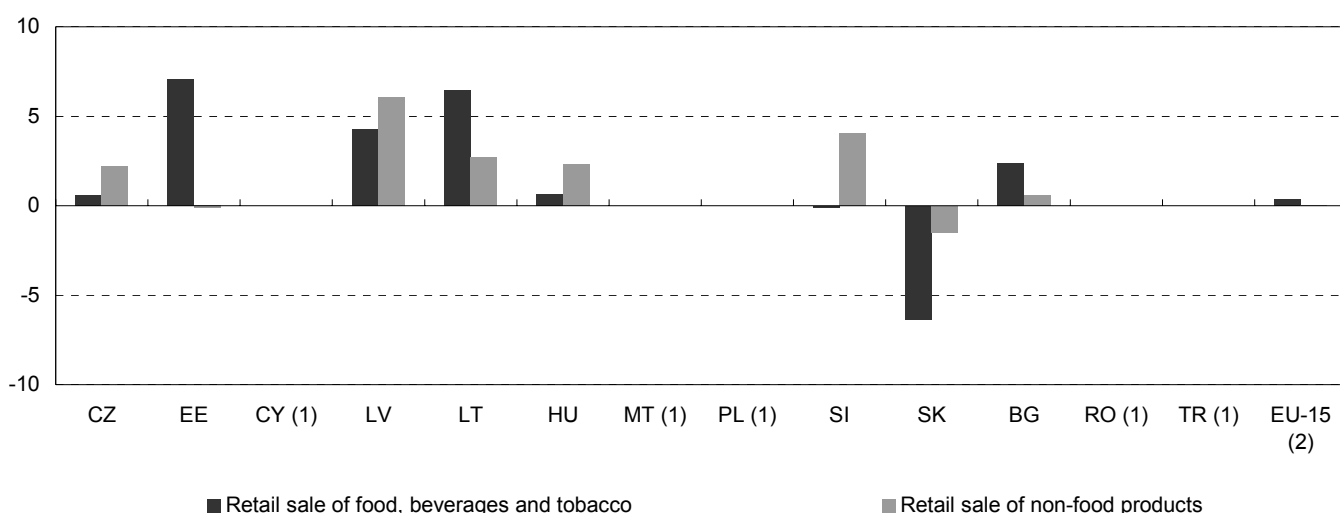


Figure 5: Volume of sales of food and non-food items, seasonally adjusted data, growth rates, compared to the previous quarter, Q3-2003 (%)

(1) Not available. (2) Q2-2003.

