

Statistics in focus

INDUSTRY, TRADE AND SERVICES

3/2006

Author

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Short-term statistics: recent developments in the Western Balkans

This publication provides an overview of recent developments in various parts of the business economy among the Western Balkan countries. Data is provided for Albania (AL), Bosnia and Herzegovina (BA), Croatia (HR), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (MK¹), and Serbia and Montenegro (CS): in some cases separate data is available for one or both of the Republics of Montenegro (XM) and Serbia (XS).

This is the first publication by Eurostat focusing on short-term business statistics in the Western Balkans region, and reflects the fact that these countries have started work to compile short-term business statistics in a way that is comparable with those produced by EU Member States. The progress towards adopting EU methods and standards varies between indicators, and between the countries and attention should be paid to the methodological notes presented throughout the text and at the end of this publication.

While the present publication has been prepared with data specially provided by the countries concerned solely for the purpose of this publication, it is hoped that such an exercise can be repeated in the future and eventually lead to a regular provision of short-term statistics to Eurostat, as has already been started during 2005 for Croatia.

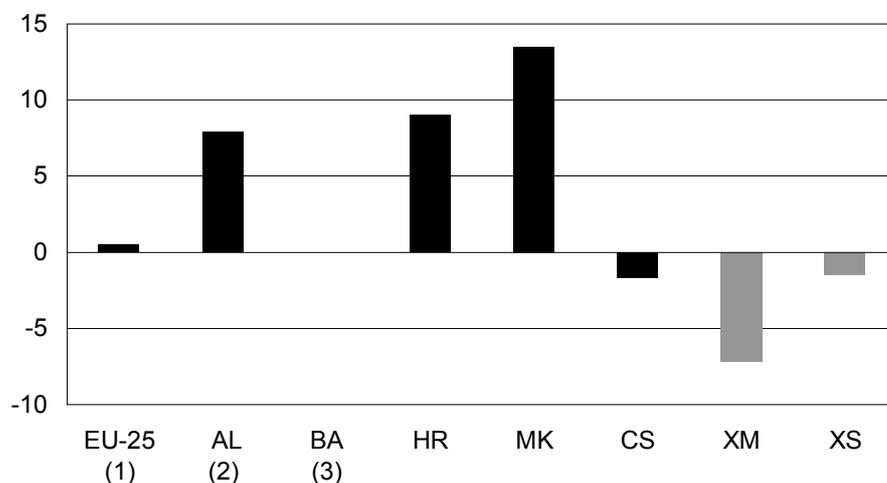


Figure 1: PRODUCTION INDEX YEAR ON YEAR GROWTH RATES, TOTAL INDUSTRY (NACE SECTIONS C TO E), GROSS DATA, Q2-2005 (%)

Source: Eurostat STS and National Statistical Institutes

- (1) Working day adjusted.
- (2) Turnover index, deflated with PPI.
- (3) Not available.



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¹ MK: provisional code which does not prejudice in any way the definitive nomenclature for this country, which will be agreed following the conclusion of negotiations currently taking place on this subject at the United Nations.

Industrial production index

Output values are affected by volume and price changes: the index of production aims to identify volume changes in output only. Note that the industrial production index is not available for Albania and a deflated version of the industrial turnover index is shown in its place.

Tables 1 and 2 show the growth rates for the production index for the last six quarters, in each case calculated as the rate of growth relative to the same quarter of one year earlier (year on year growth rates).

Table 1 shows the growth rates for total industry excluding construction (NACE Rev. 1.1 Sections C to E). Throughout the period presented Croatia recorded positive rates of change, with a high rate of growth in the second quarter of 2005. The index for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia shows that its industrial activity moved out of a period of contraction after the first half of 2004 into a period of expansion, also with high growth in the second quarter of 2005 as seen in Croatia. In contrast, in Serbia and Montenegro the strong growth recorded throughout 2004 was reversed in 2005 with two consecutive reductions in output in the first two quarters of the year.

Table 2 shows similar information to that in Table 1, but presents growth rates for the three NACE Sections from which total industry is composed.

