

Statistics in focus

INDUSTRY, TRADE AND SERVICES

THEME 4 – 5/2001

Contents

Industrial production trends in the Triad 2

Producer price trends in the Triad 2

Industrial production trends in the EU 3

Producer price trends in the EU 4

Employment trends in the Triad and Member States 5

Construction in the EU 6

Retail trade and new car registrations in the EU 6

Business cycle at a glance 7

EU production index increases by 3.6% between October 1999 and 2000

*Extract from Monthly Panorama of European Business
11/2000*

Gunter Schäfer

Industrial production growth in the EU was largely a result of high growth rates in the capital goods and consumer durables sectors. Industrial employment levels appear to have stabilised since the autumn of 1999, with virtually no change in the size of the workforce in the EU since that period. However, industrial producer prices continued to increase at a rapid pace throughout the whole of 2000, with the price of intermediate goods the principal motor. The most recent data for retail sales also pointed to positive growth in the volume of sales turnover in the majority of the Member States, although growth rates were slightly lower than those seen during the first half of 2000.

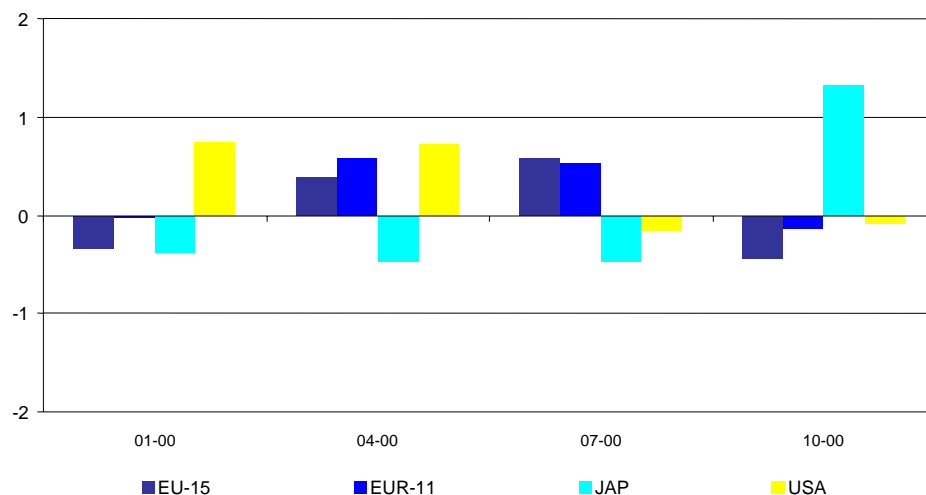


Figure 1: Production index, growth rates, compared to the previous month (%)

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Industrial production trends in the Triad

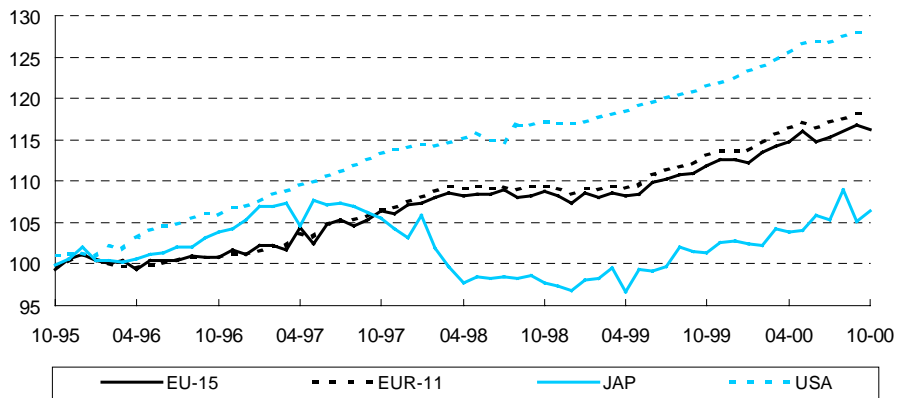


Figure 2: Production index for total industry (1995 = 100)

Recent growth (t/t-1)	EU-15	EUR-11	JAP	USA
07-00	0.6	0.5	-0.5	-0.2
08-00	0.5	0.4	3.3	0.6
09-00	0.7	0.6	-3.5	0.4
10-00	-0.4	-0.1	1.3	-0.1

Table 1: Industrial production, latest growth rates (%)

Although there was a decline in EU industrial output of 0.4% in October 2000, there were two successive month on month increases of 0.5% and 0.7% reported in August and September. Euro-zone industrial output fell at a slightly slower pace than in the EU as a whole, with the most recent month on month figure equal to -0.1% in October 2000.

