

Statistics in focus

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

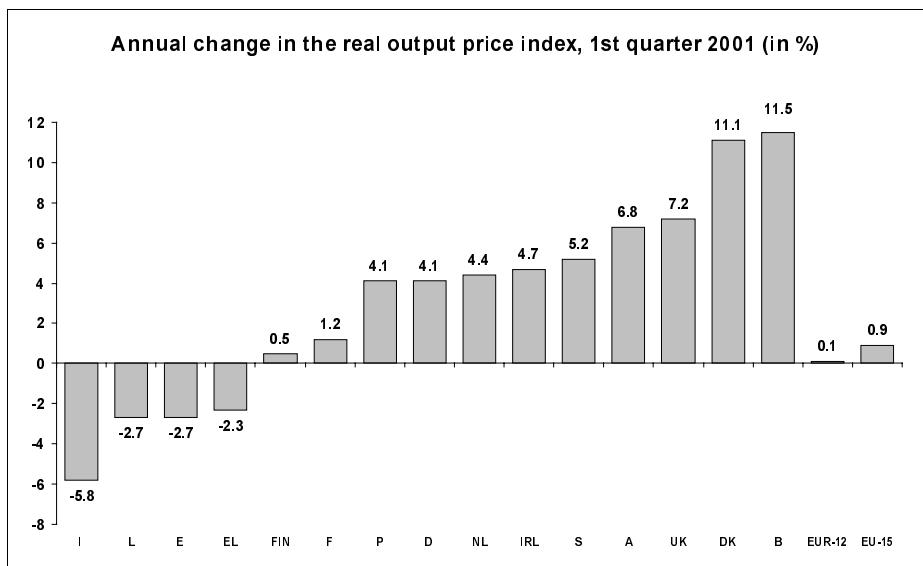
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AGRICULTURAL PRICE TRENDS IN THE EU IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2001

G. Mahon



The index of prices of agricultural products in the European Union (EU-15) rose significantly (+3.5%) in nominal terms in the first quarter of 2001 relative to the corresponding quarter of the previous year. This rise was greater than the rate of inflation so the agricultural output price index also rose in real terms (+0.9%). A slight increase in the real output price index was seen in the Euro-zone, EUR-12, (+0.1%).

The increase in the total output price index was due to a marked rise for animals and animal products (+5.7%) combined with a moderate decline for crop products (-3.4%). The price increase for animals was partly due to a steep price rise for pigs (+35.6%) reflecting the restricted supply which resulted from the outbreak of foot and mouth disease.

Across Member States (see graph), sharp increases in the real price index of agricultural products were seen in Denmark (+11.1%) and Belgium (+11.5%). Changes in the other thirteen Member States ranged from -5.8% in Italy to +7.2% in the United Kingdom.

The real price index for the means of agricultural production, i.e. the input price index, rose moderately for EU-15 (+2.4%). In particular, there was a notable price increase for fertilizers (+18.7%).

Eurostat and the Member States are rebasing the agricultural price indices from 1990=100 to 1995=100 and all indices in this report are now expressed on the new base 1995=100. For certain Member States (E, I, IRL, P, NL and UK), Eurostat has made ad hoc calculations. Further details may be found in the methodological notes at the end of this report.



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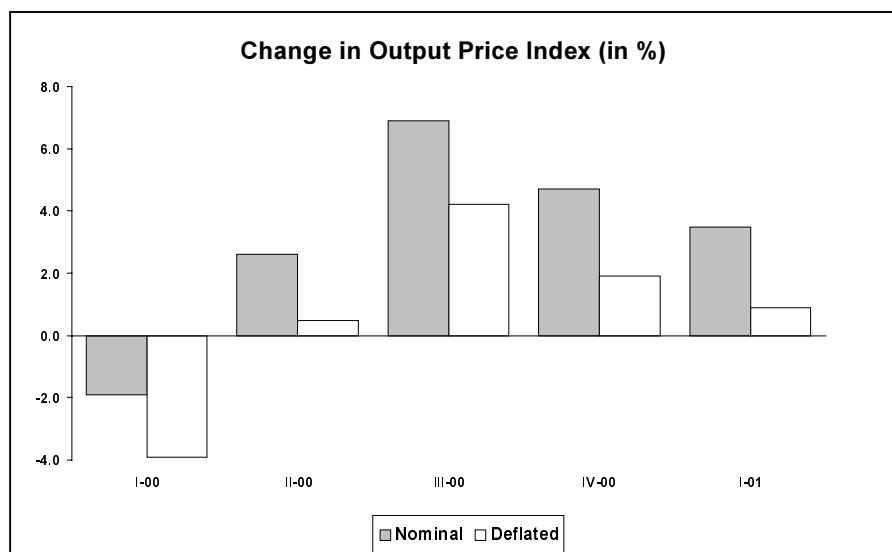
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Output prices

The upward trend in the total output price index in early 2001 continued the trend seen in the second half of 2000 (see graph).

