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Reduction in the EU production index offsets growth in December 2000 (induced by calendar effects)

*Extract from the Monthly Panorama of European Business
03/2001*

Gunter Schäfer

In this third issue of the MPEB the accession of Greece to the euro-zone on 01/01/2001 means that data presented in this report for the euro-zone covers twelve (rather than eleven) Member States as of reference period January 2001. This change affects most of the data in this publication (with euro-zone figures now available for January 2001 for production and producer prices for total industry, production for construction and new car registrations).

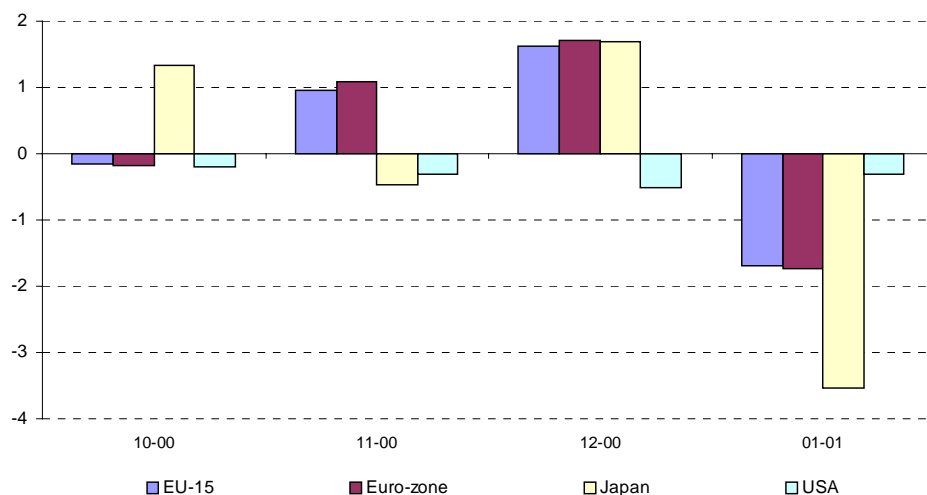


Figure 1: Production index, growth rates, compared to the previous month (%)

Data extracted on: 25.03.2001



Industrial production trends in the Triad

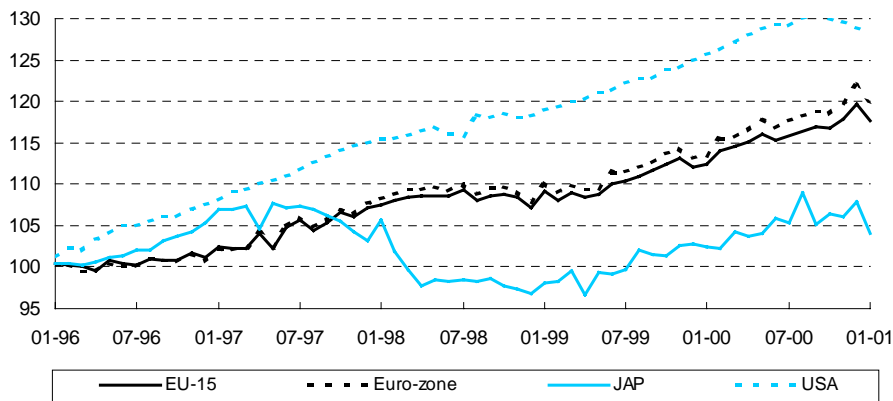


Figure 2: Production index for total industry (1995 = 100)

Recent growth (t/t-1)	EU-15	Euro-zone	Japan	USA
10-00	-0.2	-0.2	1.3	-0.2
11-00	1.0	1.1	-0.5	-0.3
12-00	1.6	1.7	1.7	-0.5
01-01	-1.7	-1.7	-3.5	-0.3

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

Industrial production in the EU dropped by 1.7% in January 2001 compared to the month before (largely as a result of calendar effects).

In the euro-zone the index for industrial production also fell by 1.7% in January 2001 compared to a month before. This may also be attributed to calendar effects and

can be seen as a correction when compared to 1.7% growth rate recorded in December 2000. Over the twelve months to January 2001 industrial production increased by 5.4% in the euro-zone, which was at a faster rate than in the EU as a whole.