	Year on year growth rates, gross data					
	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04	Q1-05	Q2-05
EU-25 (1)	1.6	3.3	2.6	1.2	0.4	0.5
AL (2)	28.6	-16.8	-4.7	-9.7	-19.0	7.9
BA	:	:	:	:	:	:
HR	5.7	2.3	3.0	3.9	0.3	9.0
MK	-8.9	-5.8	0.7	4.8	4.8	13.5
CS	7.4	6.8	6.8	9.1	-2.8	-1.7

Table 1: PRODUCTION INDEX, TOTAL INDUSTRY (NACE SECTIONS C TO E)

Source: Eurostat STS and National Statistical Institutes

(1) Working day adjusted.

(2) Turnover index, deflated with PPI.

		Year on year growth rates, gross data					
		Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04	Q1-05	Q2-05
Mining and quarrying (NACE Section C)	EU-25	-4.8	-0.3	-3.6	-2.6	-4.3	-2.8
	AL (1)	8.6	-37.6	23.5	2.3	-7.9	30.2
	BA	:	:	:	:	:	:
	HR	3.1	-2.5	-3.3	-9.7	-10.5	0.8
	MK	-12.6	-0.1	-0.5	-7.9	-21.5	18.3
	CS	14.6	-5.0	-8.7	-0.6	-2.8	1.3
Manufacturing (NACE Section D)	EU-25	1.9	3.7	2.9	1.1	0.3	0.7
	AL (1)	35.8	-2.0	11.8	10.7	-1.6	13.6
	BA	:	:	:	:	:	:
	HR	6.9	1.7	2.9	5.1	0.9	11.4
	MK	-10.9	-6.6	1.7	6.3	5.9	16.3
	CS	10.2	11.3	6.3	11.3	-5.4	-4.0
Electricity, gas and water supply (NACE Section E)	EU-25	1.9	1.1	2.0	2.8	1.5	1.2
	AL (1)	18.1	-6.9	-9.4	-19.5	-35.1	-9.8
	BA	:	:	:	:	:	:
	HR	-1.3	10.6	6.9	1.8	0.8	-3.8
	MK	-3.4	-1.9	-4.5	-0.7	3.6	-0.2
	CS	-0.2	-5.3	12.7	5.2	5.0	9.2

Table 2: PRODUCTION INDEX

Source: Eurostat STS and National Statistical Institutes

(1) Turnover index, deflated with PPI.

Industrial domestic output prices

Output price indices permit monitoring of prices at different stages of the manufacturing process and can be used as a deflator for the calculation of the production index. 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 domestic market for output prices index is defined as customers resident in the same national territory as the observation unit.

Tables 3 and 4 show the year on year price changes (compared with one year earlier) and also the quarter on quarter price changes (compared with the previous quarter). In the second quarter of 2004 a high quarter on quarter growth rate was recorded in Albania, apart from which Albanian price changes were quite low. In Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia the quarter on quarter price changes were also relatively low, and both countries recorded one quarter of negative changes during the six quarters presented. Serbia and Montenegro recorded a higher level of growth in prices, however the growth was quite stable, in the range of 2.4 % to 3.6 % for each of the six quarters presented for the Republic of Serbia.

	Quarter on quarter price changes, gross data						Year on year price changes, gross data					
	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04	Q1-05	Q2-05	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04	Q1-05	Q2-05
EU-25	0.7	1.2	1.2	1.5	1.1	1.1	0.5	2.5	3.7	4.6	5.0	4.9
AL	0.9	9.6	1.3	0.1	1.5	1.1	4.1	13.3	13.5	12.1	12.7	4.0
BA	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
HR	0.3	2.4	2.2	0.6	-0.3	0.6	0.1	3.2	5.2	5.5	4.9	3.0
MK	-0.4	0.9	0.7	0.3	0.0	1.7	-2.2	-0.4	1.1	1.5	1.9	2.7
CS	2.3	3.4	2.8	2.4	:	:	5.6	8.5	9.7	11.3	:	:
XM	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
XS (1)	2.4	3.6	2.8	2.6	3.0	2.6	5.7	8.9	10.1	11.8	13.5	13.3

Table 3: DOMESTIC OUTPUT PRICE INDEX, TOTAL INDUSTRY (NACE SECTIONS C TO E)

Source: Eurostat STS and National Statistical Institutes, (1) Source: Republic of Serbia statistical office.