The rate of change of industrial output in Japan was quite irregular during much of 2000. In the two most recent months, September and October 2000, a reduction of 3.5% compared to the previous month was immediately followed by growth of 1.3%.

Industrial production in the USA posted generally positive results, but the latest figure, for October 2000 was a month on month decrease of 0.1%. This fed through to an increase of 5.1% when compared to the same month of the previous year, the lowest figure for nine months.

Producer price trends in the Triad

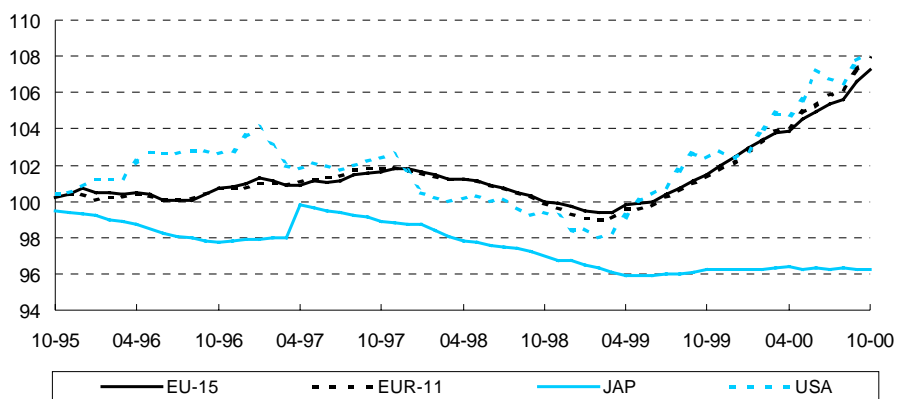


Figure 3: Producer price index for total industry (1995 = 100)

Recent growth (t/t-1)	EU-15	EUR-11	JAP	USA
07-00	0.5	0.5	-0.1	-0.5
08-00	0.2	0.3	0.1	-0.3
09-00	1.0	1.0	-0.1	1.2
10-00	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.5

Table 2: Industrial producer prices, latest growth rates (%)

The rate of increase of EU producer prices compared to the previous month was 0.6% in October 2000, which was one of the largest single month on month increases during recent years.

In September 2000, there was again a positive evolution to price developments in the USA, with growth of 1.2% compared to the month before, followed by a 0.5% rise in October 2000.

In Japan, producer prices were unchanged in October 2000 when compared to the same month of the previous year. Thus, there was a continuation of the situation seen in recent months when there was almost no change in Japanese producer prices.

Industrial production trends in the EU

	11-99	12-99	01-00	02-00	03-00	04-00	05-00	06-00	07-00	08-00	09-00	10-00
EU-15	0.6	0.0	-0.3	1.2	0.7	0.4	1.1	-1.1	0.6	0.5	0.7	-0.4
EUR-11	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.6	-0.5	0.5	0.4	0.6	-0.1
B	1.0	-0.5	-0.5	2.0	-0.2	0.7	-0.2	-0.2	0.9	0.3	0.1	-0.7
DK	2.8	-0.3	-0.6	-0.8	0.3	5.5	3.2	-9.9	5.5	2.2	0.8	-5.3
D	0.8	0.4	-0.2	2.1	-0.6	0.1	4.2	-3.8	2.1	0.2	0.8	-0.1
EL	-0.1	4.0	0.7	1.9	0.8	0.8	-2.3	0.4	-0.7	-0.7	-0.2	:
E	1.2	0.5	-0.6	2.0	0.0	-1.0	1.8	-1.0	-0.5	2.4	-2.0	-1.0
F	1.1	-0.8	0.3	0.7	0.4	-0.4	0.2	-0.1	1.3	0.0	-0.1	0.8
IRL	-3.3	10.8	-14.0	-0.2	4.6	11.2	-3.0	2.6	-1.0	:	:	:
I	0.9	0.2	-1.1	1.7	0.2	-0.7	2.3	-0.9	-0.9	1.3	0.0	-0.8
L	-0.3	4.4	0.8	-1.0	-2.3	0.9	-0.3	1.6	-0.7	0.3	-3.1	1.6
NL	0.7	0.6	-3.8	3.9	1.4	-1.1	-0.2	2.1	-0.7	-0.7	0.0	-2.3
A	3.9	-3.1	-1.5	3.8	1.6	0.2	2.1	-2.0	-0.9	2.9	:	:
P	1.9	-1.8	0.8	-3.5	-0.4	0.6	1.0	0.9	1.8	3.5	-1.0	-0.4
FIN	1.6	8.1	-2.1	-0.5	2.1	1.6	0.7	0.0	0.4	1.5	2.3	1.8
S	-0.2	-3.0	3.0	1.9	1.5	4.5	-2.9	4.2	-4.7	-1.0	4.9	:
UK	0.4	-0.6	-0.4	-0.5	0.8	0.7	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.5	-1.0	-0.2
NO	3.6	0.9	-1.9	2.1	0.8	-3.7	3.2	-3.8	4.6	-2.3	-0.1	2.5