Within the other members of the Triad industrial production followed

a downward trend in January 2001. The production index in the USA decreased by 0.3% compared to the month before, the fourth successive negative figure.

The production index for total industry in Japan fell by 3.5% in January 2001 compared to a month before, following a month on month increase of 1.7% in December 2000.

Producer price trends in the Triad

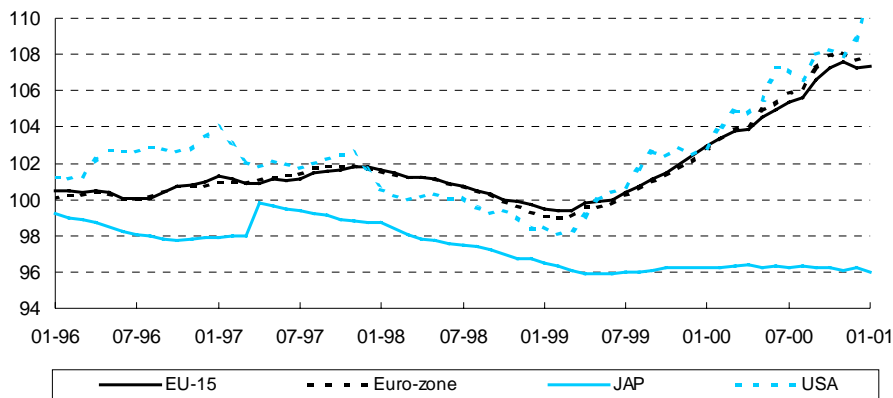


Figure 3: Producer price index for total industry (1995 = 100)

Recent growth (t/t-1)	EU-15	Euro-zone	JAP	USA
10-00	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.3
11-00	0.3	0.2	-0.1	-0.4
12-00	-0.3	-0.4	0.1	0.8
01-01	0.0	0.1	-0.2	2.3

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

The index for industrial producer prices in the EU was unchanged (0.0%) in January 2001 compared to December 2000. This marked a slowdown in the upward trend of producer prices, following positive rates of change throughout the whole of 2000.

The index for producer prices in the euro-zone followed a similar pattern. The month on month change was equal to 0.1% in January 2001, following a decline of 0.4% in December 2000.

Within the other two members of the Triad the producer price index followed a diverging trend. In the USA prices increased by 2.3% in January 2001 compared to a month before.

The Japanese index of industrial producer prices fell by 0.2% in January 2001.

Industrial production trends in the EU

	02-00	03-00	04-00	05-00	06-00	07-00	08-00	09-00	10-00	11-00	12-00	01-01
EU-15	1.3	0.6	0.4	0.9	-0.7	0.4	0.6	0.4	-0.2	1.0	1.6	-1.7
Euro-zone	1.6	0.3	0.8	1.0	-1.0	0.8	0.5	0.5	-0.2	1.1	1.7	-1.7
B	2.1	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	1.1	-0.3	0.6	0.1	1.4	1.1	0.0
DK	-0.9	-1.2	4.4	2.2	-5.5	3.3	1.4	1.3	-1.9	0.1	5.2	-4.4
D	1.9	-0.4	0.0	4.0	-3.5	2.2	0.1	0.9	0.1	0.8	1.2	0.9
EL	1.8	0.8	0.7	-2.4	0.4	-0.7	-0.3	-0.8	1.0	-1.7	:	:
E	1.8	0.0	-1.0	1.8	-1.1	-0.5	2.4	-1.9	-0.9	2.2	-0.9	-0.4
F	0.6	0.3	-0.2	0.1	0.1	1.5	0.0	-0.4	0.6	0.3	0.2	-0.3
IRL	7.8	0.7	13.3	-1.7	1.7	-1.2	2.2	-0.6	3.3	6.3	2.4	:
I	1.4	0.3	-0.7	2.5	-0.9	-0.8	1.2	0.1	-0.6	1.1	2.1	-1.8
L	-1.4	-2.0	1.0	-0.2	1.5	-0.6	0.7	-3.7	-1.0	3.9	3.8	-1.7
NL	4.0	1.3	-1.1	-0.2	2.1	-0.4	-0.8	0.0	-2.0	2.5	6.0	-10.6
A	3.8	1.9	0.0	2.2	-2.2	-0.7	2.7	-1.1	2.3	0.0	:	:
P	-4.2	-0.4	0.4	1.3	0.6	1.8	3.6	-1.3	-1.5	-0.6	3.2	-3.4
FIN	-0.8	2.1	1.6	0.8	0.1	0.4	1.5	2.3	1.9	0.4	-1.6	-2.0
S	2.3	1.6	3.4	-2.8	4.2	-3.2	-1.7	3.2	1.3	1.5	-0.7	:
UK	-0.3	0.7	0.7	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.4	-0.8	-0.1	0.2	-0.7	0.0
NO	2.2	0.9	-3.7	3.3	-4.0	4.9	-2.4	-0.4	2.6	-2.7	1.5	-1.2