		Quarter on quarter growth rates, gross data						Year on year growth rates, gross data					
		Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04	Q1-05	Q2-05	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04	Q1-05	Q2-05
Mining and quarrying (NACE Section C)	EU-25	1.9	3.7	-0.4	0.6	3.1	2.8	1.1	4.4	4.7	5.9	7.1	6.1
	AL	-7.6	0.1	0.1	0.1	3.1	4.4	-1.24	9.9	6.2	-7.36	3.4	4.8
	BA	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	HR	0.6	0.6	3.3	2.0	0.3	-0.3	-1.6	-5.6	2.3	6.7	6.3	5.4
	MK	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.0	0.5
	CS	-0.1	7.4	1.2	1.9	:	:	1.5	8.1	8.5	10.6	:	:
	XM	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	XS (1)	0.2	9.9	1.3	2.0	2.4	3.8	3.6	11.2	11.5	13.7	10.0	10.4
Manufacturing (NACE Section D)	EU-25	0.8	1.6	1.1	0.8	0.5	0.9	0.4	2.6	3.8	4.4	4.1	3.3
	AL	10.9	10.6	1.9	-0.9	1.7	1.0	1.9	11.3	12.8	23.9	13.5	3.7
	BA	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	HR	0.3	1.8	1.4	0.2	-0.4	1.2	-0.3	3.1	3.6	3.8	3.1	2.4
	MK	0.7	1.0	1.0	0.3	-0.1	1.0	-1.4	0.7	2.7	3.0	2.3	2.1
	CS	2.7	3.5	2.0	2.7	:	:	5.1	8.0	9.6	11.3	:	:
	XM	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	XS (1)	2.8	3.4	2.1	2.9	3.5	2.9	4.9	8.1	9.8	11.7	14.0	13.7
Electricity, gas and water supply (NACE Section E)	EU-25	0.0	-2.0	1.0	5.2	4.3	0.5	1.4	1.1	2.1	4.3	8.8	11.5
	AL	4.4	11.4	1.8	4.0	-0.2	1.6	8.3	22.7	20.5	23.2	17.8	7.4
	BA	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	HR	0.0	5.6	5.1	1.4	0.0	-1.5	2.9	8.7	14.2	12.6	12.6	5.0
	MK	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	CS	0.0	0.0	11.6	-0.5	:	:	15.4	14.2	11.6	11.1	:	:
	XM	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	XS (1)	0.0	0.0	12.0	-0.4	0.0	0.0	15.1	15.1	12.0	11.5	11.3	11.3

Table 4: DOMESTIC OUTPUT PRICE INDEX

Source: Eurostat STS and National Statistical Institutes, (1) Source: Republic of Serbia statistical office.

Production in construction

The purpose of the index of production in construction is similar to that in industry, namely to measure the volume of output of the construction activity. The coverage of this indicator is Section F (Division 45) of NACE. In terms of the classification of types of construction (CC) this indicator covers both building construction (CC Section 1) and civil engineering (CC Section 2).

The calculation of a volume index of production in construction is particularly difficult and a wide variety of methods are used among the EU Member States, as well as the Western Balkan countries. One approach is to measure output in value terms (value added, production value or turnover) and to deflate this, where possible adjusting the production value or turnover to get closer to the ideal measure of value added. This approach is difficult in that it is hard to compile an adequate deflator, reflecting the change in prices of the output of construction activity; in some cases countries

use a construction cost index (for example, based on the costs of materials, labour and machinery) as a deflator. Another approach for compiling the production index is based on input data, either the hours worked or the materials used. The hours worked index is difficult to implement in that it requires an adjustment for changes in productivity, as well as an accurate measurement of hours really worked.

