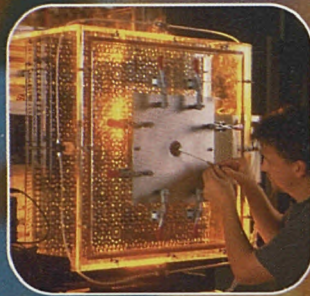
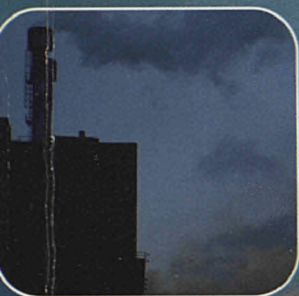


Monthly **Panorama**
of European Industry





OFICINA ESTADÍSTICA DE LAS COMUNIDADES EUROPEAS
DE EUROPÆISKE FÆLLESSKABERS STATISTISKE KONTOR
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Monthly **Panorama**
of European Industry

ISSUE 12/98 ■ DECEMBER 1998

Theme
Energy and industry
Series
Short-term statistics

4

B

Sent to press in December 1998

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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This edition of the Monthly Panorama of European Industry is the last of the year. Next year the publication will be called the "Monthly Panorama of European Business" to reflect the changes that will be brought to the publication. The publication will be available in both paper and CD-ROM format. The CD-ROM will feature both data and an electronic version of the publication (in PDF format). Subscribers will be given the choice between the two formats or alternatively a bundled version of both.

The publication will provide more information on the service sector of the economy (by adding sectoral commentaries based on NACE Rev. 1 activities in the services sector of the economy). In addition, tables and graphics will be extended to include information for both the Euro-zone aggregate (EUR-11) and data for Norway.

This month's issue focuses on the usual short-term indicators for European industry as well as looking at two specific industrial activities - those of the chemicals industry and the rubber and plastics industry. These two industries are quite closely related as producers often operate in both areas and there are many examples of products being vertically integrated between the industries. The plastics industry has been one of the most successful European industries in recent years.

Pedro Díaz Muñoz,
Luxembourg



Latest outlook - the most recent short-term indicators for European industry in tabular and graphic format, page 7



Latest outlook - the most recent short-term indicators for European services in tabular and graphic format, page 51



In depth - a close look into the chemicals industry, page 67



In depth - a close look into the rubber and plastics industry, page 89



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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 an industry. 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.

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Data extracted on 14-12-98



1. Industrial commentary

Commentary 8
current situation in the EU, Japan and United States

Data in this section 9
index of production
producer price index
new orders
trade balance



1. Industrial commentary

Latest industrial production trends

European production in the three months to September 1998 rose by 0.2% (when compared to data for the second quarter of 1998). This is the fifth consecutive month that the European production index has posted a growth rate below the level of one per cent. Turning to the growth rate for the eleven countries that will make up the Euro-zone¹, growth was somewhat higher at 0.6% in September 1998.

There has therefore been quite a significant change in the rate of growth for the index for industrial production for the fifteen Member States in recent months. The growth rate for EU-15 has moved from 1.0% in April 1998 to its present level, falling in every month. This slow down in economic activity within the EU is reflective of global trends, which have developed during the course of 1998. Indeed, the data for Japan and the United States shows that there were lower rates of growth than in Europe during the first half of 1998. The latest figures available (for September 1998) show that Japanese growth was equal to -1.2% and that industrial production in the USA grew by 0.4%.

Performance by Member State

At the level of the individual Member States there were mixed fortunes in the latest figures being reported. The evolution of the production index in Germany was very similar to that seen for the EU as a whole. Latest data showed growth equal to 0.7% in October 1998, down from one per cent in June 1998. In France there was a somewhat more dramatic turnaround in the fortunes of industrial production. French industry saw production decline by 0.2% in the third quarter of 1998 (compared again to the second quarter, data is not annualised). This marked a rapid reduction from the growth rate of 1.1% displayed in May 1998. There has been a similar decline in the rates of growth observed in the United Kingdom. Following some signs of positive expansion in the early part of 1998, industrial output in the United Kingdom has stagnated in recent months. The third quarter figures for industrial production report a decline of 0.2% for total industry, whilst output had been growing by 0.6% in the early summer of 1998. The recent trend of very little change in Italian production continued. Indeed, the last eight months have seen growth rates of between -0.2% and 0.2% being posted by the Italian industrial economy.



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1) Belgium, Germany, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Finland.

Industrial production and producer prices

European industrial production slows, increase of 0.2% in the third quarter of 1998...

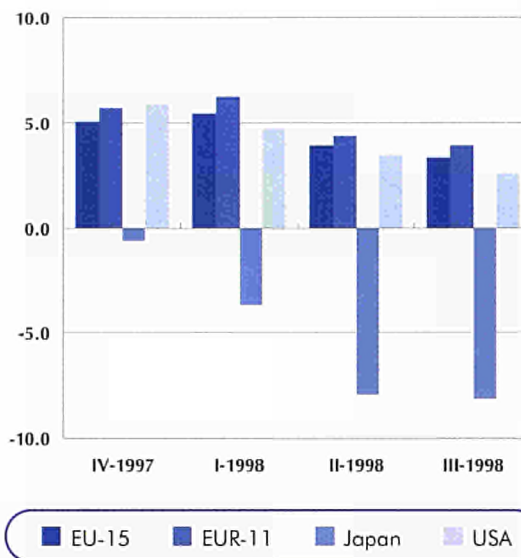


Figure 1.1

Industrial production: growth rate, year on year (%)

Source: eurostat

With the major European economies (except Germany) reporting growth that was either equal to or below the European average, it is clear that the majority of impetus for the European economy is presently being generated by the smaller countries of the Union. Latest data shows that output expanded by two or more per cent in Greece and Ireland (although figures ran only as far as August 1998). Spain, Finland, Luxembourg and Portugal were able to record production increasing by more than one per cent for the latest period available.

Again the smaller Member States reported the highest rates of growth for this particular indicator. Indeed, there were five Member States that were able to report annual growth in excess of the 5% level (although the latest data varies between August and September 1998). These countries were Finland (8.4%, September 1998), Greece (10.7%, August 1998), Ireland (20.1%, August 1998), Luxembourg (7.8%, September 1998) and Portugal (7.0%, August 1998).

Production growth compared to one year ago

An alternative measure for studying the change in output is to look at the evolution of production in relation to the same period of a year before. EU-15 production in September 1998 was up by 2.3% compared to September 1997. The corresponding rate of change in August 1998 for EU-15 was equal to 4.2%.

The rates for the larger European economies were as follows: Germany (3.3%, October 1998); France (2.5%, September 1998); Italy (1.4%, September 1998) and the United Kingdom (-0.9%, September 1998).

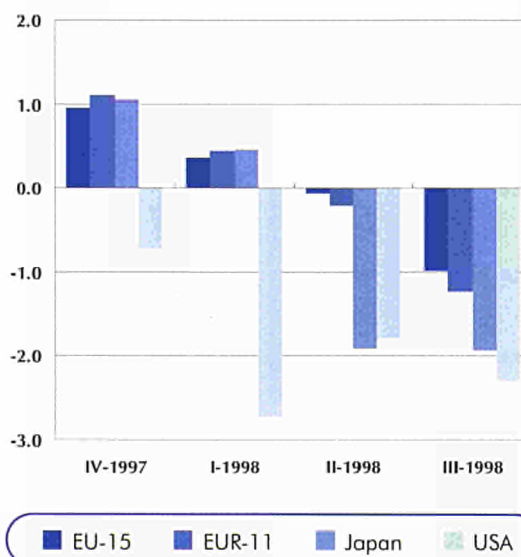


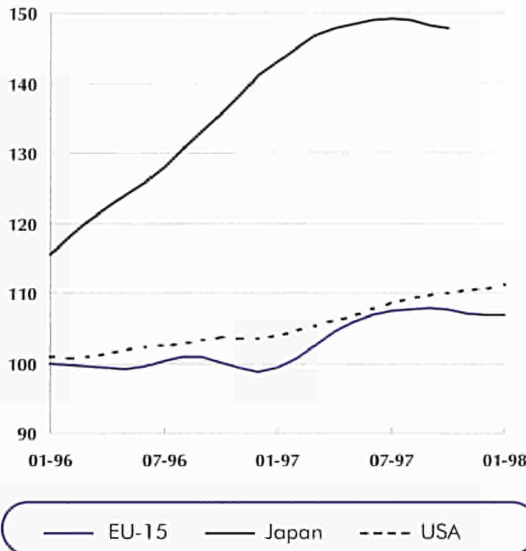
Figure 1.2

Producer prices: growth rate, year on year (%)

Source: eurostat

Figure 1.3

New orders index
(1995 = 100)



Source: eurostat

International comparison for this rate of growth showed that whilst in the United States the year-on-year growth rate was equal to 2.2% (in September 1998), there was a decline of 7.5% in Japan (again September 1998).

...whilst producer prices

remain subdued, down by

1.5% in October 1998

Evolution of the producer price index

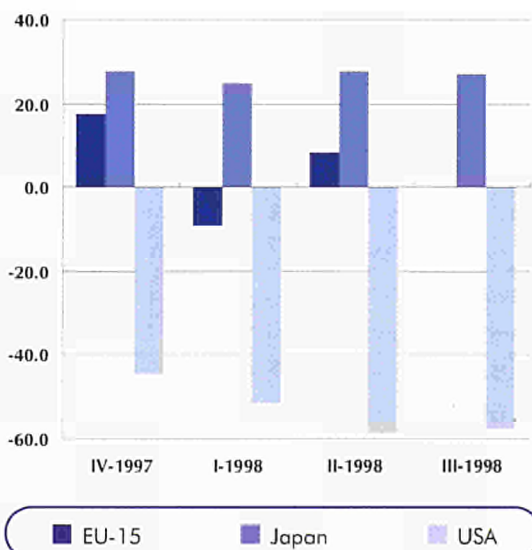
There have now been six consecutive months of producer price reductions in the European industrial economy. As the rate of change in the production index has slowed there has been a simultaneous reduction in the level of domestic output prices within the European Union. Latest data for EU-15 shows that producer prices were falling by 1.5% in the year to October 1998. A year before prices had been expanding by 1.0% (October 1997 compared to October 1996).