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

Within the four main industrial groupings the production index decreased at varying degrees. Compared to the month before, intermediate goods output in the EU decreased by 1.1% in January 2001, at a less pronounced pace than the reduction observed for total industry.

The capital goods sector was the only MIG to report a diverging trend for production indices in the EU and euro-zone. In January 2001 the production index for capital goods decreased by 0.9% in the EU as a whole but increased by 0.3% in the euro-zone when compared to a month before.

The latest changes for the production index of consumer durables also showed a correction when compared to the high growth rates of December 2000. Output fell by 1.2% in the EU as whole in January 2001, whilst a decrease of 0.5% was registered in the euro-zone when compared to the month before.

Within the five larger Member States industrial production increased by 0.9% in Germany and remained unchanged in the United Kingdom (0.0%) in January 2001 when compared to the month before. Whilst in Germany the rate of change was slightly lower than that observed the month before (1.2%), the production index in the United Kingdom stabilised after a decline of 0.7% in December 2000.

When comparing January 2001 with the same month of the year before there was a slowdown in growth in January 2001 in both countries, as production rose by 8.8% in Germany and decreased by 0.2% in the United Kingdom (compared to rates of 9.9% and 1.9% respectively in December 2000).

In January 2001 the production index of total industry decreased by 1.8% in Italy, by 0.4% in Spain and by 0.3% in France (compared to the month before). In Italy the index slowed considerably when compared to the rate of change

recorded in December 2000, when output rose by 2.1%. In contrast, Spain reported less of a decrease than a month before (down by 0.9% in December 2000).

The majority of the remaining Member States also recorded a decline in their production indices for total industry in January 2001, ranging between -2.0% in Finland and -10.6% in the Netherlands (when compared with December 2000). There was however no change in output in Belgium (0.0%, January 2001). In December 2000 the picture had been quite different, as output rose strongly in the majority of countries, although it had already been falling in Finland and Sweden (down by 1.6% and 0.7% respectively).

Producer price trends in the EU

	03-00	04-00	05-00	06-00	07-00	08-00	09-00	10-00	11-00	12-00	01-01	02-01
EU-15	0.4	0.1	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.2	1.0	0.6	0.3	-0.3	0.0	:
Euro-zone	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.3	1.0	0.6	0.2	-0.4	0.1	:
B	1.2	0.0	1.2	0.3	-0.3	2.3	1.8	1.2	-0.5	-1.7	-1.7	:
DK	0.5	0.6	1.0	0.4	-0.2	0.7	0.9	0.3	-0.1	-1.2	0.5	:
D	0.0	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.9	0.5	0.2	-0.3	0.8	:
EL	1.2	-0.3	0.8	0.9	0.4	0.2	2.7	0.7	-0.1	-1.2	:	:
E	0.7	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	1.0	0.5	-0.1	-0.2	-0.3	:
F	0.7	0.2	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.3	1.2	0.6	0.1	-0.8	-0.4	:
IRL	0.5	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.6	0.7	-0.2	0.1	0.3	:
I	0.7	0.1	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.9	0.6	0.4	-0.1	0.0	:
L	1.1	1.6	0.3	0.9	-0.1	-0.1	-1.4	0.2	0.7	0.2	1.9	:
NL	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.5	1.3	0.3	1.1	1.1	0.3	-0.9	1.2	:
A	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
P	2.3	1.3	-0.1	2.1	1.5	-0.4	1.3	2.9	0.7	-1.1	-3.8	:
FIN	0.8	0.0	1.3	0.6	0.5	0.4	1.3	0.6	0.2	-0.6	-0.9	0.0
S	-0.1	-0.1	0.8	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.7	0.5	-0.2	0.0	:
UK	-0.3	-0.9	-0.1	0.3	0.1	-0.1	0.5	0.4	1.2	0.4	0.0	-0.1
NO	1.2	-2.7	4.2	1.4	-0.4	1.0	3.4	0.1	0.6	-4.6	-1.3	:

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

Price developments within the Member States were somewhat unusual in January 2001. There was a wider disparity in the growth rates reported by individual Member States. Within the five largest Member States, Germany recorded increasing producer prices in January 2001 compared to December 2000 (up by 0.8%), which was in contrast to the latest EU data. However, the month before prices in Germany fell at the same pace as in the EU (down by 0.3% in December 2000). In Italy the price index remained unchanged in January 2001 (0.0%), following a moderate decrease of 0.1% in December 2000. Over the twelve months to January 2001 industrial

producer prices increased by 4.6% in Germany and 5.4% in Italy (the highest increases amongst the larger Member States).

The index for industrial producer prices in the United Kingdom decreased moderately by 0.1% in February 2001 when compared to the month before, following unchanged prices in January 2001. As a result there was a slowdown in the rate of growth when measured on the basis of a change between one month and the same month of the year before. Industrial prices rose by 1.3% in February 2001, which was 0.5 percentage points less than in October 2000.

In France and Spain there were also falling prices in January 2001, with respective rates of -0.4% and -0.3%. These figures marked the third consecutive month of falling prices in Spain, and this was passed through to the rate of change when compared with the same month of the year before which slowed to 3.9% in January 2001. Prices in France increased by 3.8% over the twelve months to January 2001, continuing the slowdown in price increases since the autumn 2000.

Employment trends in the Triad and Member States

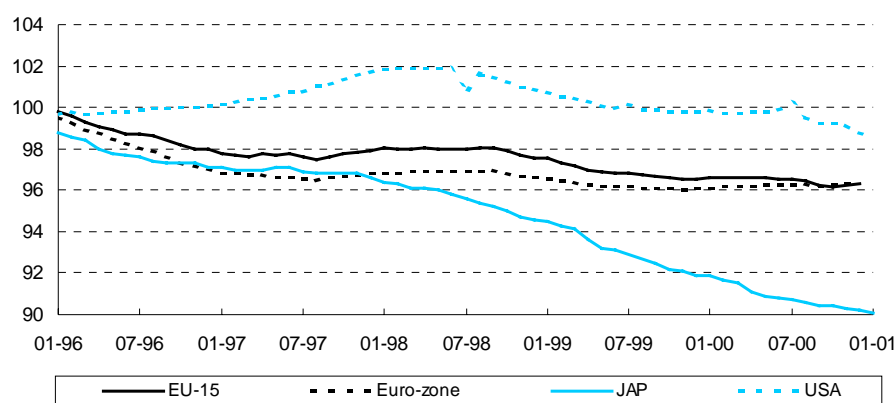


Figure 4: Employment index for total industry (1995 = 100)

Recent growth (t/t-1)	EU-15	Euro-zone	JAP	USA
10-00	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
11-00	0.1	0.1	-0.1	-0.1
12-00	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.3
01-01	:	:	-0.1	-0.4

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

The index for industrial employment in the EU remained unchanged in December 2000 compared to the month before, following a moderate increase of 0.1% in November 2000.

The employment index in the euro-zone was unchanged (0.0%) between November 2000 and December 2000.

There was no uniform trend to the employment index within the Member States. Whilst the United Kingdom recorded a month on month decline of 0.2%, Italy saw employment increase by 0.2% (both November 2000). Data was available on a quarterly basis for

Spain and France where industrial employment in the fourth quarter of 2000 was higher than in the third quarter of 2000 (up by 1.1% and 0.3% respectively).