Among the Western Balkan countries Croatia uses the hours worked method. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Serbia and Montenegro compile indicators of the value of production that is not deflated.

The construction production index for the EU-25 is based on data for the Member States which use a variety of methods, all of which are in some ways a volume measure, normally based on a deflated measure of output or on input data.

	Year on year growth rates, gross data					
	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04	Q1-05	Q2-05
EU-25 (1)	2,8	0,8	-0,1	-0,7	-3,5	0,1
AL	-12	1,9	6,5	36,5	16,8	22,0
BA	15,9	-8,3	2,9	11,9	-13,0	28,3
HR (1)	11,5	6,4	-3,2	-4,8	-6,6	-5,6
MK	6,1	19,7	2,9	-7,1	-34,7	-29,9
CS	:	:	:	:	:	:
XM	:	:	:	:	:	:
XS (2)	18,9	43,9	31,8	39,7	-20,0	9,2

Table 5: PRODUCTION IN CONSTRUCTION (NACE SECTION F)

Source: Eurostat STS and National Statistical Institutes

(1) Volume index.

(2) Source: Republic of Serbia statistical office.

Services turnover

Motor trades

The objective of the turnover index is to show the evolution of the market for goods and services. Turnover is an important short-term indicator for all services and is particularly pertinent for distributive trades, as selling is generally the main part of this activity.

Turnover comprises the totals invoiced by the observation unit during the reference period - 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 VAT and other similar deductible taxes directly linked to turnover. It is a value index and as such changes in the index reflect changes in volume and prices.

Motor trades are classified with NACE Rev. 1.1 Division 50, and include the sale and repair of vehicles and motorcycles, as well as the retail sale of automotive fuel.

During 2004 Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia all recorded positive rates of change each quarter, followed by a negative rate of change in the first quarter of 2005: only in Bosnia and Herzegovina was this negative rate reversed in the second quarter of 2005. Croatia recorded a much more stable turnover index throughout the first three quarters of 2004, with three consecutive small negative rates of change, but this has been followed by double digit growth in each of the last three quarters.

	Year on year growth rates, gross data					
	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04	Q1-05	Q2-05
EU-25	5.5	7.3	5.2	7.8	3.4	4.6
AL	24.4	60.2	41.8	25.4	-9.5	-16.4
BA	85.1	18.9	26.8	5.1	-13.8	33.2
HR	-0.7	-1.9	-0.2	14.0	13.5	28.4
MK	45.7	53.6	10.6	41.4	-26.6	-19.0
CS	:	:	:	:	:	:

Table 6: TURNOVER INDEX, MOTOR TRADES (NACE DIVISION 50)

Source: Eurostat STS and National Statistical Institutes

Wholesale trades

Wholesale trades are classified with NACE Rev. 1.1 Division 51. As well as supplying retailers with consumer goods, wholesalers also supply industrial goods to all other activities, whether agricultural, industrial or services.

Table 7 indicates double-digit year on year growth rates throughout the period analysed for Bosnia and Herzegovina. Year on year growth rates in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia increased throughout 2004, before slowing considerably in both of the first two quarters of 2005. Croatia recorded much lower rates of change throughout the period analysed, and witnessed a development from a decline of 3.6 % (registered for the third quarter of 2004) to increasingly large positive rates of change during the next three quarters.

	Year on year growth rates, gross data					
	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04	Q1-05	Q2-05
EU-25	2.4	5.1	5.3	5.2	5.5	6.8
AL	:	:	:	:	:	:
BA	36.5	50.1	35.9	36.8	21.8	25.7
HR	3.0	-3.3	-3.6	0.5	2.0	5.6
MK	3.9	20.9	23.6	23.7	10.3	2.3
CS	:	:	:	:	:	:

Table 7: TURNOVER INDEX, WHOLESALE TRADE (NACE DIVISION 51)

Source: Eurostat STS and National Statistical Institutes

Retail trade and repair

As well as being a measure of output of the retail trade activity, retail trade turnover provides an indicator of quarterly household consumption. Retail trade and repair activities are classified in NACE Rev. 1.1 Division 52: Groups 52.1 to 52.6 cover retail trade, while Group 52.7 concerns the repair of personal and household goods.

Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Serbia recorded double-digit growth rates in the turnover index throughout 2004 and the first half of 2005, while Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia also recorded positive rates of change throughout this period. Albania also recorded positive growth during each quarter in 2004, declining from a high in the second quarter; this was followed in the first half of 2005 by two negative rates (with the pace of reduction accelerating considerably in the second quarter).

	Year on year growth rates, gross data					
	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04	Q1-05	Q2-05
EU-25 (1)	3,0	3,1	2,8	2,5	2,0	1,7
AL (2)	29,9	30,5	8,6	8,3	-2,1	-15,3
BA	22,8	42,4	45,5	40,4	48,5	50,0
HR	10,5	8,3	9,3	8,9	3,1	6,7
MK	5,3	3,8	4,5	6,6	5,3	14,7
CS	:	:	:	:	:	:
XM	:	:	:	:	:	:
XS (3)	17,6	22,6	33,7	38,1	49,4	59,4

Table 8: TURNOVER INDEX, RETAIL TRADE (NACE DIVISION 52)

Source: Eurostat STS and National Statistical Institutes

(1) Working day adjusted.

(2) NACE Groups 52.1 to 52.5.

(3) Source: Republic of Serbia statistical office; excluding NACE Group 52.7, including NACE Groups 50.1, 50.3, part of 50.4, and 50.5; excluding entrepreneurs (physical persons).

Hotels and restaurants

The concept of turnover is different in services compared with distributive trades as in many services there is no re-sale of a good and the products sold contain a greater or lesser extent of services provided to third parties. In NACE Rev. 1.1 Section H (Division 55) includes the provision of lodging and/or prepared meals, snacks, and beverages for immediate consumption.

Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Serbia and Montenegro all recorded positive rates of change for these activities through the period

presented in Table 9. In Albania the turnover index shows the reversal of a negative year on year rate of change early in 2004 followed by increasing growth through to the end of the year before a large negative rate of change was recorded for the first quarter of 2005. The index for Bosnia and Herzegovina moved from double-digit growth in the first and third quarters of 2004 to negative rates of change in the last quarter of 2004 and the first quarter of 2005, before returning to a positive rate in the second quarter of 2005.

	Year on year growth rates, gross data					
	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04	Q1-05	Q2-05
EU-25	3.2	0.8	0.0	5.1	2.2	3.7
AL (1)	-10.5	12.0	20.6	23.7	-11.2	7.7
BA	12.1	5.8	13.4	-1.7	-5.2	1.6
HR	12.4	7.1	5.6	5.3	0.1	3.8
MK	7.2	9.8	3.0	6.8	5.1	6.4
CS	8.1	8.3	3.9	6.8	4.9	5.1

Table 9: TURNOVER INDEX, HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS (NACE SECTION H)

Source: Eurostat STS and National Statistical Institutes

(1) NACE Group 55.1.

➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Albania

Industrial turnover: quarterly survey covers all enterprises with 10 or more persons employed in Sections C to E of NACE. Domestic output prices: quarterly survey of enterprises with 10 or more employees in NACE Sections A to E, collecting monthly prices.

Production in construction: quarterly survey covers all enterprises with 10 or more persons employed in Section F of NACE. Production of construction in value is collected - the value of construction work related to construction activity done during the reference period.

Services turnover: quarterly survey of enterprises in NACE Division 50, Groups 52.1 to 52.5 and Group 55.1.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Production in construction: monthly survey of enterprises that carry out construction work. Value index is based on the value of work done.

Services turnover: quarterly surveys of enterprises in NACE Sections G and H. Retail turnover index covers retail turnover of distributive trades enterprises, not turnover of retail trade enterprises; equally wholesale trade turnover covers wholesale turnover of distributive trades enterprises.