International comparison shows that the producer price indices of both Japan and the United States were also displaying negative trends. Latest figures were available for September 1998, with Japanese prices down by 2.0%, whilst in the same month American prices were down by 2.8%.

Within the Member States there was somewhat more divergence in the trends displayed as concerns producer prices. For example, the latest data available showed growth rates ranging from a high of 2.8% in Greece (data for September 1998) to a low of -5.6% in Portugal (data for September 1998). Of the larger EU economies the following growth rates were recorded: Germany (-1.2%, October 1998); Spain (-1.8%, October 1998); France (-3.2%, October 1998); Italy (-0.9%, October 1998) and the United Kingdom (-0.3%, October 1998).

Figure 1.4

Quarterly trade balance -
manufactured goods
(billion ECU)



Source: eurostat

Industrial production (working day adjusted) & trade balance

Developments of the different goods sectors across the European industrial economy

Turning attention to the four different goods sectors that make up the European industrial economy there are some marked differences in the performance of the sectors concerning industrial production. Indeed, intermediate goods displayed no growth during the third quarter when compared to the second quarter. The data for EU-15 showed that the latest growth rate was -0.2%, whilst the corresponding figure for EUR-11 was also negative, -0.1% (again for the third quarter). On the other hand, growth in the capital goods sector was equal to 1.0% for EU-15 and 0.8% for EUR-11. The growth rate of the consumer durables sector has shown signs of slowing down in recent months. In April 1998, the EU-15 figure for this goods sector was 2.4%, which has fallen in subsequent months to 0.6% (September 1998).

In the consumer non-durables goods sector there was a moderate decrease in producer prices, down by 0.1% in the twelve months to October 1998. In the capital goods sector there was expansion of 0.3% in producer prices. Intermediate goods were largely responsible for the negative figure for total industry - as they recorded a decline of 3.4% in October 1998.

Within the Member States the largest reductions in producer prices were being recorded in the following countries and goods sectors: in France intermediate goods lost 4.8% in the year to October 1998, whilst in Portugal and Sweden the same sector saw prices declining by 7.9%. The largest reductions in Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom were also to be found in the intermediate goods sector, where losses of 2.9%, 3.1% and 3.6% compared to a year before were recorded.

EU-15 EUR-11 Japan USA

	EU-15	EUR-11	Japan	USA
10-97	5.4	5.9	1.4	5.8
11-97	4.2	4.8	-1.0	5.9
12-97	5.6	6.5	-2.1	6.0
01-98	4.7	5.8	-1.9	5.0
02-98	5.2	6.0	-3.7	4.3
03-98	6.4	6.9	-5.2	4.9
04-98	2.9	3.2	-6.3	3.0
05-98	5.9	6.8	-9.2	4.5
06-98	3.2	3.2	-8.3	2.9
07-98	3.7	4.2	-8.8	2.6
08-98	4.2	4.7	-8.3	3.1
09-98	2.3	3.0	-7.5	2.2

Table 1.1

Industrial production:
growth rate,
year on year
(%)

Source:  eurostat

EU-15 Japan USA

	EU-15	Japan	USA
10-97	6.4	9.4	-14.5
11-97	4.2	8.7	-14.6
12-97	6.8	9.8	-15.3
01-98	-4.6	3.9	-15.7
02-98	-6.5	10.8	-16.6
03-98	2.0	10.2	-18.9
04-98	2.1	9.4	-19.6
05-98	2.9	9.4	-20.4
06-98	3.3	8.9	-18.6
07-98	7.6	9.6	-19.2
08-98	1.3	6.8	-20.6
09-98	:	10.8	-17.8

Table 1.2

Monthly trade
balance -
manufactured goods
(billion ECU)

Source:  eurostat



2.

Latest outlook: total industry

Business cycle at a glance 14

Short-term indicators 15

production index

expected output index

producer price index

employment index

construction

capacity utilisation

foreign trade indices



Table 2.1

Business cycle at a glance: growth rate, three months compared to the previous three months (%)

	Latest 3 months available	Estimated output index (1)	Production	Producer prices	Capacity utilisation (2)	New orders
EU-15	07-98 ⇔ 09-98	:	→	↘	↗	:
B	07-98 ⇔ 09-98	:	↘	:	↗	:
DK	07-98 ⇔ 09-98	:	↗	↘	↗↗	↗
D	08-98 ⇔ 10-98	:	↗	↘	↘	:
EL	06-98 ⇔ 08-98	:	↗	→	↘	:
E	07-98 ⇔ 09-98	:	↗	→	↗	:
F	07-98 ⇔ 09-98	:	→	↘	→	:
IRL	06-98 ⇔ 08-98	:	↗↗	:	:	:
I	07-98 ⇔ 09-98	:	→	→	↗	:
L	07-98 ⇔ 09-98	:	↗	→	→	→
NL	07-98 ⇔ 09-98	:	→	↘	→	↘
A	06-98 ⇔ 08-98	:	→	:	↗	:
P	06-98 ⇔ 08-98	:	↗	→	:	:
FIN	07-98 ⇔ 09-98	:	↗	↘	↗	:
S	07-98 ⇔ 09-98	:	↗	→	↗	:
UK	07-98 ⇔ 09-98	:	→	↘	↘	:
Japan	07-98 ⇔ 09-98	:	↘	→	:	:
USA	07-98 ⇔ 09-98	:	→	↘	:	:

Growth rates:

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

1) EOI runs two months ahead of the period given.

2) Capacity utilisation is fixed on the first month of the quarter of the period given.

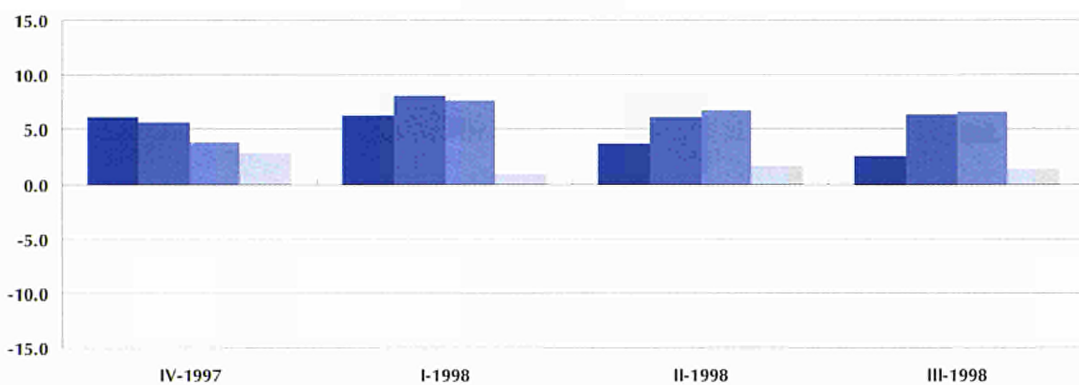
Source:  eurostat

Production index (working day adjusted)

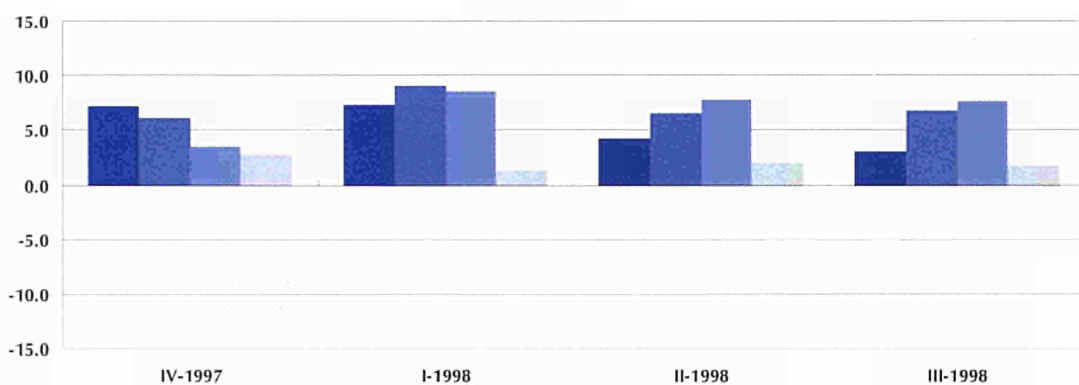
Figure 2.1

Industrial production for the main industrial groupings: growth rate, year on year (%)

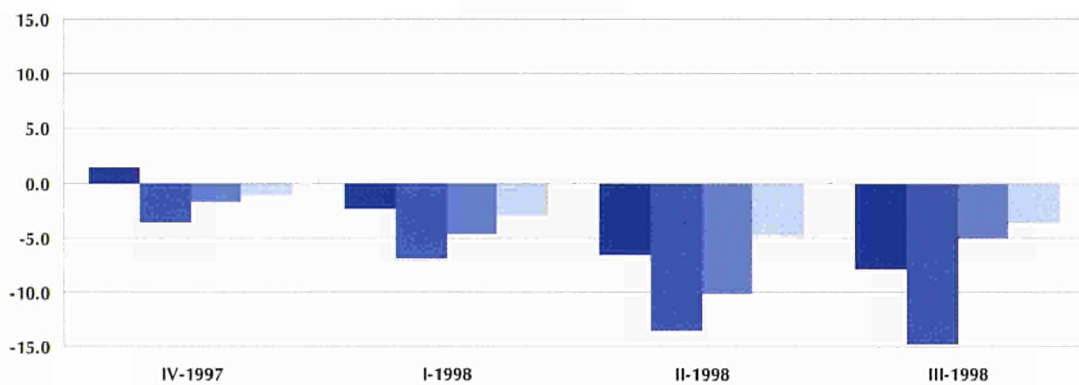
EU-15



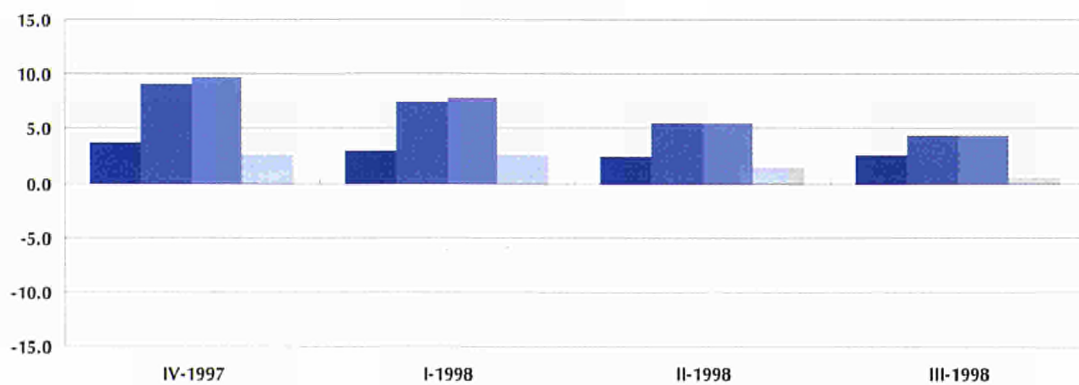
EUR-11



Japan



USA



- Intermediate goods
- Capital goods
- Consumer durables
- Consumer non-durables

Source: eurostat

Table 2.2

Industrial production:
indices
(1995 = 100)