	I-00	II-00	III-00	IV-00	07-00	08-00	09-00	10-00	11-00	12-00
EU-15	-0.7	-0.3	-0.3	-0.2	-0.3	-0.3	-0.4	-0.4	-0.3	-0.2
Euro-zone	-0.3	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
B	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
DK	-1.8	1.0	-2.2	-0.3	:	:	:	:	:	:
D	-0.9	-0.1	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	2.7	3.3	3.5	4.1	:	:	:	:	:	:
F	0.1	0.7	1.2	1.6	:	:	:	:	:	:
IRL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I	-1.6	-2.2	-2.4	:	-2.5	-2.4	-2.1	-2.6	-2.3	:
L	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.9	1.5	1.1	1.3	1.7	2.0	1.9
NL	0.2	0.2	0.3	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
A	-0.7	0.2	0.8	:	0.8	0.8	0.7	1.1	1.1	:
P	-2.8	-2.3	-2.1	:	-2.0	-2.1	-2.1	-2.0	-1.3	:
FIN	3.3	2.2	-0.2	-0.1	:	:	:	:	:	:
S	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	-2.8	-2.2	-2.4	:	-2.3	-2.5	-2.5	-2.6	-2.7	:
NO	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

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

Construction in the EU

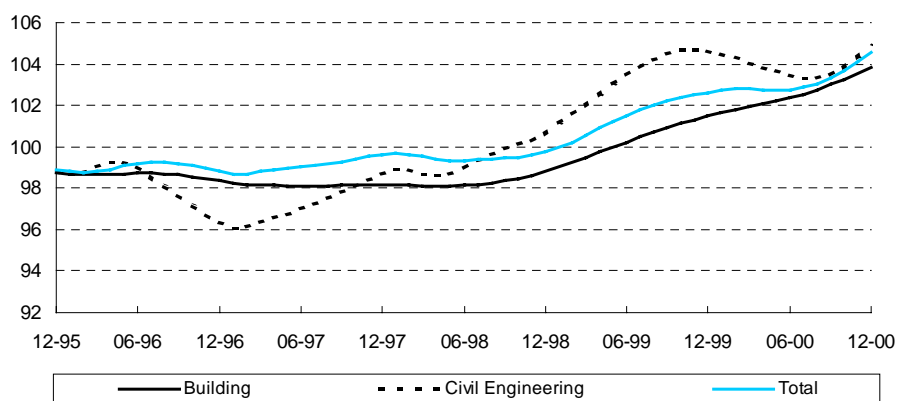


Figure 5: Construction output in the EU (1995 = 100)

Netherlands continued to record positive rates of change (which started in February 2000), with construction output up by 5.1% in December 2000 (compared to the month before).

The number of building permits issued in the EU was unchanged in July 2000 (0.0%) when compared to a month before, but decreased by 3.5% when compared to the same month of a year before.

The input price index for residential buildings in the EU rose by 0.2% in October 2000 (compared to the month before), in line with the moderate increases recorded since February 2000. EU input price increases measured on the basis of one month with the same month of a year before were equal to 3.2% in October 2000

The construction production index for the euro-zone decreased by 1.6% in January 2001 (when compared to the month before). However, this rate followed three months of growth (the highest of which was in December 2000, up by 2.9%). Over the twelve-month period between January 2000 and

January 2001 construction output in the euro-zone increased by 4.0%.

Within the Member States the production index for construction decreased at a rapid pace in Germany (-7.8%), Belgium (-7.1%) and France (-2.7%, all January 2001 compared to December 2000). The

Retail trade and new car registrations in the EU

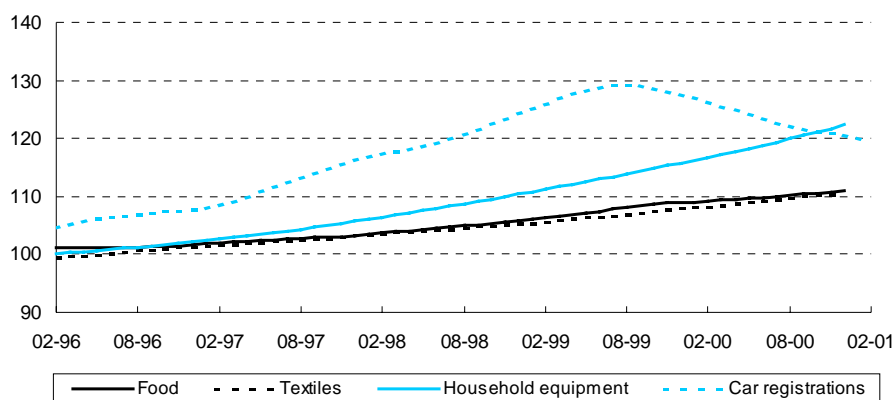


Figure 6: Retail sales turnover and new car registrations in the EU (1995 = 100)

December 2000 retail sales grew by 2.4% in the EU and by 1.7% in the euro-zone.