Croatia

Industrial production: monthly survey of enterprises with 20 or more persons employed within NACE Sections C to E, and some smaller enterprises, and enterprises of other activities producing industrial products. Index is compiled from the physical quantity of production.

Domestic output prices: monthly survey in NACE Sections C to E excluding ship-building and recycling. Prices are transaction prices for the domestic market, excluding excise duties, VAT and rebates.

Production in construction: monthly survey of enterprises in NACE Section F with 20 or more persons employed. A volume index is compiled from hours worked.

Services turnover: quarterly survey of enterprises with a distributive trades, hotel or restaurants activity (NACE Sections G and H, and Class 85.11) - for physical persons and enterprises classified as crafts only those with a principal activity in these activities are included. Turnover in distributive trades includes VAT.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Industrial production: monthly survey of units with 10 or more employees within NACE Sections C to E. Index is compiled from the physical quantity of production.

Domestic output prices: monthly survey in NACE Sections C to E excluding Divisions 30, 37 and 41. Prices include subsidies, exclude VAT, commercial rebates, discounts, cash discounts and similar reductions. Prices are for the domestic market.

Production in construction: monthly survey of enterprises that carry out construction work. An index of the value of completed construction works is compiled.

Services turnover: quarterly survey of enterprises with a distributive trades, hotel or restaurants activity (NACE Sections G and H, and Class 85.11). Excludes distributive trades enterprises with less than MKD 10 000 of turnover and hotels and restaurants outlets in the private sector that are registered as individual traders. Turnover in distributive trades includes VAT.

Serbia and Montenegro

Industrial production: monthly survey of enterprises with 20 or more persons employed (no threshold in the Republic of Montenegro) within NACE Sections C to E and enterprises of other activities producing industrial products. Index is compiled from the physical quantity of production.

Domestic output prices: monthly survey in NACE Sections C to E (Republic of Serbia, excluding NACE Groups 35.1 and 35.3, as well as materials within the defence industry). Prices exclude excise duties and VAT, and are for the domestic market.

Production in construction: quarterly survey of enterprises important in terms of their construction production (no threshold in the Republic of Montenegro). A value indicator is compiled based on the value of work done. Services turnover (Republic of Serbia): monthly and quarterly surveys of retail turnover of enterprises with a retail trade activity (within NACE Divisions 50 and 52 excluding Groups 50.2 and 52.7), regardless of their principal activity, excluding entrepreneurs (physical persons). Retail turnover includes VAT. Quarterly survey of enterprises that carry out a hotel or restaurant activity, excluding private entrepreneurs.

Geographical codes and symbols

EU-25	European Union of 25 Member States
AL	Albania
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina
HR	Croatia
MK ²	the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
CS	Serbia and Montenegro
XM	Republic of Montenegro
XS	Republic of Serbia
:	not available

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Agency for statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina (www.bhas.ba)
Central bureau of statistics of Croatia (www.dzs.hr)
State statistical office (of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) (www.stat.gov.mk)
Statistical Office of Serbia and Montenegro (www.szs.sv.gov.yu)

For the Republics of Montenegro and Serbia data were provided by the statistical office of Serbia and Montenegro, except where in individual tables and graphs it is indicated that data were provided by the Republic of Serbia statistical office (<http://webrzs.statserb.sr.gov.yu/axd/index.php>).

Further information

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² MK: provisional code which does not prejudice in any way the definitive nomenclature for this country, which will be agreed following the conclusion of negotiations currently taking place on this subject at the United Nations.

Further information:

Reference publications

Title	Quarterly Panorama of European business statistics
Catalogue No	KS-DL-05-004-EN-C
Price	EUR 30

Databases : [EUROSTAT Website/Home page/Data](#)

Industry, trade and services

Industry, trade and services - horizontal view

Short-term Business Statistics - Monthly and Quarterly (Industry, Construction, Retail Trade and Other Services)

-  Industry (NACE Rev.1 C-F)
-  Construction (NACE Rev.1 F) - Building and civil engineering
-  Trade and other services (NACE Rev.1 G-K)
-  Growth rates

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