

Contents

Historical perspective	1
Allocation of NACE Rev. 1 headings to categories of aggregate classification	2
Aggregate definitions agreed in 2000	2

Main Industrial Groupings

Common aggregates for analysing business cycles

Gunter Schäfer

The production of short-term Community statistics on the business cycle relies on a commonly defined set of aggregates of economic activities, known as Main Industrial Groupings (MIGs). This issue of Statistics in Focus presents the allocation of NACE Rev.1 activities to each MIG as agreed by the Statistical Programme Committee in November 2000.

Historical perspective

Short-term statistics on MIGs provide important information on demand, output and prices and are used as leading indicators for analysing business trends in the European economy. The pressure for timely and comparable short term business statistics has drastically increased in recent years, especially with the completion of the European monetary union. Indeed, monetary policy must be based on reliable European statistics, which should be fully comparable at all levels. Short-term statistics must also enable economic and political decision makers to quickly and accurately analyse the economic situation. In addition, with the globalisation of the economies, the business cycle is likely to become more sector-orientated. In this perspective, MIGs supply harmonised definitions to analyse, amongst others, the trends of production, output prices or employment within the main sectors of the European economy, and help answer questions such as: is the origin of an economic recovery or slowdown led by consumer goods or capital goods? To what extent did a rise of energy prices affect those of consumer goods? Is employment growing or shrinking in the capital goods industries?

Harmonisation of concepts, norms, and standards is a prerequisite for the comparability of statistics. Historically, the European statistical system has been based on existing national systems and thus methodological concepts were essentially concerned with the effort to translate national statistics into European ones. This so called "post harmonisation" approach does not give fully satisfactory results. Cultural diversity, differences in business structures and organisation, or differences of priorities can result in a lack of harmonisation in methodologies and hence a poor level of comparability of data.

For 25 years, European short-term statistics were based on a Council Directive of 1972 (for industry) and one of 1978 (for construction). The legal basis of the collection of data was then revised with the adoption on 19 May 1998 of Council Regulation EC No. 1165/98 concerning short-term statistics, creating the legal framework for any future work on short term statistics.



Aggregate definitions agreed in 2000

The allocation of NACE Rev.1 activities to four main industrial groupings was originally defined as early as 1993. Nevertheless, each Member State brought its own idiosyncrasies to the definitions of their own national data. Within the context of the implementation of the 1998 Short-term Statistics Regulation (STS-R), the members of the Task Force on aggregate classifications including representatives of the European Commission, the European Central Bank and the Member States discussed new common definitions for MIGs during 1999 and 2000. In its meeting of November 2000, the Statistical Programme Committee (SPC) agreed to allocate NACE Rev. 1 activities to five main industrial groupings: energy (in its broad sense, encompassing NACE Rev. 1 Sub-section CA, Division

23 and Section E), intermediate goods industries, investment goods industries, durable consumer goods industries and non-durable consumer goods industries. These should assure the comparability of business trend indicators across Europe. The new definitions are in the process of formal adoption by the Commission. Following the passing of an implementing Commission Regulation, the Member States will have 3 months to make the changes. As such, it is hoped that data will start to become available from the second half of 2001 onwards using the new definitions.

The most visible change to the definitions is the creation of the energy grouping, which was previously included within intermediate goods. This change allows, for example, for a greater

visibility of energy prices pressures within the European economy. It was however agreed not to create two additional MIGs, that would have concerned the motor vehicles' industry and the food industry. In both cases, it was agreed that these groups would have weakened the significance of the MIGs where these industries are currently classified, namely capital goods and non-durable consumer goods respectively. There was at times a lengthy discussion on the merits of each activity, as at times it is difficult to place a given 3-digit NACE Rev. 1 industry. For this reason there may be surprises in the classification, with products such as cars or computers being classified as capital goods, although they could just as easily be considered as consumer goods.