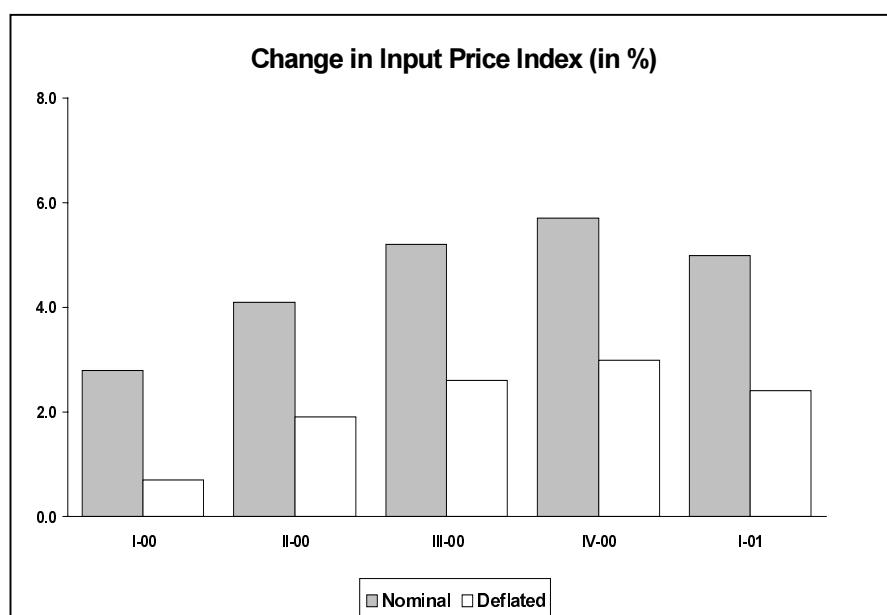
The real price index for crop products declined for several main product groups: cereals and rice (-5.2%), wine (-7.2%) and fresh vegetables (-11.6%). However, prices rose for seeds (+1.1%), fruit (+2.7%), flowers etc. (+3.3%), "other crop products" i.e. pulses, oilseeds etc. (+5.1%) and root crops (+7.9%). Concerning animals and animal products, the real price index rose sharply (+5.7%) despite difficult circumstances. Prices for calves and cattle excluding calves declined steeply (-15.7% and -13.4% respectively), partly due to continuing consumer concern over BSE. In contrast, price rises were seen for poultry (+6.9%) and "other



animals" i.e. horses, rabbits etc. (+7.3%), and especially sheep and lambs (+29.1%) and pigs (+35.6%). The price increases for sheep and lambs and for pigs were partly due to restricted supply as a result of

foot and mouth disease. For animal products, a moderate price rise was observed for eggs (+1.4%), milk (+2.8%), and especially "other animals products" i.e. hides, honey, etc. (+11.6%).

Input prices



The trend in the real EU-15 index for the purchase prices of the means of agricultural production was a moderate increase (+2.4%). This continued the upward trend seen

throughout the year 2000 (see graph and Table 3).

The real price index of goods and services for current consumption in

agriculture rose moderately (+3.4%). Price increases were seen for most current inputs, including the most important ones: animal feedingstuffs (+3.6%), energy and lubricants (+5.4%) and especially fertilizers (+18.7%). Moderate price decreases were observed for veterinary services (-1.3%), material and small tools (-1.5%) and plant protection products (-2.2%). The real price index for goods and services contributing to agricultural investment was little changed (-0.8%). Prices for machinery fell somewhat (-1.7%) while prices for buildings rose (+0.7%).

Across Member States (see Table 4), input prices rose most strongly in Denmark (+4.1%), the Netherlands and the United Kingdom (both +5.3%). Changes in the other Member States ranged from -1.1% in Portugal to +3.5% in Sweden.

Terms of trade

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, decreased moderately (-1.5%). The increase in the input price index was greater than in rise in the output price index.