	1995	1996	1997	05-98	06-98	07-98	08-98	09-98	10-98
EU-15	100.0	100.3	104.1	108.1	107.9	108.7	108.0	107.9	:
B	100.0	100.8	105.6	109.2	111.0	111.1	107.4	106.6	:
DK	100.0	101.1	105.5	99.4	108.3	109.2	109.6	107.7	:
D	100.0	100.4	103.8	109.6	108.2	109.6	110.5	109.3	110.1
EL	100.0	101.0	102.7	109.9	112.0	114.4	111.9	:	:
E	100.0	99.0	105.9	112.1	112.5	112.9	115.0	112.4	:
F	100.0	99.9	103.9	109.0	109.4	109.3	109.3	108.3	:
IRL	100.0	108.0	124.5	138.5	141.4	142.2	151.1	:	:
I	100.0	97.2	99.8	101.3	101.1	101.3	101.4	101.1	:
L	100.0	99.6	106.3	108.4	109.9	113.6	108.2	113.9	:
NL	100.0	102.7	104.7	105.6	106.3	107.5	104.5	105.3	:
A	100.0	100.6	106.7	109.8	111.8	110.1	106.8	:	:
P	100.0	101.3	103.9	108.8	107.7	108.7	112.0	:	:
FIN	100.0	103.8	113.2	122.9	118.7	124.8	121.6	122.3	:
S	100.0	103.1	111.2	114.1	117.2	116.2	116.9	116.9	:
UK	100.0	101.2	102.4	102.2	103.4	103.5	103.1	102.4	102.4
Japan	100.0	102.0	105.8	97.0	98.6	97.9	96.7	99.1	:
USA	100.0	103.5	108.6	112.4	111.3	110.9	112.6	112.3	:

Source:  eurostat

Table 2.3

Industrial production
for the main
industrial groupings:
indices
(1995 = 100)

	1995	1996	1997	04-98	05-98	06-98	07-98	08-98	09-98
Total industry									
EU-15	100.0	100.3	104.1	107.4	108.1	107.9	108.7	108.0	107.9
Japan	100.0	102.0	105.8	98.7	97.0	98.6	97.9	96.7	99.1
USA	100.0	103.5	108.6	112.1	112.4	111.3	110.9	112.6	112.3
Intermediate goods									
EU-15	100.1	99.7	104.5	108.1	108.3	108.4	108.6	107.9	107.7
Japan	100.0	100.0	104.5	97.7	97.2	97.8	97.4	96.1	97.4
USA	100.0	102.4	106.3	108.5	109.5	108.9	109.1	109.2	109.0
Capital goods									
EU-15	100.0	101.9	106.0	111.0	112.4	112.6	115.5	114.3	112.1
Japan	100.0	106.4	109.8	96.7	91.9	95.9	93.9	92.9	97.9
USA	100.0	105.2	113.2	118.7	118.8	118.5	117.3	120.5	119.7
Consumer durables									
EU-15	100.0	100.5	102.1	107.8	108.9	108.9	111.2	107.2	109.8
Japan	100.0	102.7	111.0	102.2	102.3	105.8	107.8	102.4	105.9
USA	100.0	106.2	114.8	120.7	121.1	119.0	118.0	122.7	121.9
Consumer non-durables									
EU-15	100.0	99.7	:	102.5	103.2	:	:	:	:
Japan	100.0	100.1	101.0	98.0	96.5	98.1	97.2	97.7	97.2
USA	100.0	100.6	103.5	105.4	105.2	104.3	104.5	103.9	103.7

Source:  eurostat

Production index (trend cycle)

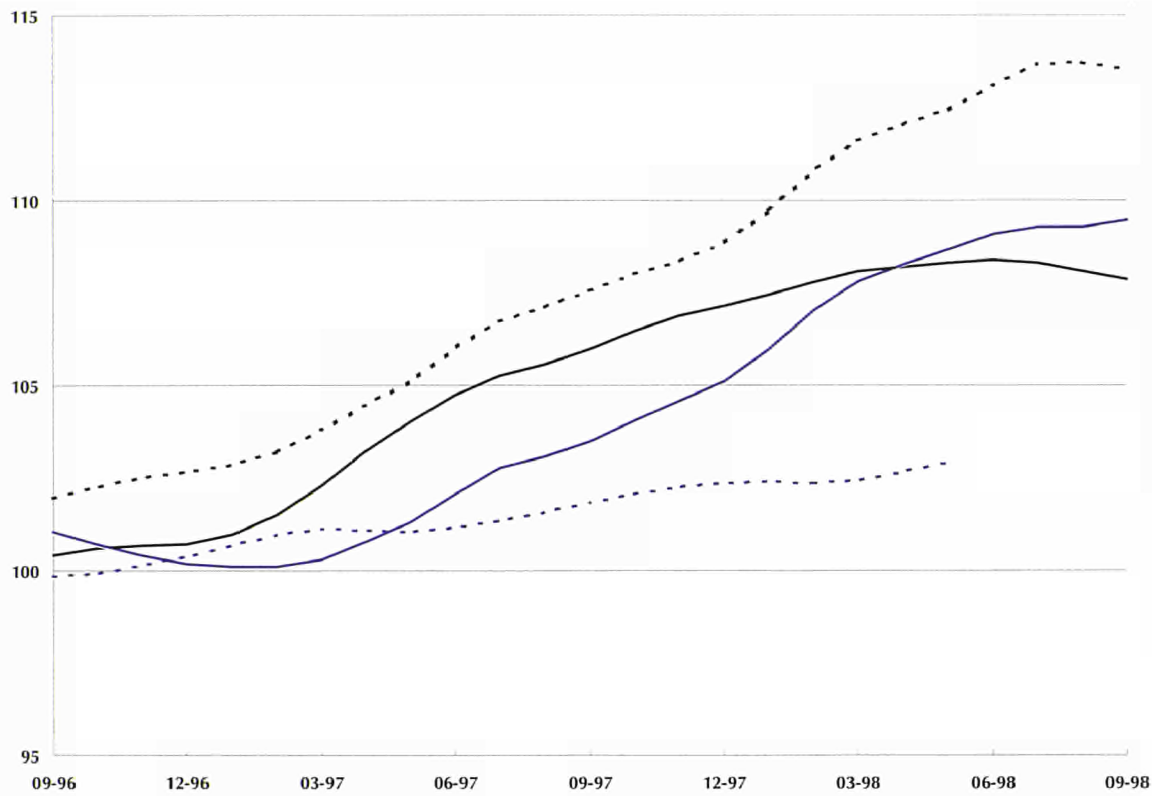


Figure 2.2

EU-15 industrial production for the main industrial groupings: indices (1995 = 100)

- Intermediate goods
- - - Capital goods
- Consumer durables
- - - Consumer non-durables

Source: eurostat

Latest 3 months available Total industry Intermediate goods Capital goods Consumer durables Consumer non-durables

	Latest 3 months available	Total industry	Intermediate goods	Capital goods	Consumer durables	Consumer non-durables
EU-15	07-98 ⇒ 09-98	0.2	-0.2	1.0	0.6	:
B	07-98 ⇒ 09-98	-0.5	-0.3	1.5	-0.4	-0.2
DK	07-98 ⇒ 09-98	0.9	1.0	3.1	2.6	-0.2
D	08-98 ⇒ 10-98	0.7	0.2	1.2	3.3	-0.5
EL	06-98 ⇒ 08-98	2.1	4.1	5.6	-2.0	1.0
E	07-98 ⇒ 09-98	1.5	1.6	1.6	:	:
F	07-98 ⇒ 09-98	-0.2	-0.9	0.6	0.7	1.1
IRL	06-98 ⇒ 08-98	3.7	5.1	4.2	:	:
I	07-98 ⇒ 09-98	0.2	0.1	-0.8	1.2	0.3
L	07-98 ⇒ 09-98	1.3	1.0	3.0	1.3	0.7
NL	07-98 ⇒ 09-98	0.1	0.5	-1.0	0.8	0.4
A	06-98 ⇒ 08-98	0.1	:	0.4	0.8	0.2
P	06-98 ⇒ 08-98	1.1	1.4	3.5	-1.1	-0.4
FIN	07-98 ⇒ 09-98	1.2	-0.1	5.5	-0.5	0.2
S	07-98 ⇒ 09-98	1.0	-0.4	2.9	3.9	0.7
UK	07-98 ⇒ 09-98	-0.2	-0.6	0.7	-0.2	0.1
Japan	07-98 ⇒ 09-98	-1.2	-1.5	-2.3	1.0	-0.6
USA	07-98 ⇒ 09-98	0.4	0.4	0.9	1.0	-0.5