The number of new car registrations in the EU decreased by 2.0% in February 2001 (compared to the month before). In the twelve months to February 2001 car registrations declined by 9.0% in the EU, which was 8.4 percentage points faster than in January 2001.

In general terms, the euro-zone displayed larger changes in the new car registrations index than the EU. In February 2001 the month on month rate of change was -3.5% in euro-zone (which was 1.5 percentage points below the corresponding rate for the EU).

The retail sales index displayed a continued upward trend in the EU. Retail sales volumes in the EU expanded by 0.3% in December 2000 (compared to the month before), following a growth rate of 0.4% in November 2000.

Within the euro-zone there were smaller increases recorded in December 2000, when sales volumes increased by 0.1%. In November 2000 sales volumes in the euro-zone had increased by 0.3%. Over the twelve months to

Business cycle at a glance

	Industrial production	Industrial producer prices	Industrial new orders	Industrial employment	Construction	Building permits	Retail trade	Car registrations
EU-15	↗↗ 01-01	↗↗ 01-01	↗ 12-00	↘ 12-00	↗↗ 12-00	↘ 07-00	↗↗ 12-00	↘ 02-01
Euro-zone	↗↗ 01-01	↗ 01-01	↗ 11-00	→ 12-00	↗↗ 01-01	↘ 07-00	↗ 12-00	↘ 02-01
B	↗↗ 01-01	↘ 01-01	→ 11-00	:	↗ 01-01	→ 11-00	↗↗ 12-00	↘ 02-01
DK	↗ 01-01	→ 01-01	↗↗ 01-01	→ 12-00	:	↗ 12-00	↘ 12-00	↘ 02-01
D	↗↗ 01-01	↗↗ 01-01	↗↗ 01-01	→ 12-00	↗↗ 01-01	↘↘ 07-00	↘ 01-01	→ 02-01
EL	↘ 11-00	↗↗ 12-00	:	:	:	→ 01-00	↗↗ 12-00	↘ 02-01
E	→ 01-01	↗ 01-01	:	↗↗ 12-00	↗↗ 12-00	↗ 09-00	↗↗ 01-01	→ 02-01
F	↗ 01-01	→ 01-01	:	↗ 12-00	↗ 01-01	→ 12-00	↗↗ 06-00	↗ 02-01
IRL	↗↗ 12-00	↗ 01-01	:	:	:	↗ 03-00	↗↗ 11-00	→ 02-01
I	↗↗ 01-01	↗↗ 01-01	↗↗ 12-00	↘↘ 11-00	↗ 06-00	:	↘ 12-00	→ 02-01
L	↗↗ 01-01	↗ 01-01	:	↗↗ 12-00	→ 12-00	↗ 11-00	↗↗ 12-00	→ 02-01
NL	↗↗ 01-01	↗↗ 01-01	↘ 01-01	↗↗ 09-00	↗ 12-00	↘↘ 08-00	↗↗ 01-01	↗↗ 02-01
A	↗↗ 11-00	:	↗↗ 10-00	→ 11-00	→ 11-00	:	→ 12-00	↗ 02-01
P	↘ 01-01	↗ 01-01	:	↘↘ 11-00	:	→ 11-00	→ 12-00	↘↘ 02-01
FIN	↗ 01-01	↘ 02-01	:	→ 12-00	↘↘ 09-00	↘ 10-00	↘ 12-00	↘↘ 02-01
S	↗↗ 12-00	↗↗ 01-01	:	:	:	:	↗ 01-01	→ 02-01
UK	↘ 01-01	↗↗ 02-01	→ 01-01	↘↘ 11-00	↘↘ 09-00	→ 05-00	↗↗ 02-01	→ 02-01
NO	→ 01-01	↘ 01-01	:	:	:	↗↗ 12-00	→ 01-01	↗ 02-01

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-01-003-EN-C Price EUR 17

➤ Databases

New Cronos, Theme 4
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