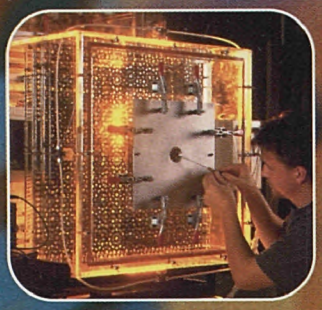
ISSN 1027-7315

# Monthly Panorama of European Industry



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ISSUE 12/97 ■ DECEMBER 1997

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# Monthly Panorama of European Industry

ISSUE 12/97 ■ DECEMBER 1997

Theme
Energy and industry
4

Series
Short-term statistics
B

Sent to press in December 1997

A great deal of additional information on the European Union is available on the Internet. It can be accessed through the Europa server (http://europa.eu.int)

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# Editorial

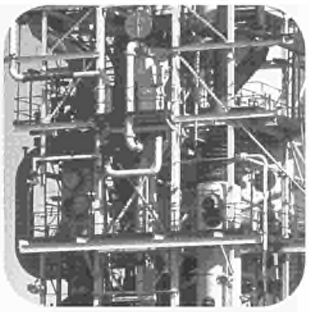
Welcome to the last edition of the Monthly Panorama for 1997. We hope you have found the articles in the monthly and special editions of the publication both topical and of interest. In addition, we hope you have appreciated the changes in format and presentation that have taken place in the last year. May we remind readers that to continue the evolution of the publication, we look forward to receiving their views and comments, and hope that as many people as possible will be able to return the questionnaire that was included in issue 11.

EU economies grew faster than expected at the start of 1997 - leading to Commission forecasts of economic activity being revised upwards in the autumn of 1997. The growth of EU industrial production in September 1997 was however lower than that seen during the summer months - growing by 0.8% in the three months to September 1997 (compared to the previous three months). Data on producer prices showed that the gradual growth in domestic output prices had (at least temporarily) stopped. Producer price inflation for the year to September 1997 was equal to 1.2% (compared to 1.4% in August 1997).

This month we focus on the wood processing industry and in particular wood panels. Growth in output for the EU wood processing industry to September 1997 was equal to 1.4% compared to a year before. Producer price pressure in the industry was limited, although in Finland (one of the EU's leading producers) there was price inflation of over ten per cent to September 1997. Wood processing accounted for 1.6% of total manufacturing output in 1996. The industry is characterised by two main customers - the construction sector and the furniture industry and is therefore subject to cyclical swings in demand that have characterised the last two decades.

Finally, may we take this opportunity to wish all readers a happy New Year.

**François de Geuser,**
**Luxembourg**



**Latest outlook** - the most recent short-term indicators for European industry in tabular and graphic format, page 13

**In depth** - a close look into the wood industry, page 49

# Contents



The Monthly Panorama of European Industry has the objective of furnishing readers with an instrument which will allow them to follow the evolution of industrial short-term trends and also show the structure and activity of industry at the sectorial level. The publication appears eleven times during the course of the year. When the occasion warrants topical articles may well be treated in the form of a special edition, five of which are planned for 1997.

This publication is a joint project of Eurostat and Directorate General III (Industry policy).
The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual authors alone and do not necessarily reflect the position of the European Commission.

**Next issue:**
Chemicals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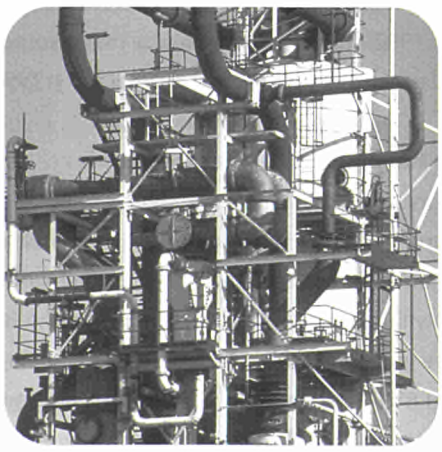
# 1 Economic commentary



**Economic commentary**

current economic situation in the EU, Japan and United States

**Data in this section**

index of production, consumer price index, trade balance

For full methodological notes and an explanation of the signs and abbreviations used in this publication, please refer to page 85

In this section



## Economic activity for 1997 shows a positive trend

In the Commission forecast for the autumn of 1997 there were positive signs of buoyant economic developments. Data on industrial confidence, consumer confidence and investment led to forecasts for 2.6%, 3.0% and 3.1% growth in the European economy during the years 1997-1999.

## Industrial production - three months compared to the previous three months

All growth rates in this commentary refer to the three month period ending in September 1997 - compared to the previous three months (unless otherwise stated). After growth of over one per cent in the summer of 1997, EU industrial production grew by only 0.8% in the three months to September 1997. Data for the four largest Member States reported growth of 0.8% in Germany, 1.0% in France, 1.4% in Italy, whilst there was no change in output in the United Kingdom.

The highest levels of expansion for total industry were seen in Ireland (although data lags by a month), Luxembourg, Spain and Sweden. These levels were consistent with rates recorded during the whole of the summer period, when these four economies consistently recorded production growth above that of the other Member States. In Spain, industrial production grew by more than two per cent during the six months to September 1997. Likewise, in Sweden, growth exceeded two per cent during the seven months to September 1997. In Ireland growth was over two per cent in each of the last ten months that data was available (back to November 1996).

## Output slowing down in the major European economies

The convergence of the European industrial economy seems to be supported by production data for total industry. In the first five months of 1997, the major European economies (with the exception of the United Kingdom) recorded quite high levels of production growth. The growth rates seen in Germany, France and Italy all peaked in May 1997 (with respective growth of 1.2%, 1.6% and 1.9%). Since May, the rates of growth have slowed to 0.8%, 1.0% and 1.4%. It is interesting to note that the reductions seen are of similar magnitude between the three economies. In the United Kingdom data for 1997 has continued to fluctuate around the zero per cent level.

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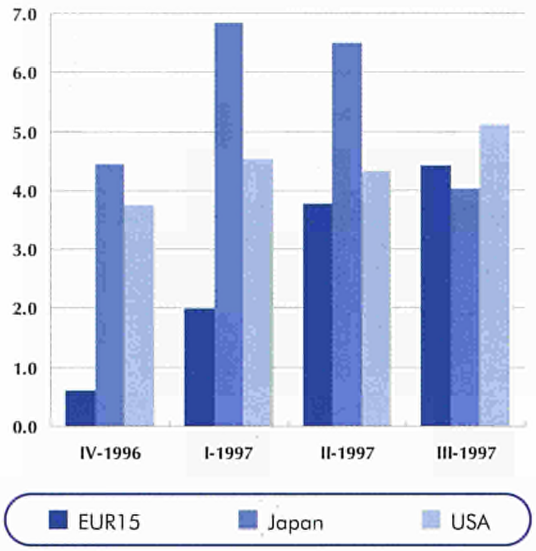
Industrial production for the EU grew by 0.8% in the three months to September 1997

Figure 1.1




Year on year growth rates (t/t-4) for industrial production (%)

Source: eurostat

### Year on year changes in industrial production

By means of comparison it may be of interest to look at the changes in industrial production between September 1996 and 1997. The reader should be aware that the growth rates reported here take no account of the period between the two observations and hence could hide a turning point in the monthly series. Nevertheless, year on year changes between one period and the same period a year before are conceptually easier to understand than the three month on three month growth rate.

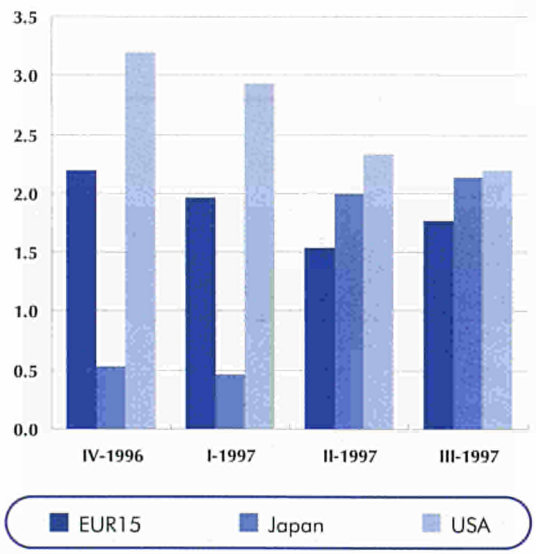
Data for September 1997 showed growth of 3.4% in the EU for total industry (in August 1997 the figure was 4.3%). Comparable data for the largest Member States reported the following year on year changes (production growth compared to September 1996): France (4.1%), Germany (3.1%), Italy (2.5%), Spain (8.4%) and the United Kingdom (0.6%).

### Performance in the individual goods sectors

Growth in the individual goods sectors has also seen peaks being reached in the second and third quarters of 1997 and rates of growth decelerating since. Taking the goods sectors in turn: we can see that intermediate goods quickened to June 1997 (up 1.9% compared to the previous three months) - but, had slowed down during the summer to stand at 1.0% by September 1997. For capital goods, the acceleration in output continued through to July 1997 (up 1.9%) since when growth has slowed to 1.2% (again September 1997).

Turning to the consumer goods sectors: consumer durables have seen a rapid change in fortunes - with expansion of 1.9% in April 1997 quickly changing to a negative trend (-0.9%) by September 1997. Consumer non-durables have shown little fluctuation in recent months - growth peaking at 0.7% in February 1997, receding to near zero during the summer months and recording an increase of 0.3% in September 1997.

Figure 1.2

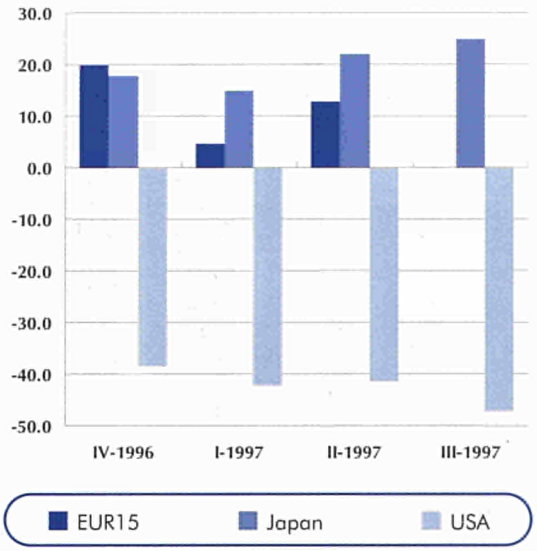



Year on year growth rates (t/t-4) for consumer prices (%)

Source: eurostat

Figure 1.3

Quarterly trade balance (billion ECU)




Source: eurostat

Producer price inflation was

up by 1.2% in September 1997

### International comparison with Japan and the United States

From November 1996, industrial production in Japan has been showing signs of slowing down - the rate of growth for total industry fell from 2.2% in November 1996 to -0.2% by September 1997 (with a small reduction seen in almost every month). Worst hit has been the consumer goods sector of the Japanese economy, which has been reporting negative trends in recent months. Consumer durables have been recording negative growth rates since July 1997 (contracting by 3.0% in the three months to September 1997). In the meantime, consumer non-durables have been negative since April 1997.

In the United States, despite data for July and August of 1997 suggesting a slowdown in US industrial production - data for September 1997 showed that output was rising again - back to comparable rates of growth to those displayed in the first five months of 1997. The performance of the capital goods sector continued to lead the American economy - posting a growth rate in excess of two per cent for the seventh consecutive month to September 1997 (2.5%). Consumer durables are also buoyant in the USA, rising by 2.6% in September 1997. This sector of the American economy has now posted growth in excess of one per cent for every month of 1997. Intermediate goods are not fairing so well.

Table 1.1

Year on year growth rates (t/t-12) for industrial production (%)

| | EUR15 | Japan | USA |
|---|---|---|---|
| 10-96 | 1.3 | 5.3 | 3.2 |
| 11-96 | 0.8 | 4.9 | 3.9 |
| 12-96 | -0.3 | 3.2 | 4.1 |
| 01-97 | 1.5 | 7.6 | 4.9 |
| 02-97 | 2.7 | 5.8 | 4.1 |
| 03-97 | 1.8 | 7.2 | 4.6 |
| 04-97 | 5.3 | 4.7 | 5.2 |
| 05-97 | 2.2 | 7.8 | 4.2 |
| 06-97 | 3.8 | 7.0 | 3.6 |
| 07-97 | 5.6 | 4.9 | 5.2 |
| 08-97 | 4.3 | 4.7 | 4.7 |
| 09-97 | 3.4 | 2.5 | 5.4 |

Source: eurostat

### Producer prices growth steadies

European producer prices rose from August 1996 (0.2%) through to August 1997 (1.4%). After this expansion - data for September 1997 reported slightly slower growth, with producer price inflation retracting by 0.2 percentage points to 1.2% (data compared to September 1996). In the individual Member States the following changes were recorded: France (0.1%), Germany (1.4%), Italy (1.6%) and the United Kingdom (0.7%). The gradual growth in European producer prices has not been mirrored in all the Member States. There has been a period of much more rapid price expansion in the

## CONSUMER PRICES & TRADE BALANCE

Scandinavian economies. Comparing producer price increases for total industry between January 1997 and September 1997, the following percentage point changes may be observed: Denmark (+1.7 points), Finland (+3.3 points) and Sweden (+2.0 points). On the other hand, producer price growth has slowed in France, Greece, Ireland, the Netherlands and Portugal during the same period.

By means of international comparison the latest data for Japan and the United States recorded changes in producer prices of -0.5% and 1.7% respectively for September 1997, thus continuing the trends seen in these two countries since April 1997.

This text was written by: Andrew Redpath

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Table 1.2

Year on year growth rates (t/t-12) for consumer prices (%)

| | EUR15 | Japan | USA |
|---|---|---|---|
| **11-96** | 2.2 | 0.5 | 3.3 |
| **12-96** | 2.1 | 0.5 | 3.3 |
| **01-97** | 2.2 | 0.5 | 3.0 |
| **02-97** | 2.0 | 0.5 | 3.0 |
| **03-97** | 1.7 | 0.4 | 2.8 |
| **04-97** | 1.5 | 1.9 | 2.5 |
| **05-97** | 1.5 | 1.9 | 2.2 |
| **06-97** | 1.6 | 2.2 | 2.3 |
| **07-97** | 1.7 | 1.9 | 2.2 |
| **08-97** | 1.8 | 2.1 | 2.2 |
| **09-97** | 1.8 | 2.4 | 2.2 |
| **10-97** | 1.7 | 2.5 | 2.1 |

Source: eurostat

Table 1.3

Monthly trade balance (billion ECU)

| | EUR15 | Japan | USA |
|---|---|---|---|
| **10-96** | 7.7 | 4.6 | -12.2 |
| **11-96** | 6.4 | 6.0 | -11.9 |
| **12-96** | 5.8 | 7.3 | -14.2 |
| **01-97** | -2.3 | 1.6 | -14.9 |
| **02-97** | 3.1 | 6.1 | -14.4 |
| **03-97** | 3.9 | 7.3 | -12.9 |
| **04-97** | 3.2 | 7.0 | -13.6 |
| **05-97** | 4.3 | 6.8 | -14.2 |
| **06-97** | 5.5 | 8.4 | -13.4 |
| **07-97** | 10.2 | 8.2 | -15.2 |
| **08-97** | : | 7.2 | -15.4 |
| **09-97** | : | 9.5 | -16.5 |

Source: eurostat

# Other Eurostat products

## The Panorama CD-ROM Professional Version

The Panorama of EU Industry has established itself as one of the major sources of data and commentary on EU industrial activity - giving a wide cross-sectional analysis of some 200 industrial and service activities. Now Eurostat has launched a database - containing not only the text and tables from the publication, but also:

★ country breakdowns of EU totals;

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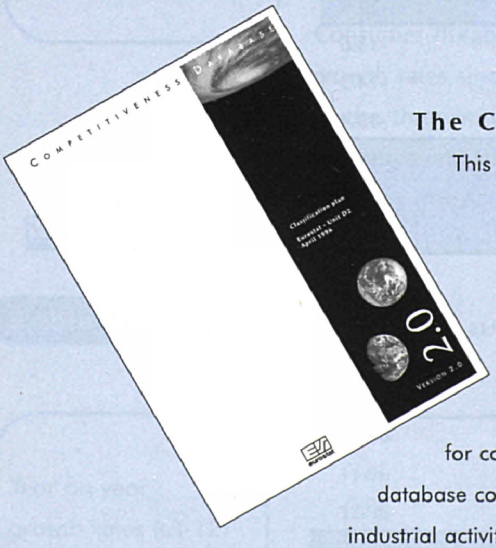


## The Competitiveness Database

This is a new product, bringing together a wide range of indicators linked to industrial competitiveness for the EU Member States and OECD countries. This database will be vital for anyone interested in studying industrial competitiveness, for comparing industrial opportunities. The database covers some 30 countries in depth, 200 industrial activities and nearly 100 indicators, for the period 1980-1995. The database comes on CD-ROM and includes Eurostat standard CUB.X software for viewing and extracting the data.

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**Business cycle at a glance**

**Short-term indicators**

production index, producer price index, employment index, capacity utilisation, the construction sector, foreign trade indices

data extracted on: 10/12/97

For full methodological notes and an explanation of the signs and abbreviations used in this publication, please refer to page 85

## BUSINESS CYCLE AT A GLANCE...

**Table 2.1**

Business cycle at a glance - situation for the production index of the main industrial groupings, trend cycle

| | Latest 3 months available | Total industry | Intermediate goods | Capital goods | Consumer durables | Consumer non-durables |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EUR15 | 07-97 ⇨ 09-97 | ↗ | ↗ | ↗ | ↘ | → |
| B | 07-97 ⇨ 09-97 | ↗ | ↗ | ↗↗ | ↘ | ↗ |
| DK | 07-97 ⇨ 09-97 | ↗ | ↗ | ↗ | ↗↗ | ↗ |
| D | 07-97 ⇨ 09-97 | ↗ | ↗ | ↗ | → | ↘ |
| EL | 07-97 ⇨ 09-97 | → | ↗ | ↗ | ↗↗ | → |
| E | 07-97 ⇨ 09-97 | ↗ | ↗↗ | ↗↗ | ↗↗ | → |
| F | 07-97 ⇨ 09-97 | ↗ | ↗ | ↗ | ↗ | ↗ |
| IRL | 06-97 ⇨ 08-97 | ↗↗ | ↗↗ | ↗↗ | : | ↗ |
| I | 07-97 ⇨ 09-97 | ↗ | ↗ | ↘ | ↘↘ | ↗ |
| L | 07-97 ⇨ 09-97 | ↗↗ | ↗↗ | ↗ | ↘ | ↗ |
| NL | 07-97 ⇨ 09-97 | → | ↗ | → | ↗ | → |
| A | 12-96 ⇨ 02-97 | ↗ | → | ↗ | ↘↘ | ↗ |
| P | 06-97 ⇨ 08-97 | ↗ | ↗ | ↗↗ | ↗↗ | → |
| FIN | 07-97 ⇨ 09-97 | ↗ | ↗ | ↗↗ | ↗↗ | → |
| S | 07-97 ⇨ 09-97 | ↗ | ↗ | ↗↗ | ↗↗ | → |
| UK | 07-97 ⇨ 09-97 | → | → | → | ↗ | → |
| | | | | | | |
| Japan | 07-97 ⇨ 09-97 | → | → | → | ↘↘ | ↘ |
| USA | 07-97 ⇨ 09-97 | ↗ | → | ↗↗ | ↗↗ | → |

Growth rates:

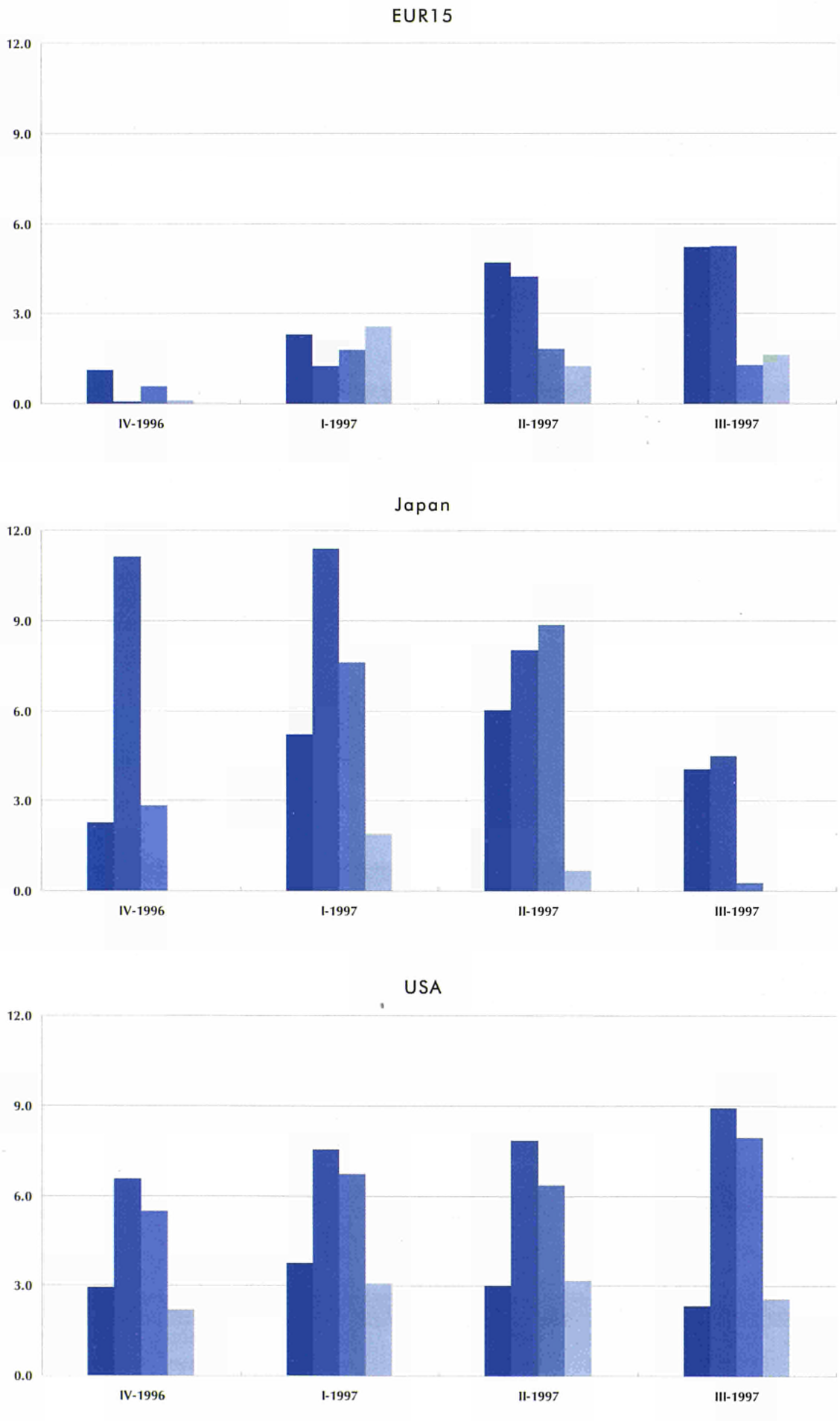
| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| ↗↗ | | | >2.5% |
| ↗ | 0.5% | → | 2.5% |
| → | -0.5% | → | 0.5% |
| ↘ | -2.5% | → | -0.5% |
| ↘↘ | | | <-2.5% |

Source: eurostat

PRODUCTION INDEX - W.D.ADJ.

Figure 2.1

TRIAD comparison of production growth for the main industrial groupings, based on changes from the corresponding quarter of the previous year, w.d.adj. (%)




Source: eurostat

## Table 2.2

Indices of production for total industry, w.d.adj. (1990 = 100)

| | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 04-97 | 05-97 | 06-97 | 07-97 | 08-97 | 09-97 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EUR15 | 99.5 | 103.4 | 103.5 | 109.2 | 105.9 | 111.6 | 104.9 | 85.1 | 110.8 |
| B | 94.7 | 100.9 | 102.4 | 105.6 | 109.1 | 110.4 | 90.3 | 99.5 | 108.0 |
| DK | 111.1 | 115.8 | 117.1 | 120.3 | 117.3 | 134.3 | 99.1 | 123.5 | 135.2 |
| D | 93.9 | 95.9 | 96.0 | 100.6 | 94.3 | 102.9 | 101.6 | 88.5 | 104.3 |
| EL | 95.7 | 97.4 | 98.4 | 97.2 | 99.0 | 105.9 | 106.9 | 91.7 | 113.7 |
| E | 98.6 | 103.2 | 102.1 | 115.5 | 109.3 | 116.6 | 114.4 | 71.9 | 115.9 |
| F | 97.7 | 99.6 | 99.7 | 107.7 | 99.5 | 107.3 | 98.2 | 79.8 | 104.9 |
| IRL | 133.3 | 158.5 | 171.1 | 193.6 | 192.4 | 204.7 | 187.3 | 177.9 | : |
| I | 101.7 | 107.9 | 104.9 | 112.6 | 114.1 | 116.1 | 113.0 | 54.6 | 114.1 |
| L | 100.5 | 101.0 | 100.6 | 111.3 | 109.4 | 110.3 | 109.1 | 87.1 | 109.6 |
| NL | 105.3 | 108.3 | 111.3 | 117.2 | 110.6 | 112.3 | 97.1 | 95.1 | 108.8 |
| A | 105.9 | 112.3 | : | 118.3 | : | : | : | : | : |
| P | 94.9 | 99.4 | 100.8 | 104.7 | 101.3 | 107.8 | 108.6 | 74.6 | : |
| FIN | 106.5 | 114.1 | 118.3 | 130.5 | 131.7 | 135.0 | 99.1 | 121.5 | 131.5 |
| S | 103.8 | 116.8 | 120.4 | 130.9 | 131.7 | 139.7 | 89.9 | 117.9 | 139.4 |
| UK | 103.8 | 106.2 | 107.1 | 105.2 | 104.8 | 107.6 | 103.8 | 97.0 | 106.9 |
| Japan | 93.1 | 96.3 | 98.6 | 102.3 | 98.6 | 107.0 | 106.8 | 94.3 | 106.8 |
| USA | 109.8 | 113.4 | 116.5 | 119.8 | 119.4 | 123.3 | 120.9 | 126.0 | 127.0 |

Source: eurostat

## Table 2.3

TRIAD comparison of indices of production for the main industrial groupings, w.d.adj. (1990 = 100)

| | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 04-97 | 05-97 | 06-97 | 07-97 | 08-97 | 09-97 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total industry** | | | | | | | | | |
| EUR15 | 99.5 | 103.4 | 103.5 | 109.2 | 105.9 | 111.6 | 104.9 | 85.1 | 110.8 |
| Japan | 93.1 | 96.3 | 98.6 | 102.3 | 98.6 | 107.0 | 106.8 | 94.3 | 106.8 |
| USA | 109.8 | 113.4 | 116.5 | 119.8 | 119.4 | 123.3 | 120.9 | 126.0 | 127.0 |
| **Intermediate goods** | | | | | | | | | |
| EUR15 | 101.8 | 105.1 | 104.3 | 112.0 | 107.9 | 111.9 | 106.4 | 87.6 | 111.7 |
| Japan | 95.5 | 99.3 | 99.7 | 104.4 | 101.0 | 106.9 | 106.5 | 96.4 | 106.4 |
| USA | 104.1 | 105.4 | 107.3 | 107.2 | 107.5 | 112.6 | 113.3 | 115.7 | 116.1 |
| **Capital goods** | | | | | | | | | |
| EUR15 | 92.2 | 99.5 | 101.5 | 106.8 | 103.3 | 114.9 | 103.2 | 80.8 | 109.8 |
| Japan | 85.6 | 89.5 | 97.6 | 98.8 | 95.6 | 105.6 | 104.7 | 93.5 | 112.4 |
| USA | 103.7 | 108.6 | 113.7 | 120.7 | 121.2 | 125.1 | 121.0 | 127.9 | 129.3 |
| **Consumer durables** | | | | | | | | | |
| EUR15 | 95.2 | 96.6 | 97.0 | 103.8 | 97.5 | 106.3 | 96.1 | 58.5 | 108.5 |
| Japan | 82.3 | 81.3 | 79.6 | 83.6 | 79.8 | 90.8 | 86.4 | 62.6 | 82.1 |
| USA | 114.5 | 120.9 | 127.0 | 134.7 | 134.5 | 138.6 | 131.8 | 140.6 | 142.9 |
| **Consumer non-durables** | | | | | | | | | |
| EUR15 | 102.6 | 104.5 | 103.7 | 104.5 | 104.2 | 107.5 | 104.6 | 89.6 | 109.1 |
| Japan | 98.8 | 98.7 | 98.3 | 102.5 | 95.6 | 103.6 | 103.9 | 87.7 | 95.8 |
| USA | 107.2 | 108.5 | 108.6 | 109.7 | 109.6 | 113.8 | 112.9 | 116.7 | 117.3 |

Source: eurostat

## PRODUCTION INDEX - SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Table 2.4

Indices of production for total industry, seasonally adjusted (1990 = 100)

| | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 04-97 | 05-97 | 06-97 | 07-97 | 08-97 | 09-97 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EUR15 | 99.5 | 103.4 | 103.5 | 107.4 | 105.8 | 107.6 | 108.7 | 107.2 | 107.6 |
| B | 94.7 | 100.9 | 102.4 | 102.1 | 105.2 | 104.4 | 114.6 | 111.3 | 103.3 |
| DK | 111.1 | 115.8 | 117.1 | 120.6 | 120.8 | 121.1 | 124.7 | 122.0 | 124.1 |
| D | 93.9 | 95.9 | 96.0 | 101.0 | 98.0 | 101.6 | 102.8 | 99.3 | 100.6 |
| EL | 95.7 | 97.4 | 98.4 | 99.9 | 100.5 | 100.5 | 101.0 | 99.4 | 101.8 |
| E | 98.6 | 103.2 | 102.1 | 110.4 | 107.0 | 108.9 | 109.7 | 112.7 | 111.3 |
| F | 97.7 | 99.6 | 99.7 | 103.5 | 102.6 | 102.9 | 104.9 | 104.9 | 103.8 |
| IRL | 133.3 | 158.5 | 171.1 | 190.5 | 188.2 | 195.2 | 201.4 | 206.0 | : |
| I | 101.7 | 107.9 | 104.9 | 107.4 | 107.5 | 108.1 | 108.9 | 110.7 | 108.9 |
| L | 100.5 | 101.0 | 100.6 | 104.5 | 103.6 | 104.3 | 110.0 | 108.9 | 108.0 |
| NL | 105.3 | 108.3 | 111.3 | 114.0 | 112.8 | 113.5 | 113.5 | 113.1 | 112.9 |
| A | 105.9 | 112.3 | : | 118.4 | : | : | : | : | : |
| P | 94.9 | 99.4 | 100.8 | 102.0 | 100.8 | 103.4 | 103.2 | 103.5 | : |
| FIN | 106.5 | 114.1 | 118.3 | 125.5 | 125.0 | 127.4 | 132.7 | 128.5 | 127.1 |
| S | 103.8 | 116.8 | 120.4 | 124.7 | 126.9 | 128.0 | 128.4 | 129.5 | 134.3 |
| UK | 103.8 | 106.2 | 107.1 | 109.2 | 108.2 | 110.1 | 111.2 | 110.4 | 110.1 |
| Japan | 93.1 | 96.3 | 98.6 | 101.8 | 106.0 | 103.0 | 104.3 | 101.4 | 103.2 |
| USA | 109.8 | 113.4 | 116.5 | 120.7 | 120.9 | 121.3 | 122.3 | 122.9 | 123.8 |

Source: eurostat

Table 2.5

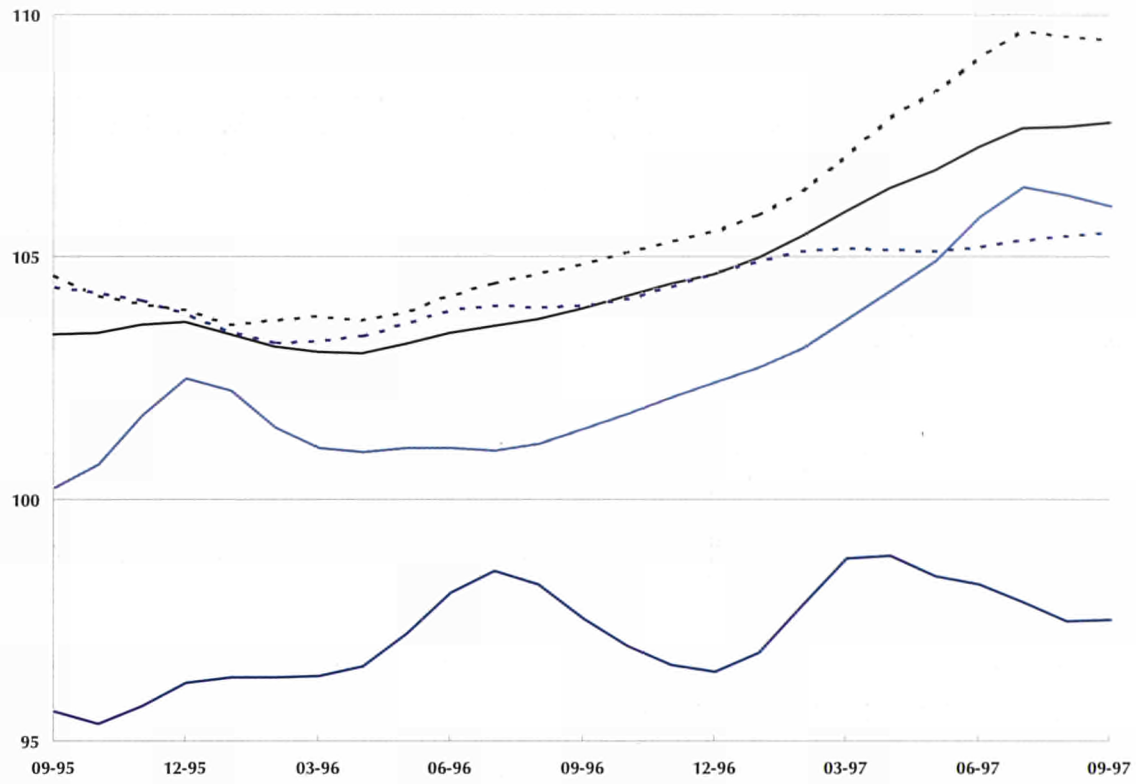
TRIAD comparison of indices of production for the main industrial groupings, seasonally adjusted (1990 = 100)

| | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 04-97 | 05-97 | 06-97 | 07-97 | 08-97 | 09-97 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total industry** | | | | | | | | | |
| EUR15 | 99.5 | 103.4 | 103.5 | 107.4 | 105.8 | 107.6 | 108.7 | 107.2 | 107.6 |
| Japan | 93.1 | 96.3 | 98.6 | 101.8 | 106.0 | 103.0 | 104.3 | 101.4 | 103.2 |
| USA | 109.8 | 113.4 | 116.5 | 120.7 | 120.9 | 121.3 | 122.3 | 122.9 | 123.8 |
| **Intermediate goods** | | | | | | | | | |
| EUR15 | 101.8 | 105.1 | 104.3 | 109.0 | 107.5 | 109.2 | 110.9 | 109.1 | 109.2 |
| Japan | 95.5 | 99.3 | 99.7 | 102.9 | 105.9 | 103.0 | 104.4 | 102.8 | 104.3 |
| USA | 104.1 | 105.4 | 107.3 | 109.9 | 110.1 | 109.9 | 110.2 | 110.2 | 111.0 |
| **Capital goods** | | | | | | | | | |
| EUR15 | 92.2 | 99.5 | 101.5 | 105.9 | 102.9 | 106.8 | 108.3 | 105.9 | 105.3 |
| Japan | 85.6 | 89.5 | 97.6 | 100.5 | 107.2 | 104.8 | 105.6 | 102.9 | 102.3 |
| USA | 103.7 | 108.6 | 113.7 | 121.0 | 121.6 | 122.9 | 123.3 | 125.7 | 125.4 |
| **Consumer durables** | | | | | | | | | |
| EUR15 | 95.2 | 96.6 | 97.0 | 100.3 | 96.1 | 99.9 | 105.1 | 95.9 | 98.4 |
| Japan | 82.3 | 81.3 | 79.6 | 82.8 | 88.5 | 82.4 | 84.3 | 76.3 | 80.5 |
| USA | 114.5 | 120.9 | 127.0 | 133.6 | 134.0 | 135.4 | 136.8 | 138.8 | 139.4 |
| **Consumer non-durables** | | | | | | | | | |
| EUR15 | 102.6 | 104.5 | 103.7 | 105.3 | 104.9 | 105.1 | 105.5 | 105.4 | 105.6 |
| Japan | 98.8 | 98.7 | 98.3 | 98.5 | 101.0 | 96.8 | 100.5 | 93.0 | 96.2 |
| USA | 107.2 | 108.5 | 108.6 | 111.0 | 111.0 | 110.7 | 111.5 | 111.3 | 111.9 |

Source: eurostat

## Figure 2.2

EUR15 production index by main industrial grouping, trend cycle (1990 = 100)