Table 3: Production index for total industry, latest growth rates, t/t-1 (%)

France reported a 0.8% increase in industrial production for total industry in October 2000, on the basis of a comparison with the previous month. This marked a positive evolution when compared to the data for the two previous months, when French output reported no change and 0.1% decline in August and September 2000. Month on month growth rates in France were relatively modest during mid-2000, with the exception of a 1.3% increase in July. When compared to the same month of the previous year, industrial output in France saw a -0.2% rate of change in June 2000 transform into a 3.8% increase in July 2000. This positive evolution was sustained through to October 2000, when output grew by 2.8% compared to the same month of the previous year.

Output fell by 0.1% in Germany in October 2000 compared to the previous month, a figure that contrasted with the positive rates of change reported in July and September 2000 (2.1% and 0.8%). Despite this moderate reduction, German industrial output grew by 5.6% in October 2000 when compared to the same month of the previous year. This was the fourth consecutive figure (using this rate of change) to be in excess of 5.5%.

There was a 0.8% decrease in industrial production in Italy in October 2000. This was consistent with the large fluctuations seen during the summer of 2000, when reductions/increases of +/-1% were common. Between October 1999 and 2000, the Italian production index rose by 0.8%.

The United Kingdom reported industrial output falling by 0.2%. Compared to the same month of the previous year the rate of growth in the United Kingdom industrial economy was not as high as in the majority of the other Member States, with growth of 0.7% in October 2000. Nevertheless, this figure was one of the highest growth rates (using this measure) since June 2000, when an increase of 3.3% was recorded.

In Spain, four out of the five most recent months saw negative changes in industrial output, with the most recent figure a reduction of 1.0% in October 2000. As a result the growth of industrial production in Spain compared to the same month of the previous year slowed from 7.7% in May 2000 to 0.8% by October 2000.

Producer price trends in the EU

	12-99	01-00	02-00	03-00	04-00	05-00	06-00	07-00	08-00	09-00	10-00	11-00
EU-15	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.2	1.0	0.6	:
EUR-11	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.3	1.0	0.6	:
B	1.1	0.0	1.6	1.2	0.0	1.2	0.3	-0.3	2.3	1.8	1.1	:
DK	0.5	-0.1	0.7	0.5	0.6	1.0	0.4	-0.2	0.7	0.9	0.3	:
D	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.9	0.5	:
EL	0.7	0.2	1.1	1.2	-0.3	0.8	0.9	0.4	0.2	2.7	0.7	:
E	0.4	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	1.0	0.5	:
F	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.2	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.3	1.2	0.4	:
IRL	1.8	0.4	0.1	0.5	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.6	0.7	:
I	0.4	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.1	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.9	0.6	:
L	0.2	1.8	-0.4	1.1	1.6	0.3	0.9	-0.1	-0.1	-1.4	0.2	:
NL	0.5	2.1	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.5	1.3	0.3	1.2	1.1	:
A	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
P	1.7	1.7	0.4	2.3	1.3	-0.1	2.1	1.5	-0.4	1.3	2.9	:
FIN	1.0	0.5	0.9	0.8	0.0	1.3	0.6	0.5	0.4	1.3	0.6	:
S	1.0	0.9	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	0.8	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.7	:
UK	0.6	0.0	0.0	-0.3	-0.9	-0.1	0.3	0.1	-0.1	0.5	0.4	1.0
NO	0.4	0.8	0.2	0.7	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.7	0.3	:

Table 4: Producer price index for total industry, latest growth rates, t/t-1 (%)

Intermediate goods continued to report the fastest expansion of prices amongst the main industrial groupings. The price of intermediate goods rose by 1.2% in the EU in October 2000 (compared to the previous month). In terms of a comparison with the same month of the previous year, the price of intermediate goods rose by 12.9% in October 2000, the highest price increase recorded in 2000. In the euro-zone, the increase was equal to 13.6%. For the other main industrial groupings, the following rates of change (compared to the same month of the previous year) were recorded in the EU in October

2000 (with euro-zone figures given in brackets): capital goods 0.2% (0.6%), consumer durables 1.2% (1.5%) and consumer non-durables 2.0% (2.1%).