Allocation of NACE Rev. 1 headings to categories of aggregate classification

Energy

NACE	Description
10	Mining of coal and lignite; extraction of peat
11	Extraction of crude petroleum and natural gas; service activities incidental to oil and gas extraction, excluding surveying
12	Mining of uranium and thorium ores
23	Manufacture of coke, refined petroleum products and nuclear fuel
40	Electricity, gas, steam and hot water supply
41	Collection, purification and distribution of water

Intermediate goods

NACE	Description
13	Mining of metal ores
14	Other mining and quarrying
15.6	Manufacture of grain mill products, starches and starch products
15.7	Manufacture of prepared animal feeds
17.1	Preparation and spinning of textile fibres
17.2	Textile weaving
17.3	Finishing of textiles
17.6	Manufacture of knitted and crocheted fabrics
20	Manufacture of wood and of products of wood and cork, except furniture; manufacture of articles of straw and plaiting materials
21	Manufacture of pulp, paper and paper products
24.1	Manufacture of basic chemicals
24.2	Manufacture of pesticides and other agro-chemical products
24.3	Manufacture of paints, varnishes and similar coatings, printing ink and mastics
24.6	Manufacture of other chemical products
24.7	Manufacture of man-made fibres
25	Manufacture of rubber and plastic products
26	Manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products
27	Manufacture of basic metals
28.4	Forging, pressing, stamping and roll forming of metal; powder metallurgy

28.5	Treatment and coating of metals; general mechanical engineering
28.6	Manufacture of cutlery, tools and general hardware
28.7	Manufacture of other fabricated metal products
31.2	Manufacture of electricity distribution and control apparatus
31.3	Manufacture of insulated wire and cable
31.4	Manufacture of accumulators, primary cells and primary batteries
31.5	Manufacture of lighting equipment and electric lamps
31.6	Manufacture of electrical equipment n.e.c.
32.1	Manufacture of electronic valves and tubes and other electronic components
37	Recycling

Capital goods

NACE	Description
28.1	Manufacture of structural metal products
28.2	Manufacture of tanks, reservoirs and containers of metal; manufacture of central heating radiators and boilers
28.3	Manufacture of steam generators, except central heating hot water boilers
29.1	Manufacture of machinery for the production and use of mechanical power, except aircraft, vehicle and cycle engines
29.2	Manufacture of other general purpose machinery
29.3	Manufacture of agricultural and forestry machinery
29.4	Manufacture of machine-tools
29.5	Manufacture of other special purpose machinery
29.6	Manufacture of weapons and ammunition
30	Manufacture of office machinery and computers
31.1	Manufacture of electric motors, generators and transformers
32.2	Manufacture of television and radio transmitters and apparatus for line telephony and line telegraphy
33.1	Manufacture of medical and surgical equipment and orthopaedic appliances
33.2	Manufacture of instruments and appliances for measuring, checking, testing, navigating and other purposes, except industrial process control equipment
33.3	Manufacture of industrial process control equipment
34	Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers
35.1	Building and repairing of ships and boats
35.2	Manufacture of railway and tramway locomotives and rolling stock
35.3	Manufacture of aircraft and spacecraft

Consumer durables

NACE	Description
29.7	Manufacture of domestic appliances n.e.c.
32.3	Manufacture of television and radio receivers, sound or video recording or reproducing apparatus and associated goods
33.4	Manufacture of optical instruments and photographic equipment
33.5	Manufacture of watches and clocks
35.4	Manufacture of motorcycles and bicycles
35.5	Manufacture of other transport equipment n.e.c.
36.1	Manufacture of furniture
36.2	Manufacture of jewellery and related articles
36.3	Manufacture of musical instruments

Consumer non-durables

NACE	Description
15.1	Production, processing and preserving of meat and meat products
15.2	Processing and preserving of fish and fish products
15.3	Processing and preserving of fruit and vegetables
15.4	Manufacture of vegetable and animal oils and fats
15.5	Manufacture of dairy products
15.8	Manufacture of other food products
15.9	Manufacture of beverages
16	Manufacture of tobacco products
17.4	Manufacture of made-up textile articles, except apparel
17.5	Manufacture of other textiles
17.7	Manufacture of knitted and crocheted articles
18	Manufacture of wearing apparel; dressing and dyeing of fur
19	Tanning and dressing of leather; manufacture of luggage, handbags, saddlery, harness and footwear
22	Publishing, printing and reproduction of recorded media
24.4	Manufacture of pharmaceuticals, medicinal chemicals and botanical products
24.5	Manufacture of soap and detergents, cleaning and polishing preparations, perfumes and toilet preparations
36.4	Manufacture of sports goods
36.5	Manufacture of games and toys
36.6	Miscellaneous manufacturing n.e.c.