Source: eurostat

## Table 2.6

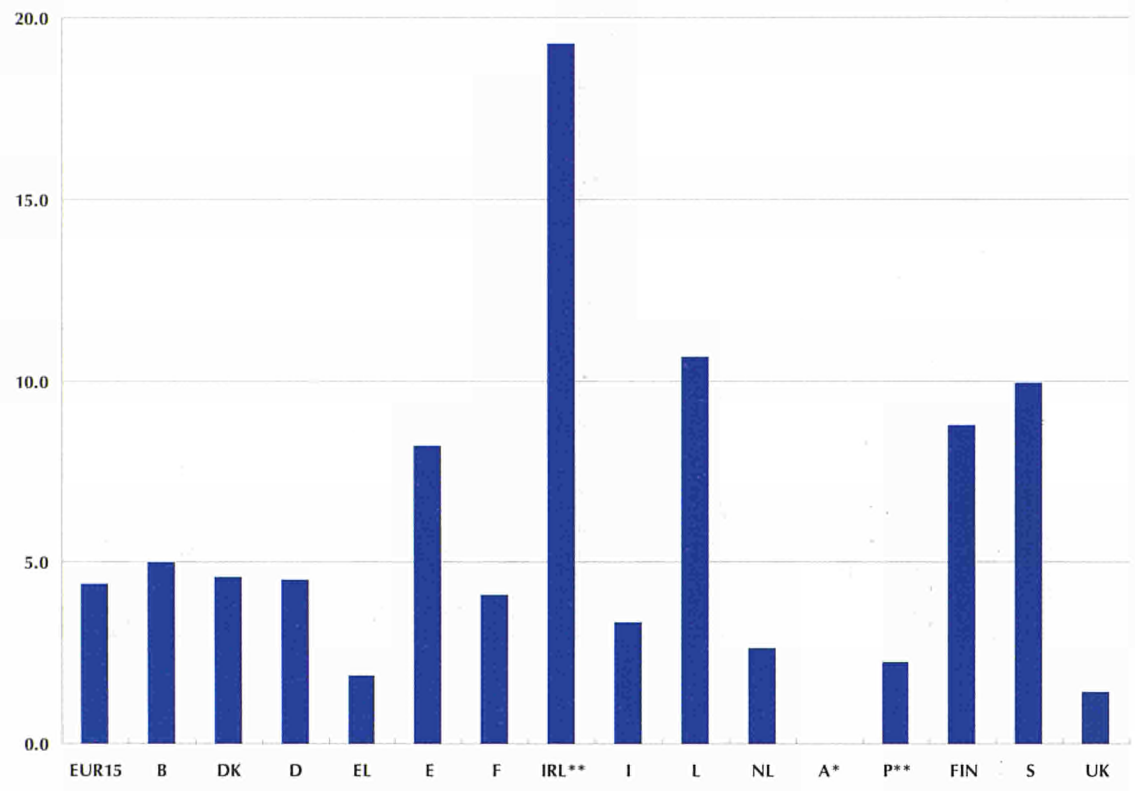
Three month on three month growth rates for the production index of the main industrial groupings, trend cycle (%)

| | Latest 3 months available | | | Total industry | Intermediate goods | Capital goods | Consumer durables | Consumer non-durables |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EUR15 | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | 0.8 | 1.0 | 1.2 | -0.9 | 0.3 |
| B | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | 1.6 | 1.2 | 3.7 | -1.7 | 1.0 |
| DK | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | 1.6 | 1.0 | 2.1 | 4.9 | 1.3 |
| D | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | 0.8 | 1.2 | 1.3 | -0.5 | -0.7 |
| EL | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | 0.5 | 1.3 | 0.5 | 3.3 | -0.3 |
| E | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | 2.2 | 2.6 | 3.2 | 4.8 | 0.5 |
| F | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 2.0 | 2.4 | 0.8 |
| IRL | 06-97 | ⇨ | 08-97 | 4.4 | 5.9 | 4.5 | : | 0.8 |
| I | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | 1.4 | 2.2 | -2.0 | -4.0 | 0.6 |
| L | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | 2.9 | 3.2 | 0.7 | -1.6 | 0.6 |
| NL | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | 0.4 | 0.8 | 0.1 | 0.9 | 0.2 |
| A | 12-96 | ⇨ | 02-97 | 1.5 | 0.4 | 2.2 | -5.5 | 1.0 |
| P | 06-97 | ⇨ | 08-97 | 1.0 | 0.8 | 3.4 | 3.3 | -0.1 |
| FIN | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | 1.2 | 2.1 | 5.0 | 5.3 | 0.3 |
| S | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | 2.5 | 1.2 | 7.0 | 2.9 | 0.1 |
| UK | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.6 | -0.2 |
| Japan | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | -0.2 | 0.0 | -0.4 | -3.0 | -1.1 |
| USA | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | 1.6 | 0.4 | 2.5 | 2.6 | 0.4 |

Source: eurostat

## PRODUCTION INDEX - W.D.ADJ.

Figure 2.3




Annual growth rates for the production index of total industry, based on changes from the corresponding three months of the previous year, w.d.adj., July-97 to Sep-97 (%)

Source: eurostat

Table 2.7

| | Latest 3 months available | | | Total industry | Intermediate goods | Capital goods | Consumer durables | Consumer non-durables |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EUR15 | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | 4.4 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 1.3 | 1.6 |
| B | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | 5.0 | 4.8 | 4.4 | -1.4 | 2.2 |
| DK | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | 4.6 | 3.7 | 1.5 | 5.9 | 6.9 |
| D | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | 4.5 | 6.9 | 5.6 | -0.7 | -1.5 |
| EL | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | 1.9 | 4.1 | 4.6 | 11.2 | -2.5 |
| E | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | 8.2 | 8.6 | 13.2 | 11.7 | 4.1 |
| F | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 6.7 | 4.4 | 2.8 |
| IRL | 06-97 | ⇨ | 08-97 | 16.6 | 22.9 | 22.5 | : | 0.9 |
| I | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | 3.3 | 4.9 | -4.2 | -4.2 | 5.0 |
| L | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | 10.7 | 11.9 | 3.9 | 19.2 | 14.6 |
| NL | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | 2.6 | 3.3 | 2.0 | 4.0 | 1.5 |
| A | 12-96 | ⇨ | 02-97 | 4.0 | 4.2 | 8.2 | -7.6 | 3.5 |
| P | 06-97 | ⇨ | 08-97 | 2.1 | 2.3 | 2.7 | 7.1 | 0.4 |
| FIN | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | 8.8 | 11.3 | 18.1 | 22.8 | 1.4 |
| S | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | 10.0 | 4.9 | 20.7 | 11.3 | 0.1 |
| UK | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | 1.4 | 1.7 | 3.9 | 3.0 | -0.6 |
| Japan | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | 4.0 | 4.1 | 4.5 | 0.3 | -1.4 |
| USA | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | 5.1 | 2.3 | 8.9 | 8.0 | 2.6 |

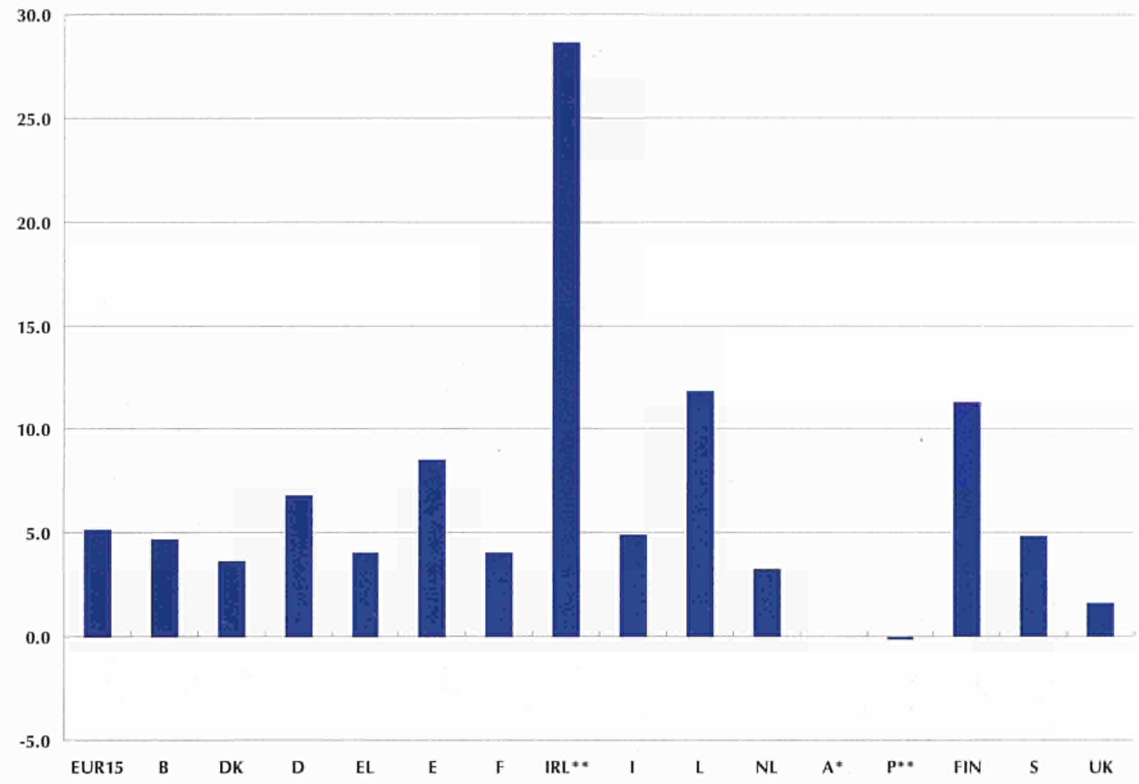
Annual growth rates for the production index of the main industrial groupings, based on changes from the corresponding three months of the previous year, w.d.adj. (%)

Source: eurostat

## PRODUCTION INDEX - W.D.ADJ.

**Figure 2.4**

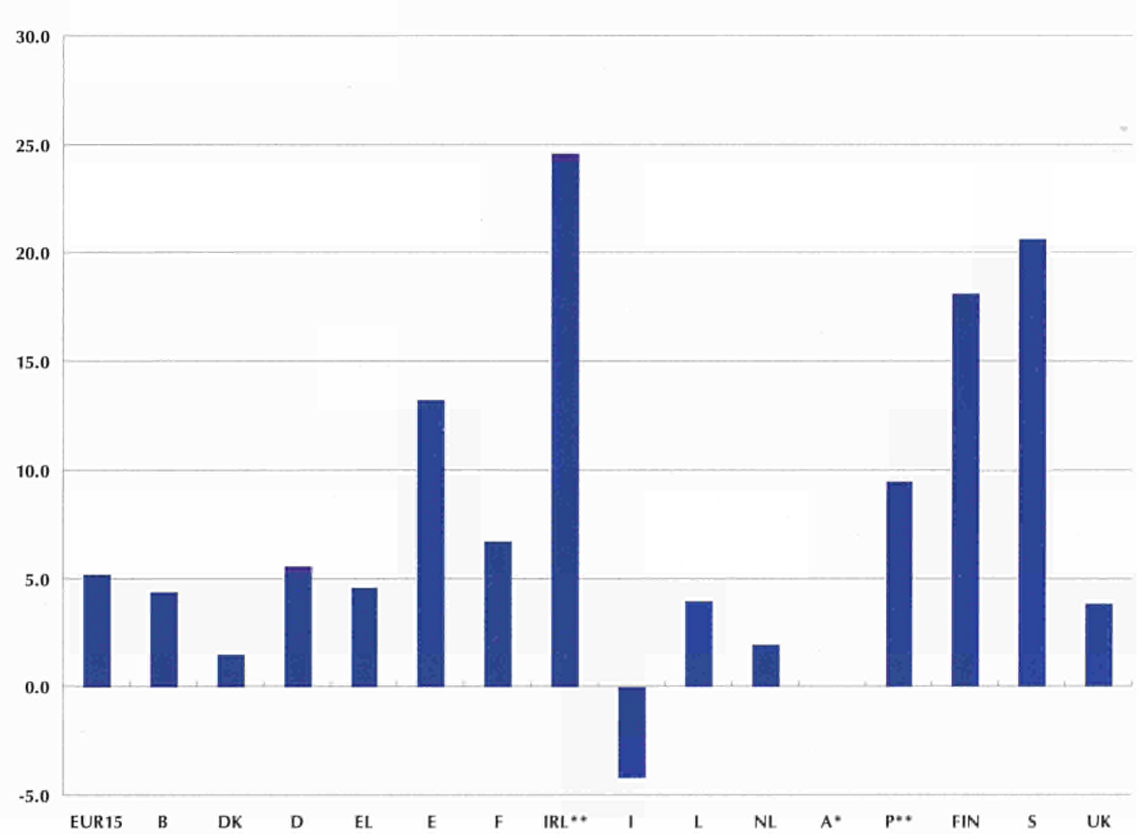
Annual growth rates for the production index of intermediate goods, based on changes from the corresponding three months of the previous year, w.d.adj., July-97 to Sep-97 (%)




Source: eurostat

**Figure 2.5**

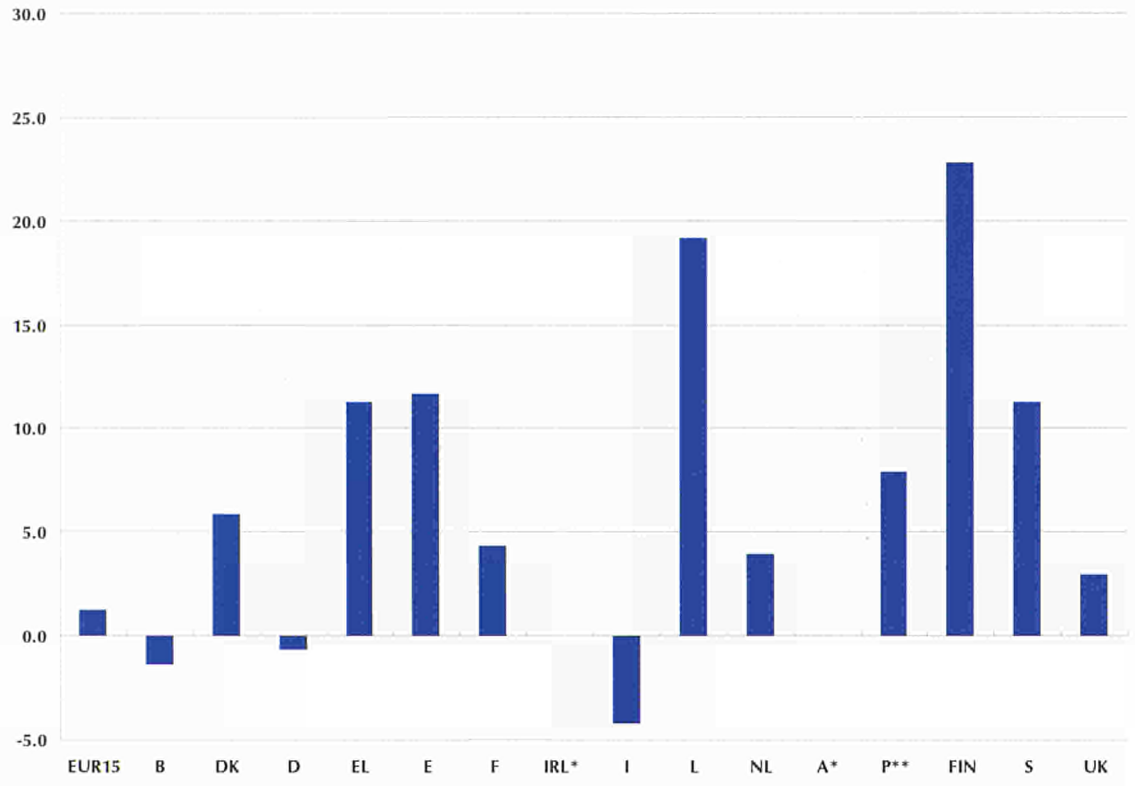
Annual growth rates for the production index of capital goods, based on changes from the corresponding three months of the previous year, w.d.adj., July-97 to Sep-97 (%)




Source: eurostat

PRODUCTION INDEX - W.D.ADJ.

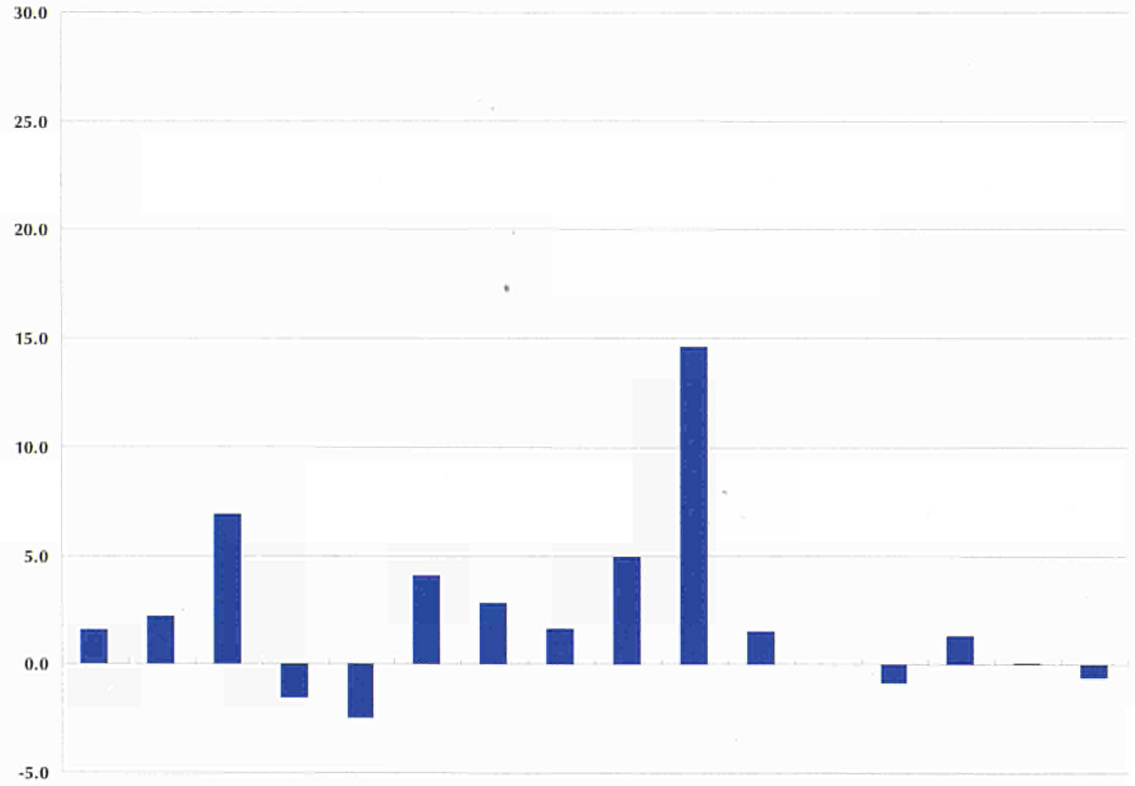
Figure 2.6




Annual growth rates for the production index of consumer durables, based on changes from the corresponding three months of the previous year, w.d.adj., July-97 to Sep-97 (%)

Source: eurostat

Figure 2.7

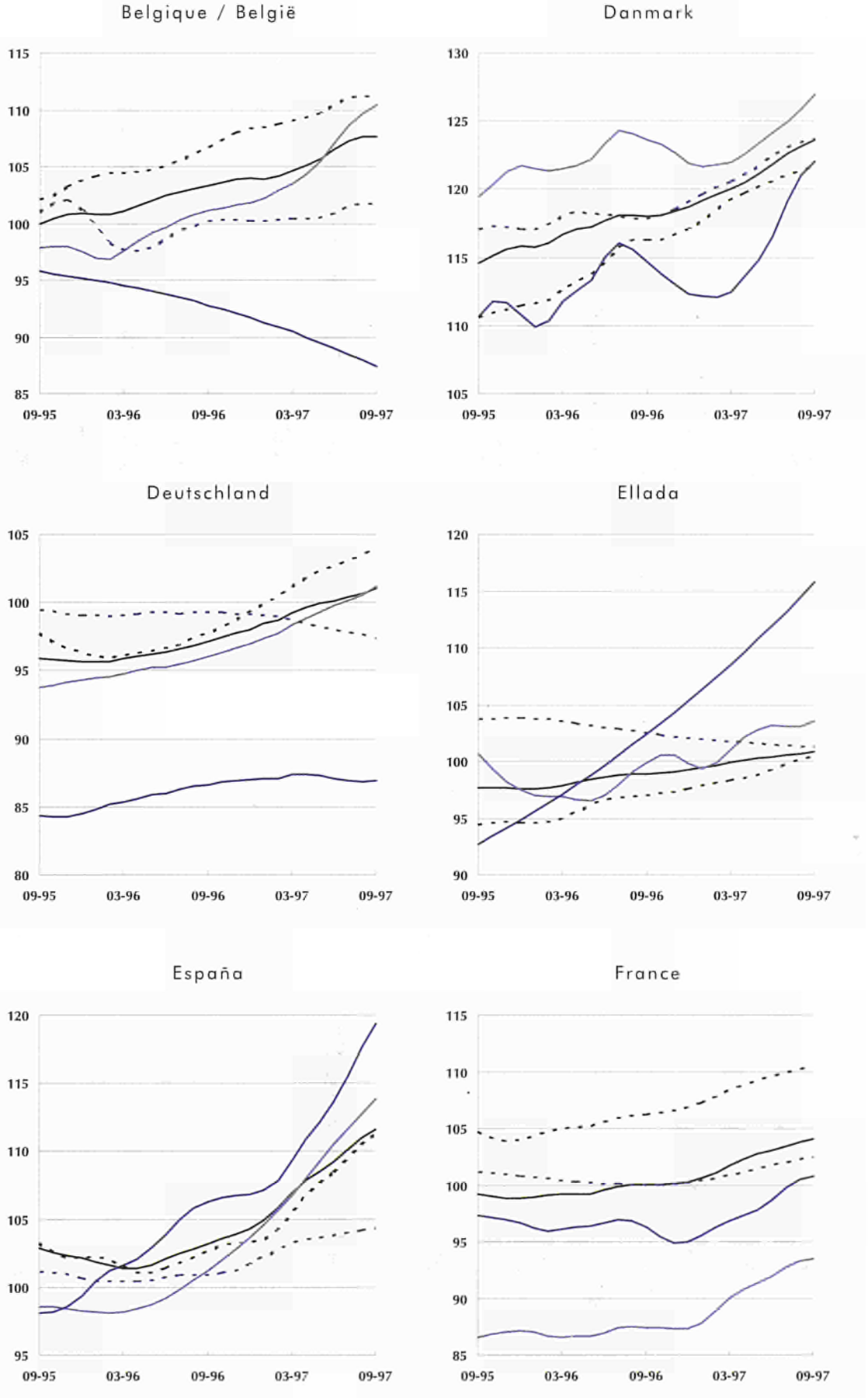



Annual growth rates for the production index of consumer non-durables, based on changes from the corresponding three months of the previous year, w.d.adj., July-97 to Sep-97 (%)

Source: eurostat

Figure 2.8

Production index by main industrial grouping, trend cycle (1990 = 100)




Source: eurostat

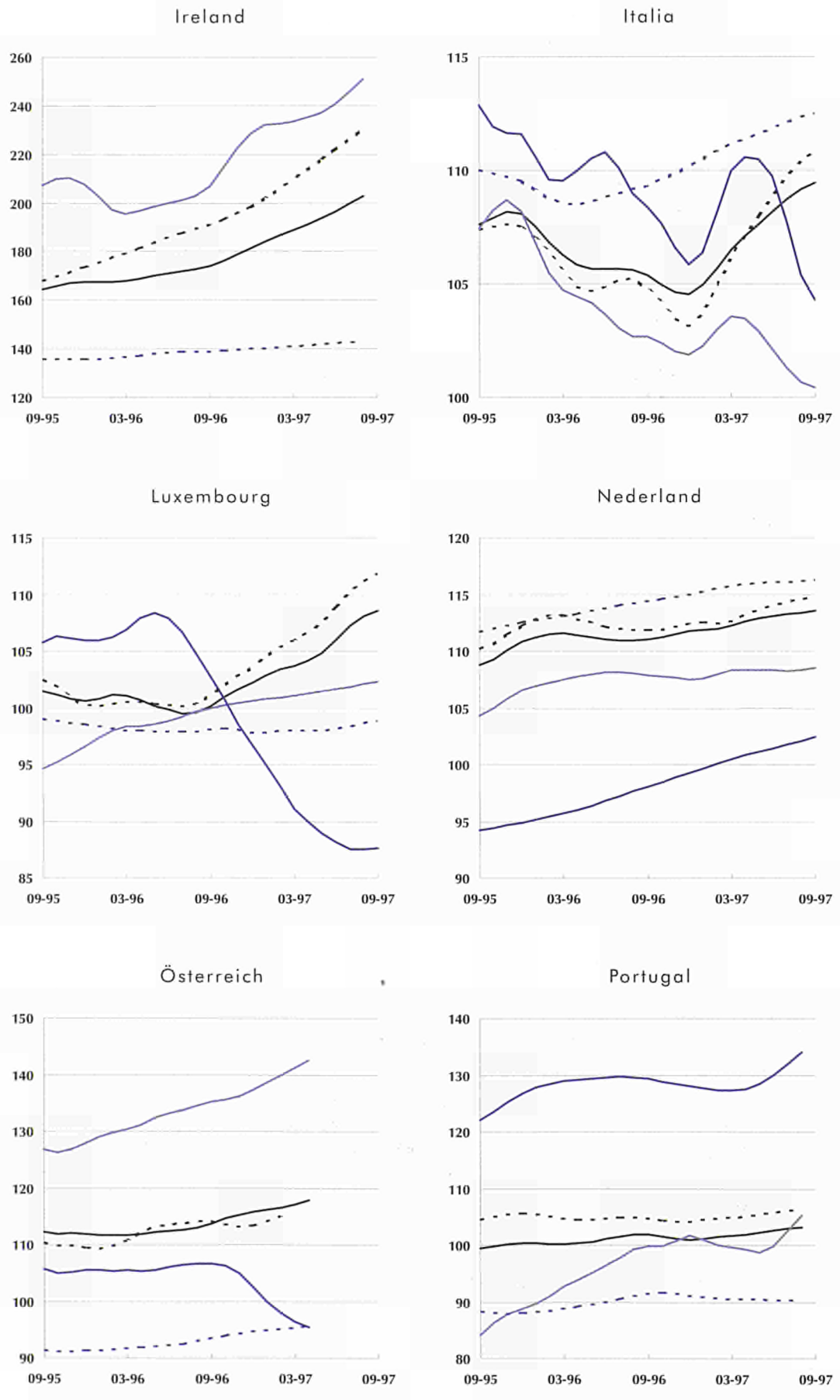


eurostat

PRODUCTION INDEX - TREND CYCLE

Figure 2.8

Production index by main industrial grouping, trend cycle (1990 = 100)

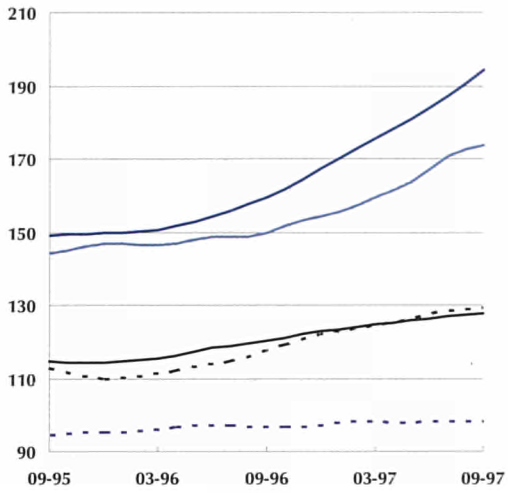



Source: eurostat

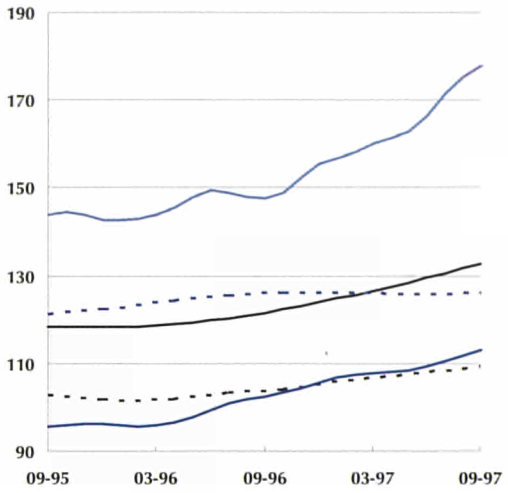
**Figure 2.8**

Production index by main industrial grouping, trend cycle (1990 = 100)

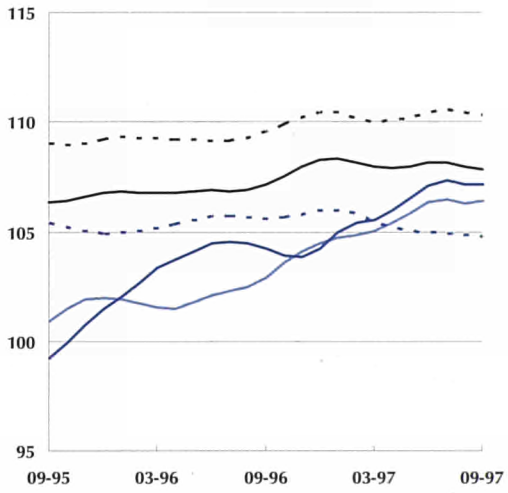
Suomi / Finland




Sverige




United Kingdom




Total industry ——

Intermediate goods - - - - -

Capital goods ——

Consumer durables ——

Consumer non-durables - - - - -

Source: eurostat

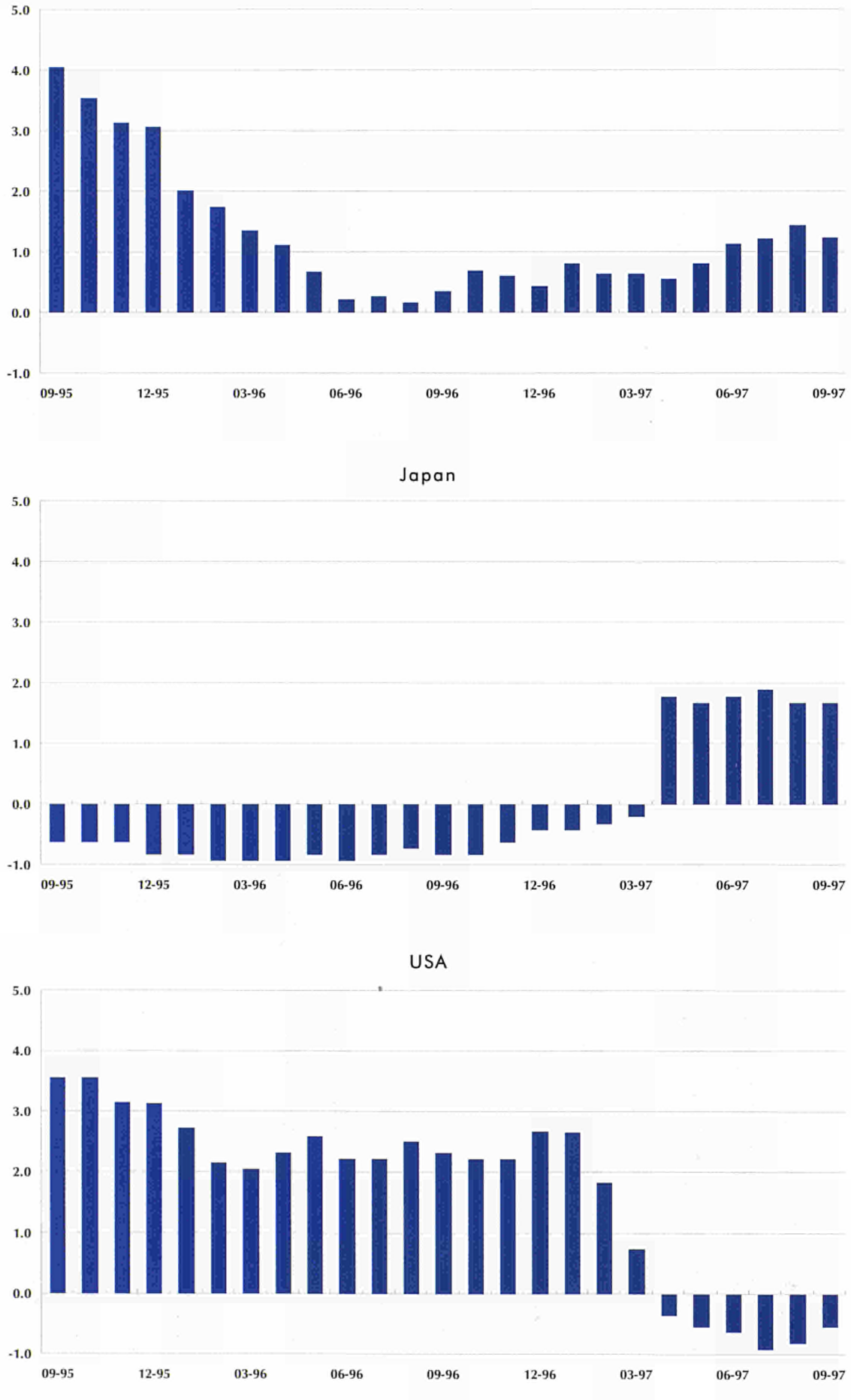
**Further information - the production index:**

The index of production aims to measure changes in volume (at constant prices) of gross value added created by a given activity, the activity indices being aggregated (like the aggregation at Community level) by means of a system of weighting according to gross value added at factor cost. Since the monthly evolution of value added can not be measured, as an approximation product output or deflated turnover is used.
The indices of production are adjusted in two stages. Firstly, account is taken of the variation in the number of working days in the month. The national Statistical Offices provide Eurostat with these series (except Denmark, France and Spain). Secondly, for EUR15 and most of the Member States a correction is made using seasonal adjustment with TRAMO / SEATS, a method developed by Professor Maravall and V.Gomez. For France, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom, the indices are adjusted by the national statistical offices themselves. For Germany, the trend and seasonally adjusted figures are calculated by the German NSO.
Full methodological notes may be found on page 85.

## DOMESTIC PRODUCER PRICE INDEX - NATIONAL CURRENCY

Figure 2.9

TRIAD comparison of annual growth rates of producer prices for total industry, in national currency (%)

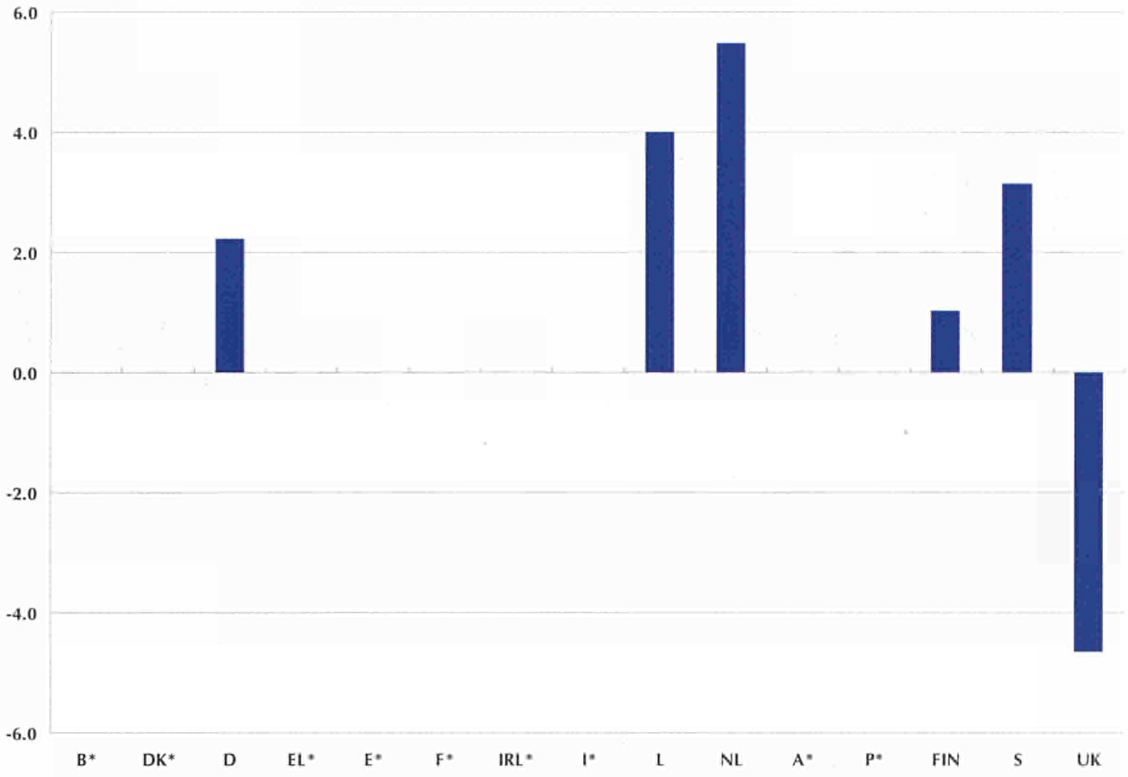



Source: eurostat

## Export price index and domestic producer price index

**Figure 2.10**

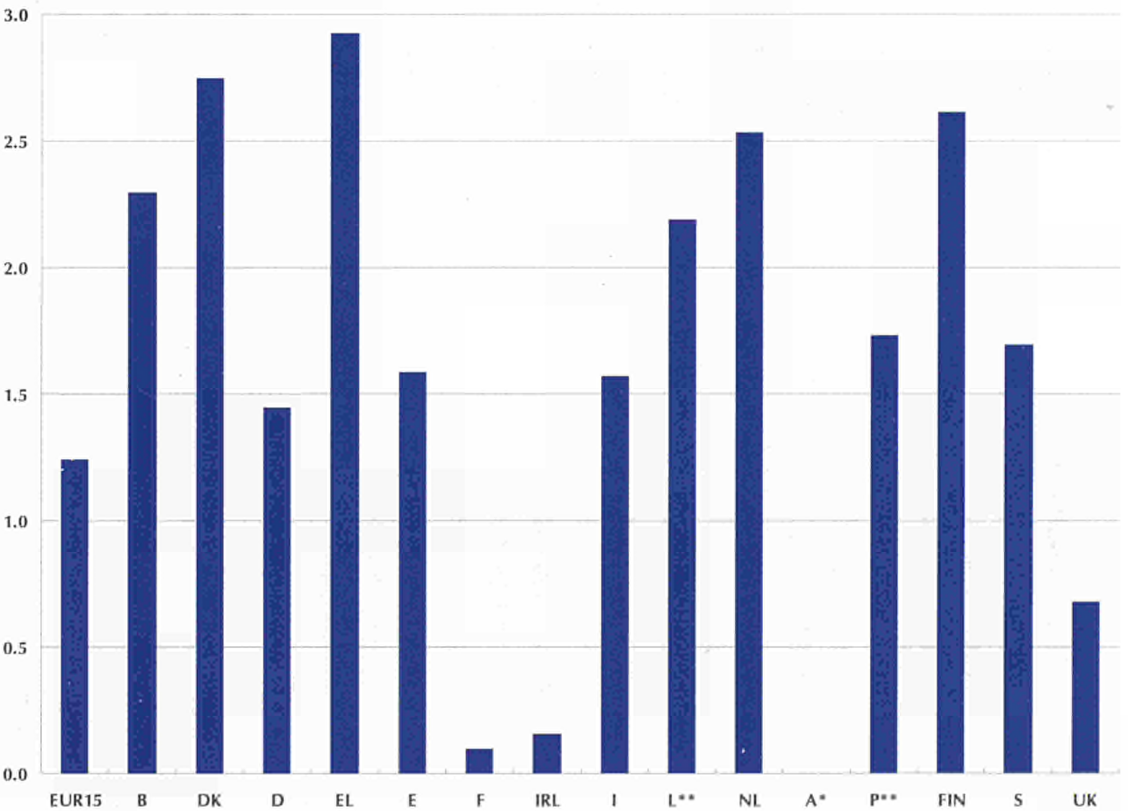
Annual growth rates of export prices for manufacturing industry, in national currency, Aug-97 (%)




Source: eurostat

**Figure 2.11**

Annual growth rates of the producer price index of total industry, in national currency, Sep-97 (%)