Industrial producer prices rose by 16.9% in Portugal between October 1999 and October 2000. This was however a slower rate than earlier in the year, when prices were expanding by 18.6% in March 2000. Nevertheless, Portugal continued to record the highest producer price increases in the EU. In the Netherlands, the recent increase in the price of industrial products continued, with prices rising by

10.8% in October 2000, which was the highest figure of the year and well above the 3.1% increase reported in September 1999. There were also high price increases reported in Greece (9.7%) and Finland (8.9%) in October 2000, once more the highest figures for the year for both countries. Only in the United Kingdom (1.5%, November 2000) and Sweden (4.2%, October 2000) were producer price increases significantly below the EU average.

Employment trends in the Triad and Member States

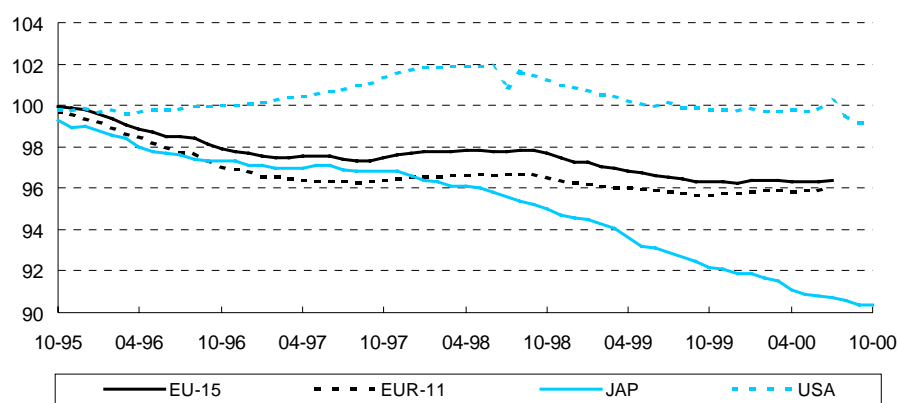


Figure 4: Employment index for total industry (1995 = 100)

Recent growth (t/t-1)	EU-15	EUR-11	JAP	USA
07-00	0.0	0.1	-0.1	0.3
08-00	:	:	-0.1	-0.6
09-00	:	:	-0.2	-0.4
10-00	:	:	0.0	0.0

Table 5: Industrial employment, latest growth rates (%)

There was no change in eight of the most recent ten month on month rates of change for EU industrial employment up to July 2000. The exceptions were a 0.1% fall in April 2000 and a 0.1% rise in January 2000. As a result, the rate of decline for industrial employment (when measured against the same month of the previous year) improved from -1.5% in September 1999 to -0.2% by July 2000.

The number of persons employed in the United Kingdom industrial economy fell by 2.6% in the twelve months to October 2000, which was a moderate improvement on the corresponding figure of a year before (-3.4% in October 1999).

A similar picture was seen in Italy, where industrial employment fell by 2.5% in August 2000 compared with the same month of the previous

year. This was 0.4 percentage point less than the reduction recorded in September 1999 (although between these dates, the rate of decline had been reduced to as low as 1.4% in February 2000). In Denmark, there were 2.3% fewer persons employed in the third quarter of 2000 than in the same period of 1999.

	IV-99	I-00	II-00	III-00	05-00	06-00	07-00	08-00	09-00	10-00
EU-15	-1.2	-0.7	-0.4	:	-0.5	-0.3	-0.2	:	:	:
EUR-11	-0.7	-0.2	0.0	:	-0.1	0.0	0.2	:	:	:
B	-2.5	0.9	0.1	-1.7	1.1	1.0	-2.2	-3.2	-0.9	:
DK	-5.1	-1.8	1.0	-2.3	:	:	:	:	:	:
D	-1.0	-0.9	-0.1	0.2	-0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	2.2	2.6	3.2	3.5	:	:	:	:	:	:
F	0.0	0.6	1.0	1.4	:	:	:	:	:	:
IRL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I	-2.3	-1.6	-2.2	:	-2.0	-2.4	-2.6	-2.5	:	:
L	1.3	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.1	1.3	:
NL	0.5	0.2	0.2	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
A	-1.7	-0.7	0.2	:	0.3	0.4	0.8	0.8	:	:
P	-3.5	-2.7	-2.2	-1.9	-2.0	-2.1	-2.0	-1.9	-1.7	:
FIN	4.4	3.2	2.2	-0.2	:	:	:	:	:	:
S	-0.6	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	-3.2	-2.8	-2.2	-2.4	-2.1	-2.1	-2.3	-2.5	-2.5	-2.6
NO	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Table 6: Employment index for total industry, latest growth rates, compared to a year before (%)