Across Member States, increases in the terms of trade were observed for Belgium (+8.7%), Denmark (+6.7%), Austria (+5.8%), Portugal (+5.2%), Ireland (+3.0%), the United Kingdom (+1.7%), Sweden (+1.6%) and Germany (+0.7%). Decreases in the terms of trade were seen for the Netherlands (-0.8%), Finland (-1.4%), France (-1.9%), Greece (-2.7%), Spain (-3.7%), Luxembourg (-4.7%) and Italy (-4.8%).

	(%)				
	I. 2000	II. 2000	III. 2000	IV. 2000	I. 2001
B	-13.8	-0.3	11.2	5.8	8.7
DK	8.0	10.8	5.9	4.5	6.7
D	-4.5	-2.7	0.2	1.1	0.7
EL	-1.2	-1.1	-2.3	-5.6	-2.7
E	-7.3	-6.1	-1.3	-1.9	-3.7
F	-3.9	-1.2	-1.5	-3.9	-1.9
IRL	-4.1	-0.3	4.4	3.5	3.0
I	-1.5	3.7	7.1	-2.0	-4.8
L	-3.5	-3.2	-2.5	-3.9	-4.7
NL	-5.0	-0.8	4.7	4.3	-0.8
A	-0.3	2.1	2.1	2.7	5.8
P	-10.4	-11.0	-2.2	-2.6	5.2
FIN	10.7	10.1	11.7	10.2	-1.4
S	-7.5	-6.8	-4.1	-3.2	1.6
UK	-10.4	-6.5	-1.8	0.4	1.7
EUR-12	-4.4	-1.2	1.8	-1.2	-1.8
EU-15	-4.6	-1.4	1.5	-1.1	-1.5

➤ 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 New Cronos database (PRAG domain) in both nominal and deflated form. By using the deflated indices it is possible to avoid the distortions in the nominal price 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.

Rebasing: Eurostat and the Member States have nearly completed the rebasing of the agricultural price indices to 1995=100. Indeed most Member States (B, DK, D, EL, E, F, I, L, NL, A, FIN and S) provide indices on the new base. For the other Member States (IRL, P and UK) Eurostat re-referenced the indices from 1990=100 to 1995=100. Certain ad hoc calculations were also carried out for E, I and NL to complete the indices on the new base. All indices described in this report have the reference year 1995=100.

Table 1

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

		(%)				
		I. 2000	II. 2000	III. 2000	IV. 2000	I. 2001
NOMINAL INDICES						
0	TOTAL	-1.9	2.6	6.9	4.7	3.5
1	CROP PRODUCTS	-7.3	-2.7	5.4	0.5	-0.8
11	Cereals and rice	3.2	1.6	-1.5	-2.1	-2.7
12	Root crops	-34.8	-23.9	4.9	5.6	10.6
13	Fruit	-13.0	-5.9	1.8	-3.4	5.8
14	Fresh vegetables	1.7	11.5	29.5	1.7	-9.2
15	Wine must and wine	-7.1	-7.5	-6.0	-3.8	-5.3
16	Olives and olive oil	-3.5	-11.7	-13.7	-9.1	-8.4
17	Seeds	-12.4	-13.5	3.9	6.3	4.5
18	Flowers etc.	-6.5	0.9	6.6	8.3	6.6
19	Other crop products	-7.3	-2.2	2.9	6.1	8.0
2	ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS	5.2	9.2	8.5	9.3	8.4
21	Animals	8.9	12.8	10.1	10.9	10.7
21 A	Calves	-2.0	3.2	2.7	-1.1	-13.3
21 B	Cattle excluding calves	1.7	2.9	5.0	-2.0	-11.2
21 C	Pigs	25.1	29.5	17.1	28.7	39.2
21 D	Sheep and lambs	22.5	23.2	14.6	25.4	32.5
21 E	Poultry	0.4	9.5	9.1	10.7	9.5
21 F	Other animals	10.1	15.8	12.0	4.1	10.1
22	Milk	-1.9	0.6	3.6	5.2	5.3
23	Eggs	15.5	28.7	24.0	17.6	4.1
24	Other animal products	11.0	18.8	19.0	21.3	15.2
DEFLATED INDICES						
0	TOTAL	-3.9	0.5	4.2	1.9	0.9
1	CROP PRODUCTS	-9.3	-4.8	2.7	-2.2	-3.4
11	Cereals and rice	1.2	-0.4	-3.8	-4.7	-5.2
12	Root crops	-36.2	-25.7	2.0	2.7	7.9
13	Fruit	-15.2	-8.2	-0.9	-6.2	2.7
14	Fresh vegetables	-0.8	8.9	26.0	-1.2	-11.6
15	Wine must and wine	-8.9	-9.4	-8.3	-6.2	-7.2
16	Olives and olive oil	-6.1	-14.1	-16.3	-12.3	-11.3
17	Seeds	-14.0	-15.2	1.2	3.4	1.1
18	Flowers etc.	-8.1	-1.2	4.1	5.4	3.3
19	Other crop products	-9.3	-4.2	0.5	3.3	5.1
2	ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS	3.0	6.9	5.8	6.4	5.7
21	Animals	6.7	10.4	7.4	8.0	7.9
21 A	Calves	-4.0	1.0	0.0	-3.9	-15.7
21 B	Cattle excluding calves	-0.4	0.7	2.4	-4.7	-13.4
21 C	Pigs	22.5	26.8	14.2	25.5	35.6
21 D	Sheep and lambs	19.9	20.7	11.8	22.2	29.1
21 E	Poultry	-1.6	7.2	6.5	7.9	6.9
21 F	Other animals	7.6	13.2	9.1	1.0	7.3
22	Milk	-3.8	-1.4	1.2	2.5	2.8
23	Eggs	13.3	26.1	21.0	14.6	1.4
24	Other animal products	8.2	15.2	14.8	16.5	11.6