Source: eurostat

## DOMESTIC PRODUCER PRICE INDEX

Table 2.8

| | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 04-97 | 05-97 | 06-97 | 07-97 | 08-97 | 09-97 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EUR15 | 108.2 | 112.4 | 113.3 | 114.0 | 114.2 | 114.2 | 114.3 | 114.6 | 114.7 |
| B | 99.5 | 101.7 | 102.4 | 103.2 | 104.0 | 103.7 | 104.5 | 105.4 | 105.2 |
| DK | 99.7 | 103.4 | 105.1 | 107.6 | 108.8 | 108.0 | 107.7 | 108.5 | 108.4 |
| D | 104.7 | 106.5 | 106.0 | 106.9 | 107.1 | 107.2 | 107.3 | 107.5 | 107.6 |
| EL | 156.6 | 171.4 | 184.1 | 188.6 | 189.1 | 189.5 | 189.9 | 191.4 | 191.8 |
| E | 109.8 | 116.8 | 118.7 | 119.6 | 119.7 | 119.6 | 119.9 | 120.4 | 120.6 |
| F | 100.9 | 103.1 | 103.5 | 103.5 | 103.6 | 103.6 | 103.7 | 104.0 | 103.9 |
| IRL | 107.6 | 111.6 | 113.6 | 113.7 | 113.7 | 113.8 | 113.7 | 113.8 | 113.5 |
| I | 113.3 | 122.2 | 124.5 | 125.7 | 125.9 | 126.0 | 126.0 | 126.3 | 126.5 |
| L | 107.2 | 110.9 | 110.4 | 111.9 | 112.5 | 112.4 | 112.5 | 113.2 | : |
| NL | 101.0 | 104.0 | 105.8 | 108.5 | 109.1 | 108.6 | 108.7 | 109.4 | 109.3 |
| A | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| P | 112.3 | 116.6 | 120.2 | 120.9 | 121.9 | 121.4 | 121.9 | 122.6 | : |
| FIN | 105.8 | 107.7 | 107.6 | 108.4 | 108.7 | 109.1 | 109.3 | 109.9 | 110.0 |
| S | 108.6 | 117.3 | 118.0 | 118.6 | 119.7 | 119.8 | 119.8 | 119.9 | 120.1 |
| UK | 114.2 | 118.5 | 119.4 | 119.1 | 119.0 | 118.8 | 118.8 | 118.9 | 119.5 |
| Japan | 96.8 | 96.1 | 95.4 | 97.2 | 97.1 | 97.0 | 97.0 | 96.8 | 96.7 |
| USA | 103.6 | 107.3 | 109.8 | 109.2 | 109.6 | 109.4 | 109.1 | 109.4 | 109.6 |

Indices of producer prices for total industry, in national currency (1990 = 100)

Source: eurostat

Table 2.9

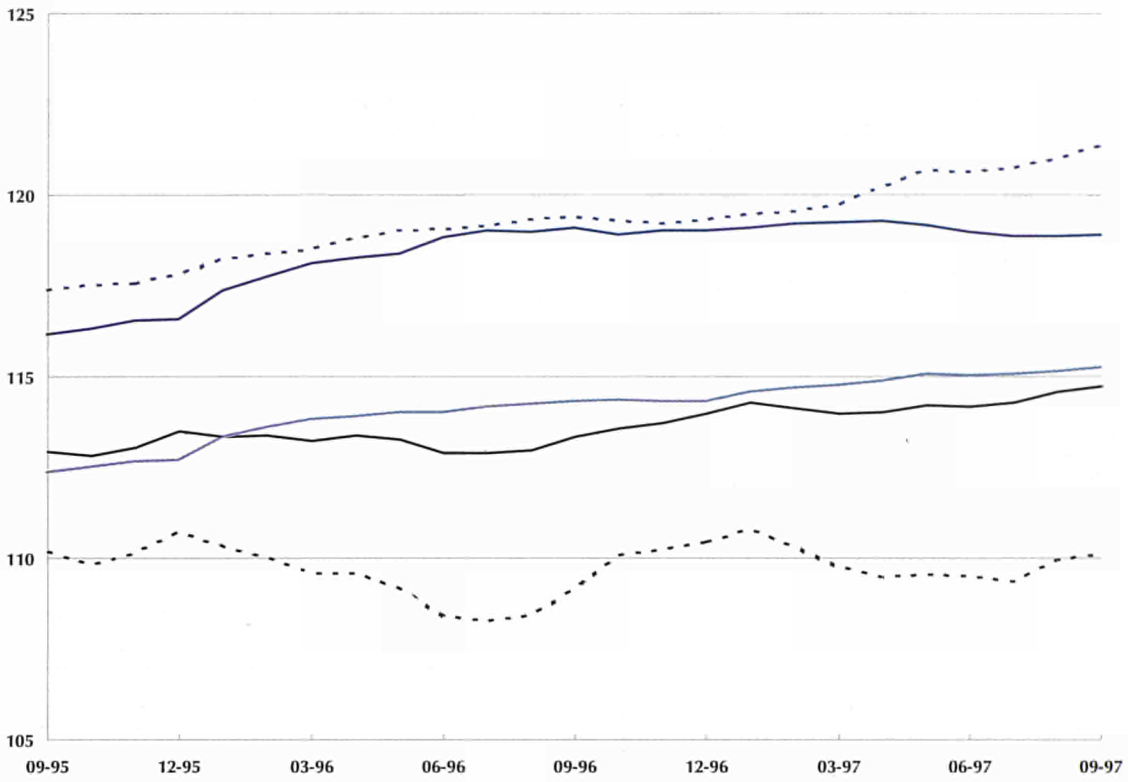
| | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 04-97 | 05-97 | 06-97 | 07-97 | 08-97 | 09-97 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EUR15 | 102.4 | 104.2 | 106.5 | 108.6 | 108.8 | 109.0 | 109.5 | 109.7 | 109.7 |
| B | 106.4 | 112.0 | 110.5 | 108.3 | 109.2 | 108.6 | 108.5 | 109.6 | 109.9 |
| DK | 103.8 | 110.9 | 112.2 | 113.3 | 114.7 | 113.5 | 112.3 | 113.3 | 113.7 |
| D | 111.6 | 116.6 | 113.9 | 112.0 | 112.3 | 112.1 | 111.3 | 111.7 | 112.2 |
| EL | 109.6 | 114.0 | 121.5 | 122.7 | 122.1 | 122.8 | 123.3 | 124.7 | 124.6 |
| E | 89.4 | 92.8 | 95.6 | 93.6 | 93.7 | 93.3 | 92.9 | 93.4 | 94.0 |
| F | 106.0 | 109.2 | 110.3 | 108.5 | 108.5 | 108.1 | 107.4 | 108.0 | 108.6 |
| IRL | 104.2 | 105.0 | 110.0 | 118.2 | 114.9 | 115.8 | 118.3 | 118.3 | 117.2 |
| I | 90.1 | 87.3 | 96.8 | 98.7 | 99.1 | 99.5 | 99.5 | 99.7 | 100.2 |
| L | 114.7 | 122.0 | 119.2 | 117.5 | 118.1 | 117.7 | 116.8 | 117.8 | : |
| NL | 108.1 | 114.5 | 114.3 | 113.9 | 114.6 | 113.7 | 112.8 | 113.7 | 114.0 |
| A | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| P | 103.3 | 107.7 | 111.2 | 111.4 | 111.9 | 110.9 | 110.5 | 111.0 | : |
| FIN | 83.1 | 91.6 | 89.6 | 89.6 | 89.4 | 90.0 | 90.5 | 90.4 | 90.6 |
| S | 89.2 | 94.7 | 104.3 | 101.4 | 102.1 | 102.3 | 104.4 | 105.3 | 106.6 |
| UK | 105.1 | 102.1 | 104.9 | 121.0 | 120.8 | 122.7 | 128.3 | 126.8 | 124.1 |
| Japan | 146.5 | 144.2 | 126.9 | 124.1 | 130.8 | 137.1 | 140.0 | 140.5 | 133.7 |
| USA | 110.9 | 104.2 | 109.9 | 121.2 | 121.2 | 122.3 | 125.5 | 129.6 | 126.6 |

Indices of producer prices for total industry, in ECU terms (1990 = 100)

Source: eurostat

## Figure 2.12

EUR15 producer price index by main industrial grouping, in national currency (1990 = 100)




Source: eurostat

## Table 2.10

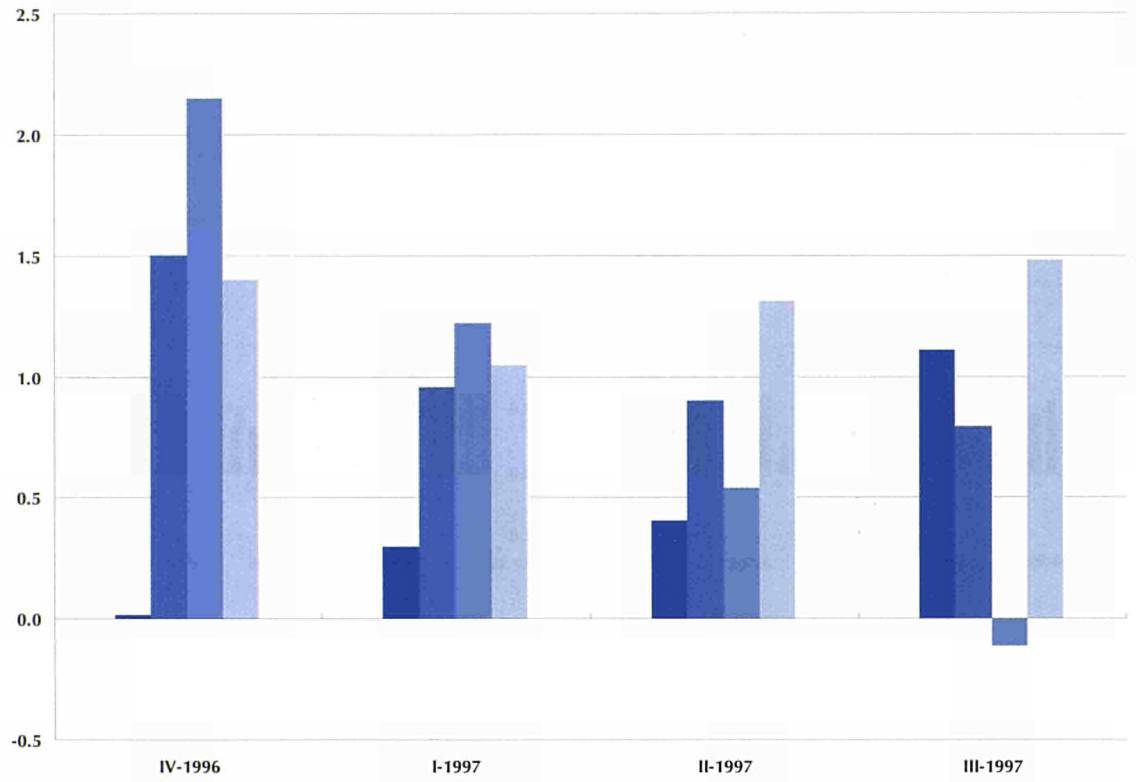
TRIAD comparison of indices of producer prices for the main industrial groupings, in national currency (1990 = 100)

| | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 04-97 | 05-97 | 06-97 | 07-97 | 08-97 | 09-97 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total industry** | | | | | | | | | |
| EUR15 | 108.2 | 112.4 | 113.3 | 114.0 | 114.2 | 114.2 | 114.3 | 114.6 | 114.7 |
| Japan | 96.8 | 96.1 | 95.4 | 97.2 | 97.1 | 97.0 | 97.0 | 96.8 | 96.7 |
| USA | 103.6 | 107.3 | 109.8 | 109.2 | 109.6 | 109.4 | 109.1 | 109.4 | 109.6 |
| **Intermediate goods** | | | | | | | | | |
| EUR15 | 104.9 | 109.9 | 109.5 | 109.5 | 109.5 | 109.5 | 109.4 | 110.0 | 110.1 |
| Japan | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| USA | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| **Capital goods** | | | | | | | | | |
| EUR15 | 109.0 | 111.8 | 114.0 | 114.9 | 115.1 | 115.0 | 115.1 | 115.1 | 115.3 |
| Japan | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| USA | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| **Consumer durables** | | | | | | | | | |
| EUR15 | 112.7 | 115.6 | 118.6 | 119.3 | 119.2 | 119.0 | 118.9 | 118.9 | 118.9 |
| Japan | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| USA | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| **Consumer non-durables** | | | | | | | | | |
| EUR15 | 113.1 | 116.7 | 119.0 | 120.2 | 120.7 | 120.6 | 120.7 | 121.0 | 121.4 |
| Japan | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| USA | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |

Source: eurostat

## DOMESTIC PRODUCER PRICE INDEX

Figure 2.13




EUR15 annual growth rates of producer prices for the main industrial groupings (%)

Source: eurostat

Table 2.11

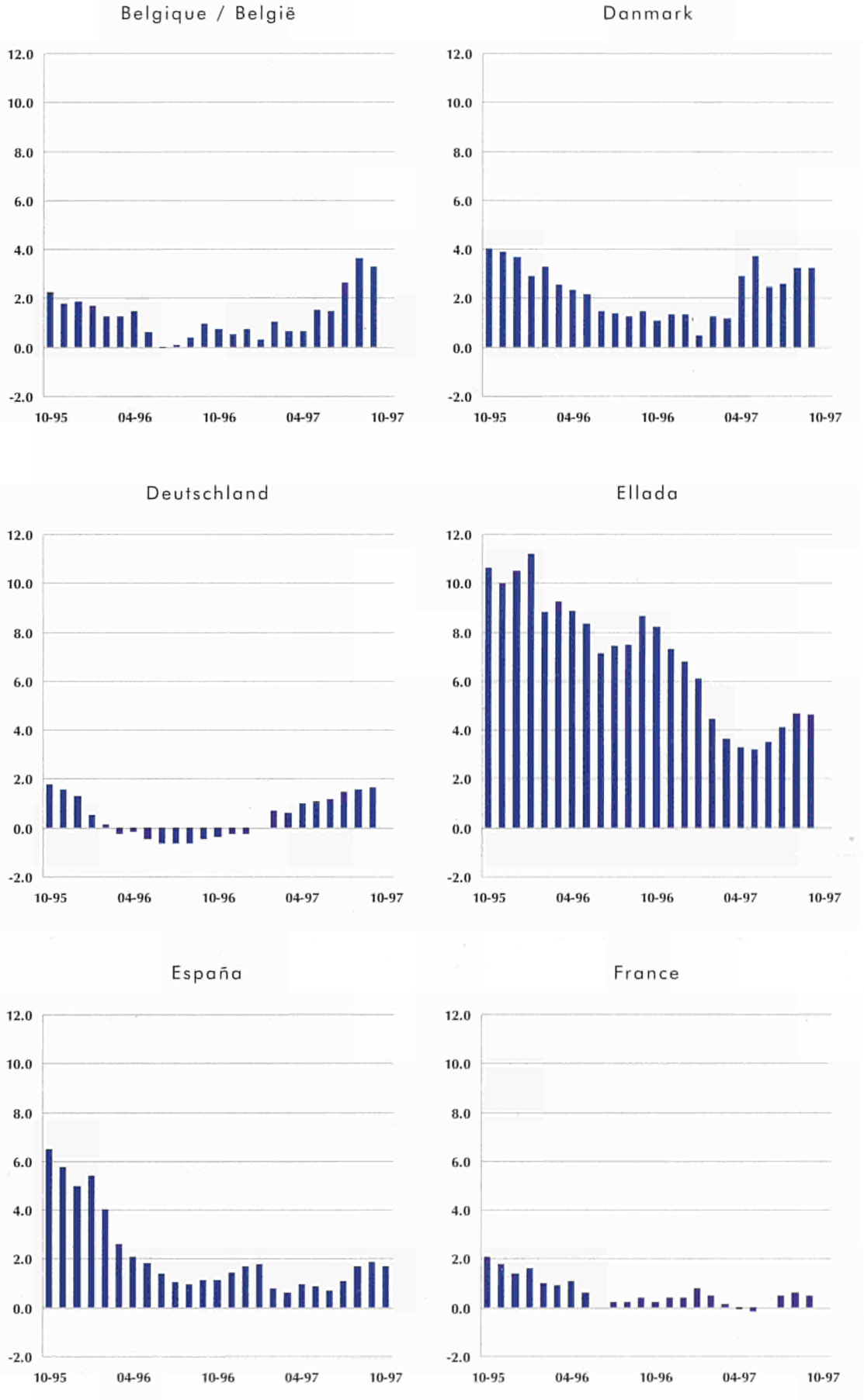
Annual growth rates of the producer price index of the main industrial groupings, in national currency (%)

| | Latest month available | Total industry | Intermediate goods | Capital goods | Consumer durables | Consumer non-durables |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EUR15 | 09-97 | 1.2 | 0.9 | 0.8 | -0.1 | 1.6 |
| B | 09-97 | 2.3 | 2.7 | -0.1 | : | 4.9 |
| DK | 09-97 | 2.7 | 0.9 | 4.1 | 1.0 | 4.5 |
| D | 09-97 | 1.4 | 1.9 | 0.8 | 0.3 | 1.4 |
| EL | 09-97 | 2.9 | 3.4 | 6.3 | 5.0 | 1.7 |
| E | 10-97 | 1.3 | 1.7 | 1.2 | 0.6 | 1.3 |
| F | 09-97 | 0.1 | -0.5 | -1.2 | -1.1 | 1.2 |
| IRL | 09-97 | 0.2 | 6.8 | : | : | 0.2 |
| I | 09-97 | 1.6 | 2.0 | 1.1 | -1.8 | 1.6 |
| L | 08-97 | 2.0 | 4.8 | 1.3 | 0.0 | 1.7 |
| NL | 09-97 | 2.5 | 2.6 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 3.9 |
| A | | : | : | : | : | : |
| P | 08-97 | 1.7 | 1.8 | : | : | 1.4 |
| FIN | 10-97 | 2.2 | 2.7 | 0.6 | 2.6 | 2.1 |
| S | 10-97 | 1.5 | 0.5 | 1.8 | 0.6 | 2.7 |
| UK | 10-97 | 0.5 | -3.9 | 1.1 | 0.4 | 1.5 |
| Japan | 09-97 | 1.7 | : | : | : | : |
| USA | 09-97 | -0.5 | : | : | : | : |

Source: eurostat

Figure 2.14

Annual growth rates of producer prices for total industry, in national currency (%)




Source: eurostat



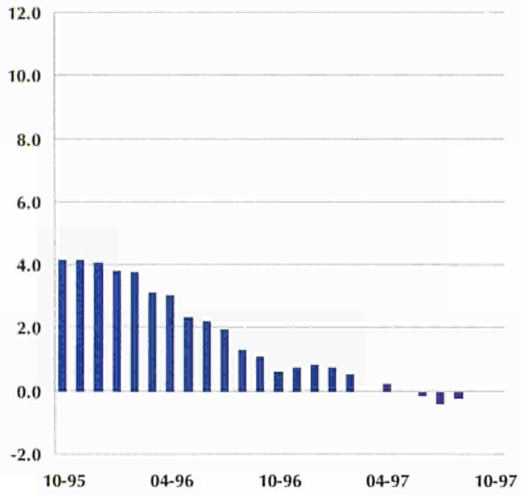
eurostat

## DOMESTIC PRODUCER PRICE INDEX

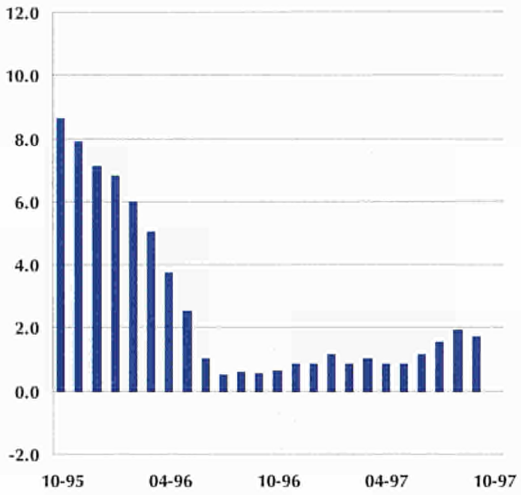
Figure 2.14

Annual growth rates of producer prices for total industry, in national currency (%)

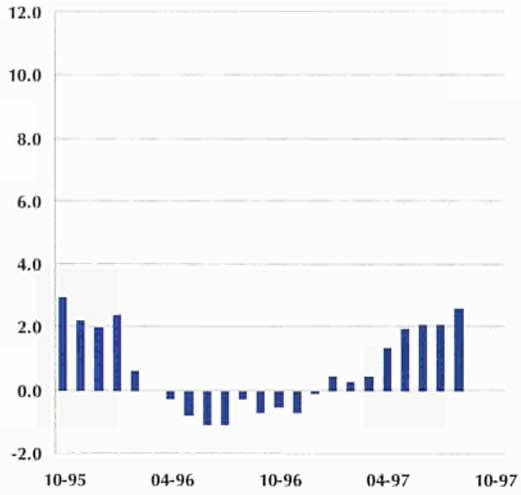
Ireland



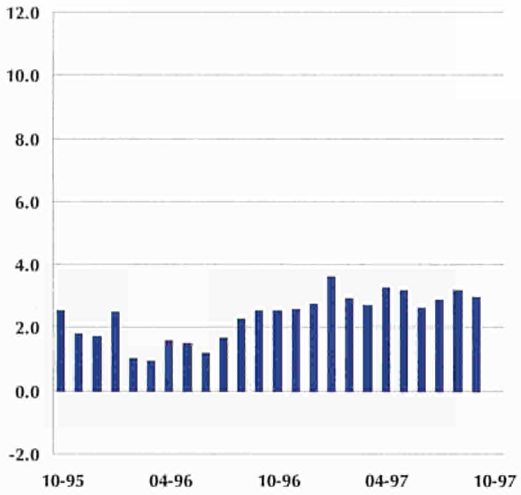

Italia




Luxembourg



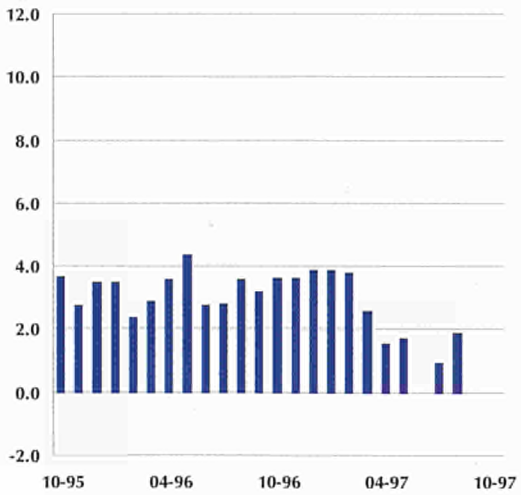

Nederland




Österreich

Not available

Portugal

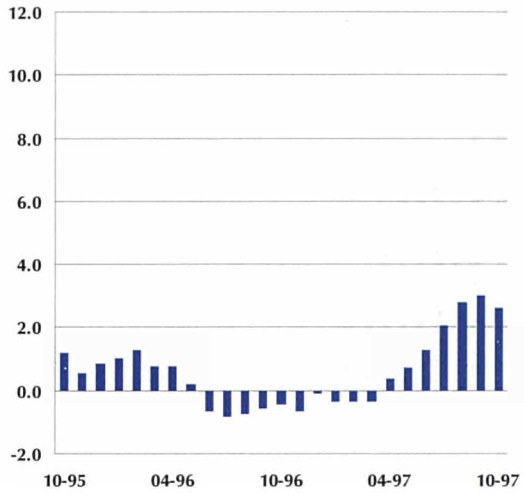



Source: eurostat

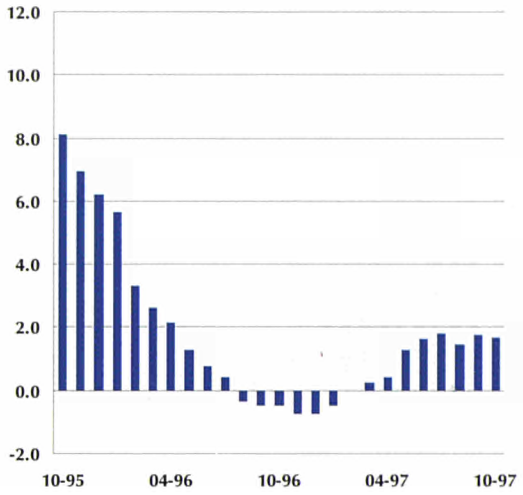
Figure 2.14

Annual growth rates of producer prices for total industry, in national currency (%)

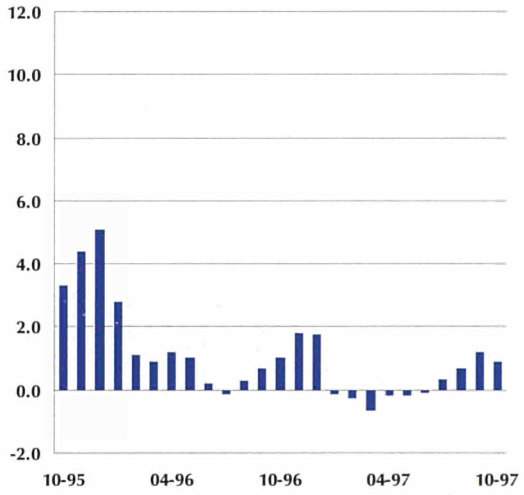
Suomi / Finland




Sverige




United Kingdom




**Further information - price indices:**

The index of domestic producer prices shows (in the national currency of the Member State in question) changes in the ex-works selling prices of all products sold on the domestic market. Since we deal with producer prices, imports are not included in these price indices. The Community indices (EUR14, since there are no producer price indices for Austria yet) refer to overall weighted price changes. Producer price indices are not seasonally adjusted. The system used for the collection of export price indices is a duplicate of the model for domestic producer price indices.
Full methodological notes may be found on page 85.

Source: eurostat

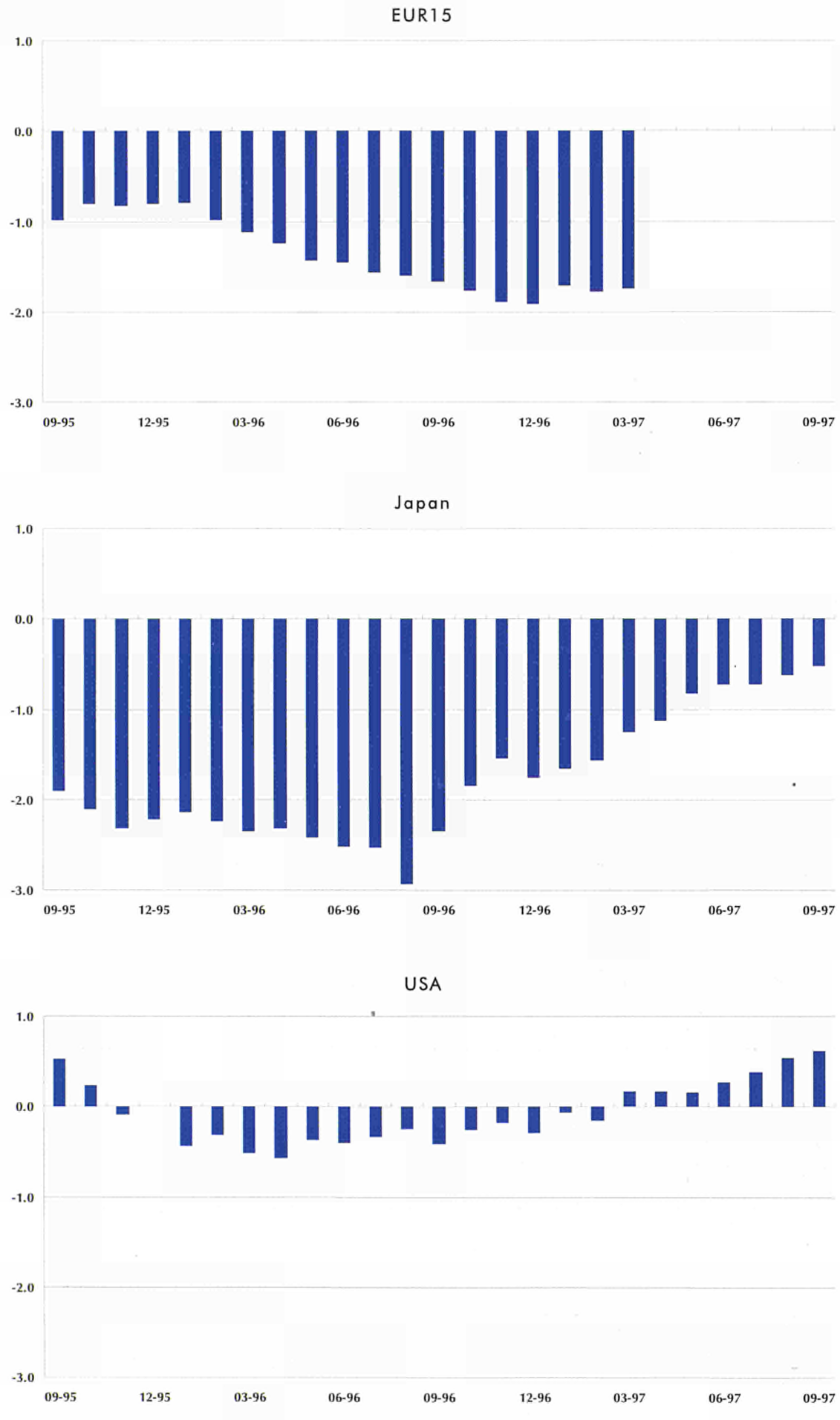


eurostat

EMPLOYMENT INDEX - GROSS DATA

Figure 2.15

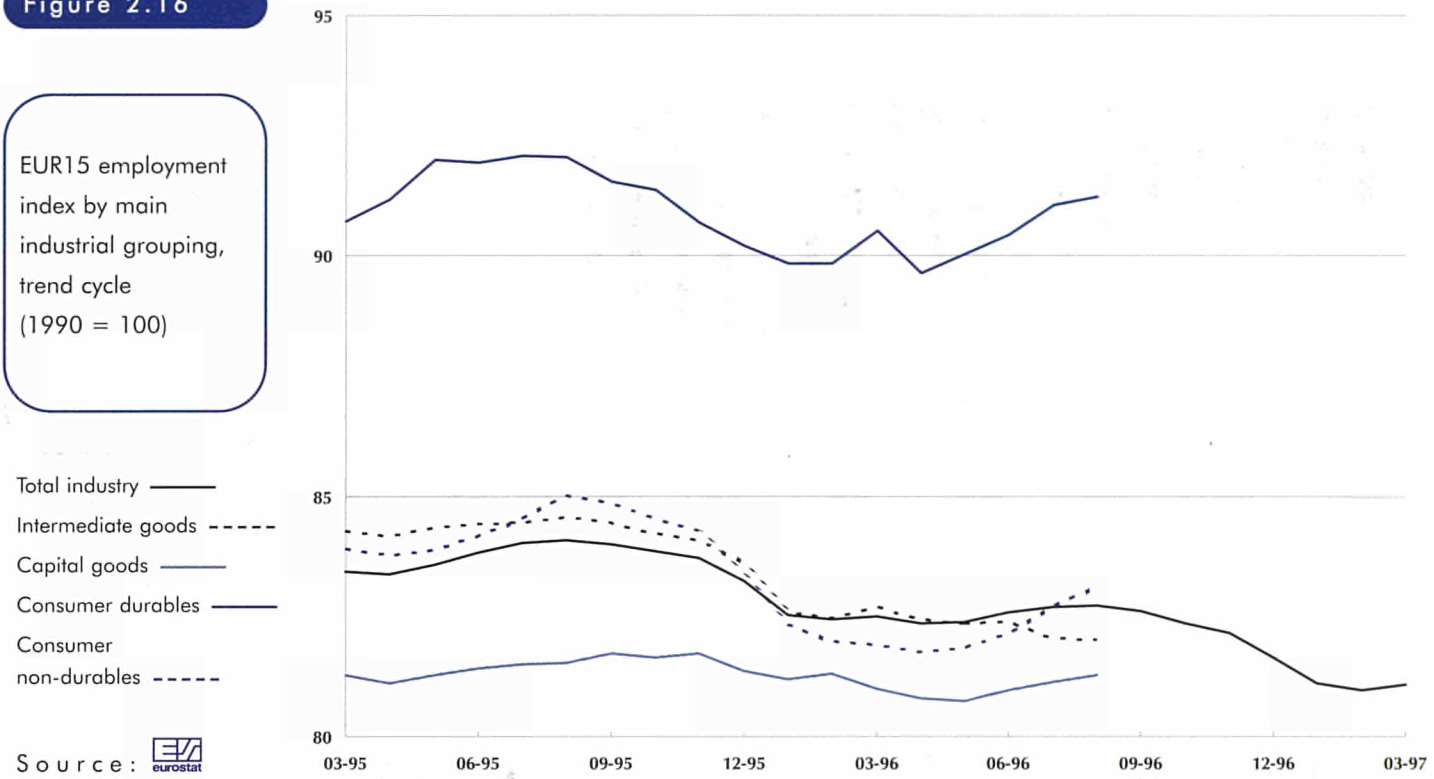
TRIAD comparison of annual growth rates of employment for total industry, gross data (%)




Source: eurostat

## Figure 2.16

EUR15 employment index by main industrial grouping, trend cycle (1990 = 100)




Source: eurostat

## Table 2.12

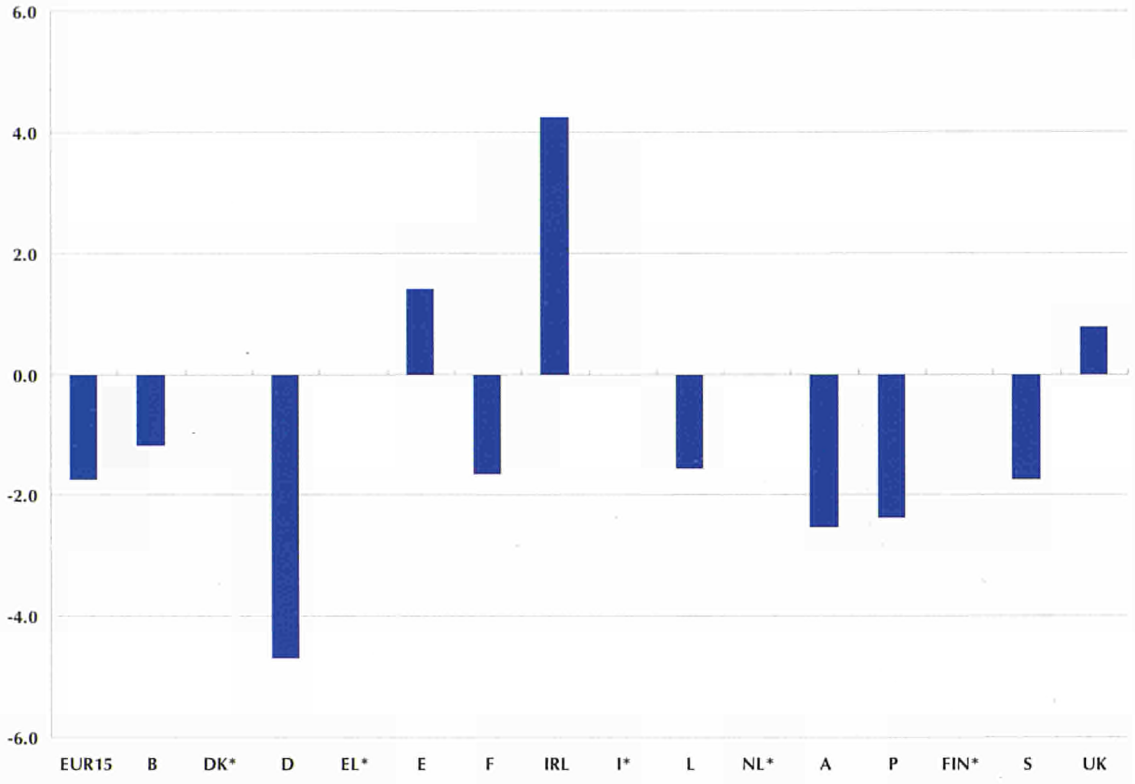
Three month on three month growth rates for the employment index of the main industrial groupings, trend cycle (%)

| | Latest 3 months available | | | Total industry | Intermediate goods | Capital goods | Consumer durables | Consumer non-durables |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EUR15 | 01-97 | ⇨ | 03-97 | -0.4 | : | : | : | : |
| B | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | -0.1 | 0.1 | -0.1 | : | : |
| DK | | ⇨ | | : | : | : | : | : |
| D | 06-97 | ⇨ | 08-97 | -0.6 | -0.5 | -0.6 | -1.2 | -1.2 |
| EL | 10-96 | ⇨ | 12-96 | -0.5 | -0.4 | -1.5 | -2.2 | -1.2 |
| E | 04-97 | ⇨ | 06-97 | 1.0 | 0.7 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 0.8 |
| F | 04-97 | ⇨ | 06-97 | -0.2 | -0.2 | -0.1 | -0.7 | -0.1 |
| IRL | 01-97 | ⇨ | 03-97 | 2.0 | 1.3 | 3.7 | : | : |
| I | 06-96 | ⇨ | 08-96 | -0.5 | -1.1 | -0.4 | 0.4 | -0.9 |
| L | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | 0.1 | -0.2 | 1.7 | -2.2 | 0.4 |
| NL | 07-96 | ⇨ | 09-96 | -1.7 | : | : | : | : |
| A | 02-97 | ⇨ | 04-97 | -0.4 | -0.7 | 1.7 | -2.4 | -1.6 |
| P | 06-97 | ⇨ | 08-97 | -0.5 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 1.3 | -0.6 |
| FIN | 04-96 | ⇨ | 06-96 | 0.2 | : | : | : | : |
| S | 04-97 | ⇨ | 06-97 | 0.6 | : | : | : | : |
| UK | 06-97 | ⇨ | 08-97 | 0.1 | -0.4 | 0.5 | -0.4 | -0.6 |
| Japan | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | -0.1 | : | : | : | : |
| USA | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | 0.2 | : | : | : | : |

Source: eurostat

## EMPLOYMENT INDEX - GROSS DATA

Figure 2.17




Annual growth rates for the employment index of total industry, based on changes from the corresponding three months of the previous year, gross data, Jan-97 to Mar-97 (%)

Source: eurostat

Table 2.13

| | Latest 3 months available | | | Total industry | Intermediate goods | Capital goods | Consumer durables | Consumer non-durables |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EUR15 | 01-97 | ⇨ | 03-97 | -1.7 | : | : | : | : |
| B | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | -0.9 | -0.7 | 0.1 | : | : |
| DK | | ⇨ | | : | : | : | : | : |
| D | 06-97 | ⇨ | 08-97 | -3.4 | -3.9 | -3.6 | -5.4 | -4.4 |
| EL | 10-96 | ⇨ | 12-96 | -3.6 | -1.2 | -6.7 | 0.5 | -6.3 |
| E | 04-97 | ⇨ | 06-97 | 2.7 | -0.9 | 6.7 | 6.9 | 1.6 |
| F | 04-97 | ⇨ | 06-97 | -1.3 | -1.6 | -0.5 | -2.6 | -1.4 |
| IRL | 01-97 | ⇨ | 03-97 | 4.3 | 5.1 | 5.0 | : | : |
| I | 06-96 | ⇨ | 08-96 | -1.9 | -4.3 | -2.0 | 1.3 | -3.7 |
| L | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | -0.3 | -2.0 | 2.9 | -4.2 | 2.0 |
| NL | 07-96 | ⇨ | 09-96 | -0.4 | : | : | : | : |
| A | 02-97 | ⇨ | 04-97 | -2.4 | -2.7 | 0.9 | -5.7 | -4.2 |
| P | 06-97 | ⇨ | 08-97 | -2.6 | -0.6 | -1.1 | -0.1 | -5.2 |
| FIN | 04-96 | ⇨ | 06-96 | 1.1 | : | : | : | : |
| S | 04-97 | ⇨ | 06-97 | -0.8 | : | : | : | : |
| UK | 06-97 | ⇨ | 08-97 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 1.3 | 0.1 | 0.3 |
| Japan | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | -0.6 | : | : | : | : |
| USA | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | 0.5 | : | : | : | : |