Construction in the EU

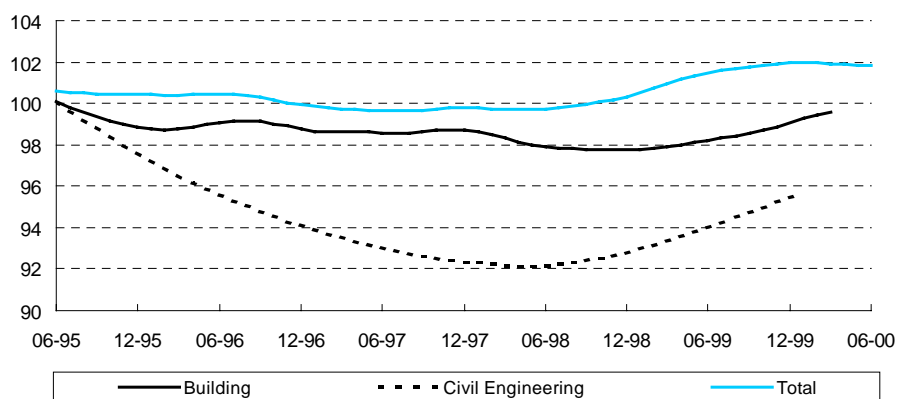


Figure 5: Construction output in the EU (1995 = 100)

There was a large reduction in construction output reported in Germany in September 2000, down by 5.5% in relation to the previous month. This figure followed an expansion of 5.8% in August 2000. Nevertheless, there was a lowering of the rate of decline in relation to the same month of the previous year from -12.1% in June 2000 to -10.1% by September 2000.

In France, three consecutive month on month increases were recorded for construction output through to September 2000. The two most recent figures showed French output in the construction sector rising by 0.7% in September 2000 and 0.1% in August 2000. The rate of change compared to the same month of a year before improved from -1.8% in July 2000 to 0.6% by September 2000.

In the euro-zone, two positive month on month rates of change for construction output were followed in September 2000 by a reduction of 0.2%. Over the twelve months to this date, construction output in the euro-zone rose by 0.3%, the sixth positive figure (using this rate of change) to be recorded during the year.

Data for the EU indicated that there was a reduction of 2.2% in construction activity in June 2000 (when compared to the same month of the previous year). Indeed, during most of the first six months of 2000 the EU growth rate tended to lag that of the euro-zone by up to 2.5 percentage points.

Retail trade and new car registrations in the EU

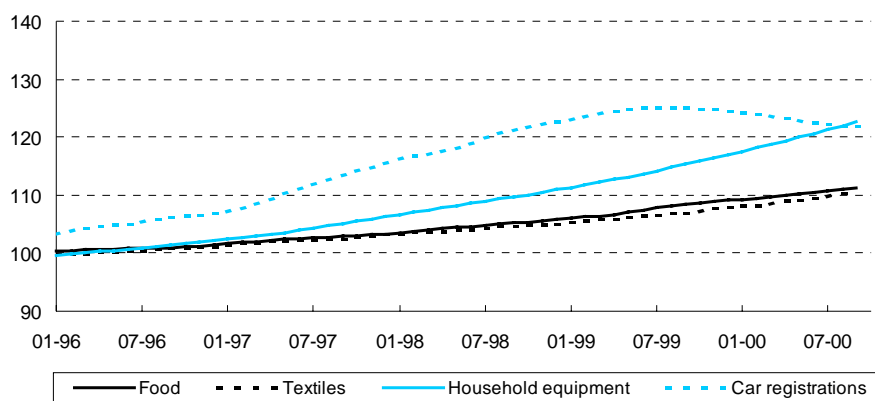


Figure 6: Retail sales turnover and new car registrations in the EU (1995 = 100)

Retail sales of household equipment in the EU grew by over 6.0% compared to the same month of the previous year throughout the first five months of 2000, but subsequently the rate of increase slowed somewhat. Nevertheless, the most recent figure indicated that sales volumes of household equipment in the EU rose by 0.9% in September 2000 and as a result, when compared to the same month of the previous year, EU sales volumes increased by 6.1%.