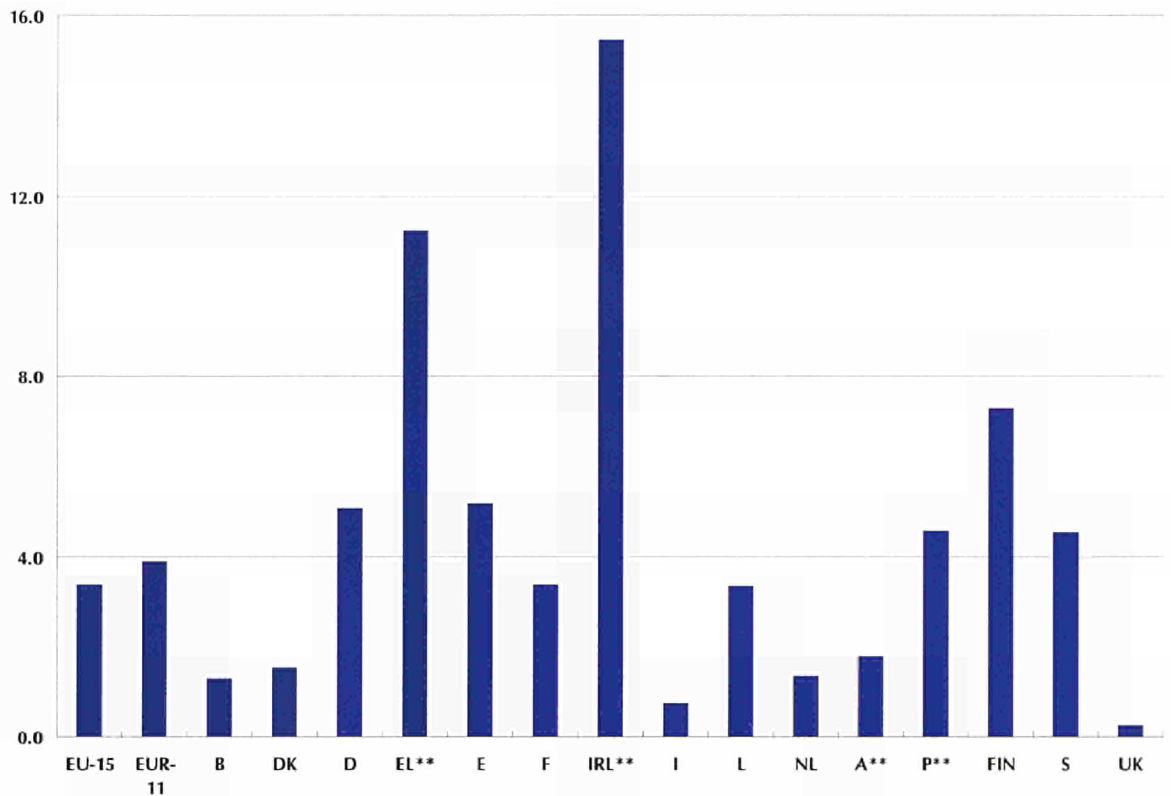
Table 2.4

Industrial production for the main industrial groupings: growth rate, three months compared to the previous three months (%)

Source: eurostat

Figure 2.3

Industrial production for total industry: growth rate, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year, 07-98 to 09-98 (%)



Source: eurostat

Table 2.5

Industrial production for the main industrial groupings: growth rate, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year (%)

	Latest 3 months available		Total industry	Intermediate goods	Capital goods	Consumer durables	Consumer non-durables
EU-15	07-98	⇄ 09-98	3.4	2.6	6.4	6.7	1.5
B	07-98	⇄ 09-98	1.3	1.0	8.6	-7.7	-2.1
DK	08-98	⇄ 10-98	1.5	-0.4	4.2	8.1	0.3
D	08-98	⇄ 10-98	4.6	3.4	7.4	14.3	-1.0
EL	06-98	⇄ 08-98	10.4	11.7	17.3	-5.5	7.4
E	07-98	⇄ 09-98	5.2	4.4	5.4	8.1	5.9
F	07-98	⇄ 09-98	3.4	0.9	6.1	10.5	5.0
IRL	06-98	⇄ 08-98	14.4	17.0	20.1	:	:
I	07-98	⇄ 09-98	0.7	0.8	1.1	-0.2	1.1
L	07-98	⇄ 09-98	3.3	0.4	16.6	-15.1	2.0
NL	08-98	⇄ 10-98	0.9	-0.2	2.2	1.3	2.0
A	06-98	⇄ 08-98	4.0	:	8.7	15.0	2.5
P	06-98	⇄ 08-98	3.9	5.7	10.3	2.6	-2.8
FIN	07-98	⇄ 09-98	7.3	4.2	21.9	-1.2	0.8
S	07-98	⇄ 09-98	4.6	1.3	8.8	14.7	0.4
UK	07-98	⇄ 09-98	0.2	-0.7	3.1	-2.5	0.5
Japan	07-98	⇄ 09-98	-8.2	-7.9	-14.7	-5.0	-3.6
USA	07-98	⇄ 09-98	2.6	2.6	4.4	4.4	0.5

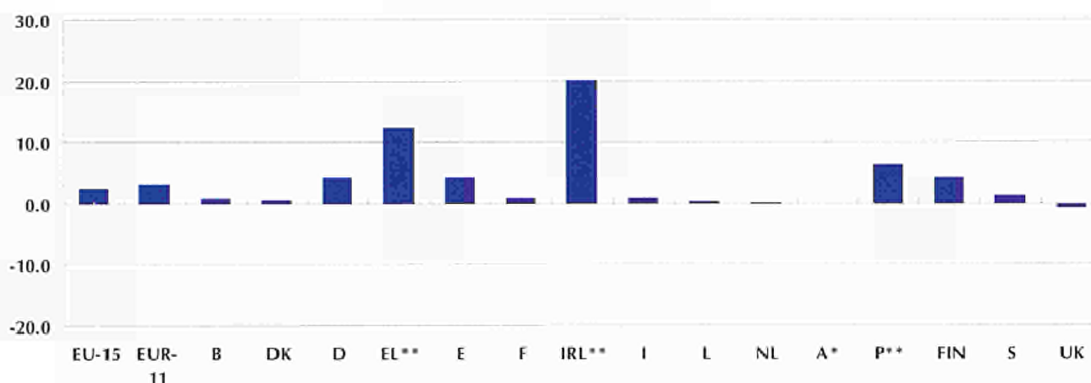
Source: eurostat

Production index (working day adjusted)

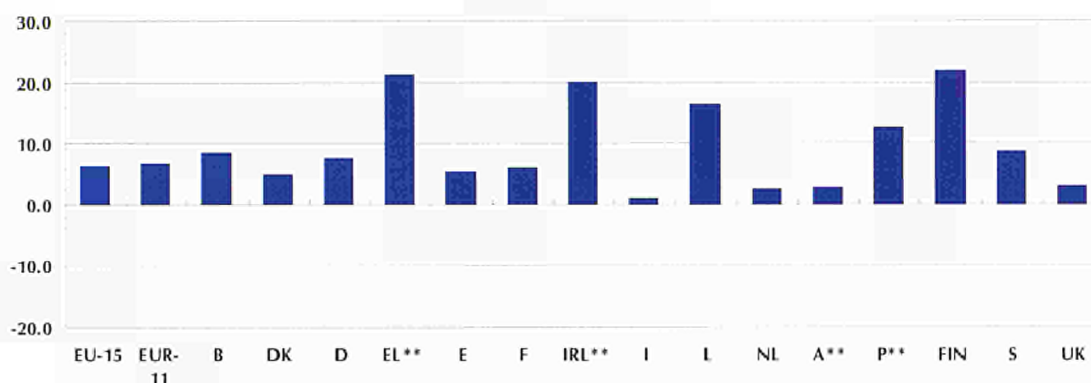
Figure 2.4

Industrial production for the main industrial groupings: growth rate, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year, 07-98 to 09-98 (%)