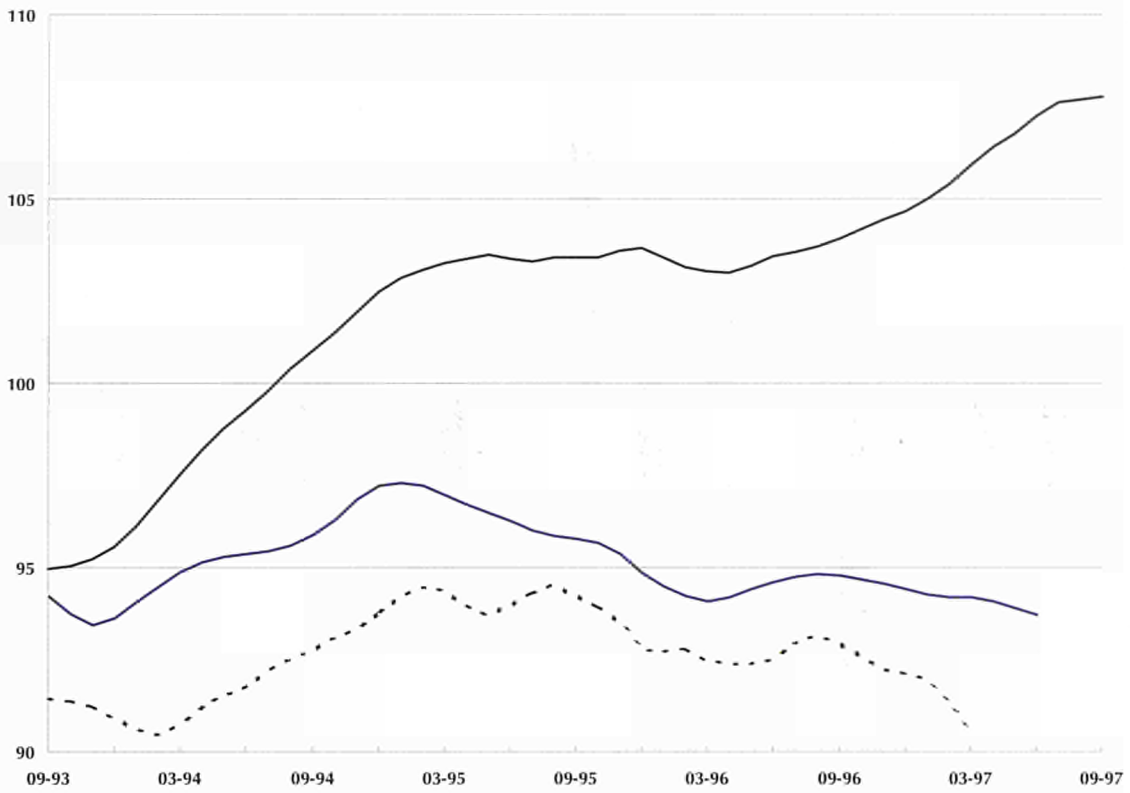
Annual growth rates for the employment index of the main industrial groupings, based on changes from the corresponding three months of the previous year, gross data (%)

Source: eurostat

## PRODUCTION INDEX - TREND CYCLE

**Figure 2.18**

EUR15 production and employment trends in construction, trend cycle (1990 = 100)




Total industry: production index ——

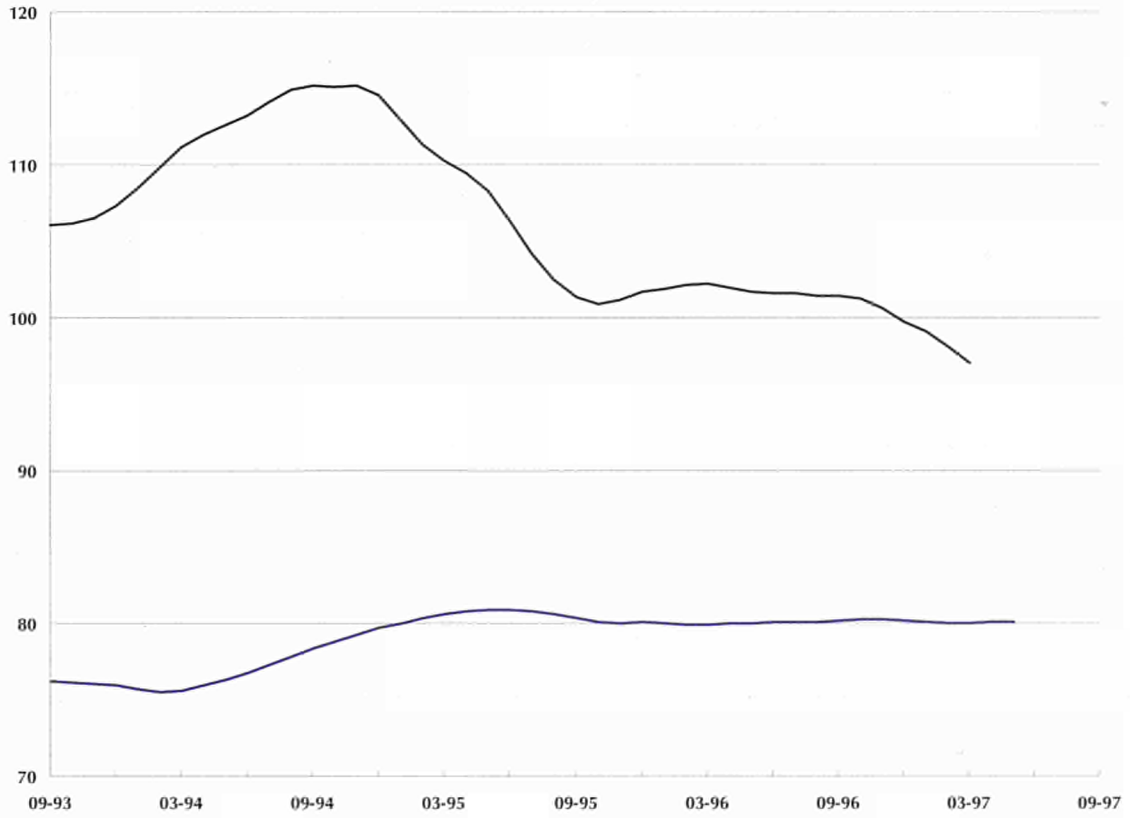
Construction: production index ——

Construction: employment index - - - - -

Source: eurostat

**Figure 2.19**

EUR15 building permits, trend cycle (1990 = 100)




Residential ——

Non-residential ——

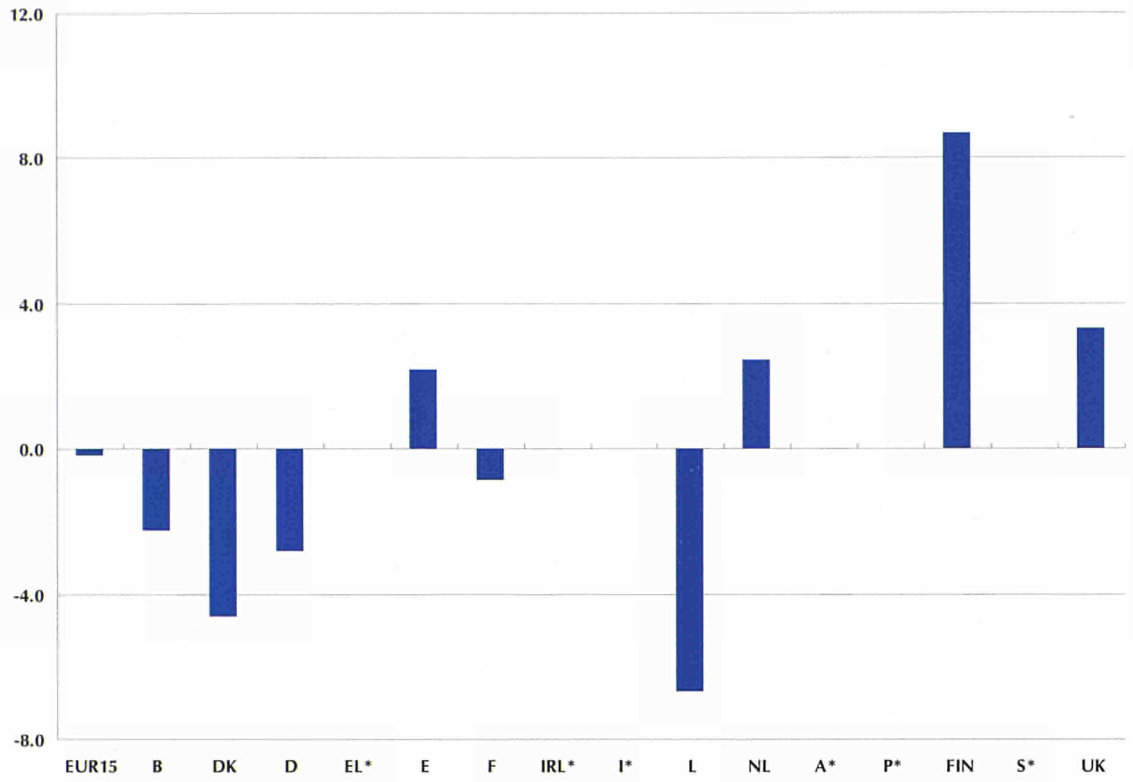
Source: eurostat



eurostat

## PRODUCTION INDEX

Figure 2.20




Annual growth rates for the production index of construction activity, based on changes from the corresponding three months of the previous year, w.d.adj., Apr-97 to June-97 (%)

Source: eurostat

Table 2.14

| | Latest 3 months available | | | Building t / t-1 | Building t / t-4 | Latest 3 months available | | | Civil engineering t / t-1 | Civil engineering t / t-4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EUR15 | 01-97 | ⇨ | 03-97 | -0.4 | 4.9 | 04-97 | ⇨ | 06-97 | -1.1 | -1.2 |
| B | | ⇨ | | : | : | | ⇨ | | : | : |
| DK | 04-97 | ⇨ | 06-97 | -5.2 | -3.3 | 04-97 | ⇨ | 06-97 | -4.8 | -6.8 |
| D | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | -0.3 | -3.1 | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | -0.8 | -3.5 |
| EL | | ⇨ | | : | : | | ⇨ | | : | : |
| E | 04-97 | ⇨ | 06-97 | 0.7 | 3.6 | 04-97 | ⇨ | 06-97 | 3.7 | 0.0 |
| F | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | -1.3 | -3.9 | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | 0.3 | 0.0 |
| IRL | | ⇨ | | : | : | | ⇨ | | : | : |
| I | 04-97 | ⇨ | 06-97 | -6.7 | -11.4 | 10-96 | ⇨ | 12-96 | 6.3 | : |
| L | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | -2.9 | -12.0 | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | 1.7 | 4.0 |
| NL | 04-97 | ⇨ | 06-97 | -5.1 | 2.9 | | ⇨ | | : | : |
| A | 07-96 | ⇨ | 09-96 | 0.2 | : | 07-96 | ⇨ | 09-96 | 4.1 | : |
| P | | ⇨ | | : | : | | ⇨ | | : | : |
| FIN | 04-97 | ⇨ | 06-97 | 0.9 | 14.2 | 04-97 | ⇨ | 06-97 | 0.4 | -2.9 |
| S | | ⇨ | | : | : | | ⇨ | | : | : |
| UK | 04-97 | ⇨ | 06-97 | 1.0 | 5.0 | 01-97 | ⇨ | 03-97 | 1.2 | -3.6 |

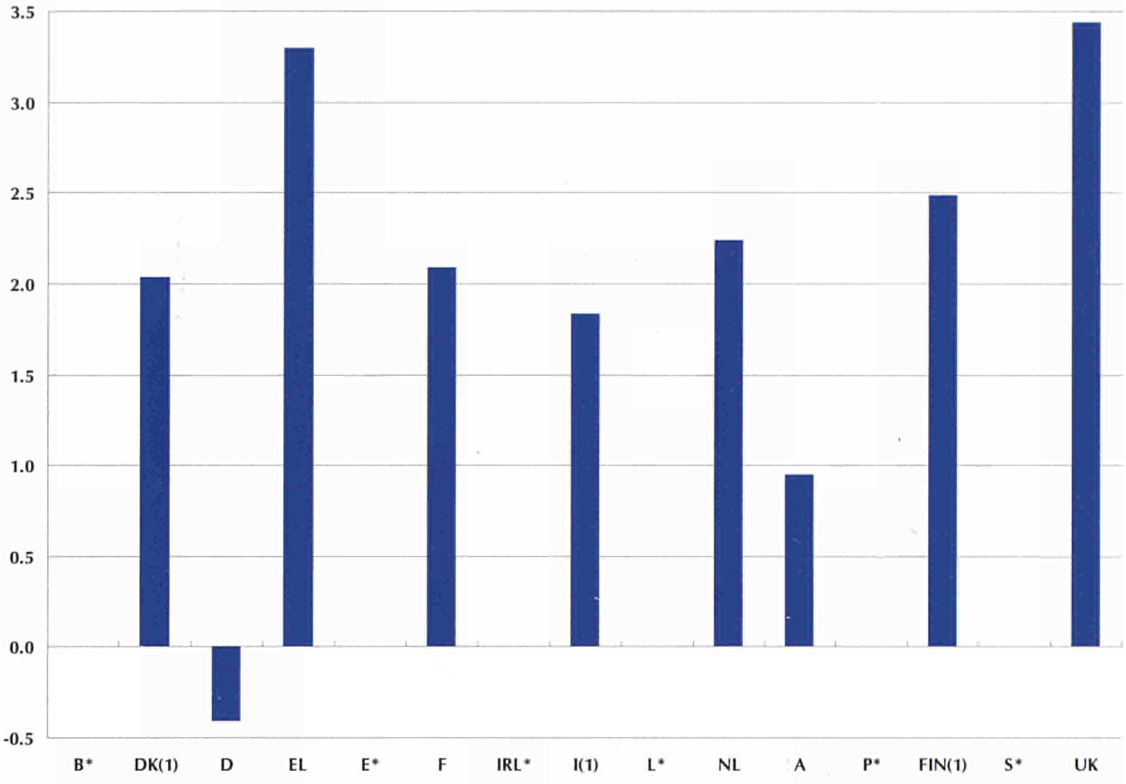
Latest growth rates for the production index of building and civil engineering (%)

Source: eurostat

## PRICE INDICES FOR NEW RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

**Figure 2.21**

Annual growth rates of output prices for new residential buildings, based on changes from the corresponding quarter of the previous year, Apr-97 to June-97 (%)




1) input prices

Source: eurostat

**Table 2.15**

Output price indices for new residential buildings, quarterly data (1990 = 100)

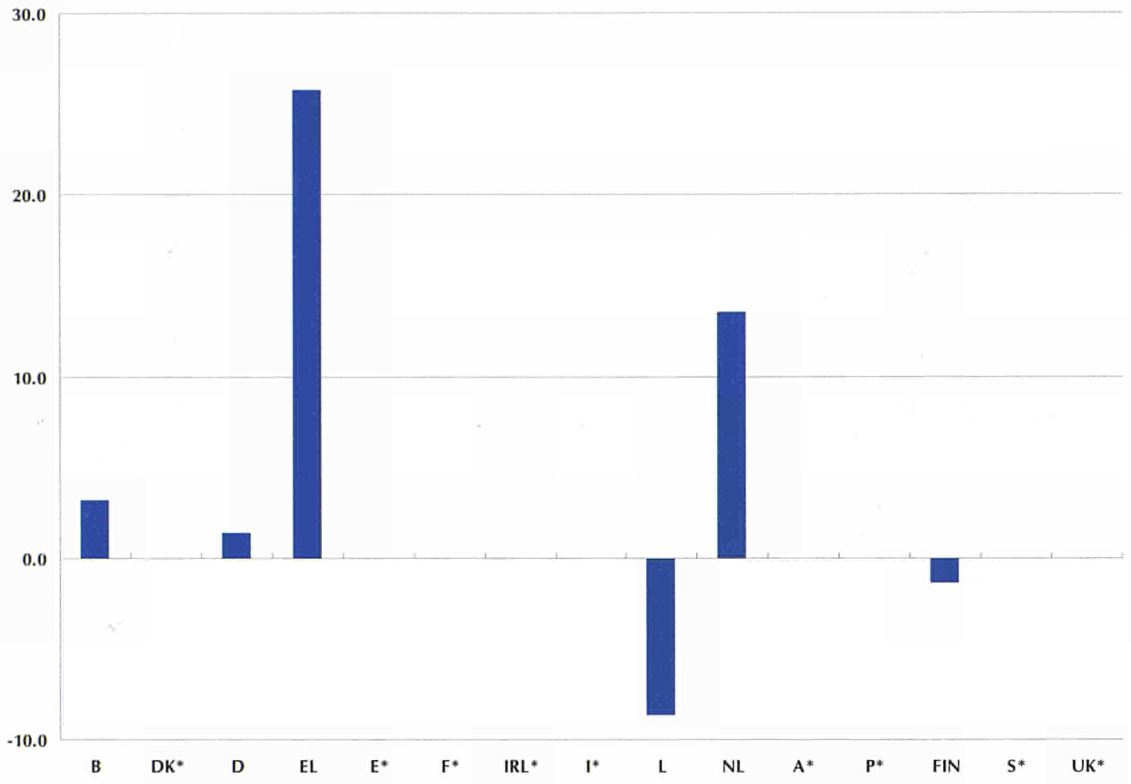
| | IV-1995 | I-1996 | II-1996 | III-1996 | IV-1996 | I-1997 | II-1997 | III-1997 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EUR15 | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| B | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| DK (1) | 116.8 | 117.6 | 118.5 | 119.3 | 120.2 | 121.0 | 121.8 | 122.7 |
| D | 124.5 | 124.2 | 124.2 | 124.1 | 123.8 | 123.6 | 123.5 | 123.5 |
| EL | 165.9 | 170.3 | 171.7 | 172.8 | 174.7 | 179.0 | 180.0 | 182.0 |
| E | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| F | 106.7 | 109.3 | 108.4 | 108.5 | 110.2 | 110.3 | 111.6 | : |
| IRL (3) | 117.5 | 117.4 | 117.5 | 117.9 | 118.8 | 120.1 | : | : |
| I (1) | 123.9 | 123.9 | 124.2 | 126.3 | 127.0 | 127.3 | 127.5 | : |
| L | 117.7 | 118.0 | 118.0 | 118.4 | : | : | : | : |
| NL | 119.0 | 121.0 | 121.0 | 121.0 | 122.0 | 124.0 | 125.0 | 126.0 |
| A | 120.5 | 121.2 | 121.8 | 122.1 | 122.1 | 122.9 | 123.4 | 123.7 |
| P | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| FIN (1) | 102.0 | 100.8 | 101.5 | 102.2 | 102.7 | 103.8 | 104.9 | 106.2 |
| S (2) | 87.6 | 91.5 | 94.0 | 110.6 | 99.5 | : | : | : |
| UK | 102.4 | 102.5 | 102.9 | 104.0 | 105.0 | 107.0 | 108.0 | : |

1) input prices
2) one-dwelling buildings
3) input prices & one-dwelling buildings

Source: eurostat

## BUILDING PERMITS - USEFUL FLOOR AREA

Figure 2.22




Annual growth rates of building permits (useful floor area), based on changes from the corresponding three months of the previous year, May-97 to July-97 (%)

Source: eurostat

Table 2.16

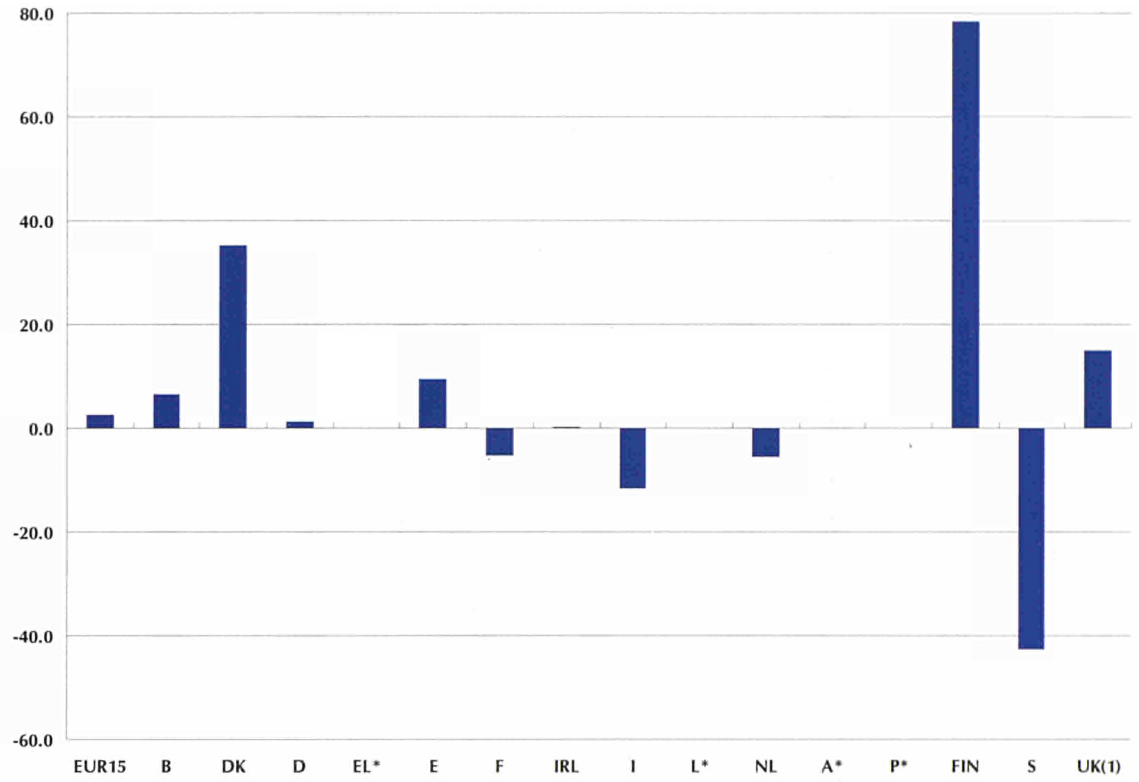
| | Latest 3 months available | | | Residential '000m² 1990=100 | | Latest 3 months available | | | Non-residential '000m² 1990=100 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EUR15 | | ⇨ | | : | : | 03-97 | ⇨ | 05-97 | : | 81.4 |
| B | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | 2,298 | 90.5 | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | 1,658 | 65.3 |
| DK | 04-97 | ⇨ | 06-97 | 696 | 169.0 | 04-97 | ⇨ | 06-97 | 1,360 | 107.7 |
| D | 06-97 | ⇨ | 08-97 | 13,411 | 146.4 | 06-97 | ⇨ | 08-97 | 11,044 | 115.7 |
| EL | | ⇨ | | : | : | | ⇨ | | : | : |
| E | 03-97 | ⇨ | 05-97 | 10,893 | 107.5 | 03-97 | ⇨ | 05-97 | 2,304 | 75.3 |
| F | | ⇨ | | : | : | 04-97 | ⇨ | 06-97 | 8,579 | 65.5 |
| IRL | 04-97 | ⇨ | 06-97 | 1,424 | 188.2 | 04-97 | ⇨ | 06-97 | 852 | 119.1 |
| I | 01-97 | ⇨ | 03-97 | 2,663 | 55.7 | 01-97 | ⇨ | 03-97 | 3,409 | 47.2 |
| L | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | : | 91.3 | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | : | 99.1 |
| NL | 08-97 | ⇨ | 10-97 | 4,970 | 151.0 | 08-97 | ⇨ | 10-97 | 5,700 | 114.8 |
| A | | ⇨ | | : | : | | ⇨ | | : | : |
| P | | ⇨ | | : | : | | ⇨ | | : | : |
| FIN | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | 668 | 47.1 | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | 824 | 56.5 |
| S | 06-97 | ⇨ | 08-97 | 239 | : | 06-97 | ⇨ | 08-97 | 411 | : |
| UK | | ⇨ | | : | : | | ⇨ | | : | : |

Building permits (useful floor area) for residential and non-residential buildings (thousand square metres and indices)

Source: eurostat

## Figure 2.23

Annual growth rates of building permits (no. of dwellings), based on changes from the corresponding three months of the previous year, Jan-97 to Mar-97 (%)




1) buildings starts

Source: eurostat

## Table 2.17

Number of dwellings authorised (units)

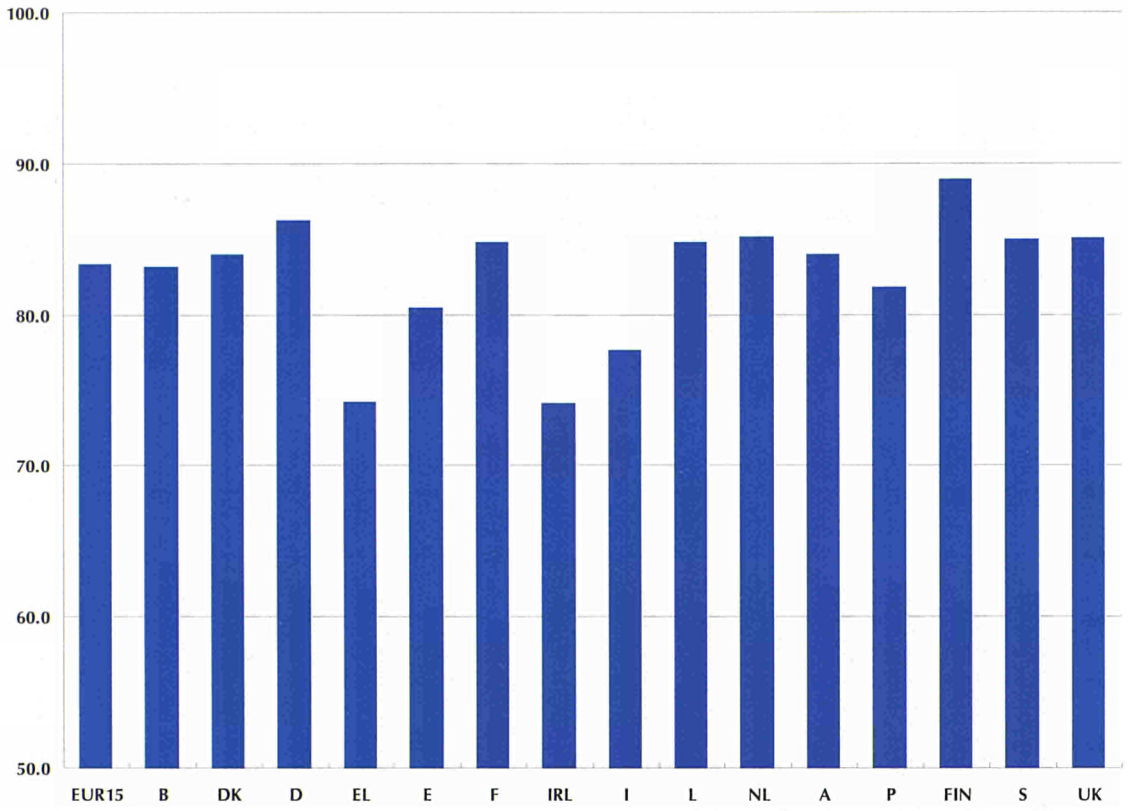
| | Latest year available | no. of dwellings | Latest month available | no. of dwellings | no. of dwellings per 1000 inhabitants | Index, 1990 = 100 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **EUR15** | | : | 03-97 | : | : | 96.7 |
| **B** | 1996 | 48,707 | 05-97 | 3,335 | 0.33 | 76.6 |
| **DK** | 1996 | **15,809** | 06-97 | **1,910** | **0.37** | **119.9** |
| **D** | 1996 | 576,376 | 08-97 | 42,153 | 0.52 | 127.5 |
| **EL** | | : | | : | : | : |
| **E** | 1996 | 265,956 | 05-97 | 22,897 | 0.58 | 117.7 |
| **F** | 1996 | 304,186 | 09-97 | 26,700 | 0.46 | 83.4 |
| **IRL** | 1996 | 34,864 | 06-97 | 3,738 | 1.04 | 203.2 |
| **I** | 1996 | **160,553** | 03-97 | **10,560** | **0.18** | **60.2** |
| **L** | 1996 | 2,797 | 02-97 | 204 | 0.50 | 64.5 |
| **NL** | 1996 | 102,119 | 10-97 | 10,573 | 0.69 | 141.4 |
| **A** | | : | | : | : | : |
| **P** | 1996 | 84,609 | 07-97 | 8,688 | 0.88 | : |
| **FIN** | 1996 | 24,211 | 09-97 | 1,884 | 0.37 | 39.2 |
| **S** | 1996 | 10,069 | 08-97 | 485 | : | : |
| **UK (1)** | 1996 | 173,300 | 09-97 | 15,500 | 0.26 | 113.3 |

1) buildings starts

Source: eurostat

## CAPACITY UTILISATION RATES

Figure 2.24




Capacity utilisation rates for total industry, Oct-97 (%)

Source: DG II, Business Survey

Table 2.18

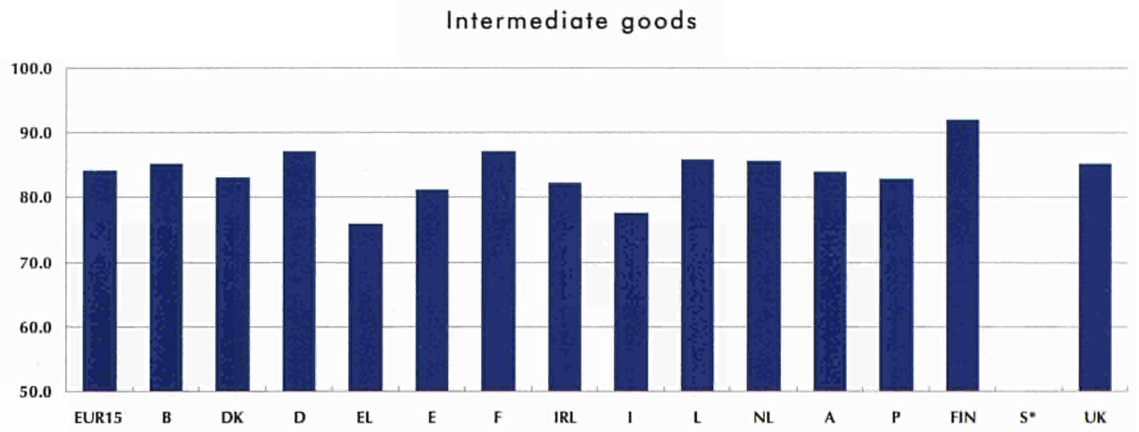
| Growth rate: latest month, t / t-12 (%) | 01-97 | 04-97 | 07-97 | 10-97 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| EUR15 | 2.7 | 80.8 | 81.7 | 82.6 | 83.4 |
| B | 3.6 | 80.3 | 80.3 | 82.4 | 83.2 |
| DK | 2.4 | 82.0 | 82.0 | 85.0 | 84.0 |
| D | 4.2 | 82.4 | 84.6 | 85.5 | 86.3 |
| EL | -3.8 | 75.2 | 72.1 | 76.3 | 74.3 |
| E | 3.7 | 77.1 | 77.3 | 78.9 | 80.5 |
| F | 2.2 | 83.4 | 82.8 | 83.8 | 84.8 |
| IRL | -2.1 | 76.9 | 80.5 | 73.0 | 74.2 |
| I | 2.8 | 75.1 | 76.2 | 77.7 | 77.7 |
| L | 9.3 | 79.0 | 82.7 | 84.5 | 84.8 |
| NL | 0.9 | 83.8 | 83.8 | 84.9 | 85.2 |
| A | 3.2 | 79.8 | 80.7 | 83.5 | 84.0 |
| P | 6.9 | 81.4 | 80.3 | 80.2 | 81.9 |
| FIN | 4.7 | 85.7 | 86.9 | 87.0 | 89.0 |
| S | 0.0 | 87.0 | 84.0 | 87.0 | 85.0 |
| UK | 2.5 | 82.8 | 83.5 | 83.8 | 85.1 |

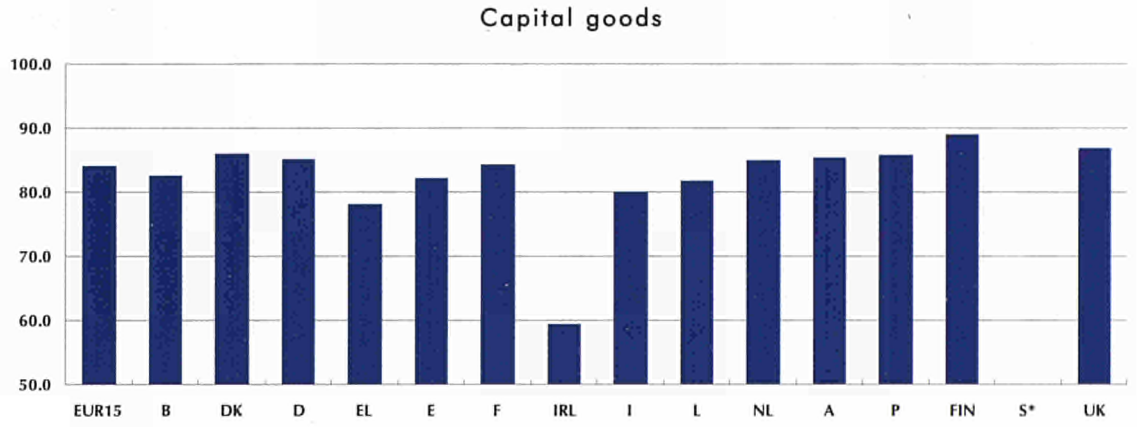
Capacity utilisation rates for total industry (%)

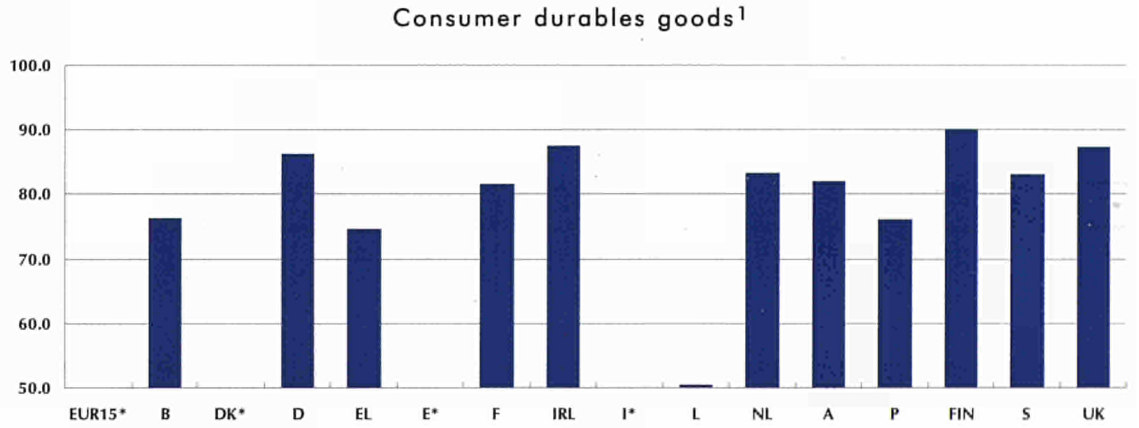
Source: DG II, Business Survey

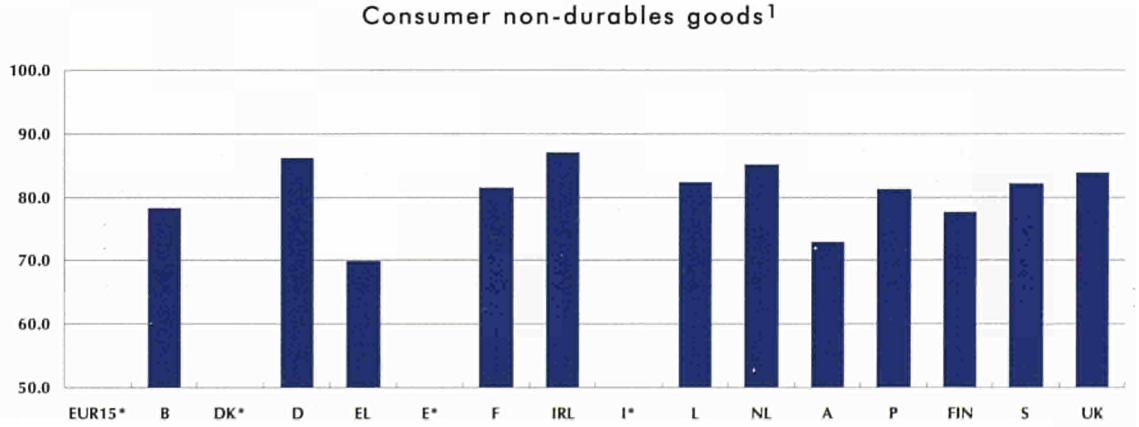
Figure 2.25

Capacity utilisation rates for the main industrial groupings, Oct-97
(%)