Further information:

➤ Reference publications

Title Monthly Panorama of European Business - Annual subscription
 Catalogue No KS-AM-01-010-EN-C Price EUR 162

➤ Databases

NewCronos Theme 4
 Domain EBT (European Business Trends)

To obtain information or to order publications, databases and special sets of data, please contact the **Data Shop** network:

BELGIQUE/BELGIË	DANMARK	DEUTSCHLAND	ESPAÑA	FRANCE	ITALIA - Roma
Eurostat Data Shop Bruxelles/Brussel Rue du Commerce 124 Handelsstraat 124 B-1049 BRUXELLES / BRUSSEL Tel. (32-2) 299 66 66 Fax (32-2) 295 01 25 E-mail: datashop.brussels@cec.eu.int	DANMARKS STATISTIK Bibliotek og Information Eurostat Data Shop Sejrogade 11 DK-2100 KØBENHAVN Ø Tlf. (45) 39 17 30 30 Fax (45) 39 17 30 03 E-mail: bib@dst.dk	STATISTISCHES BUNDESAMT Eurostat Data Shop Berlin Otto-Braun-Straße 70-72 (Eingang: Karl-Marx-Allee) D-10178 BERLIN Tel. (49) 1888-644 94 27/28 Fax (49) 1888-644 94 30 E-mail: datashop@statistik-bund.de	INE Eurostat Data Shop Paseo de la Castellana, 183 Oficina 009 Entrada por Estébanez Calderón E-28046 MADRID Tel. (34-91) 583 91 67 Fax (34-91) 579 71 20 E-mail: datashop.eurostat@ine.es	INSEE Info Service Eurostat Data Shop 195, rue de Bercy Tour Gamma A F-75582 PARIS CEDEX 12 Tel. (33-1) 53 17 88 44 Fax (33-1) 53 17 88 22 E-mail: datashop@insee.fr	ISTAT Centro di Informazione Statistica Sede di Roma, Eurostat Data Shop Via Cesare Balbo, 11a I-00184 ROMA Tel. (39) 06 46 73 31 02/06 Fax (39) 06 46 73 31 01/07 E-Mail: dipdiff@istat.it
ITALIA - Milano	LUXEMBOURG	NEDERLAND	NORGE	PORTUGAL	SCHWEIZ/SUISSE/SVIZZERA
ISTAT Ufficio Regionale per la Lombardia Eurostat Data Shop Via Fieno 3 I-20123 MILANO Tel. (39) 02 80 61 32 46 0 Fax (39) 02 80 61 32 30 4 E-mail: mileuro@tin.it	Eurostat Data Shop Luxembourg BP 453 L-2014 LUXEMBOURG 4, rue A. Weicker L-2721 LUXEMBOURG Tel. (352) 43 35-2251 Fax (352) 43 35-2221 E-mail: ds.lux@eurostat.datashop.lu	STATISTICS NETHERLANDS Eurostat Data Shop-Voorburg Postbus 4000 2270 JM VOORBURG Nederland Tel. (31-70) 337 49 00 Fax (31-70) 337 59 84 E-mail: datashop@csb.nl	Statistics Norway Library and Information Centre Eurostat Data Shop Kongens gate 6 Boks 8131, Dep. N-0033 OSLO Tel. (47) 22 86 46 43 Fax (47) 22 86 45 04 E-mail: datashop@ssb.no	Eurostat Data Shop Lisboa INE/Serviço de Difusão Av. António José de Almeida, 2 P-1000-043 LISBOA Tel. (351) 21 842 61 00 Fax (351) 21 842 63 64 E-mail: data.shop@ine.pt	Statistisches Amt des Kantons Zürich, Eurostat Data Shop Bleicherweg 5 CH-8090 Zürich Tel. (41-1) 225 12 12 Fax (41-1) 225 12 99 E-Mail: datashop@zh.ch Internet: http://www.zh.ch/statistik
SUOMI/FINLAND	SVERIGE	UNITED KINGDOM	UNITED KINGDOM	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	
STATISTICS FINLAND Eurostat Data Shop Helsinki Tilastokirjasto PL 2B FIN-00022 Tilastokeskus Työpajakatu 13 B, 2 Kerros, Helsinki P. (358-9) 17 34 22 21 F. (358-9) 17 34 22 79 Sähköposti: datashop.tilastokeskus@tilastokeskus.fi Internet: http://www.tilastokeskus.fi/ik/ kk/datashop.html	STATISTICS SWEDEN Information service Eurostat Data Shop Karlavägen 100 • Box 24 300 S-104 51 STOCKHOLM Tfn. (46-8) 50 69 48 01 Fax (46-8) 50 69 48 99 E-Post: info.service@scb.se Internet: http://www.scb.se/info/ datashop/e/udatashop.asp	Eurostat Data Shop Enquiries & advice and publications Office for National Statistics Customers & Electronic Services Unit 1 Drummond Gate • B1/05 LONDON SW1V 2QQ Tel. (44-20) 75 33 56 76 Fax (44-1633) 81 27 62 E-mail: eurostat.datashop@ns.gov.uk	Eurostat Data Shop Electronic Data Extractions, Enquiries & advice - R.CADE Unit 1L Mounjoey Research Centre University of Durham DURHAM DH1 3SW Tel: (44-191) 374 73 50 Fax: (44-191) 384 49 71 E-mail: r-CADE@dur.ac.uk Internet: http://www.r-CADE.dur.ac.uk	HAVER ANALYTICS Eurostat Data Shop 60 East 42nd Street Suite 3310 NEW YORK, NY 101 65 Tel. (1-212) 986 93 00 Fax (1-212) 986 69 81 E-mail: eurodata@haver.com	