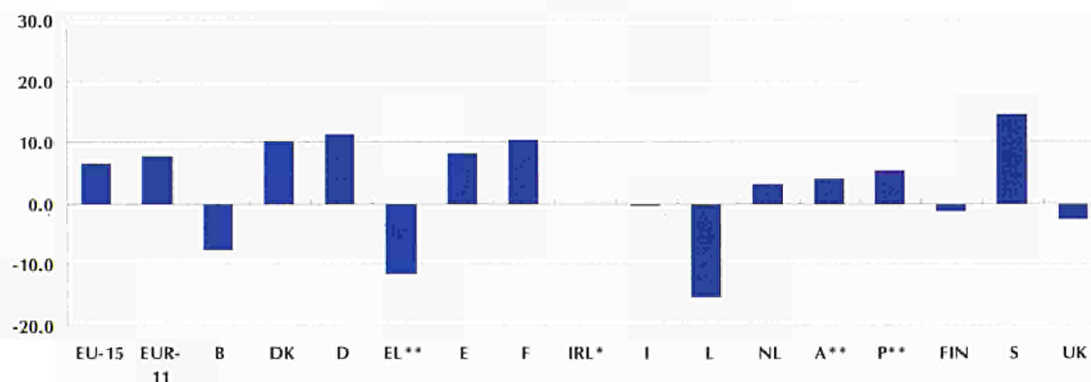
Intermediate goods



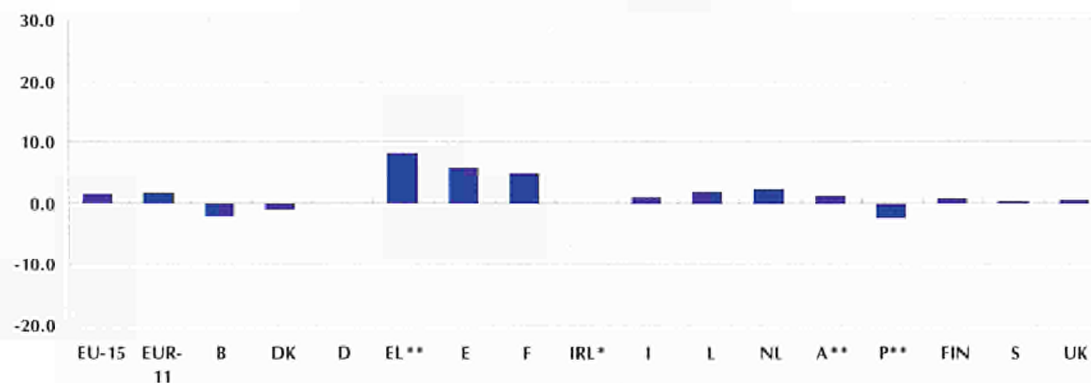
Capital goods



Consumer durables goods



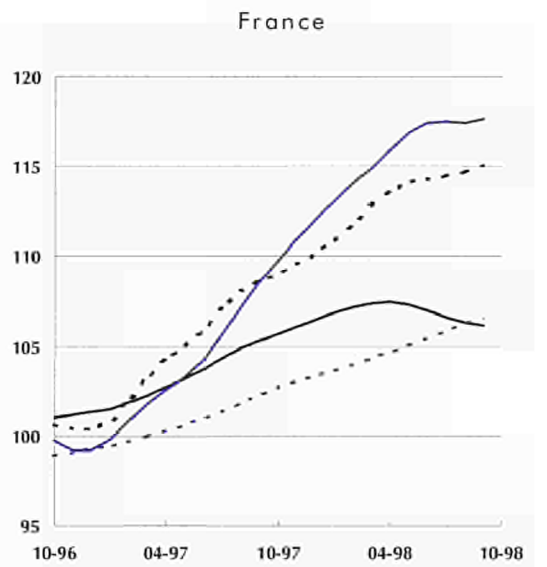
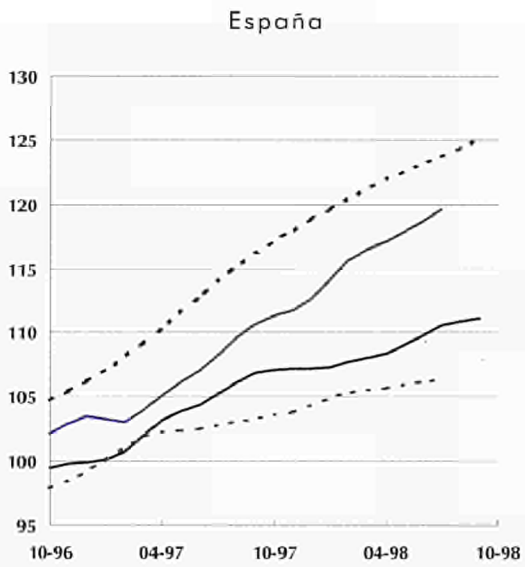
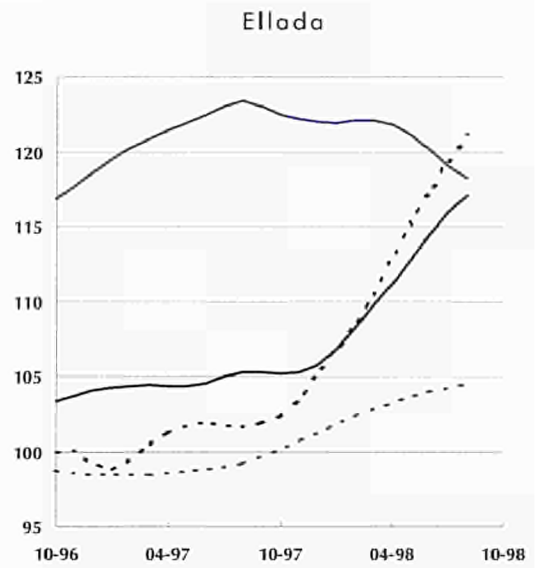
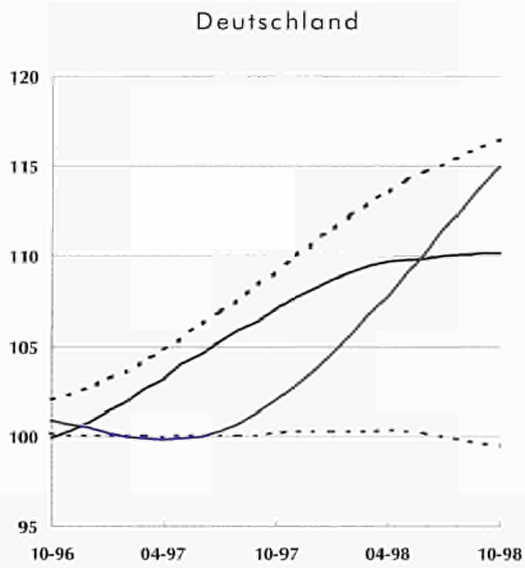
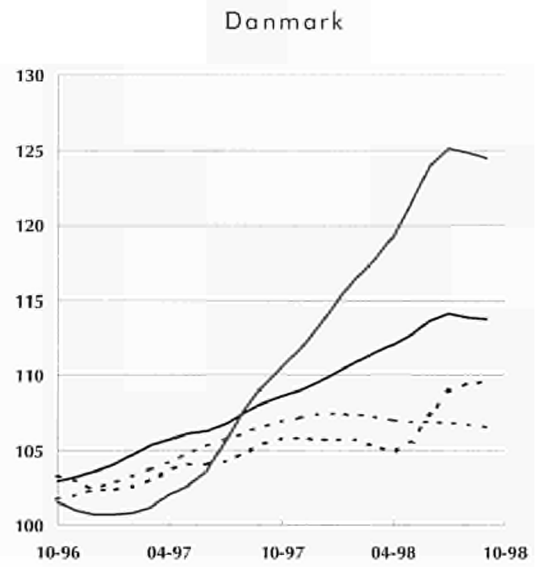
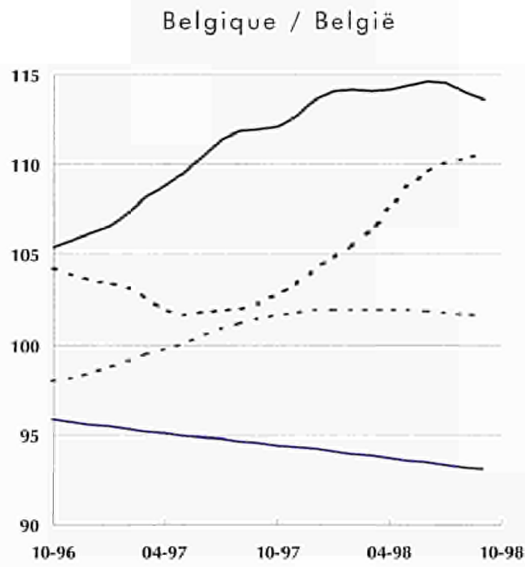
Consumer non-durables goods



Source: eurostat

Figure 2.5

Industrial production for the main industrial groupings: indices (1995 = 100)



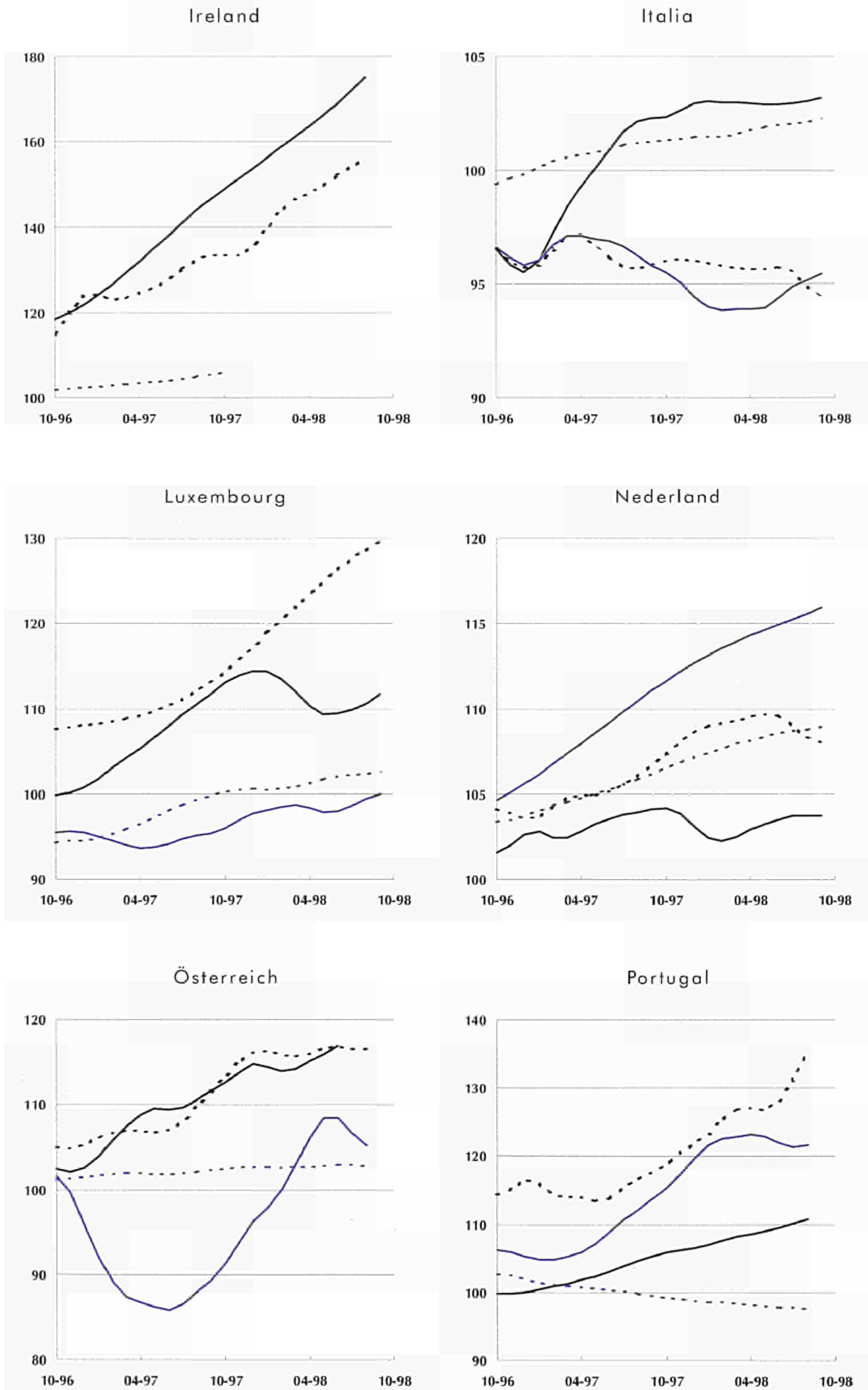
- Intermediate goods ———
- Capital goods - - - - -
- Consumer durables ———
- Consumer non-durables - - - - -