1) Apr-97

Source: DG II, Business Survey

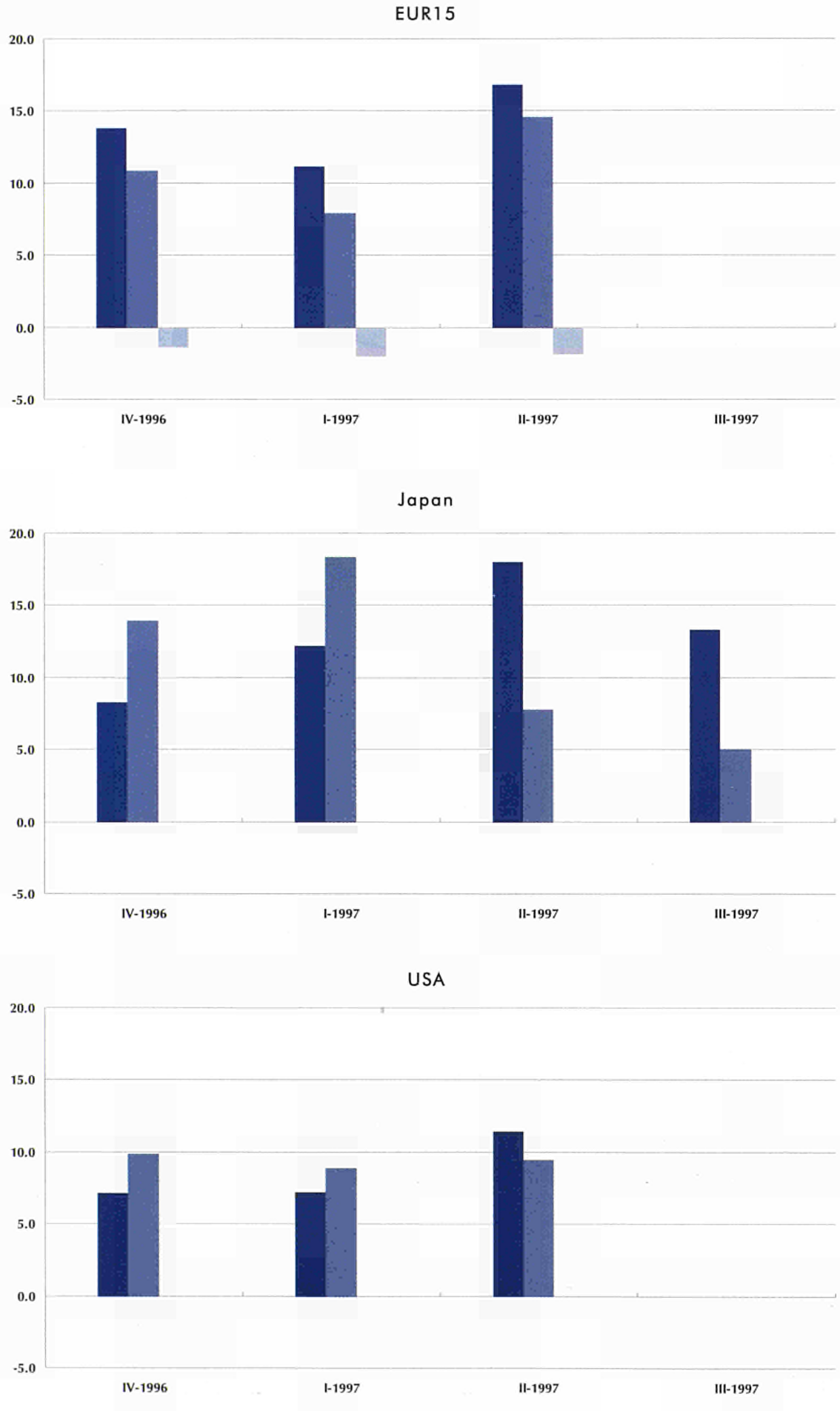


eurostat

## FOREIGN TRADE INDICES - GROSS DATA

Figure 2.26

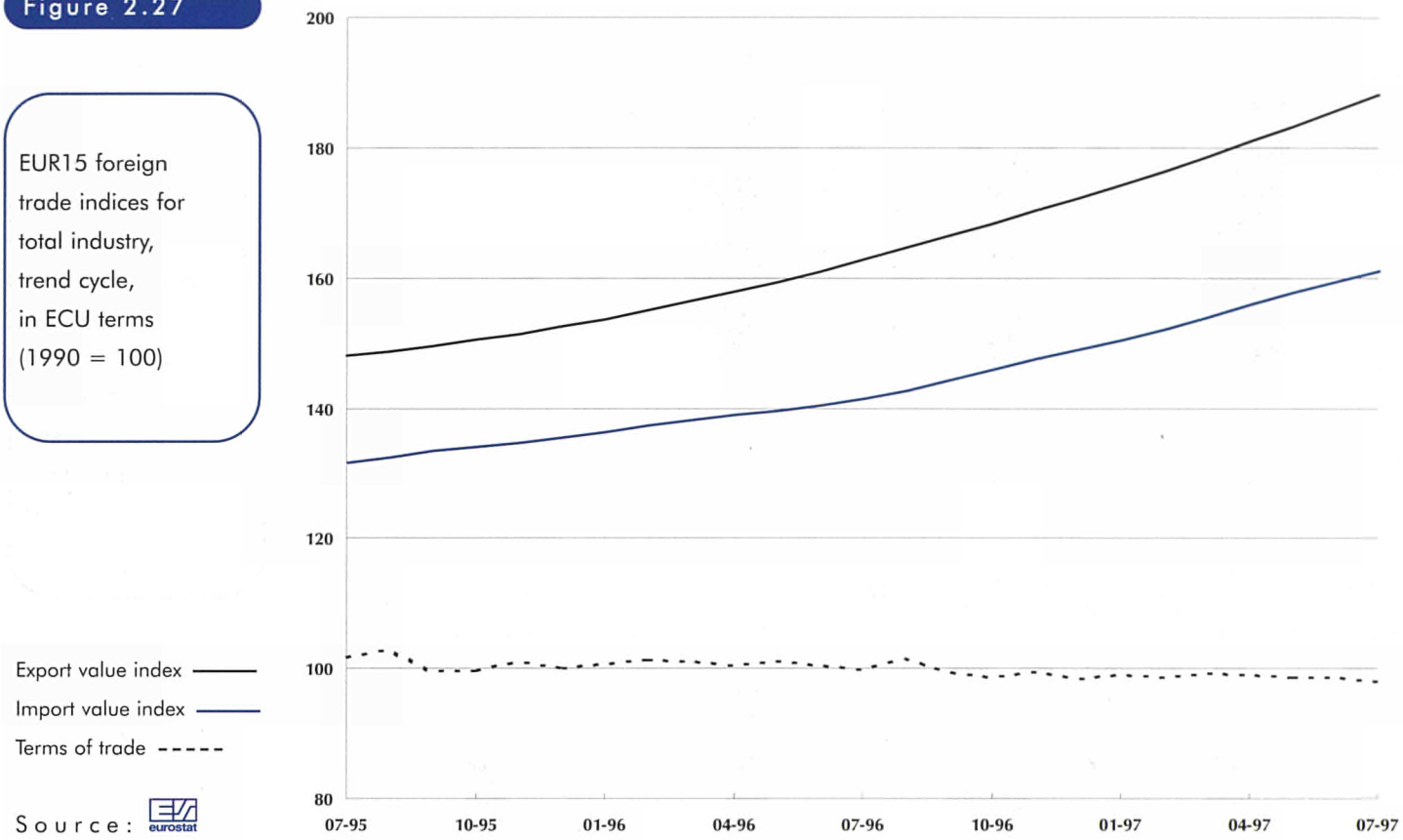
TRIAD comparison of foreign trade indices for total industry, based on changes from the corresponding quarter of the previous year, gross data (%)




Source: eurostat

## Figure 2.27

EUR15 foreign trade indices for total industry, trend cycle, in ECU terms (1990 = 100)




Source: eurostat

## Table 2.19

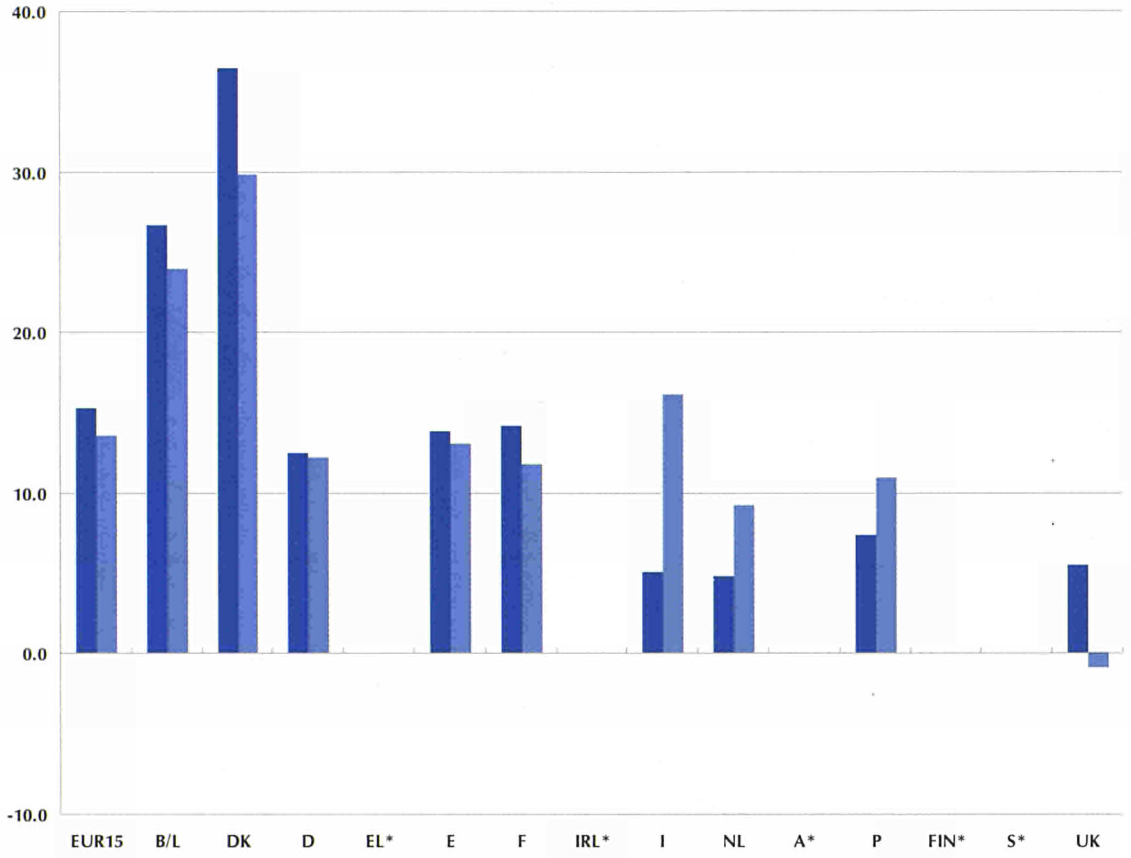
Three month on three month growth rates for foreign trade indices, trend cycle, value indices are in ECU terms (%)

| | Latest 3 months available | | | Exports Value | Exports Volume | Imports Value | Imports Volume | Terms of trade |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EUR15 | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | 4.0 | 2.8 | 3.5 | 2.1 | -0.5 |
| B/L | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | 6.0 | 4.6 | 4.2 | 3.2 | 1.2 |
| DK | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | 6.3 | 0.9 | 6.9 | 5.7 | -0.6 |
| D | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | 3.6 | 3.4 | 4.6 | 2.0 | -0.4 |
| EL | 01-97 | ⇨ | 03-97 | 3.3 | 2.5 | -6.5 | -8.9 | -8.4 |
| E | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | 3.9 | 1.9 | 3.8 | 2.6 | -0.6 |
| F | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | 3.9 | 2.1 | 2.9 | 1.7 | 0.3 |
| IRL | 04-97 | ⇨ | 06-97 | 6.0 | 5.6 | 5.3 | 2.9 | -2.3 |
| I | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | 3.2 | 1.4 | 5.0 | 6.2 | -1.0 |
| NL | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | -0.1 | 1.0 | : | -1.0 | 0.6 |
| A | | ⇨ | | : | : | : | : | : |
| P | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | 3.3 | 1.4 | 1.6 | 1.0 | -0.1 |
| FIN | | ⇨ | | : | : | : | : | : |
| S | | ⇨ | | : | : | : | : | : |
| UK | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | 1.9 | 2.8 | 0.5 | 1.4 | -0.8 |

Source: eurostat

## FOREIGN TRADE INDICES - GROSS DATA

Figure 2.28




Annual growth rates for foreign trade indices of total industry, based on changes from the corresponding three months of the previous year, in ECU terms, gross data May-97 to July-97 (%)

Export value
Import value

Source: eurostat

Table 2.20

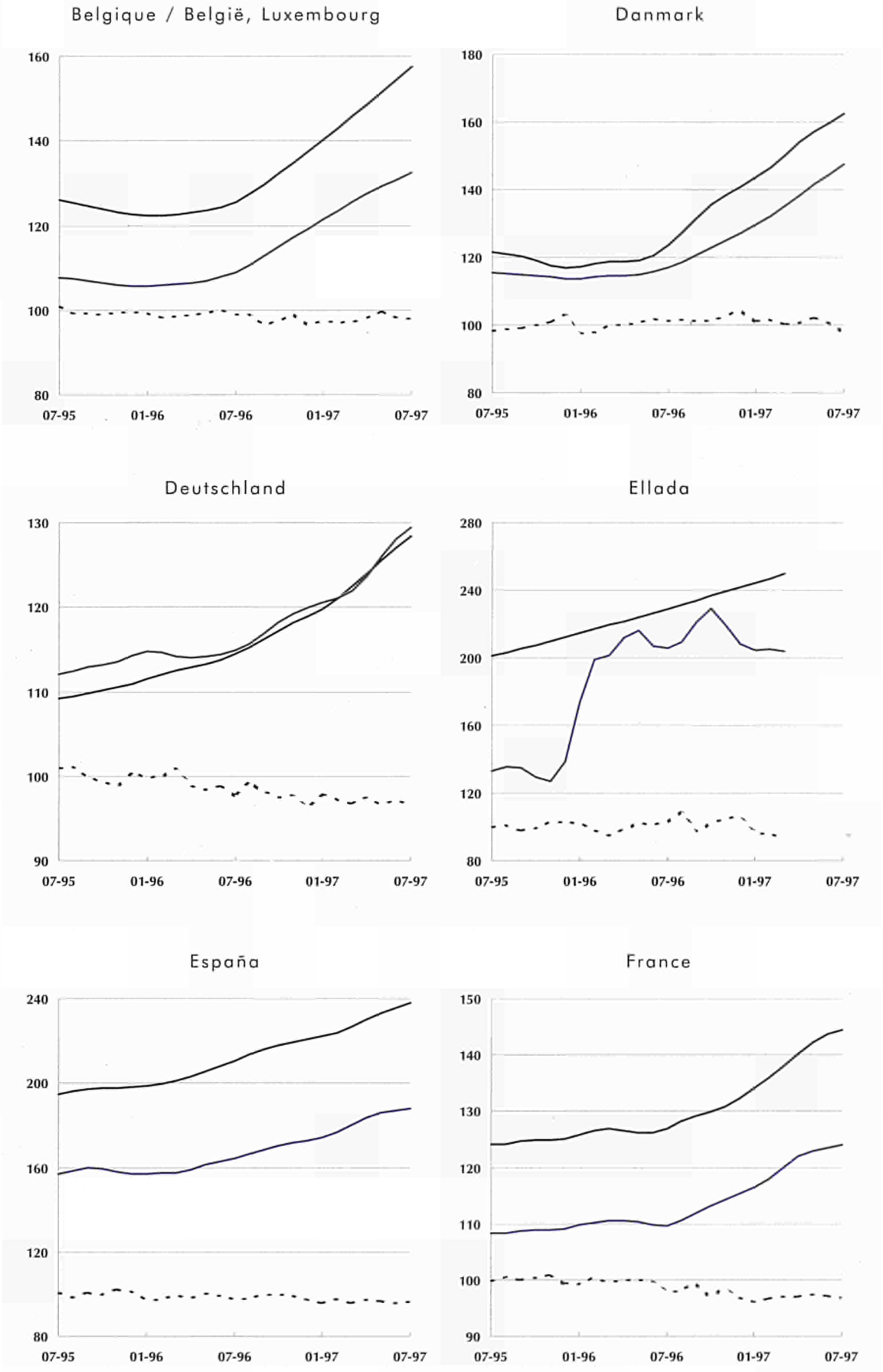
| | Latest 3 months available | | | Exports Value | Exports Volume | Imports Value | Imports Volume | Terms of trade |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EUR15 | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | 15.2 | 10.5 | 13.6 | 6.8 | -2.0 |
| B/L | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | 26.6 | 20.4 | 23.9 | 16.9 | -0.7 |
| DK | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | 36.4 | 30.0 | 29.8 | 22.5 | -1.0 |
| D | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | 12.4 | 8.2 | 12.2 | 6.2 | -1.6 |
| EL | 01-97 | ⇨ | 03-97 | -9.1 | -13.6 | 1.7 | -5.9 | -2.8 |
| E | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | 13.8 | 10.7 | 13.1 | 6.7 | -3.0 |
| F | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | 14.1 | 10.9 | 11.8 | 6.4 | -2.1 |
| IRL | 04-97 | ⇨ | 06-97 | 17.5 | 19.2 | 18.1 | 11.5 | -7.2 |
| I | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | 5.1 | 2.9 | 16.1 | 14.8 | 0.9 |
| NL | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | 4.8 | -2.0 | 9.2 | 2.0 | -0.2 |
| A | | ⇨ | | : | : | : | : | : |
| P | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | 7.4 | 4.3 | 10.9 | 7.5 | -0.3 |
| FIN | | ⇨ | | : | : | : | : | : |
| S | | ⇨ | | : | : | : | : | : |
| UK | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | 5.5 | 9.2 | -0.9 | 3.3 | 0.6 |

Annual growth rates for foreign trade indices, based on changes from the corresponding three months of the previous year, value indices are in ECU terms, gross data (%)

Source: eurostat

**Figure 2.29**

Foreign trade indices in ECU terms, trend cycle (1990 = 100)




Source: eurostat



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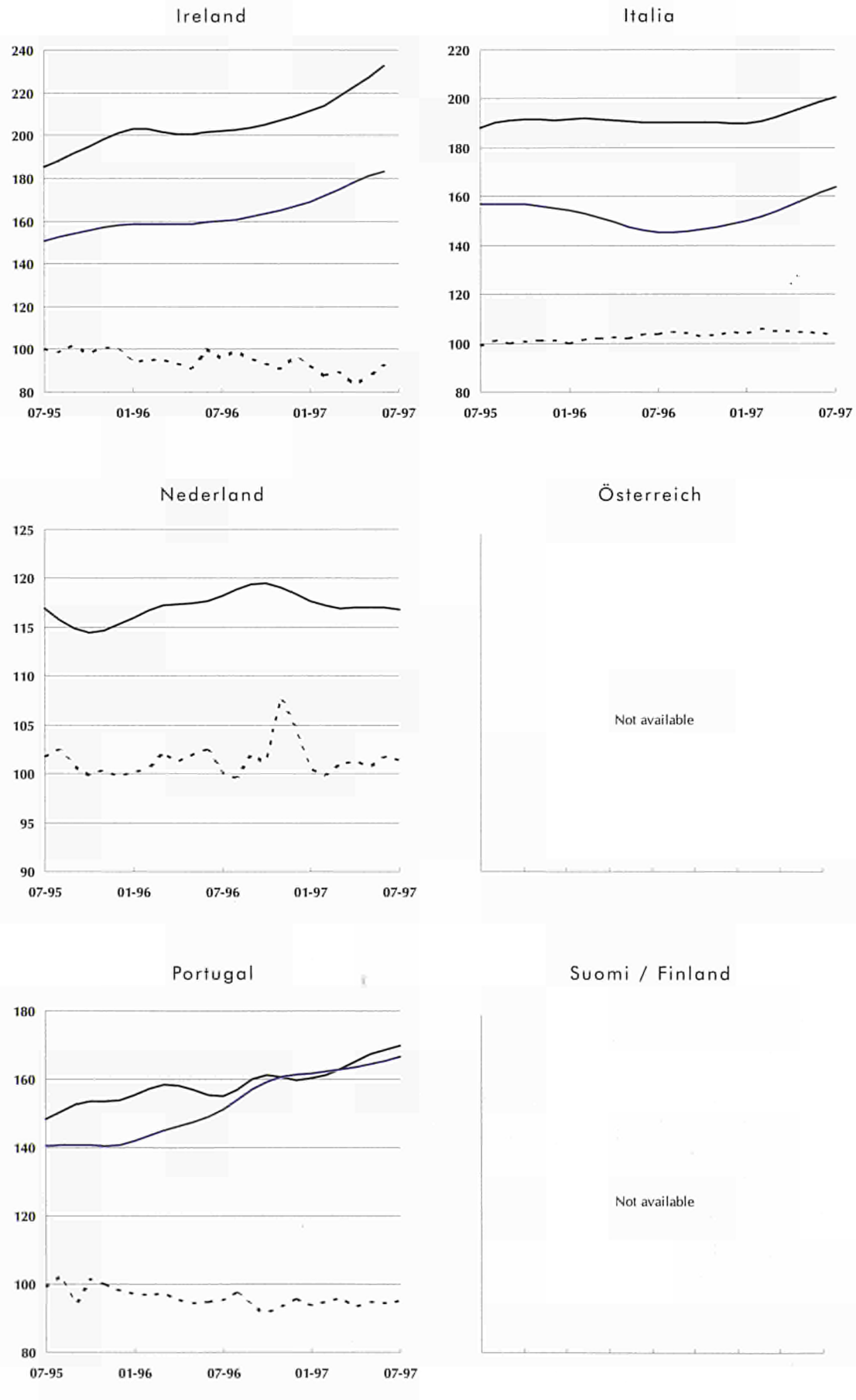
## FOREIGN TRADE INDICES - TREND CYCLE

Figure 2.29

Foreign trade indices in ECU terms, trend cycle (1990 = 100)




Source: eurostat

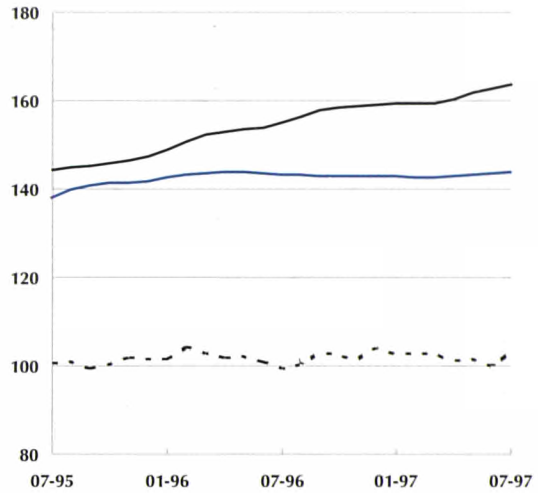
Figure 2.29

Foreign trade indices in ECU terms, trend cycle (1990 = 100)

Sverige

Not available

United Kingdom




Export value index ——

Import value index ——

Terms of trade - - - - -

**Further information - employment, construction and trade indices:**

Figures showing the number of persons employed include all persons employed by the firm (manual workers and salaried employees on the firm's payroll) plus the self-employed.
For the construction activity there are some very specific variables: for details of these please refer to the Eurostat publication "Methodology of Industrial Short-term Indicators" - CA-97-96-079-EN-C.
For the indices of imports and exports, foreign trade data of industrial products (following the nomenclature of the Harmonised System) were grouped according to the industrial NACE Rev.1 activity to which they belong. This grouping of products causes inevitably certain inaccuracies which can reduce the reliability of these foreign trade series. The indices for EUR15 refer only to extra-Union trade, the indices for Member States reflect also intra-Union trade.
Full methodological notes may be found on page 85.

Source: eurostat



eurostat

# 3 Wood and wood products

**Structural indicators**

value-added, production,
employment and labour costs

**External trade**

extra-EU exports and extra-EU imports

**Short term indicators**

production index, producer prices,
capacity utilisation, foreign trade indices

data extracted on: 10/12/97

For full methodological notes and an explanation of the signs and abbreviations used in this publication, please refer to page 85

In this section



**Enquiries regarding the purchase of data should be directed to:**
**Eurostat Data-Shop**
**tel: (352) 4335 2251**
**fax: (352) 4335 22221**

**Data marked with this symbol is available on the diskette - for further details see page 84**

## Structure of the wood processing industry

The wood processing industry comprises enterprises in the following branches of activity: sawmilling and planing of wood, impregnation of wood, manufacture of panels and boards, manufacture of builders' carpentry and joinery, manufacture of wooden containers, and the manufacture of other products in wood, and of articles in cork, straw and plaited materials. The most significant of these is builders' carpentry and joinery, which accounts for 34.4% of production, 37.2% of value added and 41.4% of employment in the industry, followed by sawmilling, planing and impregnation (26.8% of production, 25.0% of value added and 21.9% of employment), manufacture of panels (22.2% of production, 20.2% of value added and 15.4% of employment), the manufacture of other products in wood, and of articles in cork, straw and plaited materials (9.2% of production, 10.3% of value added and 12.8% of employment) and finally wooden containers (7.4% of production, 7.3% of value added and 8.5% of employment).

## Sawmilling

One feature typical of sawmills is their geographical location, in or near woodlands in the case of those specialising in native timber species, near ports for those specialising in imported species, or close to their principal customers. With vigorous competition from outside the Community, sawmilling has had to reorganise, with a consequent surge in concentration and more mergers and take-overs. Downstream vertical integration seems to have been the preferred approach.

## Panel manufacture

This branch is analysed in detail later in this report.

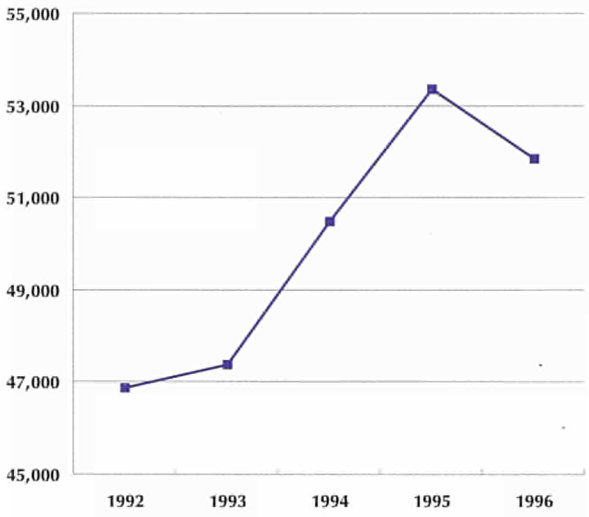



Figure 3.1

EUR15 production in constant prices (million ECU)

Source: DEBA GEIE

### Builders' carpentry and joinery

This is, naturally, the activity most dependent on the construction industry. Market differences arising from the construction and weather conditions mean that manufacturers in this branch operate mainly on the local or regional market. European manufacturers in the branch have recently invested in factory modernisation and increased production capacity, with a view to extending their potential markets Community-wide.

### Other wood processing products

Here, too, in the manufacture of other products in wood, and of articles in cork, straw and plaited materials, competition is being felt from the east of Europe where labour is cheaper. However, the strategy of EU enterprises is much less clear, first because the range of activities is much wider, and secondly because their customers may be other industries or end-users.

### Wooden containers

In this branch the Union's main competitor countries are those from the east of Europe, where wage costs are low. To cope with this competition, European manufacturers are rationalising and automating their production and making the most of the competitive benefits of geographical proximity and their greater knowledge of the local market - greater flexibility for product sizes, deliveries, the development of container recycling, etc.

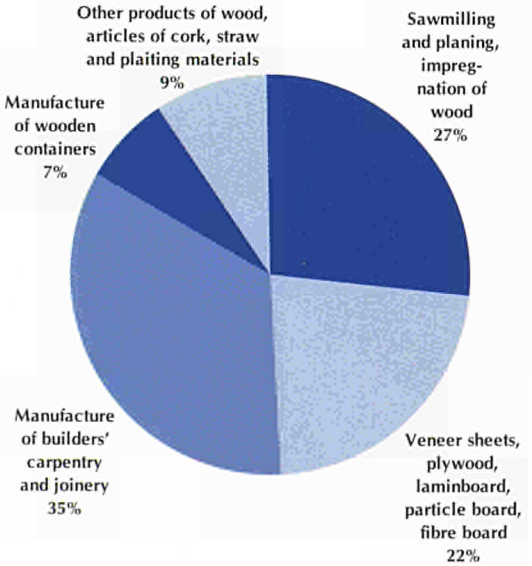


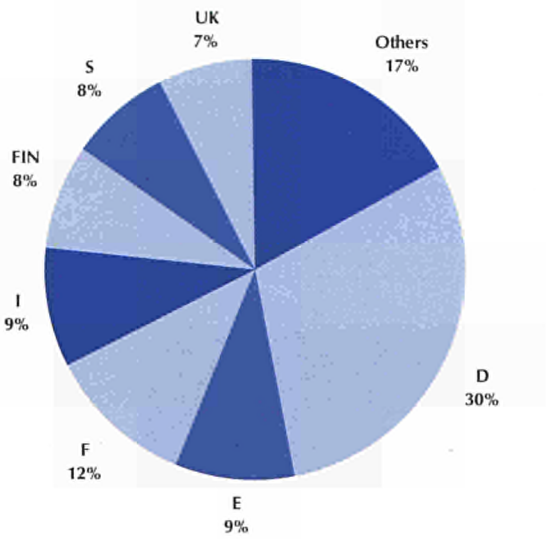

Figure 3.2

Share of production by industrial activity , 1996

Source: DEBA GEIE

Figure 3.3

Share of EUR15 value-added at factor cost, 1996




Source: DEBA GEIE

### SMEs

The five biggest enterprises in Europe account for only 15.4% of the total turnover in the industry. In other words, the industry is not greatly concentrated.

In fact, the EU's wood processing industry has a very large number of SMEs: in 1994 (EUR15) 98.5% of enterprises had fewer than 50 employees, and they accounted for 66.6% of total employment and 49.9% total turnover.

### Structure of the industry

In 1996, the most important Member States in the wood processing industry were Germany, France, Italy and Spain. These were followed by Sweden, the United Kingdom, Finland and Austria, In 1996 these eight accounted for 87.9% of production, 83.2% of value added (excluding Austria) and almost 86.5% of employment in the Community.

### Output: comparable to the construction and furniture trades

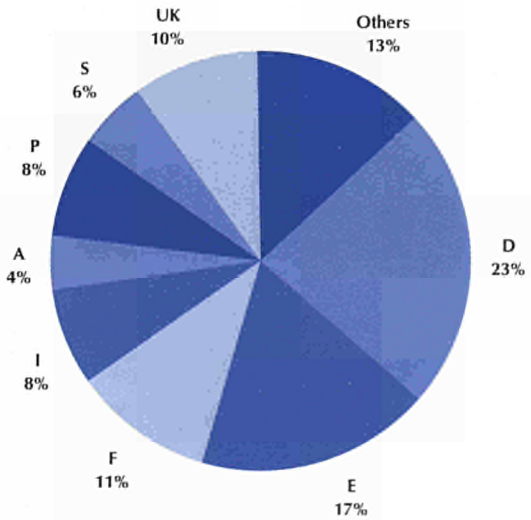
The wood processing industry is a typical cyclical industry, mainly supplying inputs to the construction and furniture industries, which are its two main customers.

To place it in the context of manufacturing industry as a whole, in 1996 the wood processing industry accounted for 1.6% of total industrial production, whilst the furniture trade accounted for 2.6%.

Over time, the three industries have developed at much the same rate: strong growth in production and value added in the late 1980s, slowdown and slump in 1993 and finally an upturn in 1994. In 1996, the furniture trade continued to show slight growth, whilst construction and wood processing, already slowed down.

Figure 3.4

Share of EUR15 number of employees, 1996

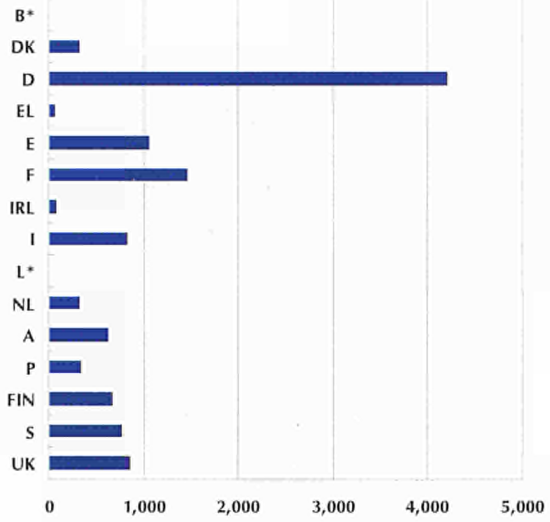



Source: DEBA GEIE

Between September 1996 and September 1997, the output of the EU's wood processing industry grew by 1.6%; with growth in the last quarter of 3.6% compared with the same quarter a year earlier, and 0.8% compared with the preceding quarter.

In the last quarter (compared to the previous quarter), the fastest rates of growth were recorded in Finland, Spain and Luxembourg, respectively 4.0%, 4.0% and 16.6%. The figures for the four main countries were negative: Germany (-1.1%) France (-1.2%), Italy (-1.3%) and the United Kingdom (-4.4%).

Figure 3.5




Labour costs, 1995 (million ECU)

Source : DEBA GEIE

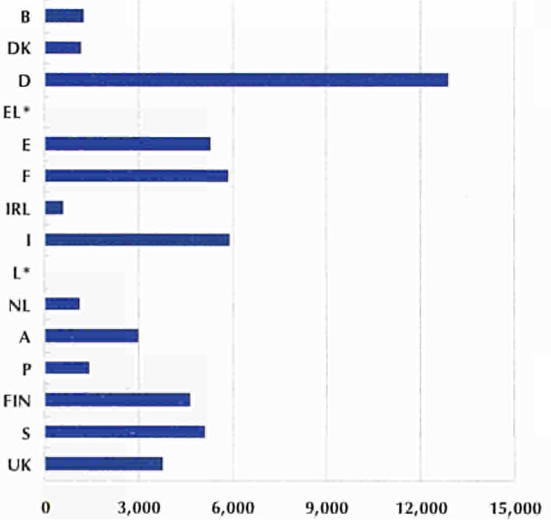
### Highest price rises in Finland

In September 1997, Finland recorded the highest rises in production prices (12.9% compared with a year earlier). Italy and France seem to have done best at containing the rise in the industry's production prices.

In terms of production specialisation, it can be seen that the countries most specialised in wood processing were first the new Member States (Austria, Finland and Sweden) plus Denmark, and secondly the southern Member States such as Greece, Spain and Portugal.

For 1996 as a whole, however, it is estimated that the Union's wood processing industry shrank by 3.5%. It was Germany's industry which was hardest hit (-11.2%). Ireland had the greatest growth at 22.2%

Figure 3.6




Production in constant prices, 1996 (million ECU)

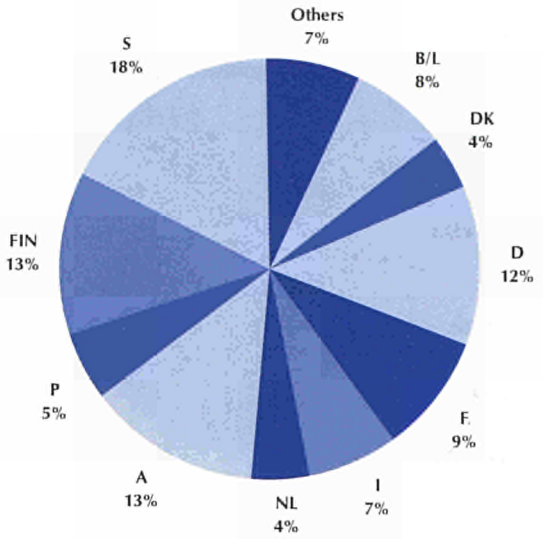
Source : DEBA GEIE

### Productivity gains have more effect on employment than in construction or the furniture trades

The wood processing industry accounts for 2.2% of total employment in manufacturing industry. The productivity of labour in the industry rose by around 67.3% between 1985 and 1995, rising to ECU 34,141 of value added per employee. The highest productivity is recorded by Finland and Sweden with ECU 66,229 and 56,022 of value added per employee, respectively.

Figure 3.7

Share of world exports, 1996




Source: eurostat

Employment has evolved very differently over time in the wood processing, construction and furniture industries. Employment in construction and the furniture trades has swung between periods of growth and decline since 1985. Employment in the wood processing industry, on the other hand, has declined steadily since 1985.

If we look at the competitiveness of unit labour costs, we can see that the most competitive countries are Italy and Ireland, followed by Greece, the United Kingdom and Finland.

In 1996, employment in the wood processing industry fell steeply in Portugal, Germany and Italy, with declines of more than 4.0%.

### Trade surpluses and sharply-increased trade

Most European Union Member States were net importers in 1996. Only Sweden, Finland, Austria and Portugal were net exporters, with surpluses of ECU 2,324 million, 1,854 million, 998 million and 643 million respectively.

EU imports accounted for 31.9% of apparent consumption in 1996. This ratio is virtually unchanged since 1990, when imports accounted for around 31.0% of apparent consumption.

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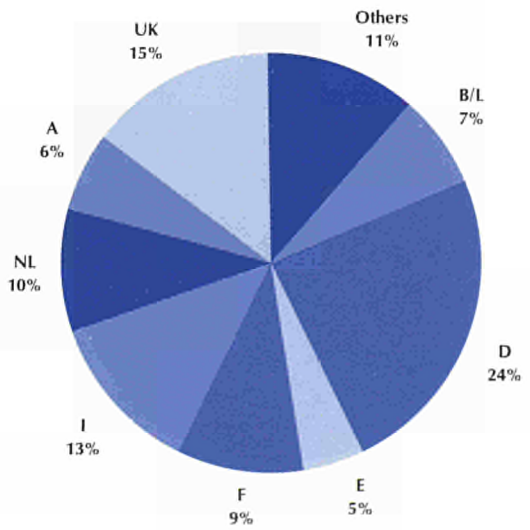
Figure 3.8

Share of world imports, 1996




Source: eurostat

*The Commission would like to thank Mr de Roock of CEI-Bois (the European Confederation of Woodworking Industries), Mrs van den Akker of the FESYP (European Federation of Particle Board Manufacturers) and Mr Omdahl of the FEROPA (European Federation of Fibreboard Manufacturers) for the information they provided in compiling this article.*

## Manufacture of veneer sheets; manufacture of plywood, laminboard, particle board, fibreboard and other panels and boards - Nace Rev.1 20.20

*The figures below are based on NACE Rev.1 class 20.20, unless otherwise specified in the table/figure heading. The following text gives a detailed analysis of NACE Rev.1 class 20.20. A brief summary will be followed by more specific details on the particle board and fibreboard industries.*

The fact that business cycles are becoming shorter and shorter makes markets more sensitive and, since they react immediately, there are substantial variations in demand from one year to the next. This general remark applies to the wood industry as a whole, and the wood panels industry in particular.

## Variable growth in production value in the EU

The wood panels industry accounted for 22.2% of total output by the wood industry (production of wood and wood products) in 1996. Its relative importance grew steadily during the 1990s, gaining 1.7% in six years. The annual average growth rate for the period from 1990 to 1996 was therefore higher for the wood panels sector than for the wood industry as a whole. Whereas the growth rate for the wood industry averaged 1.9% per annum over these six years, the figure for NACE group 20.20 was 3.3%, illustrating the vitality of this branch which not only gained ground in relative terms but also experienced substantial growth. This growth is reflected in the value of Community wood panel production, which rose from ECU 9,700 million in 1990 to ECU 11,700 million in 1996.