Table 2

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

(%)

	Total				Crop Products				Animals and Anim. Products			
	II. 2000	III. 2000	IV. 2000	I. 2001	II. 2000	III. 2000	IV. 2000	I. 2001	II. 2000	III. 2000	IV. 2000	I. 2001
NOMINAL INDICES												
B	5,1	18,1	13,6	14,3	-10,4	14,2	3,2	10,3	18,3	20,6	19,9	16,5
DK	13,1	10,3	10,8	13,6	4,2	6,4	3,8	2,3	17,8	12,1	14,1	19,3
D	2,6	6,4	8,8	6,5	-9,1	-1,8	0,8	-0,4	10,0	10,9	12,9	10,3
EL	3,2	3,1	0,7	0,9	2,0	2,6	-1,9	-2,1	6,0	4,2	6,6	8,0
E	-1,4	4,2	4,0	1,1	-7,8	0,8	0,6	-5,6	11,0	9,8	10,7	14,1
F	2,1	2,9	1,2	2,6	-1,8	0,2	-2,3	0,4	6,5	5,7	4,9	5,1
IRL	4,8	10,5	11,0	8,9	-13,6	4,5	10,4	18,1	7,9	11,5	11,1	7,6
I	7,2	11,6	0,5	-3,3	4,5	14,0	-0,6	-5,6	12,8	7,3	2,5	1,3
L	1,0	2,0	1,4	0,2	-3,3	-0,4	1,4	1,4	2,8	3,3	2,1	-0,2
NL	5,0	12,8	13,5	9,4	-2,2	9,8	9,8	6,2	15,2	16,2	18,0	13,8
A	4,5	5,1	7,6	8,8	-9,3	1,1	1,7	3,4	10,8	6,7	9,9	10,9
P	-7,5	5,1	4,6	9,0	-17,7	4,3	-0,7	9,0	7,2	6,1	11,4	9,0
FIN	15,6	19,5	18,6	3,2	-4,0	0,7	-4,2	-6,1	29,7	30,9	32,6	8,2
S	-4,0	-0,5	2,1	7,0	-14,7	-7,2	0,0	4,6	2,5	2,9	3,1	8,3
UK	-4,7	1,4	5,3	8,1	-7,1	4,4	2,9	10,6	-3,1	-0,3	6,8	6,7
EUR-12	3,1	7,3	4,5	2,9	-2,4	5,5	0,4	-1,5	10,4	9,4	9,5	8,2
EU-15	2,6	6,9	4,7	3,5	-2,7	5,4	0,5	-0,8	9,2	8,5	9,3	8,4
DEFLATED INDICES												
B	2,5	14,6	9,8	11,5	-12,6	10,9	-0,2	7,7	15,4	17,0	15,9	13,7
DK	10,0	7,6	8,0	11,1	1,3	3,8	1,2	0,1	14,5	9,4	11,2	16,7
D	0,8	4,1	6,1	4,1	-10,6	-3,9	-1,6	-2,7	8,1	8,6	10,2	7,7
EL	0,8	0,2	-3,1	-2,3	-0,3	-0,3	-5,5	-5,2	3,6	1,3	2,7	4,6
E	-4,5	0,5	0,0	-2,7	-10,7	-2,7	-3,3	-9,1	7,5	5,9	6,4	9,8
F	0,5	0,8	-0,9	1,2	-3,3	-1,9	-4,3	-1,0	4,9	3,5	2,8	3,6
IRL	-0,3	4,6	5,2	4,7	-17,9	-1,1	4,6	13,6	2,6	5,5	5,3	3,5
I	4,6	8,8	-2,2	-5,8	1,9	11,1	-3,3	-8,1	10,0	4,5	-0,3	-1,4
L	-2,4	-2,1	-2,8	-2,7	-6,6	-4,4	-2,8	-1,4	-0,7	-0,8	-2,1	-3,0
NL	3,0	9,8	10,1	4,4	-4,1	6,9	6,6	1,3	12,9	13,1	14,5	8,6
A	2,5	3,0	5,3	6,8	-11,1	-1,0	-0,5	1,5	8,6	4,5	7,6	8,8
P	-9,6	1,6	0,9	4,1	-19,6	0,8	-4,2	4,0	4,8	2,5	7,4	4,0
FIN	12,5	16,0	15,0	0,5	-6,5	-2,3	-7,2	-8,6	26,3	27,1	28,5	5,4
S	-5,2	-1,8	0,5	5,2	-15,7	-8,5	-1,6	2,9	1,3	1,6	1,5	6,5
UK	-5,3	0,6	4,3	7,2	-7,7	3,5	1,9	9,6	-3,7	-1,1	5,8	5,7
EUR-12	0,8	4,5	1,6	0,1	-4,6	2,7	-2,5	-4,2	8,0	6,6	6,4	5,3
EU-15	0,5	4,2	1,9	0,9	-4,8	2,7	-2,2	-3,4	6,9	5,8	6,4	5,7