Source: eurostat

Production index (trend cycle)

Figure 2.5

Industrial production for the main industrial groupings: indices (1995 = 100)

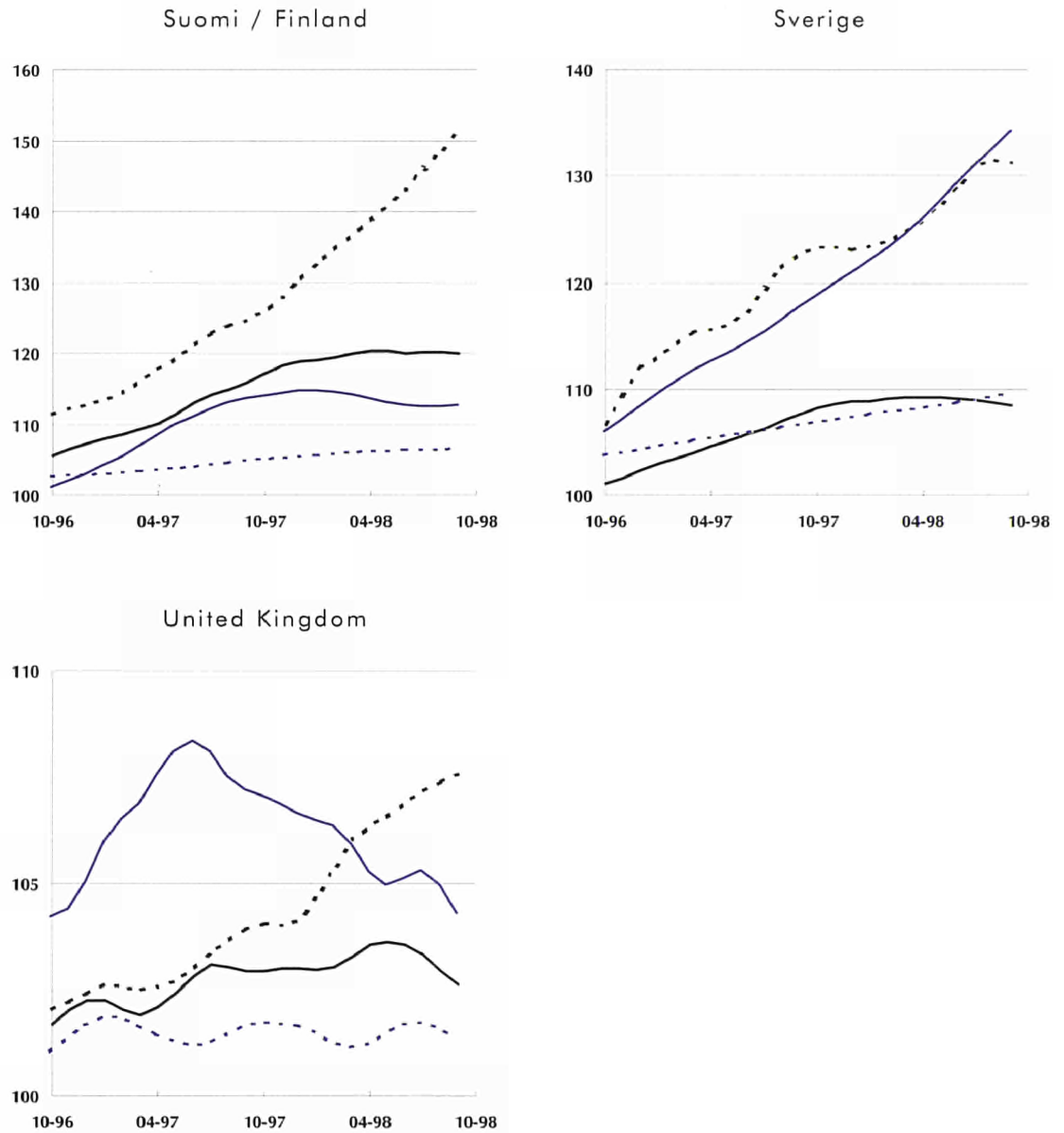


— Intermediate goods
 - - - Capital goods
 — Consumer durables
 - - - Consumer non-durables

Source: eurostat

Figure 2.5

Industrial production for the main industrial groupings: indices (1995 = 100)



- Intermediate goods ———
- Capital goods - - - - -
- Consumer durables ———
- Consumer non-durables - - - - -

Further information - production index:

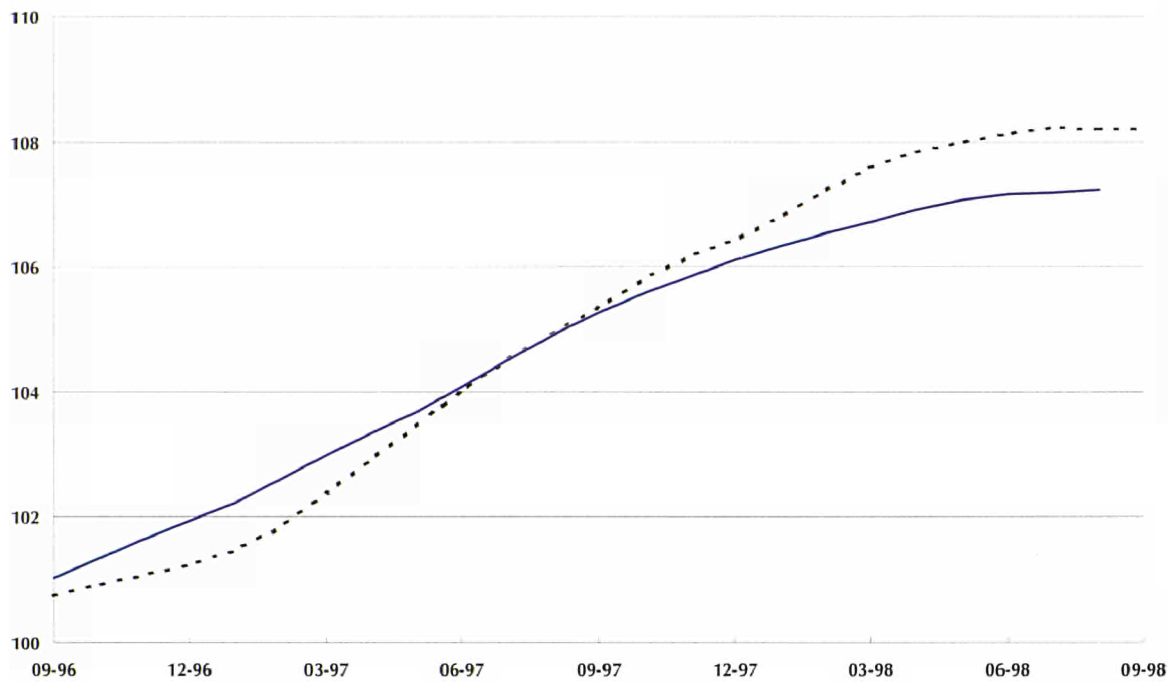
The index of production aims to measure changes in volume (at constant prices) of gross value added created by a given activity, the activity indices being aggregated (like the aggregation at Community level) by means of a system of weighting according to gross value added at factor cost. Since the monthly 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 EU-15 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 111.

Source: eurostat

Production index (expected output index)

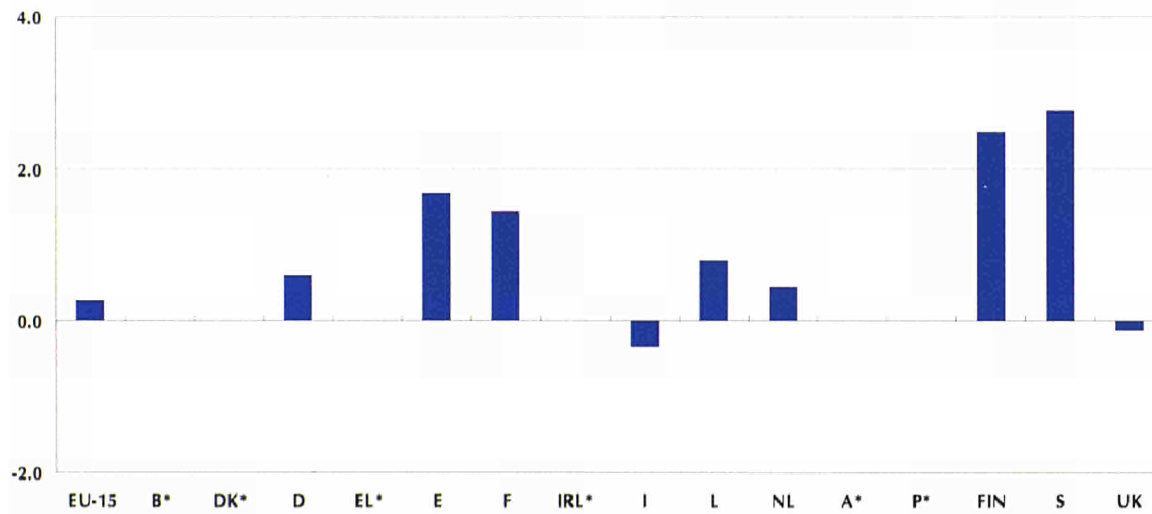
Figure 2.6



EU-15 expected output index for total industry: indices (1995 = 100)

----- Production index
 ——— Expected output index

Expected output index for total industry, three months compared to the previous three months, 06-98 to 08-98 (%)