Turnover in the retail trade sector rose by 0.3% in September 2000 compared to the previous month, which was the seventh positive figure recorded in 2000. However, the increase when compared to the same month of the previous year moderated somewhat between May

2000 (4.8%) and September 2000 (3.5%). The figures for the euro-zone were very similar, with a 0.4% increase reported in September 2000 compared to the previous month, and growth of 3.3% between September 1999 and 2000.

Business cycle at a glance

	Industrial production	Industrial producer prices	Industrial new orders	Industrial employment	Construction	Building permits	Retail trade	Car registrations
EU -15	↗↗ 10-00	↗↗ 10-00	↗ 09-00	→ 07-00	→ 06-00	↘ 05-00	↗↗ 09-00	↘ 10-00
EU R-11	↗↗ 10-00	↗↗ 10-00	↗ 09-00	→ 07-00	→ 09-00	↘ 05-00	↗↗ 09-00	→ 10-00
B	↗ 10-00	↗↗ 10-00	↗ 09-00	↘↘ 09-00	→ 10-00	↘ 06-00	↗↗ 09-00	↘ 10-00
DK	↗ 10-00	↗↗ 10-00	↗↗ 10-00	↘↘ 09-00	:	↘ 09-00	↘↘ 08-00	↘ 10-00
D	↗ 10-00	↗↗ 10-00	→ 10-00	→ 10-00	↘↘ 09-00	↘↘ 07-00	→ 10-00	→ 10-00
EL	↘ 09-00	↗↗ 10-00	:	:	:	→ 01-00	↗↗ 08-00	→ 10-00
E	→ 09-00	↗↗ 10-00	:	↗ 09-00	↗ 06-00	↗↗ 01-00	↘ 09-00	↘ 10-00
F	↗↗ 09-00	↗↗ 10-00	:	↗↗ 09-00	→ 09-00	↗ 05-00	↗↗ 01-00	↘↘ 10-00
IRL	↗↗ 04-00	↗↗ 10-00	:	:	:	↗ 03-00	↗↗ 06-00	→ 10-00
I	→ 10-00	↗↗ 10-00	↘ 09-00	↘↘ 08-00	:	↗↗ 01-00	→ 09-00	↗↗ 10-00
L	↘ 10-00	↘ 10-00	:	↗↗ 09-00	↘ 07-00	:	↗↗ 09-00	→ 10-00
NL	↘↘ 10-00	↗↗ 10-00	↗ 10-00	↗↗ 06-00	↗ 06-00	↘↘ 01-00	↗↗ 09-00	↗ 10-00
A	→ 08-00	:	→ 08-00	↗ 08-00	→ 08-00	:	→ 09-00	↗ 10-00
P	↗↗ 10-00	↗↗ 10-00	:	↘↘ 09-00	:	↗↗ 02-00	→ 09-00	→ 10-00
FIN	↗↗ 10-00	↗↗ 10-00	:	→ 09-00	↗ 01-00	↘ 09-00	↗ 09-00	↘ 10-00
S	↘↘ 09-00	↗ 10-00	:	:	:	:	↗ 09-00	↘ 10-00
UK	→ 10-00	↗ 11-00	↗ 10-00	↘↘ 10-00	↗↗ 01-00	→ 05-00	↗↗ 10-00	↘↘ 10-00
NO	→ 10-00	↗↗ 10-00	:	:	↘ 01-00	↘ 01-00	→ 01-00	↘ 10-00

Table 7: Business cycle at a glance, seasonally adjusted series, latest month available (%)¹

Growth rates²: ↗↗ High growth; ↗ Moderate growth; → No change; ↘ Moderate decline; ↘↘ Large decline

(1) Producer prices: gross data.

(2) The growth rates compare the last three months with the previous three months period in relation to the standard deviation of each individual series since January 1995: high growth: $> \sigma$; moderate growth: $0.3\sigma \rightarrow \sigma$; no change: $-0.3\sigma \rightarrow 0.3\sigma$; moderate decline: $-\sigma \rightarrow -0.3\sigma$; large decline: $< -\sigma$.

Further information:

➤ Reference publications

Title Monthly Panorama of European Business
 Catalogue No KS-AM-00-011-EN-C Price EUR 17

➤ Databases

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