Table 3

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

	I.2000	II. 2000	III. 2000	IV. 2000	(%) I. 2001
NOMINAL INDICES					
00 TOTAL	2.8	4.1	5.2	5.7	5.0
01 GOODS AND SERVICES CURRENTLY CONSUMED IN AGRICULTURE					
1 Seeds	-3.2	-2.3	-1.0	0.3	3.5
3 Energy	22.2	19.4	21.3	21.4	8.3
4 Fertilizers	-0.4	6.6	11.4	19.1	21.5
5 Plant protection products	1.0	-1.2	-1.0	-0.3	0.0
6 Animal feedingstuffs	0.3	3.6	5.4	5.6	6.3
7 Small tools	1.3	2.3	2.2	2.7	1.0
8 Maintenance and repair of plant	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.8	3.5
9 Maintenance and repair of buildings	1.4	2.4	3.0	3.1	3.1
10 Veterinary services	4.2	4.4	2.3	1.4	1.2
11 General expenses	3.2	3.4	3.5	2.8	2.3
02 GOODS AND SERVICES CONTRIBUTING TO AGRICULTURE INVESTMENT	1.6	1.8	2.0	1.9	1.6
12 Machinery	1.0	1.1	1.1	0.8	0.7
13 Buildings	2.8	3.1	3.4	3.8	3.3
DEFLATED INDICES					
00 TOTAL	0.7	1.9	2.6	3.0	2.4
01 GOODS AND SERVICES CURRENTLY CONSUMED IN AGRICULTURE					
1 Seeds	-5.2	-4.4	-3.5	-2.5	0.8
3 Energy	19.7	16.8	18.3	18.2	5.4
4 Fertilizers	-2.5	4.4	8.8	16.1	18.7
5 Plant protection products	-0.9	-3.0	-3.2	-2.8	-2.2
6 Animal feedingstuffs	-1.7	1.4	2.8	2.8	3.6
7 Small tools	-0.6	0.3	-0.2	0.0	-1.5
8 Maintenance and repair of plant	0.5	0.6	0.1	0.5	1.3
9 Maintenance and repair of buildings	-0.5	0.5	0.8	0.6	0.7
10 Veterinary services	2.1	2.3	-0.2	-1.3	-1.3
11 General expenses	1.3	1.4	1.1	0.2	-0.2
02 GOODS AND SERVICES CONTRIBUTING TO AGRICULTURE INVESTMENT	-0.4	-0.3	-0.5	-0.7	-0.8
12 Machinery	-1.0	-0.9	-1.3	-1.7	-1.7
13 Buildings	0.6	0.8	0.9	1.1	0.7