Table 3.1

Community production (million ECU)

| | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Nace 20: wood and wood products** | 47,073 | 46,623 | 46,319 | 45,317 | 49,038 | 54,652 | 52,721 |
| **Nace 20.20: veneer sheets; plywood, laminboard, particle board, fibreboard and other panels and boards** | 9,660 | 9,738 | 9,741 | 9,756 | 10,621 | 12,146 | 11,714 |
| **Share of Nace 20.20 in Nace 20 (%)** | 20.5 | 20.9 | 21.0 | 21.5 | 21.7 | 22.2 | 22.2 |

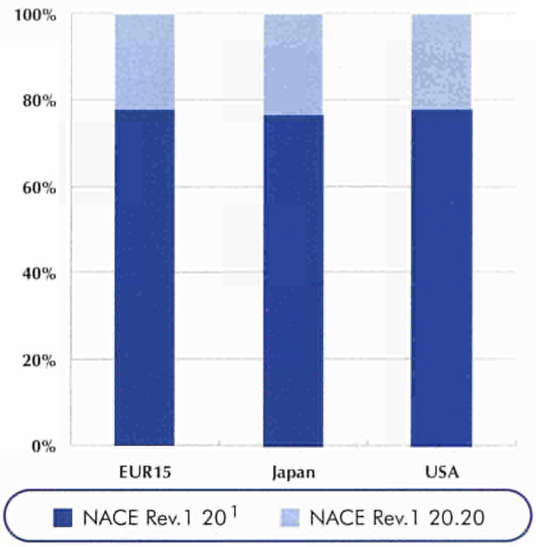
Source: eurostat

Figure 3.9

Share of production value in NACE Rev.1 20 [1], 1996 (%)

1) excluding NACE Rev.1 20.20

Source: eurostat




The growth pattern for this industry was, however, far from uniform throughout the period in question. Whilst the three-year period from 1990 to 1993 saw a very slight rise in production (less than 1.0%), output shot up over the next two years before falling back again in 1996. The trend in production value for the wood panels industry mirrored the fluctuating fortunes of the wood industry as a whole - i.e. a downturn until 1993, strong growth in 1994-95, and a further fall in 1996. The wood panels industry did, however, fare better than the wood industry as a whole during the first of these three phases, since it still managed to post positive growth rates. It is worth noting that in real terms, i.e. leaving aside price trends, production suffered fewer setbacks at the beginning of the decade, and even managed to edge upwards.

At international level, this activities' relative standing within the wood industry as a whole is much the same in each of the members of the Triad. With production value amounting to ECU 14,500 million in 1996, the United States led the EU and Japan (ECU 8,600 million). The USA even managed to increase its relative share of production within the Triad by 3.3% between 1990 and 1996, at the expense of both Japan (-1.6%) and EUR15 (-1.7%).

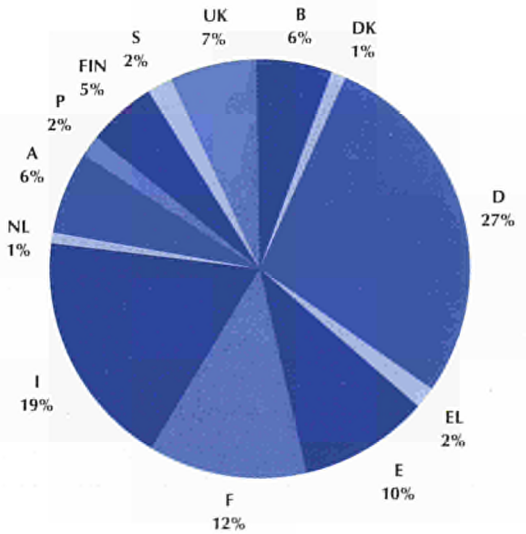
### Italy specialises in the production of boards and panels

When production is broken down by Member State, Germany comes well ahead of the rest, producing 27.6% of the Community's wood panels in 1996, far ahead of Italy (18.5%) and France (11.8%). Spain and the United Kingdom come next with 9.4% and 6.5% respectively. However, Italy is the only one of the main Community producers whose production specialisation coefficient differs radically from the Community average. It records a ratio of 1.7 which, after Greece and Belgium, makes it one of the leading countries. On the other hand, the Scandinavian countries, and Sweden in particular (0.3%), have extremely low figures.

Figure 3.10

Share of Community production, 1996 (%)

Source: eurostat



### The wood panels industry does not appear to be very labour-intensive

Community employment in the wood panels industry totalled 77,000 workers in 1996 - a drop of 2.4% on the previous year. This fall follows two years of rising employment. However, whilst employment has fallen by 9.4% since the beginning of the decade, this reduction has been slightly less than for the wood industry as a whole, as the wood panels industry share of the total figure rose from 15% in 1990 to 15.4% in 1996. It might also be assumed that the wood panels industry is either more capital-intensive or more productive than average, since its relative share of employment in the wood industry was 6.8 points lower than it was for production in 1996. By way of comparison, the wood panels industry employed 22.4% of the wood industry labour force in the United States and accounted for 22.2% of production, whilst the corresponding figures in Japan were 16.8% and 23.4%. The same conclusion could therefore be drawn for Japan as for EUR15.

At Member States level, the main Community employer is Germany, with 28.6% of the workforce (22,000 employees) in 1996, ahead of Italy (12.4% of Community employment), Spain (11.5%) and France (11.1%).

Table 3.2

Production specialisation ratio compared to NACE Rev.1 20

| | 1990 | 1996 |
|---|---|---|
| B | 2.3 | 2.1 |
| DK | 0.6 | 0.4 |
| D | 1.1 | 1.0 |
| EL | 3.3 | 3.1 |
| E | 0.9 | 1.0 |
| F | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| I | 1.7 | 1.7 |
| IRL | : | : |
| L | : | : |
| NL | 0.3 | 0.2 |
| A | : | 1.0 |
| P | 0.8 | 0.7 |
| FIN | 0.9 | 0.8 |
| S | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| UK | 0.7 | 0.9 |
| Japan | 1.2 | 1.1 |
| USA | 1.2 | 1.0 |

Source: eurostat

### The EU's trade deficit has fallen in recent years

EUR15 has a deficit when it comes to trade in wood panels. The coverage ratio has, however, followed a steady upward trend since 1992, rising from 26.8% to 55.2% in 1996, as the result of stronger growth in the value of exports than that of imports. Exports have more than doubled in these four years (+131.6% over this period), whilst imports have only gone up 12.5%. The growth in sales to non-EU countries was particularly strong in 1993. During this 4-year period, imports were subject to more random variations, alternating between periods of growth and decline.

Table 3.3

Community employment

| | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Employment (thousand units) | 84.6 | 82.4 | 80.1 | 76.8 | 77.2 | 78.6 | 76.8 |
| Annual growth rate (%) | -9.3 | -2.6 | -2.8 | -4.0 | 0.4 | 1.9 | -2.4 |
| Share in wood industry (%) | 15.0 | 14.8 | 15.1 | 15.3 | 15.3 | 15.5 | 15.4 |

Source: eurostat

## Substantial increase in the BLEU's share of total extra-EU exports

Germany, the Community's largest producer, is also the top exporter of wood panels to non-EU countries, accounting for 30.0% of EU sales in 1996. This figure represents an increase of almost five points in six years. By way of comparison, Italy was responsible for 12.1% of extra-EU exports in 1996 as against 12.4% in 1990, and Spain, France and the United Kingdom all recorded losses in their market shares. Over the same period, the BLEU gained 4.1 points to claim a 5.4% share and move ahead of the United Kingdom.

With the exception of Greece, which is surrounded by non-EU countries and borders Asia, the majority of trade in wood panels by the Member States is conducted within the EU. There has, however, been a reduction in the interdependence between EU countries over the last few years, since the intra-Community export rate has fallen from 84.0% in 1990 to 76.8% in 1996. This could be the result of the increased competitiveness of Community products in the international market. This trend has been noticeable in both Germany and Italy, where the extra-Community export rate has risen from under 20% in 1990 to around 35% in 1996.

In addition, there has been a particularly positive trend in total exports since the beginning of the decade, with an annual average growth rate of 9.3% in France, 9.0% in Spain and 6.0% in Germany. These countries are followed by the BLEU on 5.9% and Italy on 5.3%.

In terms of extra-Community imports in 1996, the main customers were Germany (with 27.1%) and the United Kingdom (23.5%), which between them account for over half of all imports of wood panels from non-EU countries. Italy (12.2%) and the BLEU (9.2%) are some way behind.

The BLEU has made considerable efforts to improve its competitiveness in the wood panels industry during the 1990s. Its export specialisation ratio (compared to the wood industry as whole) has in fact risen from 1.4 in 1990 to 2.3 in 1996. Germany has nonetheless remained fairly specialised in the export of wood panels, as shown by its ratio of 1.8, which is up 0.4 points in six years.

Table 3.4

Community external trade

| | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Extra-EU exports (million ECU) | 480 | 428 | 427 | 608 | 770 | 863 | 988 |
| Annual growth rate (%) | -0.9 | -10.7 | -0.4 | 42.5 | 26.7 | 12.0 | 14.5 |
| Share of the wood industry (%) | 20.3 | 19.8 | 20.3 | 24.4 | 24.7 | 24.0 | 24.6 |
| Extra-EU imports (million ECU) | 1,579 | 1,512 | 1,591 | 1,574 | 1,788 | 1,916 | 1,789 |
| Annual growth rate (%) | 4.4 | -4.3 | 5.2 | -1.0 | 13.6 | 7.2 | -6.6 |
| Share of the wood industry (%) | 22.7 | 22.9 | 23.7 | 23.1 | 22.5 | 23.5 | 22.9 |

Source: eurostat

As with exports, although to a somewhat lesser extent, the bulk of imports come from within the EU. The United Kingdom was the only country in 1996 which purchased most of its wood panels from non-EU countries (55.1%). Germany diversified the origin of its imports, with the result that its share of extra-EU purchases rose by 7.2 points in six years to 42.8%. Countries such as Spain (22.6%) and France (13.0%), on the other hand, remained well below the Community average (38.6% in 1996).

### The EU coverage rate was 55.2% in 1996

The Community's balance of trade deficit can be explained by the dependence of certain industries on exotic timber and the import of certain types of wood panels from South-East Asia and Latin America, and by the importance of low-cost products from central and eastern Europe. Some of the main producer countries do, however, have a balance of trade surplus, these being Spain and France (although their coverage rates did fall beneath the 100% mark during the 1990s), the BLEU and Portugal. On the other hand, the two largest producers - Germany and Italy - fall short of self-sufficiency.

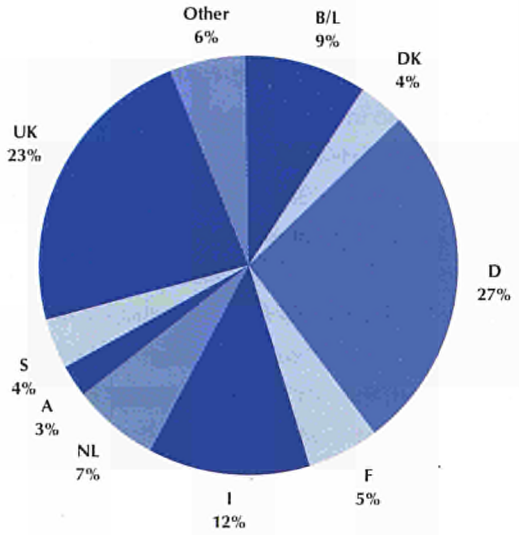



Figure 3.11

Breakdown of extra-Community imports by value, 1996 (%)

Source: eurostat

### In 1996, apparent consumption fell in Germany but rose in Spain

Whilst apparent consumption of wood panels rose by an average annual rate of 2.5% between 1990 and 1996, this increase followed an irregular pattern. The decade started with a period of low growth, then saw growth rates shoot up to over 8% per annum in 1994 and 1995 before falling back again in 1996, when consumption actually fell by around 5%. One of the factors explaining this contraction in Community consumption is that the general climate of uncertainty felt by consumers is reflected in a downturn in demand.

### The particle board industry - one class of NACE Rev.1 20.20

European production of particle boards was much the same in the first half of 1996 as in 1995, but then started to increase during the latter part of the year. With imports falling and exports experiencing an upturn over this same period, the Community strengthened its position in international markets. The reduction in apparent consumption in Europe has therefore been offset by the industry's remarkable performance abroad, although it should be pointed out that its competitiveness has been helped by the strength of the US dollar.

### Despite the upturn in the second half of the year, European production fell in 1996

In 1996, the trend in the particle board industry changed abruptly towards the middle of the year, thus turning out quite differently from the previous year despite a fairly similar start. The situation in the first half of the year was in effect a continuation of the recession in 1995, whereas the prospects brightened up considerably thereafter with the upturn in activity. The results for 1996 as a whole, however, showed production to be down, since the recovery after the summer was not strong enough to offset the slump experienced during the first six months. The volume of production was therefore down by almost 3% in EUR15 in 1996 from its 1995 level, whereas it rose significantly in other countries such as Poland (+12.7%) and Turkey (+6.5%). At individual Member State level, production rose in Portugal (6.9%), Spain (5.9%) and even the United Kingdom (2.2%), but fell in Italy (-10.0%), Germany (-3.0%) and, to a lesser extent, France (-1.0%).

Table 3.5

Production of wood-based panels in Europe[1] (thousand m³)

| | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Particle board** | 25,300 | 26,100 | 26,900 | 28,400 | 27,800 |
| **of which, oriented strand board (OSB)** | : | : | 210 | 303 | 390 |
| **Plywood (2)** | 2,400 | 2,400 | 2,500 | 2,600 | 2,600 |
| **Fibreboard** | 3,100 | 4,300 | 5,200 | 5,500 | 6,200 |
| **of which, medium-density fibreboard (MDF)** | 2,300 | 2,700 | 3,500 | 3,800 | 4,500 |
| **Total panels made of wood** | 30,800 | 32,800 | 34,600 | 36,500 | 36,600 |
| **Sawing of wood** | 81,980 | 82,110 | 87,440 | 88,360 | 84,550 |

1) EUR15, Norway, Switzerland, Poland, Slovenia, Turkey and Cyprus
2) estimated

Source: FESYP, FEROPA, EMB

## Germany accounted for one-third of Community production in 1996

The largest Community producer of particle boards is Germany which accounts for one-third of all output by the Member States (with the exception of Luxembourg and the Netherlands, for which there is no production). France then comes a distant second with 10.8% of Community production, followed by Belgium (9.0%), Italy (7.8%) and the United Kingdom (7.6%).

In four years, i.e. between 1992 and 1996, there has been little change in the breakdown of production in the EU, other than the fact that the United Kingdom and France recorded slight increases in their market shares (0.8% and 0.5% respectively), whilst Italy (-1.1%) and Spain (-0.6%) lost some ground.

As for non-EU countries, Poland's output is around the same as that of Austria and Spain, thanks to a real average annual growth rate of 18.9% between 1992 and 1996. Most of this production satisfies domestic needs in both the commercial and industrial sectors. 46% of the chipboards produced are required as consumer goods and 51% are needed for intermediate consumption, leaving just 3% destined for the export market.

Table 3.6

Production of particle boards by volume (thousand $m^3$)

| | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 95/96 (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EUR15 | 21,765 | 22,420 | 23,695 | 24,626 | 23,898 | -3.0 |
| B | 2,344 | 2,424 | 2,435 | 2,421 | 2,558 | 5.7 |
| DK | 225 | 232 | 265 | 285 | 295 | 3.5 |
| D | 7,450 | 7,935 | 8,616 | 8,900 | 8,629 | -3.0 |
| EL | 330 | 350 | 320 | 338 | 335 | -0.9 |
| E | 1,680 | 1,660 | 1,730 | 1,605 | 1,700 | 5.9 |
| F (1) | 2,617 | 2,610 | 2,874 | 3,103 | 3,072 | -1.0 |
| IRL | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| I | 2,255 | 2,250 | 2,202 | 2,450 | 2,205 | -10.0 |
| L | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| NL | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| A | 1,562 | 1,592 | 1,598 | 1,640 | 1,650 | 0.6 |
| P | 630 | 575 | 757 | 650 | 695 | 6.9 |
| FIN | 354 | 439 | 477 | 484 | 498 | 2.9 |
| S | 581 | 597 | 609 | 632 | 576 | -8.9 |
| UK (2) | 1,737 | 1,756 | 1,812 | 2,118 | 2,164 | 2.2 |
| N | 311 | 313 | 372 | 389 | 384 | -1.3 |
| CH | 730 | 689 | 595 | 491 | 495 | 0.8 |
| Poland | 940 | 1,143 | 1,291 | 1,466 | 1,652 | 12.7 |
| Slovenia | 201 | 216 | 195 | 294 | 244 | -17.0 |
| Turkey | 1,380 | 1,375 | 705 | 1,080 | 1,150 | 6.5 |
| Cyprus | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 0.0 |

1) including oriented strand board (OSB)
2) including oriented strand board (OSB) and mineral-agglomerate particle boards; including Ireland

Source: FESYP

**Despite an appreciable reduction in trade in Germany and the United Kingdom in 1996 ...**

Total Community imports of chipboards fell by 3.9% in 1996 from 6,166,000 m³ in 1995 to 5,925,000 m³ the following year. The situation does, however, vary enormously from country to country. Whilst imports fell by over 20% in Germany and the United Kingdom, they rose by 13.5% in France and by 17.6% in Spain. Despite the sharp falls recorded, Germany and the United Kingdom remain the two largest Community importers, accounting for 23.6% and 17.0% respectively of external purchases of particle boards. France and Italy then follow with 12.5% and 11.1% respectively.

**... EUR15 exports rose by 4.2%**

In 1996, Belgium was the largest exporter of chipboards, claiming a 26.0% share of total EU sales, ahead of both Germany (19.1%) and France (14.1%). The figures for Italy and the United Kingdom are much lower, as their shares of the total are a mere 1.7% and 3.0% respectively. Belgium is heavily dependent on sales abroad, with 66% of its output being destined for export markets, as against 15% for the commercial sector and 19% for intermediate consumption.

In contrast to the import figure, exports rose by 4.2% in 1996, an increase which can be attributed mainly to the Scandinavian countries, Belgium (+8.4%) and France (+13.4%). In the United Kingdom, on the other hand, exports were down by over 20%, whilst German sales abroad fell back 0.9%. Only 12% of UK production in 1996 was exported, and in Germany this figure was 15%.

Balance of trade deficits were recorded by the United Kingdom, Italy, Germany and Spain, whereas France and Belgium signalled surpluses. These results are reflected in coverage rates of 16.6% in Italy in 1996 and 19.3% in the United Kingdom, indicating a dependence on foreign supplies of particle boards. Spain (60.0%) and Germany (88.2%) also fell short of self-sufficiency. Belgium, on the other hand, exports six times as much as it imports, Portugal seven times as much, and Finnish exports are eighteen times the volume of imports.

Table 3.7

Structure of sales: particle board, 1996 (%)

| | Trade | Industry | Exports |
|---|---|---|---|
| B | 15 | 19 | 66 |
| DK | 15 | 70 | 15 |
| D | 43 | 43 | 15 |
| EL | : | : | 13 |
| E | 32 | 53 | 15 |
| F | 38 | 26 | 36 |
| IRL | : | : | : |
| I | 14 | 81 | 5 |
| L | : | : | : |
| NL | : | : | : |
| A | : | : | : |
| P | 39 | 16 | 45 |
| FIN | 25 | 21 | 54 |
| S | 28 | 51 | 21 |
| UK (1) | 58 | 30 | 12 |
| N | 39 | 15 | 46 |
| CH | : | : | 65 |
| Poland | 46 | 51 | 3 |
| Slovenia | 11 | 59 | 30 |
| Turkey | 95 | 5 | 0 |
| Cyprus | 86 | 9 | 5 |

1) including Ireland

Source : FESYP

### The level of stocks has shrunk in Germany, but expanded in the UK

The trends observed for both production and trade show that the year-on-year figure for apparent consumption of chipboards in the EU was down 2.5% in 1996. This was not, however, the case in either Italy or Spain. The main contributing factor (-6.5%) can be attributed to Germany, which accounts for over one-third of Community consumption. The United Kingdom and France also recorded falls of 6.5% and 2.9% respectively. The healthy state of the Belgian wood market in 1996 was confirmed by an increase in consumption of over 2%. Finally, with regard to non-EU countries, consumption in Poland rose by over 30%.

The figures for actual consumption (i.e. including changes in stocks) produce somewhat different results, which would tend to suggest that the level of stocks fell in both Germany and France as the annual growth rates for consumption stood at -3.5% and +1.5% respectively. UK producers, on the other hand, increased the level of their stocks.

### Environmental aspects and recycling

Finally, from an environmental protection point of view, the particle boards industry is actively involved in the recycling of waste from other industries where wood is one of the inputs. The panels are in fact, to a greater or lesser degree, manufactured from industrial scrap and waste.

Table 3.8

Average thickness of particle board, 1996 (mm)

| | |
|---|---|
| B | 17.5 |
| DK | 16.1 |
| D | : |
| EL | 16.0 |
| E | 16.0 |
| F | 18.0 |
| IRL | : |
| I | 18.0 |
| L | : |
| NL | : |
| A | : |
| P | 16.0 |
| FIN | 15.0 |
| S | 14.8 |
| UK | 18.0 |
| N | 16.0 |
| CH | 18.0 |
| Poland | 17.1 |
| Slovenia | 17.0 |
| Turkey | : |
| Cyprus | 18.0 |

Source: FESYP

### Recent decrease of production in volume terms for wooden sheets and board in the EU

In 1996, the leading European producer of semi-finished wood products was Germany, responsible for 27.6% of EUR15 production. This was despite the fact that Germany accounted for only 9% of EU forested areas, far behind Sweden (24%) and Finland (20%). The descending hierarchy of producers continues Italy (18.5%) and then France (11.8%), they account for 14% and 7% of European forests. Nevertheless, Germany is not especially specialised in the production of sheets and board. Italy, Belgium and Greece had production specialisation ratios equal to 1.7, 2.1 and 3.1 respectively in 1996.

Between 1995 and 1996, production in value terms declined by 3.6% for EUR15. This was mainly due to the fall in production witnessed in Germany (-13.2%) and in France (-5.8%). Italy experienced an increase of 4.0% over the same period. In constant prices, the decrease was smaller, equal to -2.3% for EUR15 and -5.0% for Germany. Hence, the reduction of production in value terms between 1995 and 1996 was due in part to lower prices. Nevertheless, production in constant prices in 1996 remained higher than levels seen in 1994 for both EUR15 and Germany.

### The fibreboard industry

The wood processing industry mainly produces wooden board materials such as particleboard, plywood and fibreboard (wet process and dry process). The following description is limited to the manufacture of fibreboard, using wet process technologies (soft and hardboard production). From an historical point of view, most wet process fibreboard mills were started after the Second World War. They have since been modernised, renewed and improved.

The fibreboard industry uses wooden waste as an input, thus playing a role in recycling

### Hardboard - Western European production decreased over the last ten years

Between 1995 and 1996, the production of hardboard (using wet process technology) remained constant in Germany at 95 thousand tonnes. This was also the case in Spain, where production equalled 119 thousand tonnes and Austria (57 thousand tonnes). Reductions of the magnitude of 10.1% were seen in Sweden and 21.9% in Switzerland.

Comparing the situation in 1996 to that of a decade before, Western European output has decreased by 23.0% in volume terms, an average annual decline of 2.6%. Nevertheless, there were wide variations from country to country. For example, Sweden recorded average annual declines of 10.3%, Switzerland (-5.3%), Norway (-5.1%) and Finland (-4.6%). On the other hand, production levels remained constant in Italy, as well Portugal, whilst output increased by 3.1% in Spain - see table 3.9.

Table 3.9

Evolution of production and exports of hardboard wet-process (thousand tonnes)

| | Production | | | | | Exports | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1986 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1986 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 |
| D | 100 | 100 | 150 | 95 | 95 | 44 | 35 | 40 | 61 | 60 |
| E | 88 | 90 | 112 | 119 | 119 | 36 | 32 | 53 | 46 | 50 |
| F | 157 | 149 | 155 | 138 | 136 | 47 | 66 | 53 | 49 | 40 |
| I | 112 | 99 | 103 | 106 | 111 | 21 | 24 | 20 | 22 | 13 |
| A | 72 | 53 | 55 | 57 | 57 | 42 | 26 | 28 | 31 | 31 |
| P | 68 | 58 | 68 | 68 | 69 | 23 | 27 | 35 | 36 | 33 |
| FIN | 110 | 79 | 78 | 70 | 69 | 49 | 51 | 61 | 52 | 51 |
| S | 265 | 50 | 84 | 99 | 89 | 265 | 18 | 47 | 51 | 42 |
| UK | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| N | 59 | 34 | 40 | 34 | 35 | 8 | 8 | 10 | 6 | 6 |
| CH | 43 | 34 | 37 | 32 | 25 | 12 | 9 | 11 | 9 | 6 |
| Hungary | : | 33 | 47 | 54 | 63 | : | 7 | 24 | 29 | 32 |
| Latvia | : | 30 | 30 | 26 | 21 | : | : | : | 21 | 18 |
| Lithuania | : | : | : | 46 | 45 | : | : | : | 32 | 39 |
| Poland | : | 280 | 306 | 284 | 290 | : | 97 | 106 | 65 | 64 |
| Romania | : | 70 | : | 26 | 23 | : | : | : | 12 | 11 |
| Slovakia (1) | : | : | : | 16 | 16 | : | : | : | : | 6 |
| Czech Republic | : | : | : | 26 | 36 | : | : | : | 17 | 17 |
| Brazil | : | : | : | 676 | 656 | : | : | : | 229 | 252 |

1) estimates in 1996

Source : FEROPA

### Relative share of Swedish exports fell between 1986 and 1996

An important share of hardboard produced in Western Europe is exported[1]. The Western European export ratio in 1996 was equal to 39.8%, ranging from 11.7% in Italy to 73.9% in Finland (no data were available for the United Kingdom). Although German and Spanish exports increased by more than 35% between 1986 and 1996 (annual average growth of 3.2% and 3.3% respectively), European exports fell by 4.9% during the same period. This reduction was mainly due to developments in Sweden, where a decrease in exports of 84.2% was seen over the ten year period - an annual reduction of 16.8%. Indeed, Sweden represented in 1986 nearly half the total of Western European exports - whilst accounting for only one eighth by 1996.

### Softboard production increased in 1996 in Belgium and Austria

In 1996, the leading producers in the Western European softboard industry were Norway and Sweden with 18.5% and 18.4% respectively of total production. Then came Germany (share estimated at 17.1%), France (12.8%) and Finland. There was a significant shift in the breakdown compared to the situation in 1986 when Sweden and Norway represented half of Western European production. One reason is the inclusion of former East-Germany in the statistics.

Recent policy has led to the rationalisation of the production process

In 1996, production decreased by 4.6% in Western Europe, attaining some 148 million tonnes. The same trend was seen in France (-11.3%), as well as in Scandinavia (with reductions ranging between 7.6% in Sweden and 19.1% in Finland). Output improved both in Belgium (+8.5%) and Austria (+8.9%).

1) only intra Western-Europe exchange

Table 3.10

Evolution of production and exports of softboard (thousand tonnes)

| | Production | | | | | Exports | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1986 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1986 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 |
| B | 10,000 | 9,763 | 9,718 | 9,932 | 10,778 | 9,000 | 8,340 | 9,151 | 8,806 | 10,639 |
| D (1) | 15,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 25,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| F | 13,700 | 20,102 | 21,138 | 21,000 | 18,620 | 9,200 | 16,036 | 15,395 | 12,929 | 13,305 |
| A | 4,088 | 4,096 | 4,884 | 3,728 | 4,060 | 1,600 | 3,267 | 2,435 | 1,468 | 2,097 |
| FIN | 15,000 | 11,450 | 11,082 | 13,652 | 11,049 | 2,500 | 352 | 399 | 466 | 113 |
| S | 34,000 | 18,678 | 25,890 | 29,062 | 26,846 | 9,800 | 11,840 | 16,998 | 18,356 | 15,976 |
| UK | 6,300 | 5,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 | : | : | : | : | : |
| N | 39,000 | 36,990 | 39,750 | 32,509 | 27,024 | 19,500 | 21,371 | 24,208 | 17,288 | 13,946 |
| CH | 11,000 | 16,849 | 18,437 | 18,964 | 18,497 | 5,000 | 10,204 | 13,285 | 14,022 | 13,959 |
| Estonia | : | : | : | 6,148 | 7,133 | : | : | : | 5,061 | 5,680 |
| Poland | : | 42,807 | 43,975 | 46,433 | 42,929 | : | 14,354 | 21,510 | 27,192 | 28,449 |
| Slovakia | : | : | : | 9,933 | 9,933 | : | : | : | 9,513 | 9,513 |

1) estimates

Source: FEROPA

## EXPORTS

Between 1986 and 1996, production fell at an annual average rate of 0.2% in Western Europe - due largely to the decreases observed in Scandinavia. Annual output decreased on average by 3.6% in Norway, 3.0% in Finland and 2.3% in Sweden. On the other hand, production in volume terms increased in France (growth of 3.1%) and in Switzerland (+5.3%) - see table 3.10.

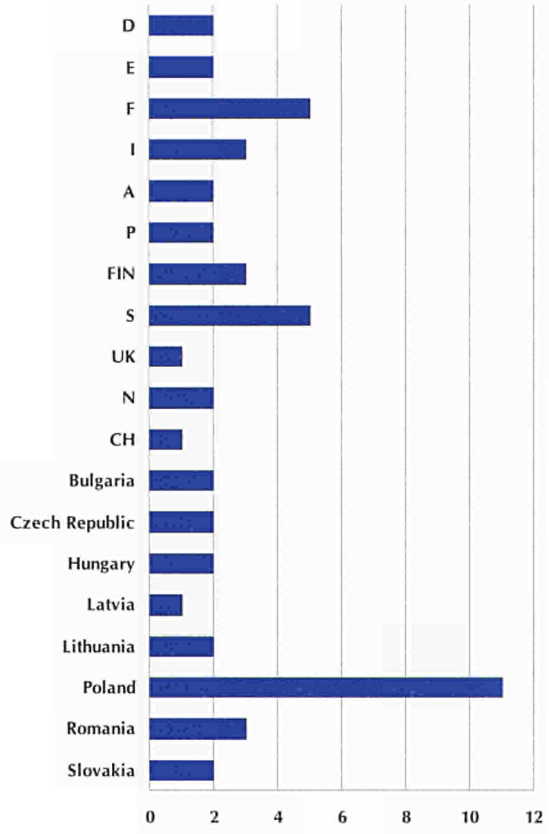
### France and Austria improve their export shares in the softboard industry

Turning to export performance: Western European exports improved by 21.8% between 1986 and 1996, though they have decreased substantially since 1994 (down by 13.6% between 1994 and 1996). The annual growth rate of exports for Western Europe was equal to 2.0% between 1986 and 1996. The situation improved over both the short and medium term in France (up by 2.9% between 1995-96 and by 3.8% per annum between 1986 and 1996). Austrian exports rose by 2.7% per annum over the period 1986-1996. Finland and Norway recorded declines in export trade - exports in Finland declined by 26.6% over the same decade. Despite the fact that Swedish and Swiss exports decreased in 1996, they showed growth of 5.0% and 10.8% in the medium term.

In 1996, more than half of the production of Western Europe was exported (51.4%)[1]. This percentage varied among the countries: for example, 20% in Germany (estimate), 72% in France and 60% in Sweden. Finland exported less than 5% of its production, whilst Belgium exported more than 95% of its output.

1) only intra Western-Europe exchange

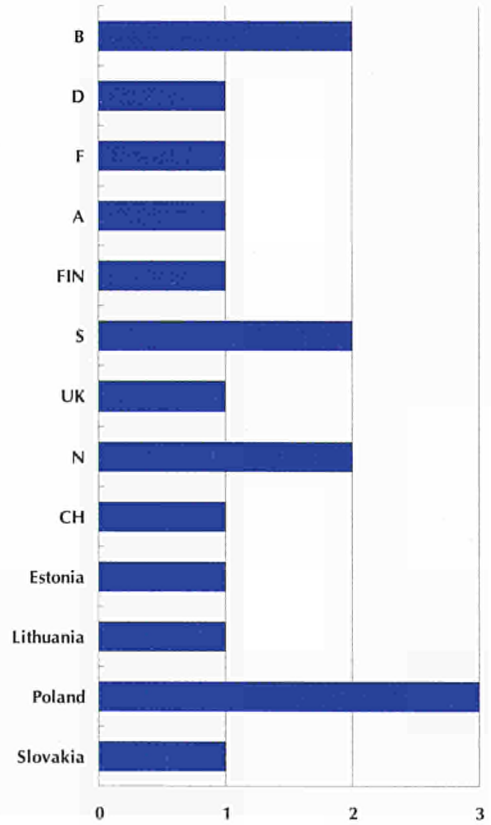
Figure 3.12




Production lines of hardboard in Europe, 1996 (units)

Source: FEROPA

Figure 3.13




Production lines of softboard in Europe, 1996 (units)

Source: FEROPA

### A significant share of investment goes into environmental issues

In order to help the industry develop, investment follows a well defined path. Consequently, in the fibreboard activity, investments are nowadays focused on a few specific areas: the development of new products, the modernisation of existing products, the increase of capacity and the shift to environmentally friendly production methods.

Modern technology has managed to reduce to a minimum or even eliminate environmental concerns. At the end of 1995, a new hardboard production line (valued at 48.3 million ECU) went on stream in the United Kingdom. Furthermore, as we will see below, the fibreboard industry uses as inputs waste created by other wood processing industries.

Table 3.11

Production capacities of board in Europe in 1996
(thousand tonnes)

| | Hardboard | Softboard |
|---|---|---|
| EUR15 | 1,040 | 117 |
| B | : | 10 |
| D | 90 | 25 |
| E | 110 | : |
| F | 215 | 25 |
| I | 140 | : |
| A | 60 | 5 |
| P | 75 | : |
| FIN | 100 | 16 |
| S | 160 | 30 |
| UK | 90 | 6 |
| N | 50 | 30 |
| CH | 40 | 24 |
| Bulgaria | 60 | : |
| Czech Republic | 53 | : |
| Estonia | : | 15 |
| Hungary | 80 | : |
| Latvia | 25 | : |
| Lithuania | 48 | 25 |
| Poland | 330 | 50 |
| Romania | 90 | : |
| Slovakia | 40 | 12 |

Source: FEROPA

### Enterprises are essentially located in forest areas

The fibreboard industry constitutes an activity closely connected to agriculture. Almost all mills are located in forest regions where few other industrial activities exist. The mills use thinnings and wood waste that no other industrial activity uses. Mills create a number of direct and indirect jobs in poor regions where unemployment is traditionally high. The use of waste from other wood processing activities means that the fibreboard industry not only recovers waste but also contributes to the recycling process.

### The fibreboard industry follows cyclical demand

The fibreboard industry is not homogeneous, rather it includes many different products, as well as a wide variety of end users/consumers. The demand for products from the fibreboard industry depends largely on the automotive industry, the furniture industry and building sector. Since those industries are all very cyclical, demand evolves to some degree according to the path followed by the general level of incomes and interest rates.

The gap between capacity and actual production volumes means that the fibreboard industry faces tough competition. To meet market requirements, there is already a tendency towards speciality board - for example, post formed panels and tailor made products, such as cut to size panels.

### Competition, specialisation and production of high value added goods

With increasing harmonisation, intra-EU trade has grown. In the meantime, extra-EU imports have also experienced a positive development. In order to stave-off extra-EU competition, many fibreboard mills have adopted a strategy of specialisation. Increasing world-wide competition has also triggered a shift to products with higher value added. Both rationalisation and automation processes have allowed a reduction in production costs. Another policy followed by fibreboard manufacturers has been to increase skills and know-how of the workforce.

### Developments in Central and Eastern Europe

One of the major factors influencing the EU fibreboard industry is developments in Central and Eastern Europe. The consequences for the European fibreboard industry are significant, as the Central and Eastern European countries have substantial production capacity, large wood reserves and a qualified workforce with low operating costs. Furthermore, these companies are not yet restricted by legislation concerning the environment. Nevertheless, they are bound by the European Agreements to match EU quality standards. As regards the former Soviet Union, apparent consumption of fibreboard in 1996 was at only 25% the levels seen in 1991, whilst capacity utilisation was running at only 30-40%.

### Actual situation and perspectives for the near future

The evolution of total economy has an important impact on the fibreboard industry. As the economies of the principal European countries have operated at low levels of activity, consumer spending has been reduced in both the building and furniture industries. Optimism is not to be excluded though. Marketing efforts have been fuelled by the fact that the common market for wood based panels has become a reality from 1997. The implementation of European specification standards has been developed and performance standards will be applicable to all panels bought on EU markets.

The tendency for a more natural way of living may also play a positive role for the fibreboard industry - as fibreboard presents product characteristics considered as pure and natural. Wood processing only requires small amounts of energy and creates little waste or disposal problems: for example, when recycling is no longer possible, waste can be burned under controlled conditions generating energy.