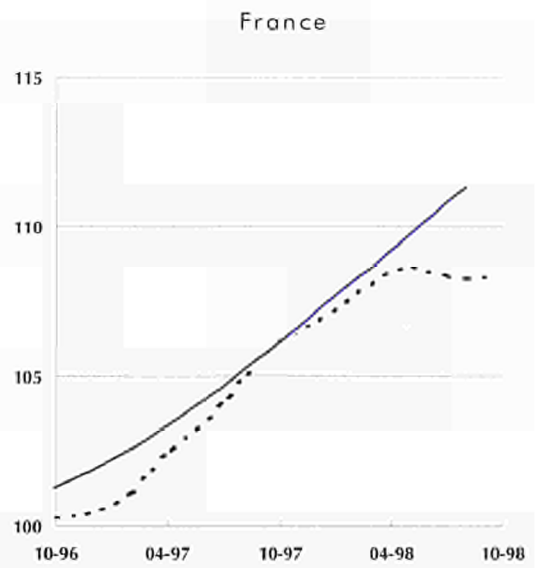
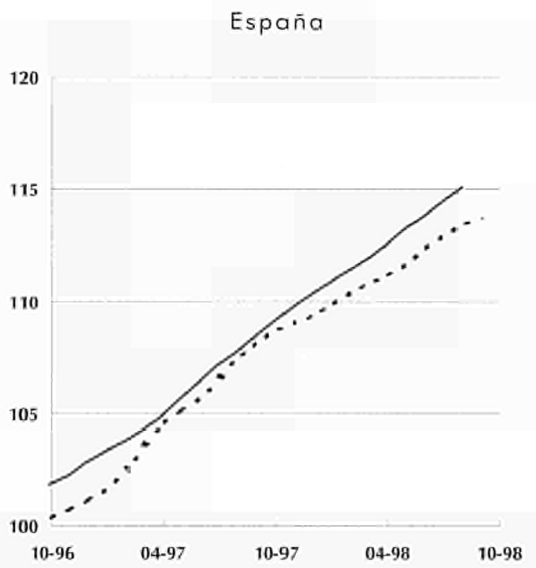
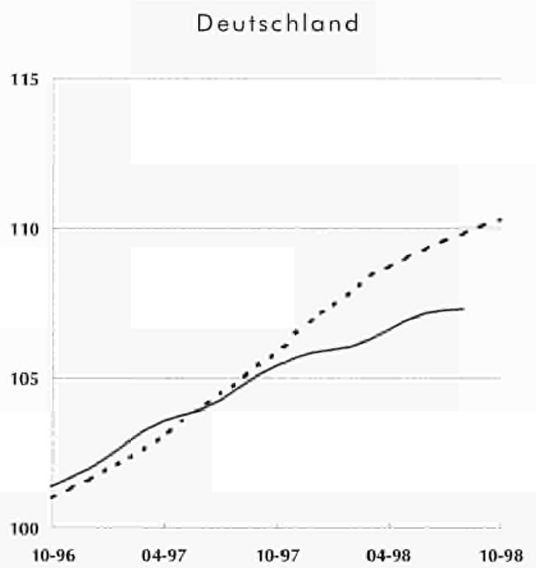
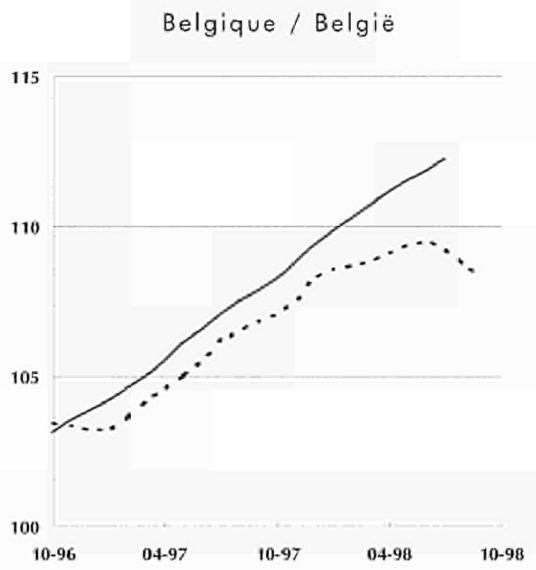
Source: eurostat

Further information - expected output index:

The Expected Output Index (EOI) links several aspects of information from qualitative business opinion surveys (questions on order books and questions on production expectations) with the index of industrial production. As the data from the business opinion surveys are available earlier and lead the evolution of industrial production, they can be used to compute a short-term estimate of the production index. A multiple regression is run, using the growth rate of the industrial production lagged with values of the business opinion survey data. The result of this regression is "integrated" from a growth rate to an evolution, and after that the trend cycle is calculated for a clearer interpretation of the results. Details of the estimation method can be found in a more thorough article that was published in Special Edition 5/97 of the Monthly Panorama of the European Industry. Full methodological notes may be found on page 111.

Figure 2.7

Expected output index for total industry: indices (1995 = 100)



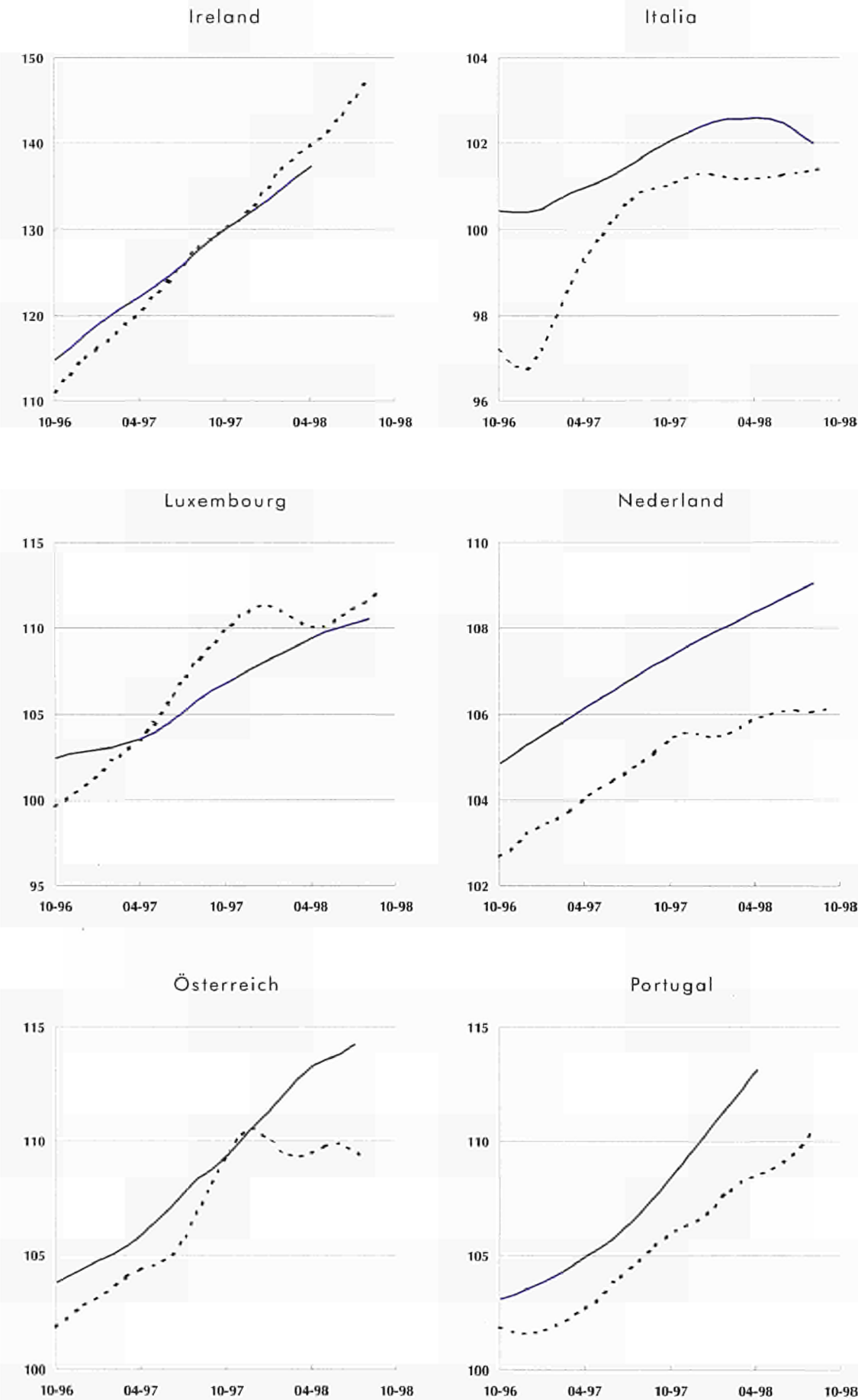
Production index - - - -
Expected output index —

Source: eurostat

Production index (expected output index)

Figure 2.7

Expected output index
for total industry:
indices
(1995 = 100)



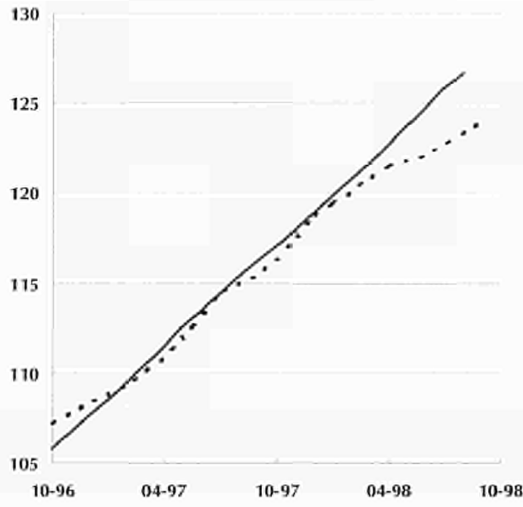
----- Production index
————— Expected output index

Source:  eurostat

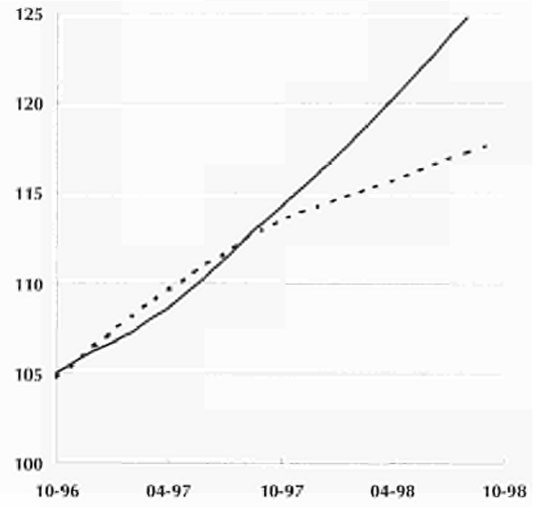
Figure 2.7

Expected output index
for total industry:
indices
(1995 = 100)