Turnover indices for other service activities

		Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted data						Year on year growth rates, gross data					
		Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03
Motor trade (Division 50)	CZ	-1.4	-2.5	6.3	4.3	0.7	0.1	-1.2	-3.5	2.8	7.1	8.2	13.5
	EE	13.1	0.9	3.5	-5.3	-1.7	:	41.5	40.6	36.0	11.6	-3.2	:
	LV	15.2	3.9	2.8	3.3	0.0	:	23.8	27.3	35.9	27.1	10.3	:
	LT	7.5	-1.6	3.8	10.5	2.1	4.4	32.6	19.2	11.9	21.2	15.3	22.3
	HU	2.1	4.2	5.4	13.5	7.1	:	8.2	11.4	2.2	32.7	29.8	:
	PL	8.8	4.6	6.7	1.9	1.6	1.0	19.7	22.4	31.3	23.7	15.5	11.5
	SI	-1.9	8.2	3.9	5.0	-2.2	3.1	2.0	7.6	12.8	15.5	15.5	10.1
	SK	10.1	1.4	-1.3	4.8	-4.0	:	7.3	9.8	3.8	15.7	-0.2	:
BG	-1.1	-1.8	4.8	-3.0	-0.3	:	-7.0	-7.2	2.4	-1.4	-1.0	:	
Wholesale trade (Division 51)	LT	3.7	3.4	4.5	2.8	2.4	4.0	14.6	16.0	11.4	15.0	13.6	15.0
	SI	6.0	4.0	4.3	-0.7	4.2	7.6	25.2	26.4	19.8	15.3	11.9	16.0
	SK	0.1	-0.6	-1.1	-2.3	-1.8	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	BG	0.2	2.1	3.5	-3.0	2.5	:	0.6	4.9	11.5	2.8	5.1	:
	EU-15	0.7	0.3	0.7	1.1	-1.5	:	-1.0	0.7	2.8	3.4	1.2	:
Hotels and restaurants (Division 55)	EE	5.0	4.5	1.1	-0.9	-0.6	:	20.0	28.1	22.8	7.2	4.3	:
	BG	1.5	4.0	-1.5	1.0	2.5	:	4.9	4.6	10.0	4.9	6.7	:
EU-15	-0.3	1.1	-0.7	-0.2	0.9	:	1.0	3.3	0.3	0.1	0.9	:	
Land transport; transport via pipelines (Division 60)	CZ	0.2	-1.4	-0.6	5.0	-0.3	2.0	1.1	1.4	-1.5	4.3	4.8	7.0
	EE	7.2	0.5	5.0	8.2	0.9	:	14.7	13.5	15.6	22.3	15.2	:
	LV	9.1	-4.1	-1.9	23.2	1.6	:	3.0	-1.3	7.6	24.8	26.4	:
	LT	2.6	3.4	3.5	4.5	3.4	:	8.4	8.4	8.4	18.6	17.0	:
	PL	7.7	4.5	2.3	-1.3	3.1	:	35.0	41.2	30.5	9.6	6.2	:
	SK	2.6	-0.4	-1.5	-3.6	-3.1	:	12.6	13.4	6.7	-5.1	-10.9	:
	BG	-1.0	-7.7	-7.7	-33.4	-12.6	:	21.7	24.0	23.0	-46.9	-52.3	:
Water transport (Division 61)	CZ	-18.9	-0.4	-8.3	28.1	-10.7	-28.7	-37.4	-22.2	-29.6	-1.5	7.7	-32.5
	EE	3.7	1.3	0.1	-0.9	0.0	:	7.8	15.7	10.6	1.5	-4.6	:
	LT	0.7	-2.5	0.6	-9.1	-1.1	:	41.1	41.1	41.1	-10.2	-11.9	:
	PL	0.7	5.5	1.6	-5.4	3.8	:	3.3	9.6	15.4	1.3	5.0	:
	SK	-17.1	3.7	-6.5	5.3	:	:	-29.2	-16.1	-31.1	-14.8	:	:
EU-15	-2.1	-3.6	-5.7	:	:	:	-5.6	-5.1	-5.5	:	:	:	