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## Table 3.12

Value-added at factor cost (million ECU)

| | 1992 | t / t-1 (%) | 1993 | t / t-1 (%) | 1994 | t / t-1 (%) | 1995 | t / t-1 (%) | 1996 | t / t-1 (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EUR15 | 15,228.3 | 1.3 | 15,250.2 | 0.1 | 16,089.9 | 5.5 | 17,916.2 | 11.4 | 17,063.4 | -4.8 |
| B | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| Share (%) | : | | : | | : | | : | | : | |
| DK | 321.4 | 7.8 | 351.4 | 9.3 | 416.1 | 18.4 | 514.8 | 23.7 | 519.3 | 0.9 |
| Share (%) | 2.1 | | 2.3 | | 2.6 | | 2.9 | | 3.0 | |
| D | 4,760.8 | 8.3 | 5,229.2 | 9.8 | 5,030.4 | -3.8 | 5,932.4 | 17.9 | 5,116.4 | -13.8 |
| Share (%) | 31.3 | | 34.3 | | 31.3 | | 33.1 | | 30.0 | |
| EL | 55.7 | -14.6 | 53.9 | -3.2 | 51.6 | -4.3 | 64.8 | 25.6 | 68.4 | 5.6 |
| Share (%) | 0.4 | | 0.4 | | 0.3 | | 0.4 | | 0.4 | |
| E | 1,753.5 | -3.3 | 1,521.7 | -13.2 | 1,485.7 | -2.4 | 1,622.8 | 9.2 | 1,534.8 | -5.4 |
| Share (%) | 11.5 | | 10.0 | | 9.2 | | 9.1 | | 9.0 | |
| F | 1,822.6 | 0.1 | 1,715.2 | -5.9 | 1,868.6 | 8.9 | 1,993.0 | 6.7 | 1,963.5 | -1.5 |
| Share (%) | 12.0 | | 11.2 | | 11.6 | | 11.1 | | 11.5 | |
| IRL | 112.4 | 10.1 | 101.5 | -9.7 | 119.9 | 18.1 | 137.5 | 14.7 | 168.2 | 22.3 |
| Share (%) | 0.7 | | 0.7 | | 0.7 | | 0.8 | | 1.0 | |
| I | 1,513.8 | 14.5 | 1,375.7 | -9.1 | 1,426.9 | 3.7 | 1,521.0 | 6.6 | 1,596.6 | 5.0 |
| Share (%) | 9.9 | | 9.0 | | 8.9 | | 8.5 | | 9.4 | |
| L | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| Share (%) | : | | : | | : | | : | | : | |
| NL | 359.3 | 6.9 | 384.8 | 7.1 | 381.3 | -0.9 | 430.9 | 13.0 | 425.6 | -1.2 |
| Share (%) | 2.4 | | 2.5 | | 2.4 | | 2.4 | | 2.5 | |
| A | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| Share (%) | : | | : | | : | | : | | : | |
| P | 465.6 | 3.1 | 449.3 | -3.5 | 391.6 | -12.8 | 435.2 | 11.1 | 439.0 | 0.9 |
| Share (%) | 3.1 | | 2.9 | | 2.4 | | 2.4 | | 2.6 | |
| FIN | 783.6 | 2.0 | 850.4 | 8.5 | 1,169.3 | 37.5 | 1,368.9 | 17.1 | 1,374.1 | 0.4 |
| Share (%) | 5.1 | | 5.6 | | 7.3 | | 7.6 | | 8.1 | |
| S | 1,041.7 | -20.4 | 961.5 | -7.7 | 1,288.6 | 34.0 | 1,366.0 | 6.0 | 1,351.6 | -1.1 |
| Share (%) | 6.8 | | 6.3 | | 8.0 | | 7.6 | | 7.9 | |
| UK | 1,190.9 | -10.0 | 1,217.1 | 2.2 | 1,346.6 | 10.6 | 1,268.8 | -5.8 | 1,253.5 | -1.2 |
| Share (%) | 7.8 | | 8.0 | | 8.4 | | 7.1 | | 7.3 | |

Source : DEBA GEIE

## Table 3.13

Production in constant prices (million ECU)

| | 1992 | t / t-1 (%) | 1993 | t / t-1 (%) | 1994 | t / t-1 (%) | 1995 | t / t-1 (%) | 1996 | t / t-1 (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EUR15 | 46,318.6 | -0.7 | 45,317.2 | -2.2 | 49,038.3 | 8.2 | 54,651.7 | 11.4 | 52,720.9 | -3.5 |
| B | 1,195.8 | -0.7 | 1,217.4 | 1.8 | 1,282.6 | 5.4 | 1,472.8 | 14.8 | 1,419.2 | -3.6 |
| Share (%) | 2.6 | | 2.7 | | 2.6 | | 2.7 | | 2.7 | |
| DK | 841.0 | 4.1 | 899.4 | 6.9 | 1,051.1 | 16.9 | 1,298.1 | 23.5 | 1,298.9 | 0.1 |
| Share (%) | 1.8 | | 2.0 | | 2.1 | | 2.4 | | 2.5 | |
| D | 12,843.2 | 7.3 | 13,762.1 | 7.2 | 13,544.7 | -1.6 | 16,041.1 | 18.4 | 14,249.8 | -11.2 |
| Share (%) | 27.7 | | 30.4 | | 27.6 | | 29.4 | | 27.0 | |
| EL | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| Share (%) | : | | : | | : | | : | | : | |
| E | 5,196.7 | -2.7 | 4,485.3 | -13.7 | 4,624.5 | 3.1 | 5,139.4 | 11.1 | 4,936.6 | -3.9 |
| Share (%) | 11.2 | | 9.9 | | 9.4 | | 9.4 | | 9.4 | |
| F | 5,774.0 | 0.1 | 5,497.4 | -4.8 | 6,206.1 | 12.9 | 6,579.5 | 6.0 | 6,478.7 | -1.5 |
| Share (%) | 12.5 | | 12.1 | | 12.7 | | 12.0 | | 12.3 | |
| IRL | 353.8 | 5.8 | 330.5 | -6.6 | 386.0 | 16.8 | 443.5 | 14.9 | 542.0 | 22.2 |
| Share (%) | 0.8 | | 0.7 | | 0.8 | | 0.8 | | 1.0 | |
| I | 5,195.9 | 12.0 | 4,703.5 | -9.5 | 5,193.9 | 10.4 | 5,580.6 | 7.4 | 5,870.8 | 5.2 |
| Share (%) | 11.2 | | 10.4 | | 10.6 | | 10.2 | | 11.1 | |
| L | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| Share (%) | : | | : | | : | | : | | : | |
| NL | 1,041.3 | 5.3 | 1,094.4 | 5.1 | 1,138.8 | 4.1 | 1,266.6 | 11.2 | 1,250.2 | -1.3 |
| Share (%) | 2.2 | | 2.4 | | 2.3 | | 2.3 | | 2.4 | |
| A | 2,577.2 | 2.1 | 2,520.9 | -2.2 | 2,819.2 | 11.8 | 3,192.1 | 13.2 | 3,207.9 | 0.5 |
| Share (%) | 5.6 | | 5.6 | | 5.7 | | 5.8 | | 6.1 | |
| P | 1,557.6 | -2.5 | 1,505.7 | -3.3 | 1,355.1 | -10.0 | 1,494.6 | 10.3 | 1,500.8 | 0.4 |
| Share (%) | 3.4 | | 3.3 | | 2.8 | | 2.7 | | 2.8 | |
| FIN | 2,297.5 | -13.8 | 2,278.4 | -0.8 | 3,096.9 | 35.9 | 3,478.6 | 12.3 | 3,411.0 | -1.9 |
| Share (%) | 5.0 | | 5.0 | | 6.3 | | 6.4 | | 6.5 | |
| S | 3,658.6 | -19.4 | 3,084.1 | -15.7 | 3,864.5 | 25.3 | 4,395.0 | 13.7 | 4,335.6 | -1.4 |
| Share (%) | 7.9 | | 6.8 | | 7.9 | | 8.0 | | 8.2 | |
| UK | 3,483.1 | -11.9 | 3,639.5 | 4.5 | 4,189.7 | 15.1 | 3,913.4 | -6.6 | 3,843.2 | -1.8 |
| Share (%) | 7.5 | | 8.0 | | 8.5 | | 7.2 | | 7.3 | |

Source : DEBA GEIE

## NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES & LABOUR COSTS

Table 3.14

Number of employees (units)

| | 1992 | t / t-1 (%) | 1993 | t / t-1 (%) | 1994 | t / t-1 (%) | 1995 | t / t-1 (%) | 1996 | t / t-1 (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EUR15 | 531,203 | -4.7 | 501,787 | -5.5 | 504,020 | 0.4 | 507,109 | 0.6 | 499,716 | -1.5 |
| B | 10,107 | -2.9 | 9,260 | -8.4 | 9,153 | -1.2 | 9,640 | 5.3 | 9,773 | 1.4 |
| Share (%) | 1.9 | | 1.8 | | 1.8 | | 1.9 | | 2.0 | |
| DK | 8,085 | 0.0 | 8,386 | 3.7 | 9,332 | 11.3 | 9,897 | 6.1 | : | : |
| Share (%) | 1.5 | | 1.7 | | 1.9 | | 2.0 | | : | |
| D | 130,077 | 0.6 | 127,631 | -1.9 | 118,198 | -7.4 | 127,058 | 7.5 | 117,253 | -7.7 |
| Share (%) | 24.5 | | 25.4 | | 23.5 | | 25.1 | | 23.5 | |
| EL | 5,007 | -0.6 | 4,462 | -10.9 | 4,275 | -4.2 | 4,116 | -3.7 | 4,205 | 2.2 |
| Share (%) | 0.9 | | 0.9 | | 0.8 | | 0.8 | | 0.8 | |
| E | 94,506 | -7.1 | 88,241 | -6.6 | 85,942 | -2.6 | 84,459 | -1.7 | 87,370 | 3.4 |
| Share (%) | 17.8 | | 17.6 | | 17.1 | | 16.7 | | 17.5 | |
| F | 57,527 | -3.6 | 52,553 | -8.6 | 54,913 | 4.5 | 54,926 | 0.0 | 54,251 | -1.2 |
| Share (%) | 10.8 | | 10.5 | | 10.9 | | 10.8 | | 10.9 | |
| IRL | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| Share (%) | : | | : | | : | | : | | : | |
| I | 41,160 | 4.6 | 40,279 | -2.1 | 41,285 | 2.5 | 39,795 | -3.6 | 38,196 | -4.0 |
| Share (%) | 7.7 | | 8.0 | | 8.2 | | 7.8 | | 7.6 | |
| L | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| Share (%) | : | | : | | : | | : | | : | |
| NL | 11,367 | -0.9 | 10,854 | -4.5 | 10,124 | -6.7 | 9,988 | -1.3 | 10,671 | 6.8 |
| Share (%) | 2.1 | | 2.2 | | 2.0 | | 2.0 | | 2.1 | |
| A | 21,565 | -2.1 | 20,868 | -3.2 | 20,656 | -1.0 | 21,352 | 3.4 | 21,961 | 2.9 |
| Share (%) | 4.1 | | 4.2 | | 4.1 | | 4.2 | | 4.4 | |
| P | 49,264 | -11.6 | 39,732 | -19.3 | 44,640 | 12.4 | 41,555 | -6.9 | 38,255 | -7.9 |
| Share (%) | 9.3 | | 7.9 | | 8.9 | | 8.2 | | 7.7 | |
| FIN | 24,356 | -12.4 | 22,859 | -6.1 | 24,180 | 5.8 | 25,202 | 4.2 | : | : |
| Share (%) | 4.6 | | 4.6 | | 4.8 | | 5.0 | | : | |
| S | 26,970 | -15.0 | 23,470 | -13.0 | 26,319 | 12.1 | 27,381 | 4.0 | 27,704 | 1.2 |
| Share (%) | 5.1 | | 4.7 | | 5.2 | | 5.4 | | 5.5 | |
| UK | 46,901 | -7.3 | 49,011 | 4.5 | 50,652 | 3.3 | 47,194 | -6.8 | 49,208 | 4.3 |
| Share (%) | 8.8 | | 9.8 | | 10.0 | | 9.3 | | 9.8 | |

Source : DEBA GEIE

Table 3.15

Labour costs (million ECU)

| | 1991 | t / t-1 (%) | 1992 | t / t-1 (%) | 1993 | t / t-1 (%) | 1994 | t / t-1 (%) | 1995 | t / t-1 (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EUR15 | 11,125.3 | 5.2 | 11,205.0 | 0.7 | 10,856.0 | -3.1 | 11,017.9 | 1.5 | 11,807.4 | 7.2 |
| B | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| Share (%) | : | | : | | : | | : | | : | |
| DK | 216.4 | 3.5 | 230.6 | 6.6 | 240.7 | 4.4 | 278.8 | 15.8 | 313.9 | 12.6 |
| Share (%) | 1.9 | | 2.1 | | 2.2 | | 2.5 | | 2.7 | |
| D | 3,344.4 | 12.1 | 3,598.8 | 7.6 | 3,880.5 | 7.8 | 3,618.8 | -6.7 | 4,194.8 | 15.9 |
| Share (%) | 30.1 | | 32.1 | | 35.7 | | 32.8 | | 35.5 | |
| EL | 63.4 | 4.6 | 65.2 | 2.8 | 63.3 | -2.9 | 62.0 | -2.1 | 62.7 | 1.1 |
| Share (%) | 0.6 | | 0.6 | | 0.6 | | 0.6 | | 0.5 | |
| E | 1,259.1 | 7.1 | 1,256.2 | -0.2 | 1,106.2 | -11.9 | 1,026.2 | -7.2 | 1,053.5 | 2.7 |
| Share (%) | 11.3 | | 11.2 | | 10.2 | | 9.3 | | 8.9 | |
| F | 1,338.0 | 2.5 | 1,372.2 | 2.6 | 1,308.3 | -4.7 | 1,390.4 | 6.3 | 1,448.2 | 4.2 |
| Share (%) | 12.0 | | 12.2 | | 12.1 | | 12.6 | | 12.3 | |
| IRL | 66.9 | 5.2 | 65.8 | -1.6 | 63.6 | -3.3 | 70.4 | 10.7 | 73.3 | 4.1 |
| Share (%) | 0.6 | | 0.6 | | 0.6 | | 0.6 | | 0.6 | |
| I | 934.8 | 10.7 | 1,002.0 | 7.2 | 883.3 | -11.8 | 900.0 | 1.9 | 818.0 | -9.1 |
| Share (%) | 8.4 | | 8.9 | | 8.1 | | 8.2 | | 6.9 | |
| L | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| Share (%) | : | | : | | : | | : | | : | |
| NL | 267.0 | 11.5 | 285.3 | 6.9 | 301.9 | 5.8 | 298.4 | -1.2 | 322.6 | 8.1 |
| Share (%) | 2.4 | | 2.5 | | 2.8 | | 2.7 | | 2.7 | |
| A | 472.0 | 16.1 | 503.8 | 6.7 | 538.9 | 7.0 | 559.2 | 3.8 | 618.8 | 10.7 |
| Share (%) | 4.2 | | 4.5 | | 5.0 | | 5.1 | | 5.2 | |
| P | 361.4 | 19.2 | 367.2 | 1.6 | 290.1 | -21.0 | 329.3 | 13.5 | 325.6 | -1.1 |
| Share (%) | 3.2 | | 3.3 | | 2.7 | | 3.0 | | 2.8 | |
| FIN | 637.1 | -15.2 | 500.9 | -21.4 | 448.7 | -10.4 | 554.6 | 23.6 | 660.5 | 19.1 |
| Share (%) | 5.7 | | 4.5 | | 4.1 | | 5.0 | | 5.6 | |
| S | 944.7 | -0.7 | 822.4 | -12.9 | 611.0 | -25.7 | 705.9 | 15.5 | 758.3 | 7.4 |
| Share (%) | 8.5 | | 7.3 | | 5.6 | | 6.4 | | 6.4 | |
| UK | 969.3 | -6.0 | 866.6 | -10.6 | 855.9 | -1.2 | 948.2 | 10.8 | 853.7 | -10.0 |
| Share (%) | 8.7 | | 7.7 | | 7.9 | | 8.6 | | 7.2 | |

Source : DEBA GEIE

## Table 3.16

Extra-EUR15 exports (million ECU)

| | 1992 | t / t-1 (%) | 1993 | t / t-1 (%) | 1994 | t / t-1 (%) | 1995 | t / t-1 (%) | 1996 | t / t-1 (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EUR15 | 2,105.7 | -2.9 | 2,495.2 | 18.5 | 3,117.5 | 24.9 | 3,600.6 | 15.5 | **4,015.2** | **11.5** |
| B/L | 20.5 | -17.3 | 42.1 | 105.4 | 62.1 | 47.5 | 64.5 | 3.9 | 94.0 | 45.7 |
| Share (%) | 1.0 | | 1.7 | | 2.0 | | 1.8 | | 2.3 | |
| DK | 65.3 | -2.1 | 68.3 | 4.6 | 78.0 | 14.2 | 88.7 | 13.7 | 89.1 | 0.5 |
| Share (%) | 3.1 | | 2.7 | | 2.5 | | 2.5 | | 2.2 | |
| D | 391.2 | -2.7 | 403.4 | 3.1 | 502.6 | 24.6 | 603.7 | 20.1 | 673.3 | 11.5 |
| Share (%) | 18.6 | | 16.2 | | 16.1 | | 16.8 | | 16.8 | |
| EL | 23.5 | -5.6 | 40.6 | 72.8 | 33.3 | -18.0 | 29.5 | -11.4 | **35.8** | **21.4** |
| Share (%) | 1.1 | | 1.6 | | 1.1 | | 0.8 | | **0.9** | |
| E | 145.3 | 14.8 | 141.5 | -2.6 | 171.5 | 21.2 | 188.8 | 10.1 | 212.8 | 12.7 |
| Share (%) | 6.9 | | 5.7 | | 5.5 | | 5.2 | | 5.3 | |
| F | 201.3 | -5.4 | 223.6 | 11.1 | 260.8 | 16.6 | 304.6 | 16.8 | 339.6 | 11.5 |
| Share (%) | 9.6 | | 9.0 | | 8.4 | | 8.5 | | 8.5 | |
| IRL | 2.8 | -20.0 | 7.6 | 171.4 | 6.1 | -19.7 | 6.4 | 4.9 | 8.2 | 28.1 |
| Share (%) | 0.1 | | 0.3 | | 0.2 | | 0.2 | | 0.2 | |
| I | 192.8 | -0.6 | 265.2 | 37.6 | 330.8 | 24.7 | 368.5 | 11.4 | 403.9 | 9.6 |
| Share (%) | 9.2 | | 10.6 | | 10.6 | | 10.2 | | 10.1 | |
| NL | 28.2 | -3.8 | 30.8 | 9.2 | 40.9 | 32.8 | 45.6 | 11.5 | 45.2 | -0.9 |
| Share (%) | 1.3 | | 1.2 | | 1.3 | | 1.3 | | 1.1 | |
| A | 223.5 | -13.3 | 283.2 | 26.7 | 368.6 | 30.2 | 382.7 | 3.8 | **503.4** | **31.5** |
| Share (%) | 10.6 | | 11.3 | | 11.8 | | 10.6 | | **12.5** | |
| P | 179.6 | -0.7 | 190.1 | 5.8 | 215.5 | 13.4 | 232.1 | 7.7 | 274.4 | 18.2 |
| Share (%) | 8.5 | | 7.6 | | 6.9 | | 6.4 | | 6.8 | |
| FIN | 212.4 | -2.4 | 300.1 | 41.3 | 429.3 | 43.1 | 538.1 | 25.3 | 521.4 | -3.1 |
| Share (%) | 10.1 | | 12.0 | | 13.8 | | 14.9 | | 13.0 | |
| S | 373.5 | -1.1 | 437.9 | 17.2 | 551.0 | 25.8 | 681.5 | 23.7 | 727.7 | 6.8 |
| Share (%) | 17.7 | | 17.5 | | 17.7 | | 18.9 | | 18.1 | |
| UK | 45.6 | -7.5 | 60.8 | 33.3 | 66.9 | 10.0 | 66.0 | -1.3 | 86.5 | 31.1 |
| Share (%) | 2.2 | | 2.4 | | 2.1 | | 1.8 | | 2.2 | |

Source: eurostat

## Table 3.17

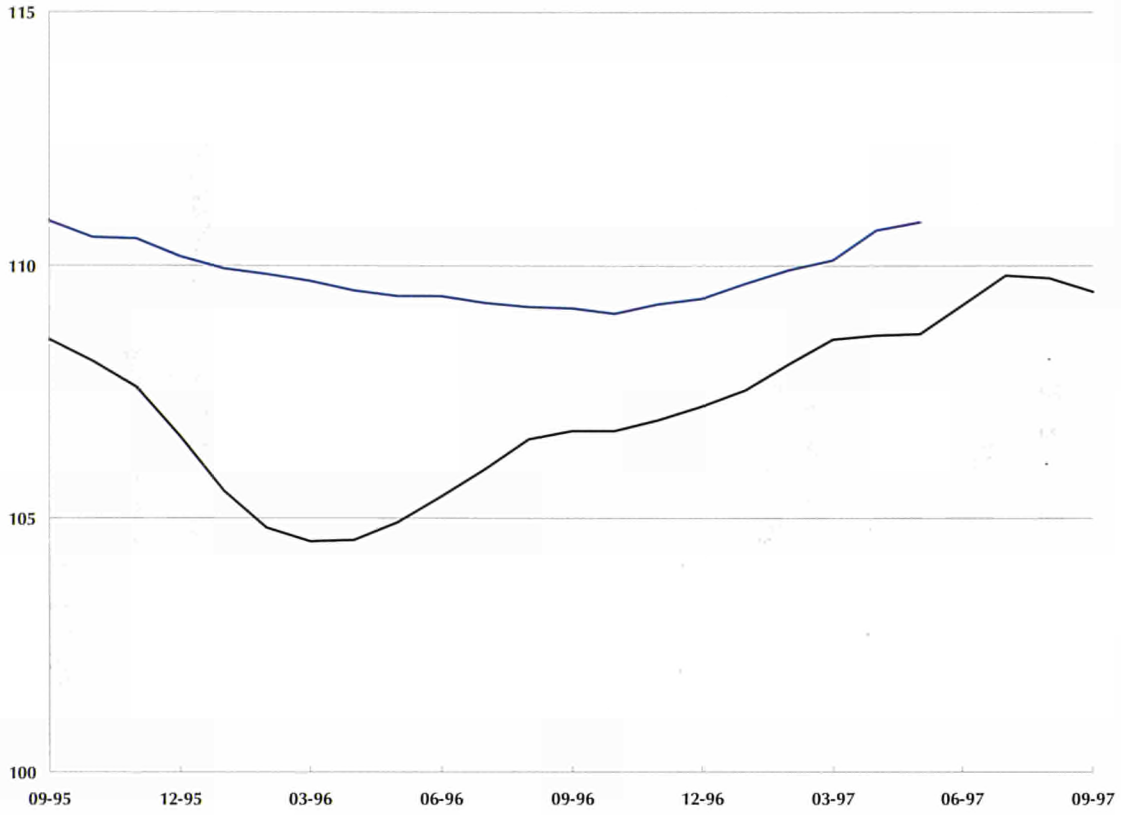
Extra-EUR15 imports (million ECU)

| | 1992 | t / t-1 (%) | 1993 | t / t-1 (%) | 1994 | t / t-1 (%) | 1995 | t / t-1 (%) | 1996 | t / t-1 (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EUR15 | 6,720.5 | 1.9 | 6,812.9 | 1.4 | 7,953.6 | 16.7 | 8,137.1 | 2.3 | **7,823.1** | **-3.9** |
| B/L | 408.3 | -8.2 | 494.6 | 21.1 | 599.3 | 21.2 | 595.8 | -0.6 | 554.9 | -6.9 |
| Share (%) | 6.1 | | 7.3 | | 7.5 | | 7.3 | | 7.1 | |
| DK | 141.8 | 7.1 | 139.0 | -2.0 | 178.8 | 28.6 | 205.7 | 15.0 | 198.4 | -3.5 |
| Share (%) | 2.1 | | 2.0 | | 2.2 | | 2.5 | | 2.5 | |
| D | 1,651.5 | 16.2 | 1,840.6 | 11.5 | 2,201.5 | 19.6 | 2,345.5 | 6.5 | 2,153.6 | -8.2 |
| Share (%) | 24.6 | | 27.0 | | 27.7 | | 28.8 | | 27.5 | |
| EL | 94.5 | -17.3 | 84.8 | -10.3 | 95.1 | 12.1 | 105.5 | 10.9 | **119.4** | **13.2** |
| Share (%) | 1.4 | | 1.2 | | 1.2 | | 1.3 | | **1.5** | |
| E | 346.0 | 3.0 | 264.8 | -23.5 | 313.3 | 18.3 | 357.6 | 14.1 | 358.0 | 0.1 |
| Share (%) | 5.1 | | 3.9 | | 3.9 | | 4.4 | | 4.6 | |
| F | 498.3 | -4.6 | 476.1 | -4.5 | 544.8 | 14.4 | 558.2 | 2.5 | 503.3 | -9.8 |
| Share (%) | 7.4 | | 7.0 | | 6.8 | | 6.9 | | 6.4 | |
| IRL | 70.8 | -3.1 | 65.1 | -8.1 | 85.1 | 30.7 | 77.1 | -9.4 | 84.3 | 9.3 |
| Share (%) | 1.1 | | 1.0 | | 1.1 | | 0.9 | | 1.1 | |
| I | 1,072.7 | 1.9 | 994.8 | -7.3 | 1,121.0 | 12.7 | 1,199.6 | 7.0 | 1,077.5 | -10.2 |
| Share (%) | 16.0 | | 14.6 | | 14.1 | | 14.7 | | 13.8 | |
| NL | 607.3 | 5.8 | 732.4 | 20.6 | 752.5 | 2.7 | 706.7 | -6.1 | 705.5 | -0.2 |
| Share (%) | 9.0 | | 10.8 | | 9.5 | | 8.7 | | 9.0 | |
| A | 216.6 | 7.8 | 230.7 | 6.5 | 273.2 | 18.4 | 291.9 | 6.8 | **367.4** | **25.9** |
| Share (%) | 3.2 | | 3.4 | | 3.4 | | 3.6 | | **4.7** | |
| P | 52.8 | 48.3 | 56.1 | 6.3 | 62.0 | 10.5 | 70.6 | 13.9 | 78.0 | 10.5 |
| Share (%) | 0.8 | | 0.8 | | 0.8 | | 0.9 | | 1.0 | |
| FIN | 69.9 | 37.3 | 52.2 | -25.3 | 67.5 | 29.3 | 78.8 | 16.7 | 76.2 | -3.3 |
| Share (%) | 1.0 | | 0.8 | | 0.8 | | 1.0 | | 1.0 | |
| S | 150.5 | -13.9 | 128.9 | -14.4 | 171.4 | 33.0 | 210.8 | 23.0 | 208.3 | -1.2 |
| Share (%) | 2.2 | | 1.9 | | 2.2 | | 2.6 | | 2.7 | |
| UK | 1,339.6 | -8.4 | 1,252.7 | -6.5 | 1,488.1 | 18.8 | 1,333.4 | -10.4 | 1,338.4 | 0.4 |
| Share (%) | 19.9 | | 18.4 | | 18.7 | | 16.4 | | 17.1 | |

Source: eurostat

## PRODUCTION & PRODUCER PRICE INDICES

Figure 3.14




EUR15 production and producer price indices (1990 = 100)

Source: eurostat

Table 3.18

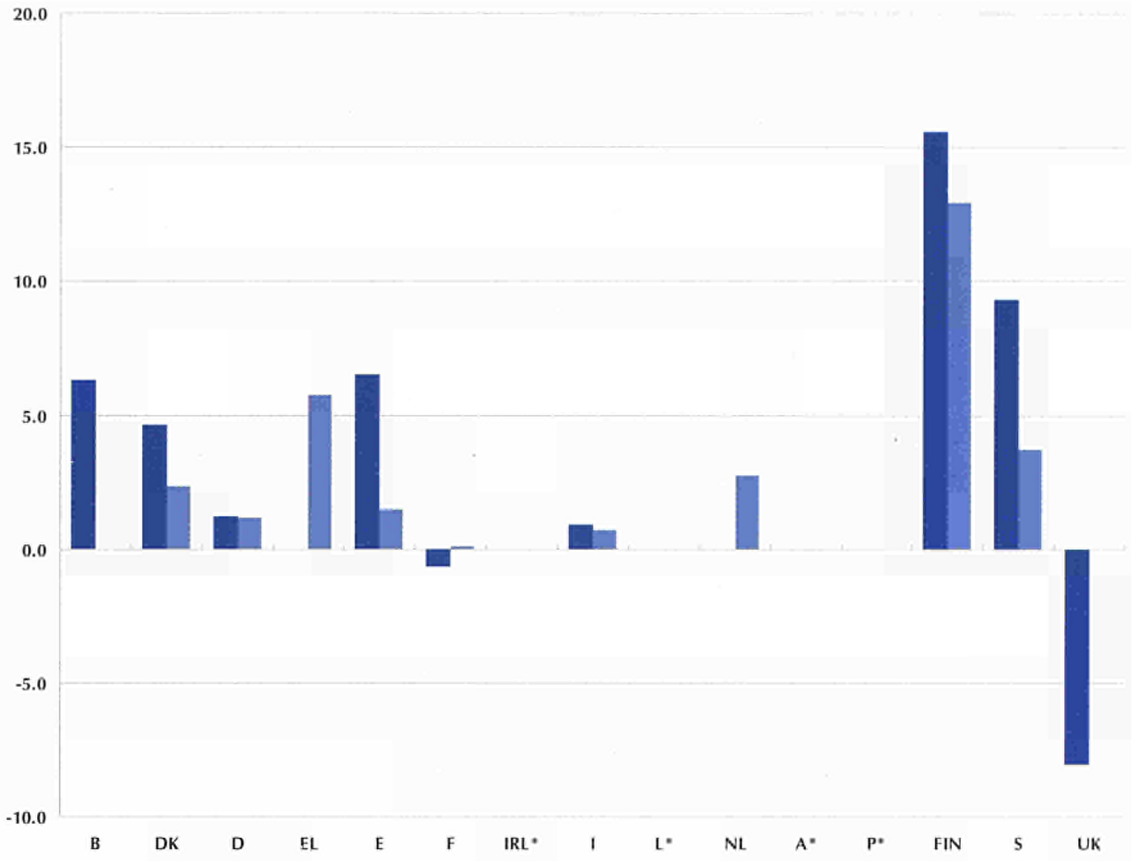
| | Latest 3 months available | | | Production index t / t-1 | Production index t / t-4 | Latest month available | Producer price index t / t-3 | Producer price index t / t-12 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EUR15 | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | 0.8 | 3.4 | 05-97 | 0.9 | 1.3 |
| B | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | -0.1 | 6.3 | | : | : |
| DK | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | 0.8 | 4.6 | 09-97 | 0.8 | 2.3 |
| D | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | -1.1 | 1.2 | 09-97 | 0.3 | 1.2 |
| EL | | ⇨ | | : | : | 09-97 | 1.8 | 5.8 |
| E | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | 4.0 | 6.5 | 10-97 | 0.3 | 1.5 |
| F | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | -1.2 | -0.7 | 09-97 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| IRL | | ⇨ | | : | : | | : | : |
| I | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | -1.3 | 0.9 | 09-97 | 0.6 | 0.7 |
| L | | ⇨ | | : | : | | : | : |
| NL | 06-97 | ⇨ | 08-97 | 0.9 | 1.4 | 09-97 | 0.0 | 2.8 |
| A | 02-97 | ⇨ | 04-97 | 4.0 | 13.6 | | : | : |
| P | 06-97 | ⇨ | 08-97 | 3.0 | 11.6 | | : | : |
| FIN | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | 4.0 | 15.6 | 10-97 | -1.2 | 11.9 |
| S | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | 2.5 | 9.3 | 10-97 | -1.8 | 2.3 |
| UK | 07-97 | ⇨ | 09-97 | -4.4 | -8.1 | | : | : |
| Japan | | ⇨ | | : | : | | : | : |
| USA | | ⇨ | | : | : | | : | : |

Latest growth rates for production and producer price indices (%)

Source: eurostat

## Figure 3.15

Annual growth rates for production and producer price indices, based on changes from the corresponding three months of the previous year, June-97 to Aug-97 (%)

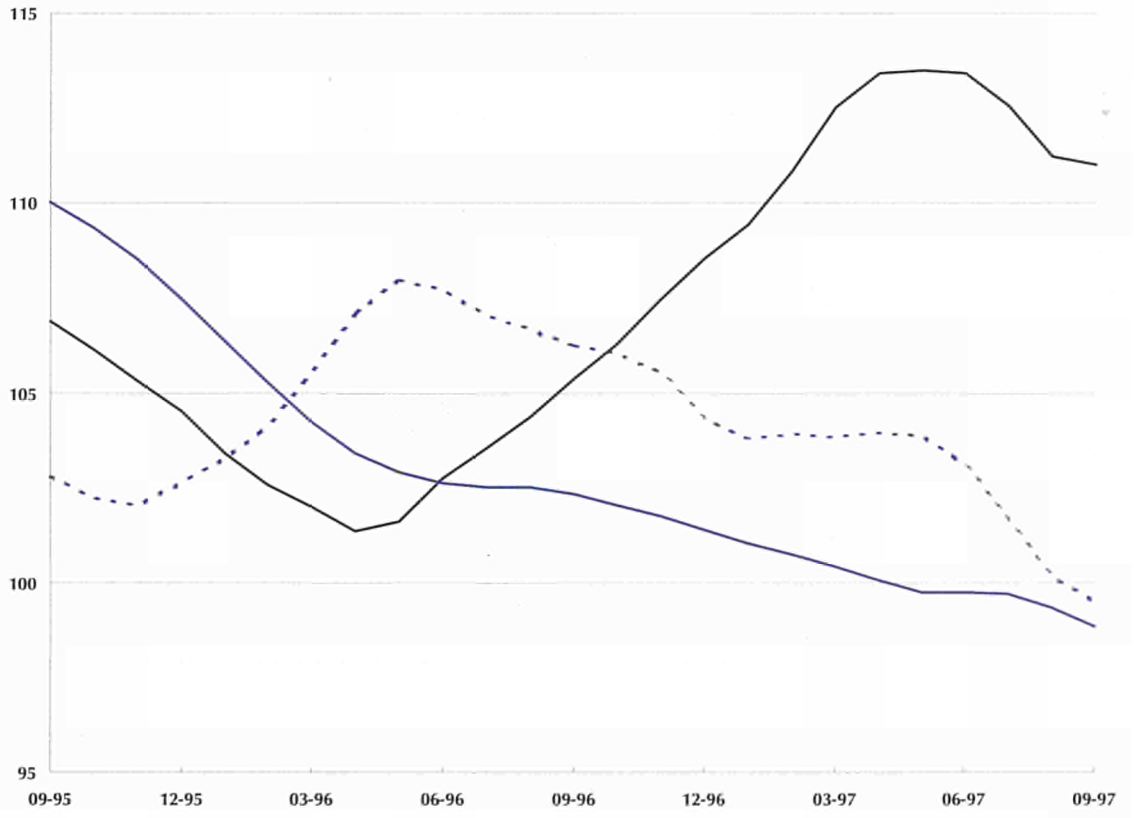



Production
Producer price index

Source: eurostat

## Figure 3.16

Production index for individual NACE Rev.1 groupings, trend cycle (1990 = 100)

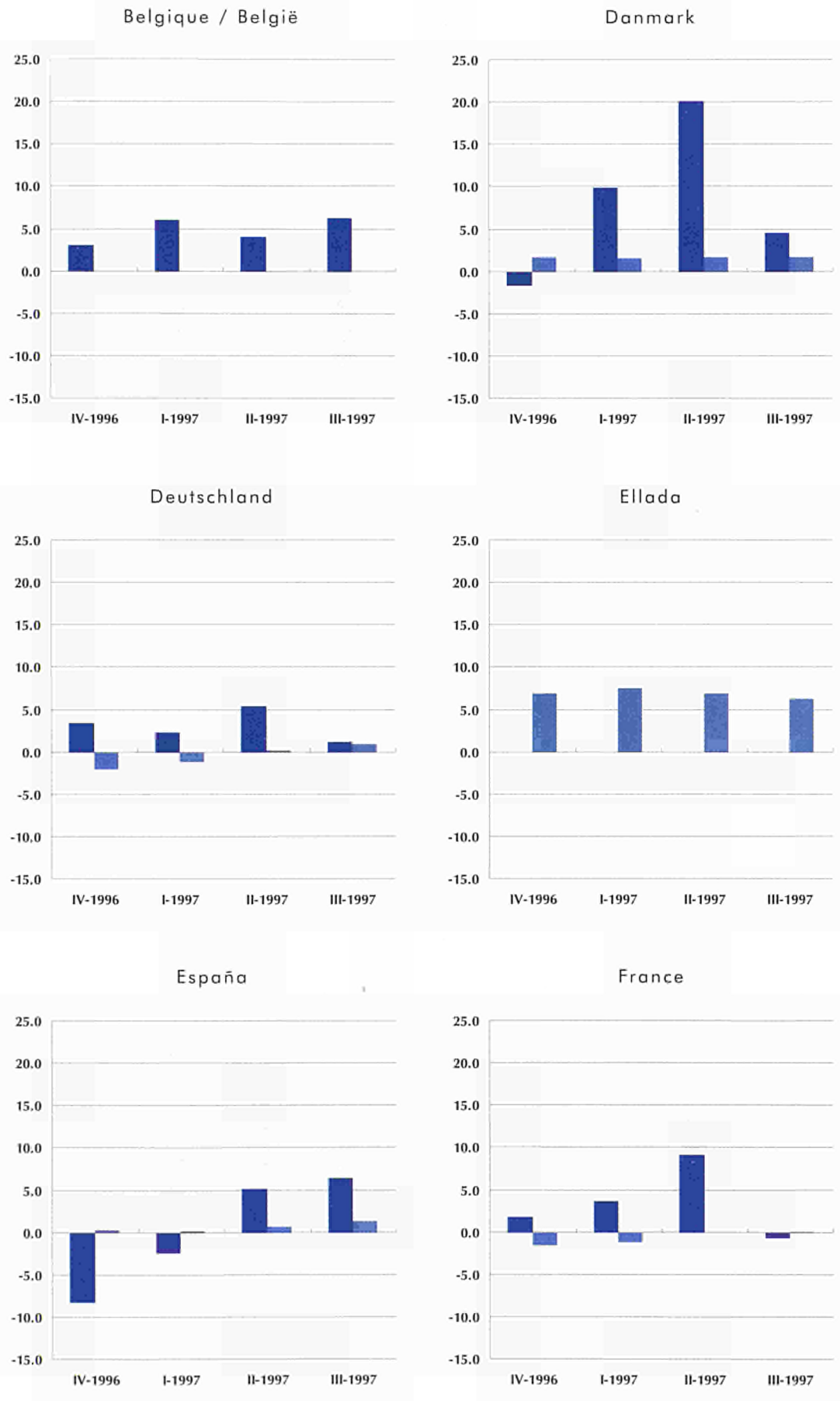



Veneer sheets, plywood, laminboard, particle board, fibreboard and other panels and board
Builders' carpentry and joinery
Wooden containers

Source: eurostat

Figure 3.17

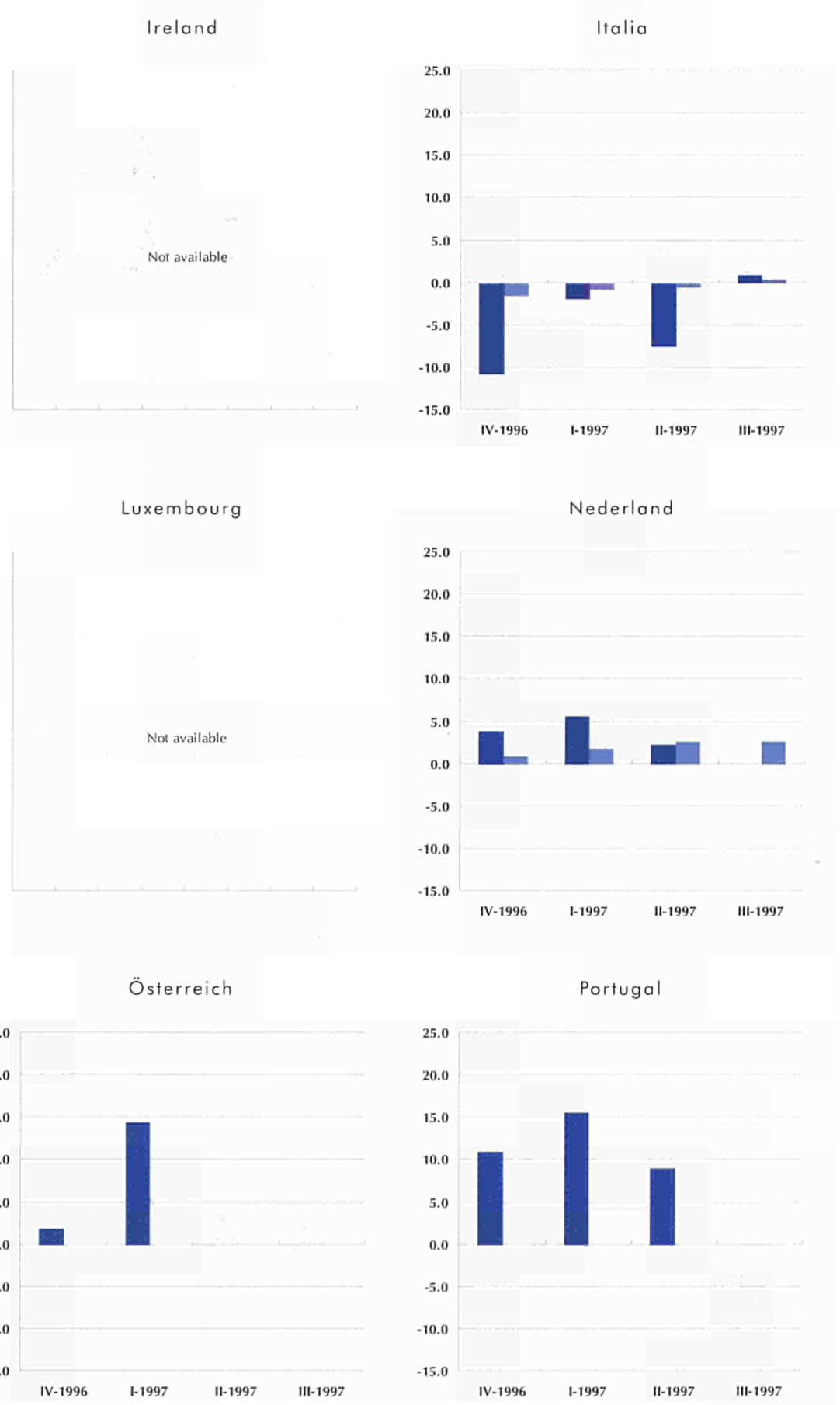
Annual growth rates for production and producer price indices, based on changes from the corresponding quarter of the previous year (%)