Media Support Eurostat (for professional journalists only):
 Bech Building Office A3/48 • L-2920 Luxembourg • Tel. (352) 4301 33408 • Fax (352) 4301 32649 • e-mail: eurostat-mediasupport@cec.eu.int

For information on methodology

Gunter Schäfer, Eurostat/D3, L-2920 Luxembourg, Tel. (352) 4301 33566, Fax (352) 4301 34359, E-mail: gunter.schaefer@cec.eu.int
 ORIGINAL: English

Please visit our web site at www.europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/ for further information!

A list of worldwide sales outlets is available at the **Office for Official Publications of the European Communities**.

2 rue Mercier - L-2985 Luxembourg
 Tel. (352) 2929 42118 Fax (352) 2929 42709
 Internet Address <http://eur-op.eu.int/ffr/generals-ad.htm>
 e-mail: info.inf@cec.eu.int

BELGIQUE/BELGIË - DANMARK - DEUTSCHLAND - GREECE/ELLADA - ESPAÑA - FRANCE - IRELAND - ITALIA - LUXEMBOURG - NEDERLAND - ÖSTERREICH
 PORTUGAL - SUOMI/FINLAND - SVERIGE - UNITED KINGDOM - ISLAND - NORGE - SCHWEIZ/SUISSE/SVIZZERA - BALGARİJA - CESKÁ REPUBLIKA - CYPRUS
 EESTI - HRVATSKA - MAGYARORSZÁG - MALTA - POLSKA - ROMÂNIA - RUSSIA - SLOVAKIA - SLOVENIA - TÜRKİYE - AUSTRALIA - CANADA - EGYPT - INDIA
 ISRAËL - JAPAN - MALAYSIA - PHILIPPINES - SOUTH KOREA - THAILAND - UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Order form

I would like to subscribe to Statistics in focus (from 1.1.2001 to 31.12.2001):
 (for the Data Shop and sales office addresses see above)

Formula 1: All 9 themes (approximately 140 issues)

Paper: EUR 360
 Language required: DE EN FR

Formula 2: One or more of the following seven themes:

- Theme 1 'General statistics'
 Paper: EUR 42
 - Theme 2 'Economy and finance'
 - Theme 3 'Population and social conditions'
 - Theme 4 'Industry, trade and services'
 - Theme 5 'Agriculture and fisheries'
 - Theme 6 'External trade'
 - Theme 8 'Environment and energy'
 Paper: EUR 84
- Language required: DE EN FR

Please send me a free copy of 'Eurostat mini-guide' (catalogue containing a selection of Eurostat products and services)
 Language required: DE EN FR

I would like a free subscription to 'Statistical References', the information letter on Eurostat products and services
 Language required: DE EN FR

Mr Mrs Ms
 (Please use block capitals)

Surname: _____ Forename: _____

Company: _____ Department: _____

Function: _____

Address: _____

Post code: _____ Town: _____

Country: _____

Tel.: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Payment on receipt of invoice, preferably by:

- Bank transfer
 Visa Eurocard

Card No: _____ Expires on: ____/____/____

Please confirm your intra-Community VAT number:

If no number is entered, VAT will be automatically applied. Subsequent reimbursement will not be possible.

Statistics in focus can be downloaded (pdf file) free of charge from the Eurostat web site. You only need to register. For other solutions, contact your Data Shop.