Table 4

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

(%)

	Total				Consumption goods				Investment goods			
	II. 2000	III. 2000	IV. 2000	I. 2001	II. 2000	III. 2000	IV. 2000	I. 2001	II. 2000	III. 2000	IV. 2000	I. 2001
NOMINAL INDICES												
B	5.4	6.2	7.3	5.1	6.5	7.4	8.7	5.7	-0.8	-0.4	-0.5	1.6
DK	2.1	4.2	6.0	6.4	2.4	5.1	7.3	7.6	0.9	1.2	1.4	2.1
D	5.5	6.2	7.6	5.8	7.0	7.9	9.6	7.2	0.8	0.8	1.2	1.2
EL	4.3	5.6	6.6	3.7	5.0	6.3	7.3	3.7	1.5	2.4	3.6	3.6
E	5.1	5.6	6.1	5.0	5.1	5.6	6.7	5.0	4.9	5.7	1.6	5.4
F	3.3	4.4	5.2	4.6	3.8	5.3	6.1	5.3	1.5	1.5	2.2	2.4
IRL	5.1	5.9	7.3	5.7	5.1	6.1	8.2	6.2	5.4	5.2	4.7	4.4
I	3.4	4.3	2.6	1.7	4.7	6.1	3.2	2.1	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.0
L	4.3	4.6	5.5	5.1	6.0	6.5	7.5	6.7	1.9	1.8	2.5	2.5
NL	5.9	7.7	8.8	10.4	6.7	8.8	10.1	13.6	2.5	3.0	2.9	-4.6
A	2.3	3.0	4.8	2.8	2.9	3.9	6.8	3.2	1.4	1.4	1.7	2.3
P	4.0	7.5	7.4	3.6	3.2	8.2	8.1	3.2	6.9	5.0	5.4	5.4
FIN	4.9	7.0	7.7	4.7	5.8	8.6	9.4	5.3	2.3	2.4	2.6	2.8
S	2.9	3.8	5.4	5.3	3.1	4.1	6.2	6.1	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3
UK	2.0	3.3	4.9	6.3	2.1	3.7	5.5	7.3	1.4	1.6	1.8	1.6
EUR-12	4.4	5.4	5.8	4.8	5.2	6.6	7.1	5.8	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.6
EU-15	4.1	5.2	5.7	5.0	4.7	6.2	6.9	6.0	1.8	2.0	1.9	1.6
DEFLATED INDICES												
B	2.8	3.1	3.7	2.6	3.9	4.2	5.0	3.1	-3.3	-3.4	-3.8	-0.9
DK	-0.8	1.7	3.3	4.1	-0.4	2.5	4.6	5.3	-1.9	-1.3	-1.2	-0.2
D	3.7	4.0	5.0	3.4	5.1	5.6	7.0	4.7	-0.9	-1.3	-1.3	-1.1
EL	1.9	2.6	2.7	0.4	2.6	3.4	3.4	0.4	-0.8	-0.5	-0.3	0.3
E	1.8	1.9	2.0	1.1	1.8	1.8	2.6	1.1	1.6	1.9	-2.3	1.4
F	1.7	2.3	3.1	3.1	2.2	3.2	4.0	3.8	0.0	-0.6	0.1	1.0
IRL	0.0	0.2	1.7	1.7	-0.1	0.4	2.6	2.1	0.2	-0.4	-0.8	0.4
I	0.9	1.6	-0.2	-1.0	2.1	3.3	0.4	-0.6	-0.9	-0.9	-1.2	-1.6
L	0.8	0.4	1.1	2.1	2.4	2.2	3.1	3.7	-1.6	-2.3	-1.8	-0.4
NL	3.8	4.9	5.6	5.3	4.6	5.9	6.8	8.4	0.5	0.3	-0.1	-8.9
A	0.3	0.9	2.6	0.9	0.9	1.8	4.5	1.2	-0.6	-0.7	-0.5	0.3
P	1.6	3.9	3.6	-1.1	0.9	4.6	4.3	-1.5	4.4	1.5	1.6	0.6
FIN	2.2	3.8	4.3	1.9	3.0	5.4	6.0	2.5	-0.5	-0.7	-0.5	0.1
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