Air transport (Division 62)	CZ	-3.9	-5.0	4.6	-1.1	-1.1	11.5	-9.6	-9.3	-2.4	-7.5	-5.9	14.4
	EE	17.3	-1.4	6.5	-2.6	1.4	:	15.6	13.7	41.6	19.8	3.7	:
	LT	0.6	-4.0	-5.5	-7.9	-3.3	:	3.1	3.1	3.1	-25.3	-27.2	:
	SK	3.3	6.7	2.5	-17.4	-17.2	:	-5.2	23.1	78.8	75.8	-14.4	:
	BG	15.5	-45.5	48.0	-34.0	1.5	:	41.4	-47.4	38.8	-43.1	-48.8	:
Supporting & auxiliary transport activities; travel agencies (Division 63)	CZ	-1.6	-2.1	4.6	0.9	2.4	3.6	-1.6	-6.2	2.1	4.6	4.0	10.5
	EE	7.6	-14.2	0.2	-2.6	-5.5	:	10.8	-10.9	-13.2	-10.0	-21.8	:
	LV	0.3	0.8	1.3	1.9	2.1	:	1.6	-0.7	5.3	3.0	8.9	:
	LT	0.9	0.1	2.0	8.4	5.0	:	1.4	1.4	1.4	11.6	16.3	:
	PL	1.7	2.7	1.9	2.3	1.5	:	6.7	6.1	5.7	10.8	11.7	:
	SK	7.2	1.6	-4.8	2.6	-7.7	:	-6.3	-10.5	-20.7	7.7	-7.5	:
BG	1.2	10.5	2.8	-39.9	-7.4	:	36.8	73.3	61.3	-29.8	-35.7	:	
Post and telecoms (Division 64)	CZ	0.9	2.9	2.6	-2.9	0.0	1.9	-1.1	2.1	3.3	7.6	7.1	:
	EE	6.2	0.7	2.7	-0.3	3.7	:	11.6	11.7	11.4	9.4	6.9	:
	LV	4.3	1.2	1.8	0.3	0.2	:	9.1	10.0	8.3	7.7	3.3	:
	LT	1.1	6.5	2.5	0.5	5.0	:	8.1	16.4	14.2	10.7	15.1	:
	PL	2.3	2.7	2.2	2.9	2.3	:	8.1	11.5	6.4	11.9	10.6	:
	SK	3.2	3.4	-0.7	3.3	2.1	:	5.1	5.1	-1.1	9.4	8.3	:
BG	-3.6	1.9	4.5	-30.2	-1.6	:	28.9	22.5	29.3	-28.0	-26.9	:	
EU-15	0.7	3.2	2.2	1.1	1.3	:	-2.1	4.9	8.1	7.2	7.4	:	
Computer and related activities (Division 72)	CZ	0.4	0.3	1.8	2.3	-3.0	2.8	1.3	2.4	2.7	5.1	1.2	5.7
	EE	7.0	-1.1	-1.8	7.0	3.6	:	23.8	-1.8	12.6	11.1	7.5	:
	LV	12.3	4.6	1.0	5.5	-0.2	:	64.8	62.2	29.8	40.2	-11.2	:
	LT	8.3	-10.7	4.6	7.5	12.5	:	36.7	-4.1	-5.4	-1.0	6.2	:
	PL	3.2	0.4	0.5	0.4	-0.6	:	23.1	5.5	4.0	5.8	2.1	:
	SK	2.0	0.6	1.1	2.4	3.1	:	18.4	10.6	2.7	-1.2	1.8	:
	BG	8.4	5.5	-1.1	-0.3	-0.4	:	22.6	24.2	13.3	12.5	3.4	:
EU-15	-1.1	-1.1	0.0	2.2	1.1	:	0.9	-2.6	-3.1	0.0	2.9	:	
Part of other business activities (Classes 74.11 to 74.14) (1)	CZ	1.2	1.1	3.0	-0.8	2.0	1.8	7.0	0.4	10.2	-0.4	2.0	9.7
	EE	4.1	4.7	7.7	-12.8	7.7	:	7.0	48.5	47.8	2.3	5.6	:
	LV	-8.1	-0.1	31.2	-13.8	11.9	:	30.1	8.9	4.5	19.3	-5.7	:
	LT	2.0	10.8	-7.5	5.7	0.6	:	6.5	32.0	-7.5	9.4	5.4	:
	PL (2)	3.6	0.2	-0.7	-1.9	-2.4	:	2.8	8.7	7.0	0.2	-7.4	:
	SK	-2.1	-0.2	-4.7	5.6	-2.2	:	-4.0	0.0	-8.1	-1.7	-1.7	:
	BG (2)	1.7	1.9	1.4	0.2	1.1	:	9.3	13.1	12.3	2.6	4.0	:

Table 6: Turnover index for other services, growth rates (%) (3)

(1) Legal activities; accounting, book-keeping and auditing activities; tax consultancy; market research and public opinion polling; business and management consultancy activities. (2) NACE Division 74: other business activities. (3) Only the available data for each NACE-country pairing is presented.

➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

While the collection of short-term statistics for the Member States has a **legal basis** in the form of **Council Regulation No 1165/98** of 19 May 1998 concerning short-term statistics¹ (STS-R), the receipt of data from candidate countries is currently under a gentleman's agreement. In the run-up to the likely accession of 11 future Member States in 2004, considerable work is being carried out to ensure data will be delivered on a regular basis and in a harmonised form. The STS-R has been used as the basis for this work in the candidate countries.

Production index

The **production index is an important business cycle indicator** which shows the monthly activity of the industrial sector, one of the most volatile components of the economy. The production index should show the evolution of value added at factor cost, at constant prices. The index should take account of: variations in type and quality of the commodities and of the input materials; changes in stocks of finished goods and work in progress; changes in technical input-output relations (processing techniques) and; services such as the assembling of production units, mounting, installations, repairs, planning, engineering, creation of software.

Output prices

The **output price index** shows monthly price changes in the industrial sector, which can be an indicator of inflationary pressure before it reaches the consumer. All price-determining characteristics of the products should be taken into account, including quantity of units sold, transport provided, rebates, service conditions, guarantee conditions and destination. The appropriate price is the ex-factory price that includes all duties and taxes on the goods and services invoiced by the unit but excludes VAT invoiced by the unit vis-à-vis its customer and similar deductible taxes directly linked to turnover. The price of period t should refer to the moment when the order is made, not the moment when the commodities leave the

factory gates. The **domestic market** is defined as customers resident in the same national territory as the observation unit.

Labour input

The **number of persons employed** is defined as the total number of persons working in an observation unit (inclusive of working proprietors, partners working regularly in the unit and unpaid family workers), as well as persons who work outside the unit who belong to it and are paid by it (e.g. sales representatives, delivery personnel, repair and maintenance teams). It includes persons absent for a short period (e.g. sick leave, paid leave or special leave), and also those on strike, but not those absent for an indefinite period. It also includes part-time workers who are regarded as such under the laws of the country concerned and who are on the payroll, as well as seasonal workers, apprentices and home workers on the payroll. The number of persons employed excludes manpower supplied to the unit by other enterprises, persons carrying out repair and maintenance work in the observation unit on behalf of other enterprises, as well as those on compulsory military service.

Wages and salaries include all gratuities, bonuses, ex gratia payments, 13th month payments, severance payments, lodging, transport, cost-of-living, and family allowances, tips, commission, attendance fees, etc. received by employees, as well as taxes, social security contributions and other amounts payable by employees and withheld at source by the employer. Payments for agency workers are not included in wages and salaries.

Construction

Construction costs measure the evolution of the costs of the factors employed in the activity of construction and incurred by the contractor. These factors include, amongst others, materials, wages and salaries, plant and equipment hire; **output prices** show the evolution of prices paid by the client to the contractor.

Building permits show the future development of construction activity. A building permit is an authorisation to start work on a building project.

Volume of sales

The objective of the **volume of sales index** is to show the quantity of goods sold in the retail trade sector. It is an indicator for final domestic demand and provides information about consumer confidence. The volume of sales represents the value of turnover in constant prices. It can be calculated as turnover at current prices, deflated by the deflator of sales, or as a quantity index derived directly from the quantity of goods sold. Turnover comprises the totals invoiced by the observation unit during the reference period. This corresponds to market sales of goods or services supplied to third parties. It includes all duties and taxes on the goods or services invoiced by the unit with the exception of the VAT invoiced by the unit vis-à-vis its customer and other similar deductible taxes directly linked to turnover.

Weights

The **weights** used are based on appropriate information from the Structural Business Statistics database or information coming directly from the candidate countries. Weights and the base year are revised every five years. **The current base year is 2000.**

Data forms

Countries are encouraged to transmit a gross and working day adjusted index. They may also transmit seasonally adjusted and trend-cycle indices. If data are not transmitted in these two latter forms, then Eurostat aims to produce the adjusted figures (once the length of time-series allows this to be done).

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¹ Official Journal No L 162, of 5 June 1998. Also available via the "Business Methods" Internet site: <http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/dsis/bmethods/home>.

Further information:

➤ Reference publications

Title Quarterly panorama of European business statistics
 Subscription number VPA000 Price EUR 100

➤ Databases

NewCronos, Theme 4, Domain: ebt (European Business Trends)

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