Source: eurostat

Figure 3.17

Annual growth rates for production and producer price indices, based on changes from the corresponding quarter of the previous year (%)

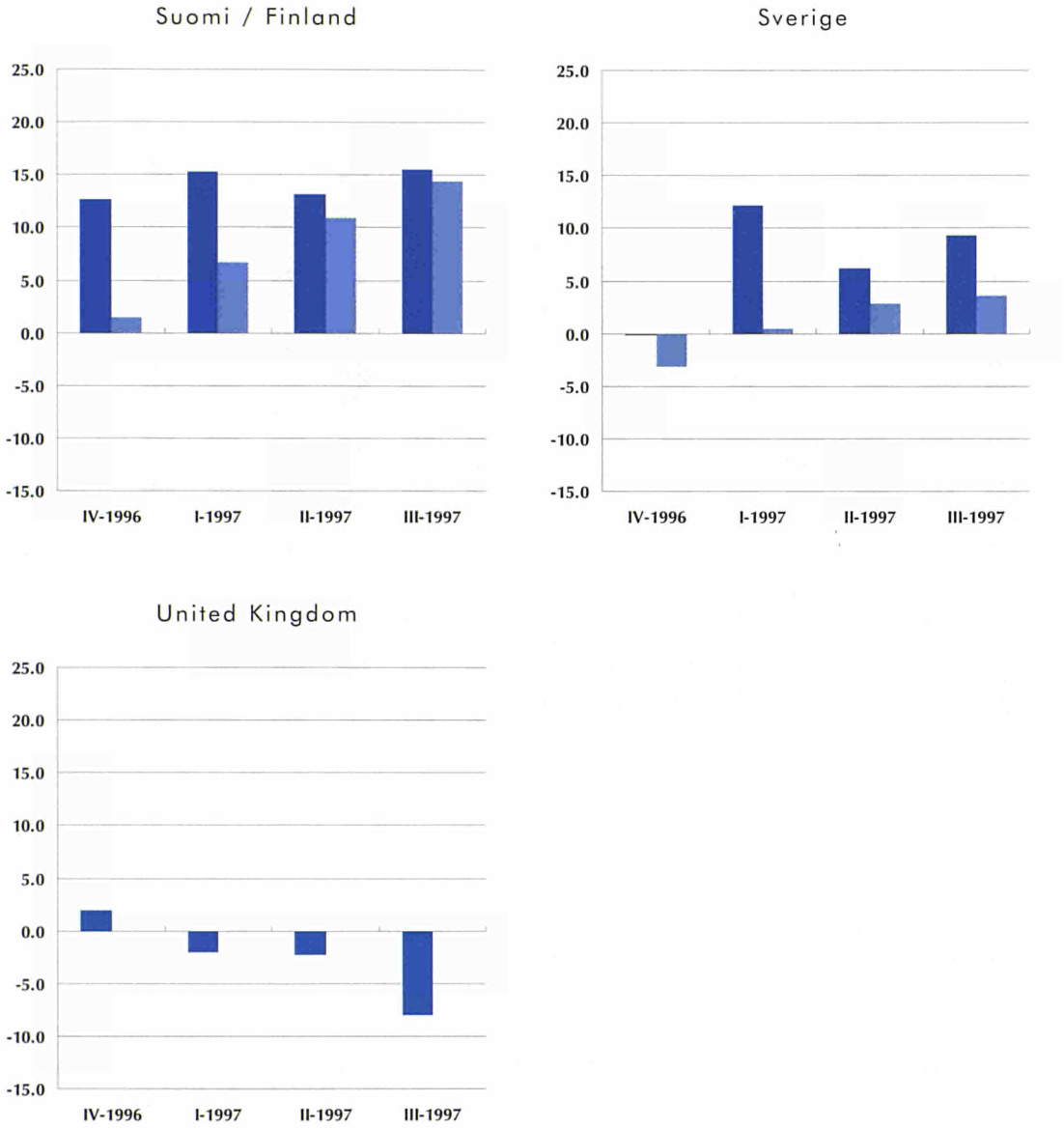



Source: eurostat



eurostat

Figure 3.17




Annual growth rates for production and producer price indices, based on changes from the corresponding quarter of the previous year (%)

Production index

Producer price index

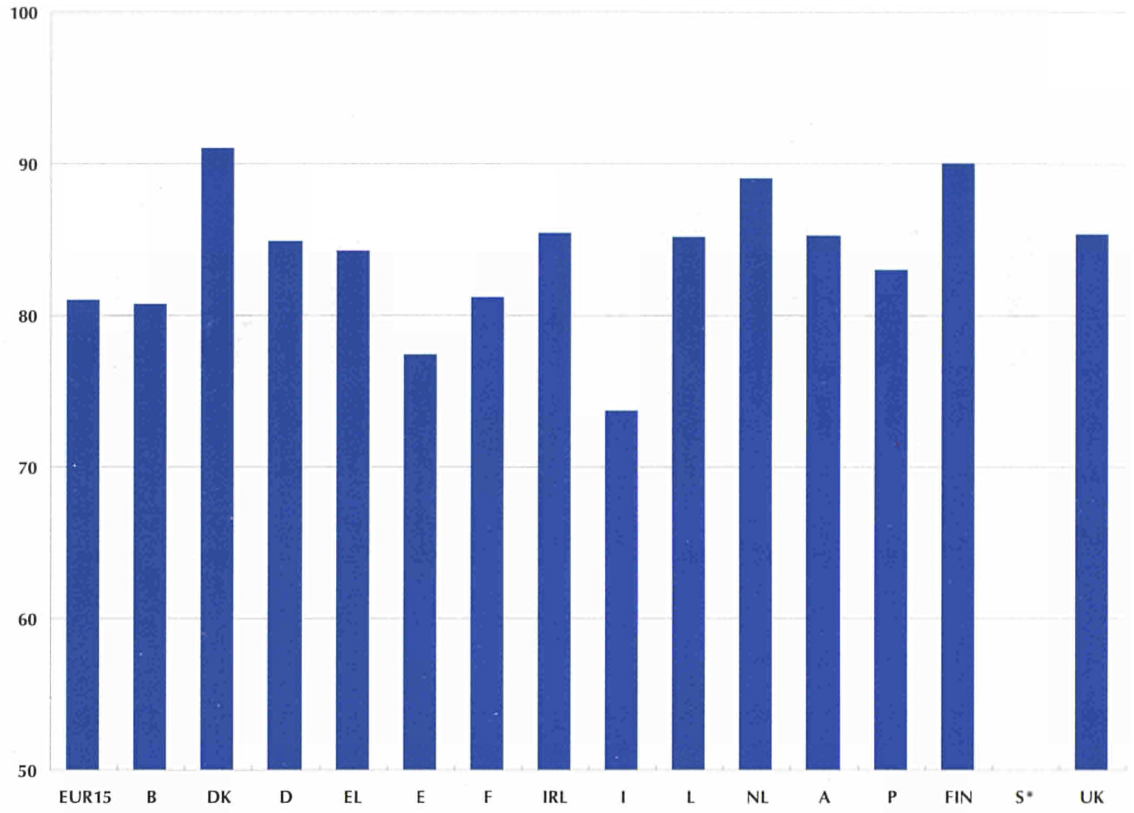
**Further information - the production and producer price indices:**

The indices of production are adjusted in two stages. Firstly, account is taken of the variation in the number of working days in the month. The national Statistical Offices provide Eurostat with these series (except Denmark, France and Spain). Secondly, for EUR15 and most of the Member States a correction is made using seasonal adjustment with TRAMO / SEATS, a method developed by Professor Maravall and V. Gomez. For France, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom, the indices are adjusted by the national statistical offices themselves. For Germany, the trend and seasonally adjusted figures are calculated by the German NSO.
The index of producer prices shows (in the national currency of the Member State in question) changes in the ex-works selling prices of all products sold on the domestic market. Since we deal with producer prices, imports are not included in these price indices. Producer price indices are not seasonally adjusted.
Full methodological notes may be found on page 85.

Source: eurostat

Figure 3.18

Capacity utilisation rates, Oct-97 (%)




Source: DG II, Business Survey

Table 3.19

Capacity utilisation rates (%)

| Growth rate: latest month, t / t-12 (%) | 01-97 | 04-97 | 07-97 | 10-97 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| EUR15 | 0.7 | 77.7 | 80.8 | 80.5 | 81.9 |
| B | 1.4 | 78.4 | 78.1 | 84.2 | 80.7 |
| DK | 2.2 | 88.0 | 86.0 | 90.0 | 91.0 |
| D | 0.2 | 80.1 | 83.2 | 84.8 | 84.9 |
| EL | 0.4 | 81.9 | 80.6 | 85.1 | 84.2 |
| E | 0.0 | 74.3 | 77.6 | 77.0 | 77.4 |
| F | 0.1 | 81.4 | 79.7 | 81.6 | 81.2 |
| IRL | 11.6 | 86.4 | 79.3 | 83.1 | 85.4 |
| I | 3.2 | 72.5 | 73.9 | 73.1 | 73.7 |
| L | 6.1 | 80.2 | 80.2 | 80.2 | 85.1 |
| NL | -0.3 | 80.9 | 87.4 | 89.6 | 89.0 |
| A | 4.0 | 81.1 | 82.3 | 85.3 | 85.2 |
| P | 13.4 | 77.8 | 78.9 | 80.6 | 83.0 |
| FIN | 4.7 | 89.6 | 91.1 | 91.0 | 90.0 |
| S | 1.2 | 84.0 | 83.0 | 86.0 | : |
| UK | 3.3 | 79.8 | 86.9 | 84.2 | 85.3 |

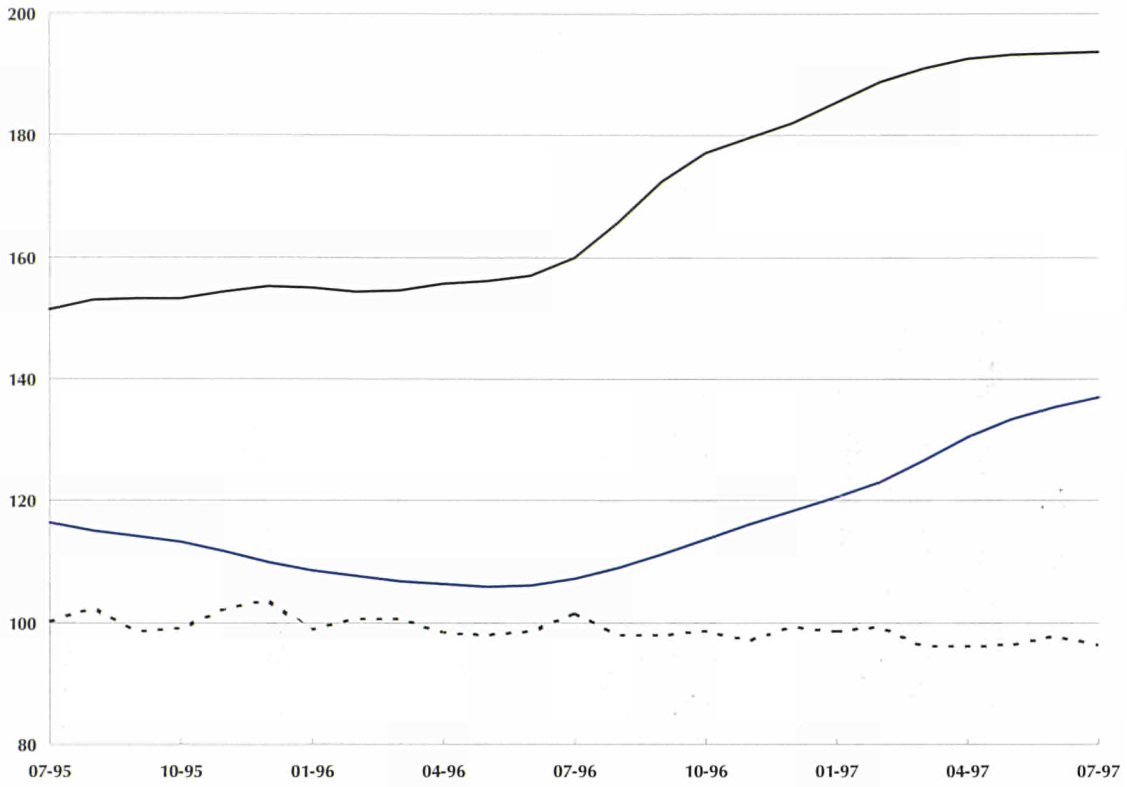
Source: DG II, Business Survey



eurostat

## FOREIGN TRADE INDICES - TREND CYCLE

Figure 3.19




EUR15 foreign trade indices, trend cycle, in ECU terms (1990 = 100)

Source: eurostat

Table 3.20

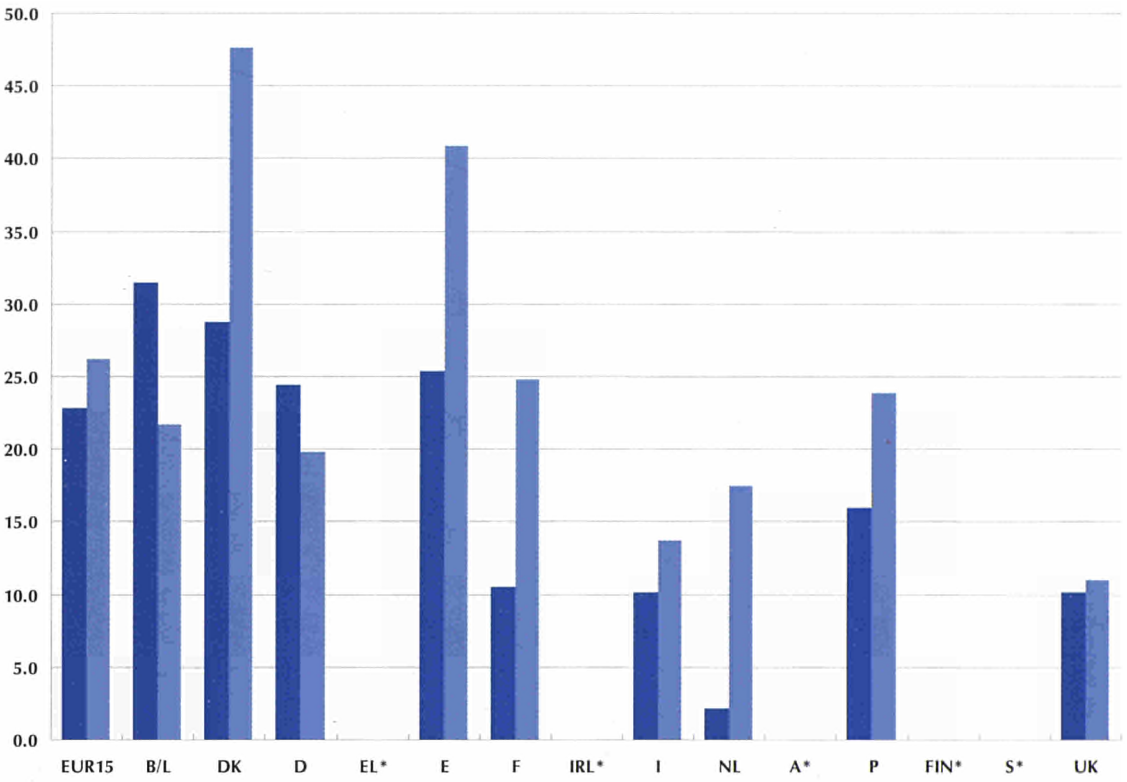
| | Latest 3 months available | | | Exports Value | Exports Volume | Imports Value | Imports Volume | Terms of trade |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EUR15 | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | 1.4 | 2.3 | 6.7 | 3.8 | -0.3 |
| B / L | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | 6.1 | 0.8 | 4.0 | 2.7 | 2.2 |
| DK | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | 12.1 | 8.8 | 13.8 | 8.2 | -0.1 |
| D | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | 5.5 | 4.8 | 6.4 | 0.7 | -2.5 |
| EL | | ⇨ | | : | : | : | : | : |
| E | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | 5.7 | 4.8 | 10.5 | 7.7 | -1.1 |
| F | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | 3.2 | 1.5 | 7.2 | 5.3 | 0.2 |
| IRL | 04-97 | ⇨ | 06-97 | 0.2 | 2.4 | 5.8 | -3.7 | -15.4 |
| I | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | 3.4 | 2.3 | 3.6 | 2.1 | -2.5 |
| NL | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.7 | -3.4 | -7.2 |
| A | | ⇨ | | : | : | : | : | : |
| P | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | 5.0 | 2.2 | 2.4 | -1.8 | -2.5 |
| FIN | | ⇨ | | : | : | : | : | : |
| S | | ⇨ | | : | : | : | : | : |
| UK | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | -0.4 | 1.3 | 0.9 | 3.5 | -4.8 |

Three month on three month growth rates for foreign trade indices, trend cycle, value indices are in ECU terms (%)

Source: eurostat

## Figure 3.20

Annual growth rates for foreign trade indices, based on changes from the corresponding three months of the previous year, in ECU terms, gross data, May-97 to July-97 (%)




Export value

Import value

Source: eurostat

## Table 3.21

Annual growth rates for foreign trade indices, based on changes from the corresponding three months of the previous year, value indices are in ECU terms, gross data (%)

| | Latest 3 months available | | | Exports Value | Exports Volume | Imports Value | Imports Volume | Terms of trade |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EUR15 | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | 22.9 | 17.0 | 26.2 | 17.0 | -2.7 |
| B / L | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | 31.5 | 21.0 | 21.7 | 15.3 | 2.9 |
| DK | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | 28.7 | 21.5 | 47.7 | 38.8 | -0.2 |
| D | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | 24.4 | 21.4 | 19.8 | 12.6 | -3.7 |
| EL | | ⇨ | | : | : | : | : | : |
| E | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | 25.4 | 19.8 | 40.8 | 30.6 | -3.0 |
| F | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | 10.5 | 9.4 | 24.8 | 16.0 | -6.2 |
| IRL | 04-97 | ⇨ | 06-97 | 11.6 | 16.0 | 29.7 | 12.9 | -16.3 |
| I | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | 10.2 | 10.9 | 13.7 | 10.2 | -3.8 |
| NL | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | 2.2 | -3.0 | 17.5 | 3.6 | -7.1 |
| A | | ⇨ | | : | : | : | : | : |
| P | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | 16.0 | 6.6 | 23.8 | 16.2 | 2.1 |
| FIN | | ⇨ | | : | : | : | : | : |
| S | | ⇨ | | : | : | : | : | : |
| UK | 05-97 | ⇨ | 07-97 | 10.2 | 26.7 | 11.0 | 18.6 | -7.4 |

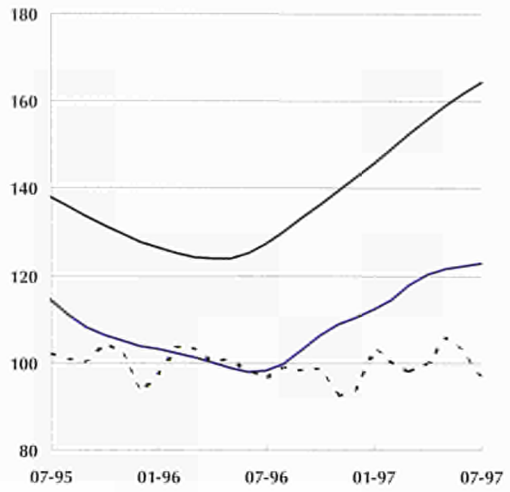
Source: eurostat

FOREIGN TRADE INDICES - TREND CYCLE

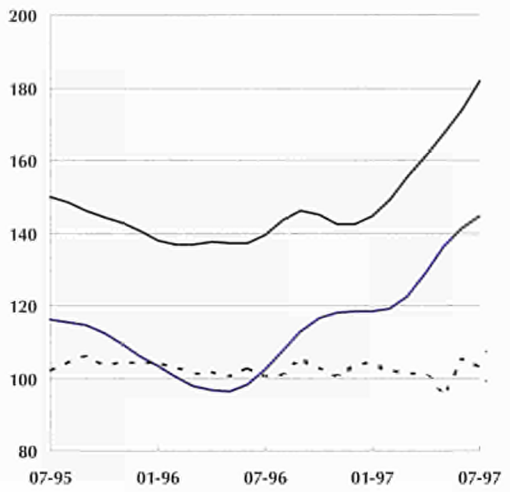
Figure 3.21

Foreign trade indices in ECU terms, trend cycle (1990 = 100)

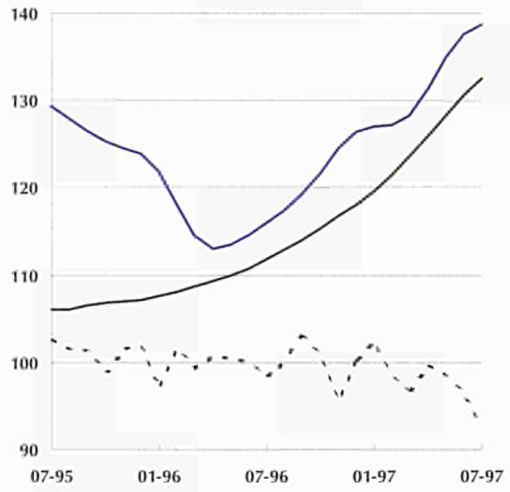
Belgique / België, Luxembourg




Danmark



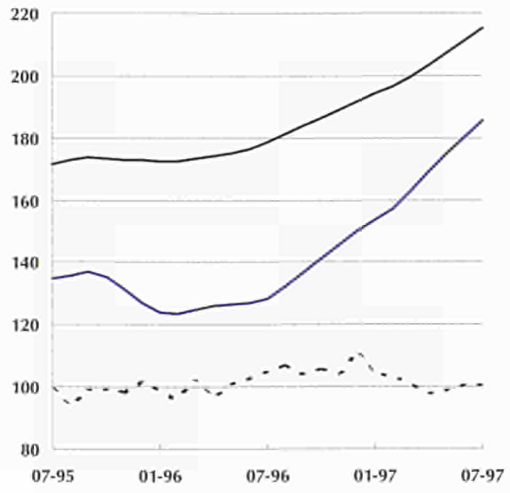

Deutschland



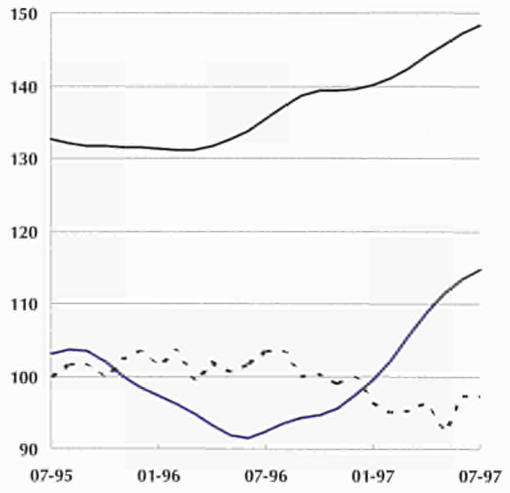

Ellada

Not available

España




France




Export value index

Import value index

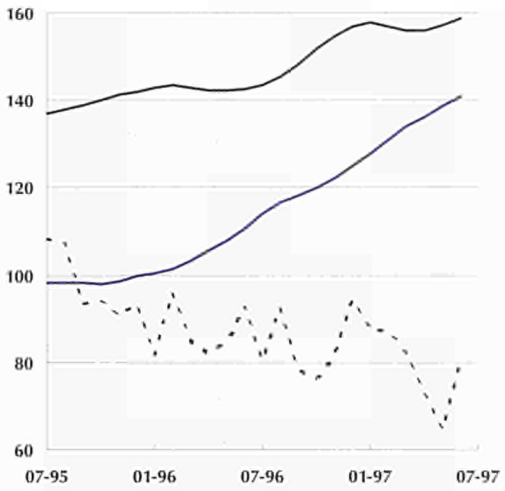
Terms of trade

Source: eurostat

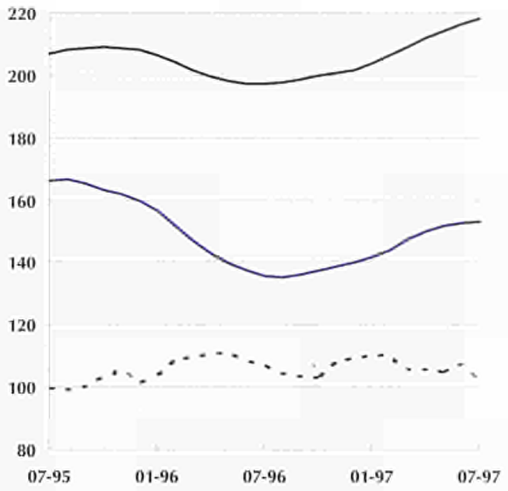
Figure 3.21

Foreign trade indices in ECU terms, trend cycle (1990 = 100)

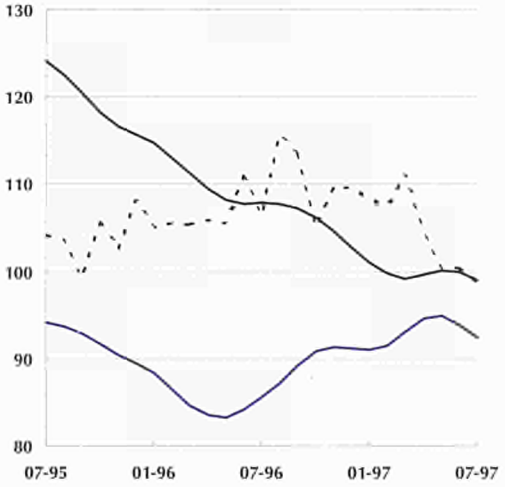
Ireland




Italia



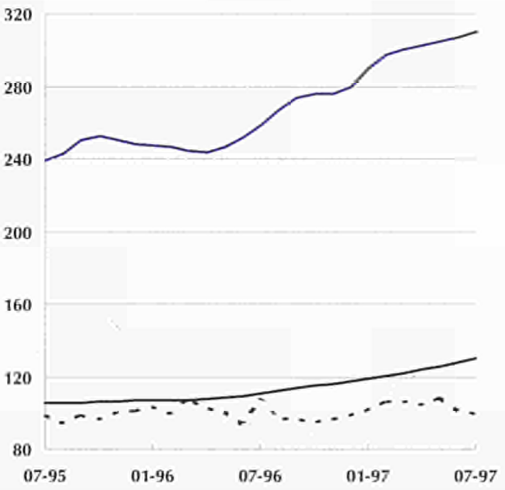

Nederland




Österreich

Not available

Portugal




Suomi / Finland

Not available

Export value index ——

Import value index ——

Terms of trade - - - - -

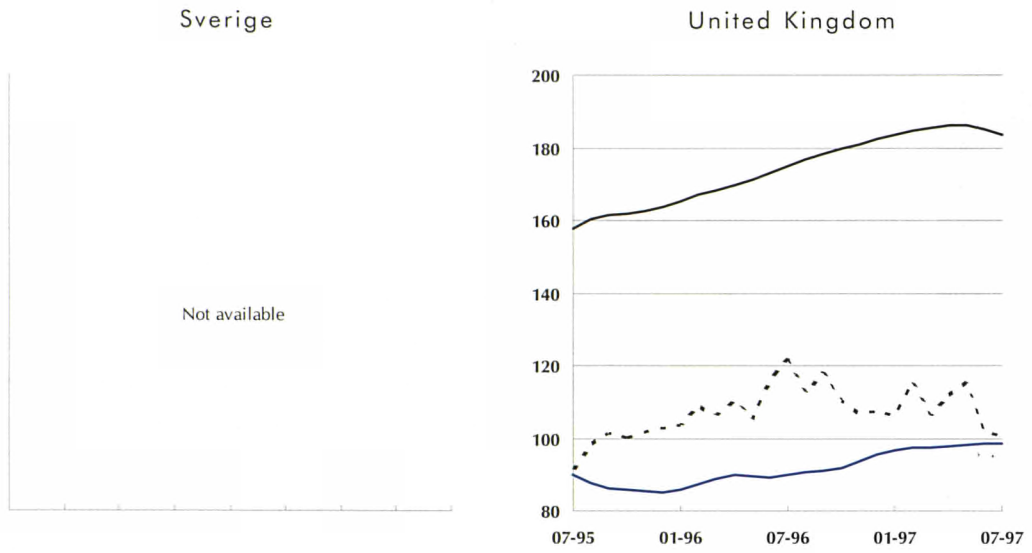
Source: eurostat



eurostat

Figure 3.21

Foreign trade indices in ECU terms, trend cycle (1990 = 100)




Export value index

Import value index

Terms of trade

**Further information - the foreign trade indices:**

For the indices of imports and exports, foreign trade data of industrial products (following the nomenclature of the Harmonised System) were grouped according to the industrial NACE Rev.1 activity to which they belong. This grouping of products causes inevitably certain inaccuracies which can reduce the reliability of these foreign trade series. The indices for EUR15 refer only to extra-Union trade, the indices for Member States reflect also intra-Union trade.
For more extensive details of the methodology of short-term indicators please refer to the Eurostat publication "Methodology of Industrial Short-term Indicators" - CA-97-96-079-EN-C.
Full methodological notes for this publication may be found on page 85.

Source: eurostat

The files on the diskette are broken down by industrial branches. Each file contains all countries and indicators for a particular industry. The files have the following format: country, indicator, branch, periodicity, datatype, flag, data,

e.g. EF;PROD;B0020;M;S;*;85.14164...

### Step by step guide to using the data on the diskette:

1. Copy the file MPEI1.EXE (English number format) or MPEI2.EXE (continental European number format) from the diskette to a directory on your hard disk (usually C:\....).
2. If in WINDOWS, switch to the File Manager and double-click on the file. The files will self-extract themselves (into the directory from which the program is run). You may need to perform WINDOW - REFRESH to see the files once the procedure has finished.
3. If in DOS move to the directory you placed the file in (for example, C:\DATA>) and then type the name of the file (MPEI1.EXE or MPEI2.EXE) and press <ENTER>, the files will self-extract and be placed in the same directory as the EXE file.
4. The files are simple, plain text files, with the .TXT extension. The files are semi-colon separated (;) and use speech marks as a delimiter.
5. It should be easy to import/open the data-files into any standard spreadsheet or database package.
6. There is a file for each branch available at the NACE 2-digit level, codes are given in the readme.txt file supplied on the diskette.

**Branches:**

B0020 Total Industry excluding Construction
B0040 Intermediate Goods Industry
B0050 Capital Goods Industry
B0060 Durable Consumer Goods Industry
B0070 Non-Durable Consumer Goods Industry
B1000 Mining of Coal and Lignite; Extraction of Peat
B1100 Extraction of Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas; Service Activities Incidental to Oil and Gas Extraction, excluding Surveying
B1200 Mining of Uranium and Thorium Ores
B1500 Food and Drink Industry
B1600 Tobacco
B1700 Manufacture of Textiles
B1800 Clothing Industry
B1900 Leather and Shoe Industry
B2000 Manufacture of Wood and Products of Wood
B2100 Paper Industry
B2200 Publishing, Printing, Reproduction of Recorded Media
B2300 Manufacture of Coke, Refined Petroleum Products, Nuclear Fuel
B2400 Chemical Industry
B2500 Manufacture of Rubber and Plastic Products
B2600 Manufacture of other Non-Metallic Mineral Products
B2700 Manufacture of Basic Metals
B2800 Manufacture of Fabricated Metal Products
B2900 Mechanical Engineering
B3000 Manufacture of Office Machinery, Computers
B3100 Manufacture of Electrical Machinery
B3200 Manufacture of Radio, TV and Communication Equipment
B3300 Manufacture of Medical, Precision and Optical Instruments
B3400 Manufacture of Motor Vehicles
B3500 Manufacture of Other Transport Equipment
B3600 Manufacture of Furniture; Manufacturing not elsewhere classified
B4000 Electricity, Gas, Steam and Hot Water Supply
B4500 Construction

# 5 Methodological notes

**Industry classification system**

NACE Rev.1,
definitions of main industrial groupings

**Statistical sources**

sources and methods used for short-term indicators and structural data; notes on series used and calculation methods

**Signs and abbreviations**

specific to use in this publication

## Industry classification system

The economic activities used in this publication are defined in the revised Classification of Economic Activities within the European Communities, NACE Rev.1. This classification was laid down in a Council Regulation in 1990 (OJ L293 24th October 1990). It should be noted that many series before 1990 and a large amount of annual data even between 1990 and now had to be converted from the old classification NACE 1970. This estimation process can reduce the reliability of the data. Main industrial groupings that are used in Section 2 of this publication have the following definitions in terms of NACE Rev.1.

**Total industry**

C + D + E,

i.e. mining, manufacturing and energy supply

**Intermediate goods industries**

13.1, 13.2, 14.1-14.5, 15.6, 15.7, 17.1-17.3, 20.1-20.5, 21.1, 21.2, 24.1-24.3, 24.6, 24.7, 25.1, 25.2, 26.1-26.8, 27.1-27.5, 28.4-28.7, 31.2-31.6, 32.1, 34.3, 37.1, 37.2

**Capital goods industries**

28.1-28.3, 29.1-29.6, 30.0, 31.1, 32.2, 33.1-33.3, 34.1, 34.2, 35.1-35.3

**Durable consumer goods industries**

29.7, 32.3, 33.4, 33.5, 35.4, 35.5, 36.1-36.3

**Non durable consumer goods industries**

15.1-15.5, 15.8-16.0, 17.4-17.7, 18.1-18.3, 19.1-19.3, 22.1-22.3, 24.4, 24.5, 36.4-36.6

If Member States dispose of more detailed data series at the 4 digit level of NACE Rev.1, a more elaborate definition at this level of disaggregation is used.

## Statistical sources

Most of the data in this publication is harmonised data supplied to Eurostat by the EU Member States. The exceptions are:

1) The capacity utilisation series which come from the business surveys carried out on behalf of the Directorate General for Economic Affairs of the Commission (DG II).

2) The estimates for the latest years' structural data, which are supplied by the DEBA European Economic Interest Group:

DEBA GEIE, 1, rue Emile Bian,

L-1235 Luxembourg;

tel: (352) 29 77 71-1.

3) The data for the USA and Japan, which are supplied by the OECD.

Data sources are indicated for each statistical table. Every effort has been made to include data for the EUR15 Member States. The indices from 1991 onwards are on a post-unification basis and include East-Germany. However, the structural data is still on a pre-unification basis.

## Short term indicators

The index of production measures changes in the volume of the gross value added created by industry, the branch indices being aggregated by means of a system of weighting according to gross value added at factor cost. The indices are adjusted to take account of the varying number of working days in the month.

The index of producer prices shows (in national currencies) the changes in the ex-works selling prices of all products sold on the domestic markets of the various countries. The EU indices refer to overall weighted price changes. There are not yet indices for Austria. No seasonal adjustment is carried out on these indices.

For the indices of imports and exports, external trade data of 9,000 industrial products were grouped according to the industrial NACE Rev.1 activity to which they belong. This grouping can cause certain inaccuracies in the data, which may reduce the reliability of foreign trade series.

The value indices are all in ECU terms. The indices for the EU refer only to extra-Union trade, the indices for Member States reflect also intra-Union trade.

The capacity utilisation series come from European Union business surveys.
*For further details of the methodology employed, please refer to the Eurostat publication "Methodology of Industrial Short-term Indicators" CA-97-96-079-EN-C.*

### Seasonal adjustment

All series except prices and capacity utilisation are seasonally adjusted with TRAMO / SEATS, a method developed by Professor Maravall and V. Gomez. This adjustment also takes account of one-off fluctuations (so called outliers). For France, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom the indices are seasonally adjusted by the national statistical office. For Germany, the trend and seasonally adjusted figures for the production index are calculated by the national statistical office. Otherwise, Eurostat calculates the trend cycle, i.e. seasonally adjusted series, where additionally the irregular fluctuations have been excluded (using the program TRAMO / SEATS).

### Growth rates

The changes which are given in the tables show two different growth rates. The first being for the latest three months data compared to the previous three months data - here the trend cycle is used. The second growth rate is for the latest three months data compared to the same three months of the previous year - here a series only adjusted for the number of working days is used. Estimates are sometimes made to create a EUR15 total.

### Graphs

The line graphs show the trend cycle. The bar graphs show the annual growth of the index, using a working day adjusted series. For Member States where just one month is missing (and not more), this missing value was estimated in order to bring the growth rate for all Member States up to the same date. This estimation is indicated by ** in the graph.

### Structural data

Data for structural statistics are in current ECU unless otherwise stated. Data for value added at factor cost, production, labour costs and employment come from annual enquiries conducted by Member States involving all enterprises with 20 or more employees. The exceptions to this are Spain (local units of all sizes), Portugal (enterprises with 10 or more employees) and Finland (establishments employing 5 or more persons). The employment data relates to the number of persons employed, excluding home workers. The definitions are standardised and so the figures are comparable across industries and countries.

Estimates are not supplied to Eurostat by Member States for the smaller firms not covered by the enquiries, and hence the figures under-report the actual values. In certain industries this may be a serious problem in the interpretation of series, especially when comparing with other industries.

Gaps in Eurostat's data have been filled by estimates supplied by DEBA GEIE. Thus, EUR15 totals often contain estimates for missing countries. Estimates are shown in bold. Attention should be drawn to the fact that the data has just switched to the NACE Rev.1 classification, this may result in revisions of data being made in the medium-term.

### Signs and abbreviations

| | |
|---|---|
| B / L | Belgo-Luxembourg Economic Union |
| ECU | European currency unit |
| TRIAD | EU, Japan and the USA |
| w.d.adj. | working day adjusted series |
| Billion | thousand million |
| * | not available (in graphs) |
| : | not available (in tables) |
| ** | estimation (in graphs) |

data in bold, estimation (in tables)
1990 = 100, reference year

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