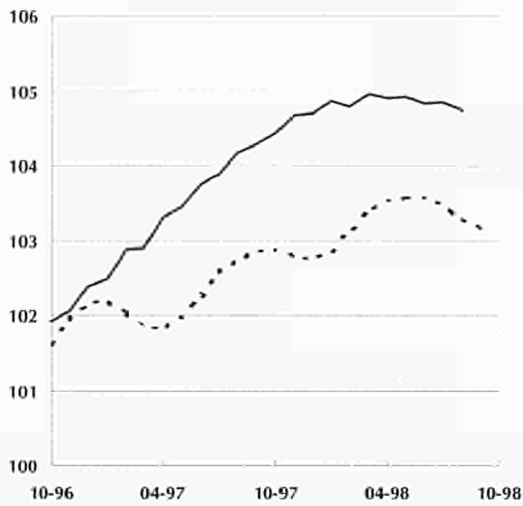
Suomi / Finland



Sverige



United Kingdom



Production index - - - - -

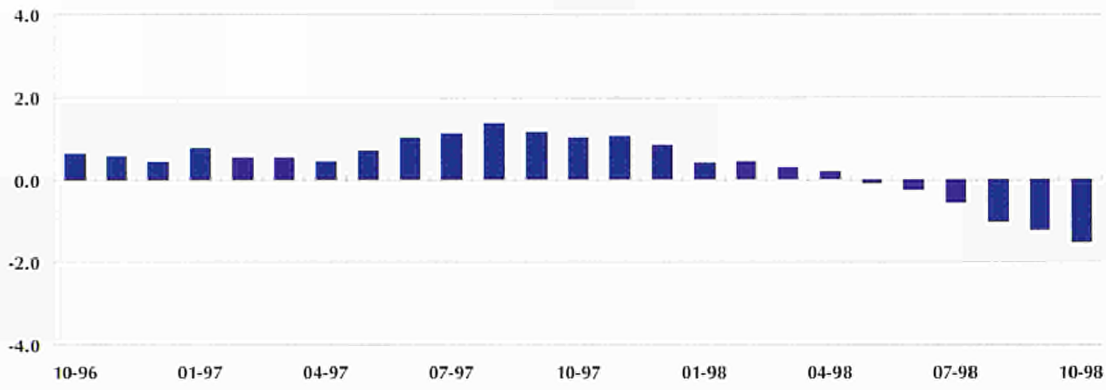
Expected output index ———

Domestic producer price index

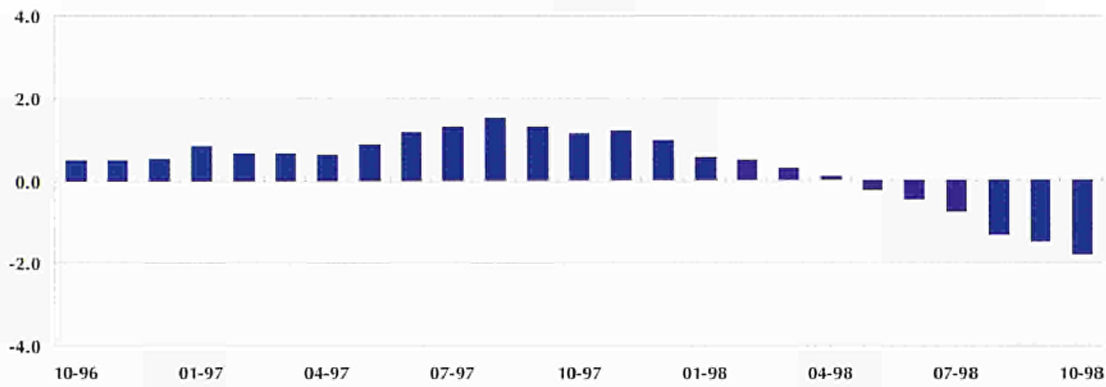
Figure 2.8

Domestic producer price index: growth rate, year on year (%)

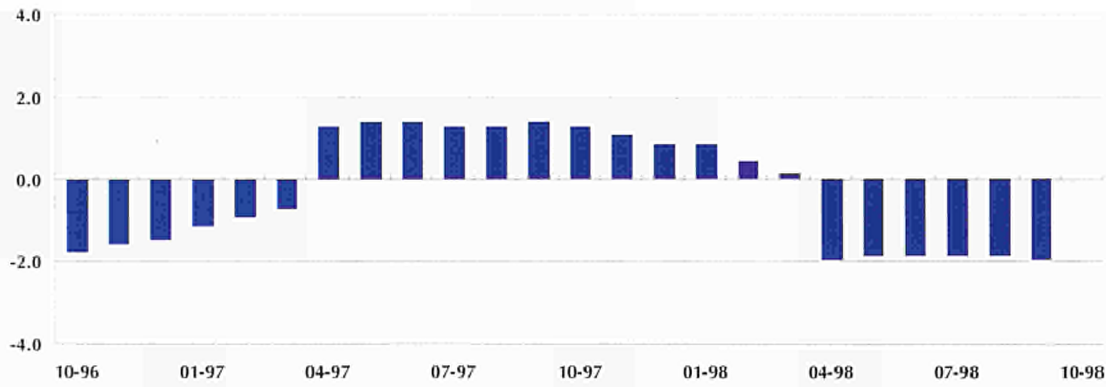
EU-15



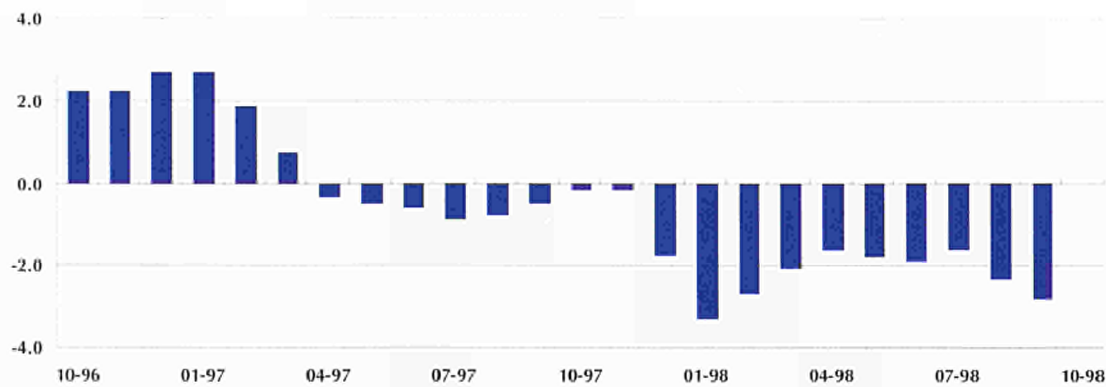
EUR-11



Japan



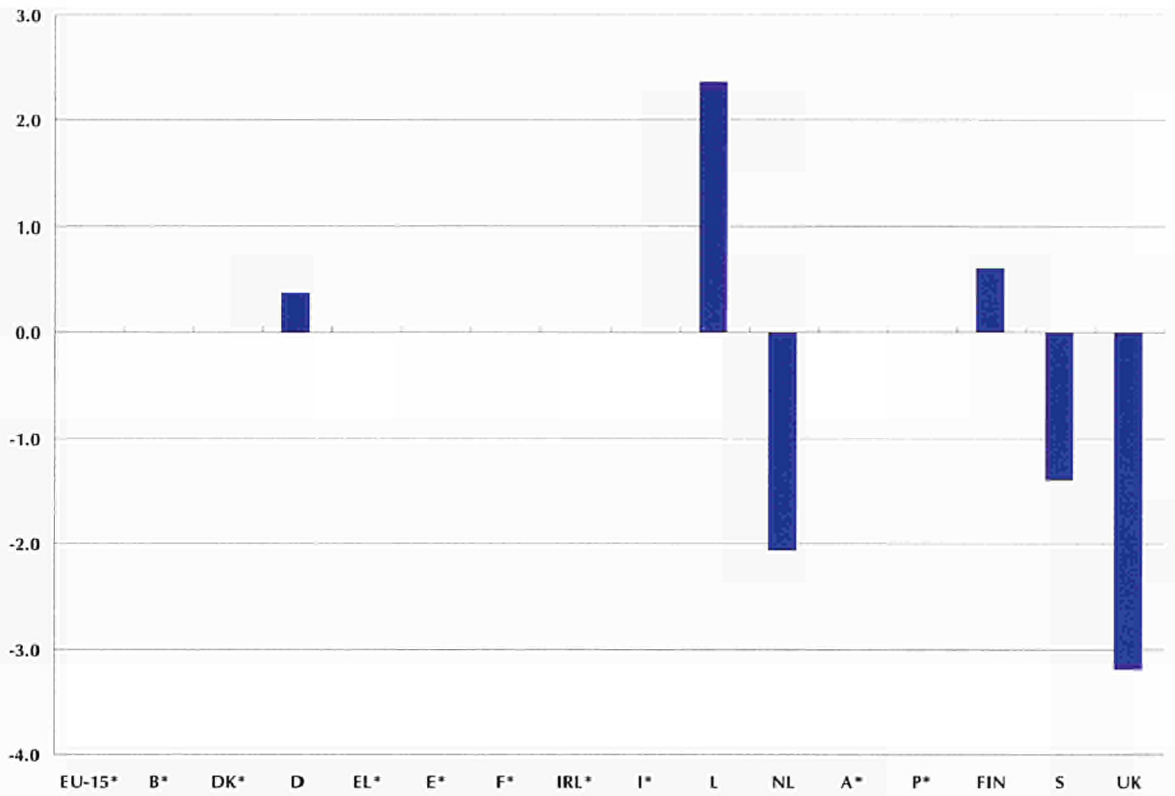
USA



Source: eurostat

Figure 2.9

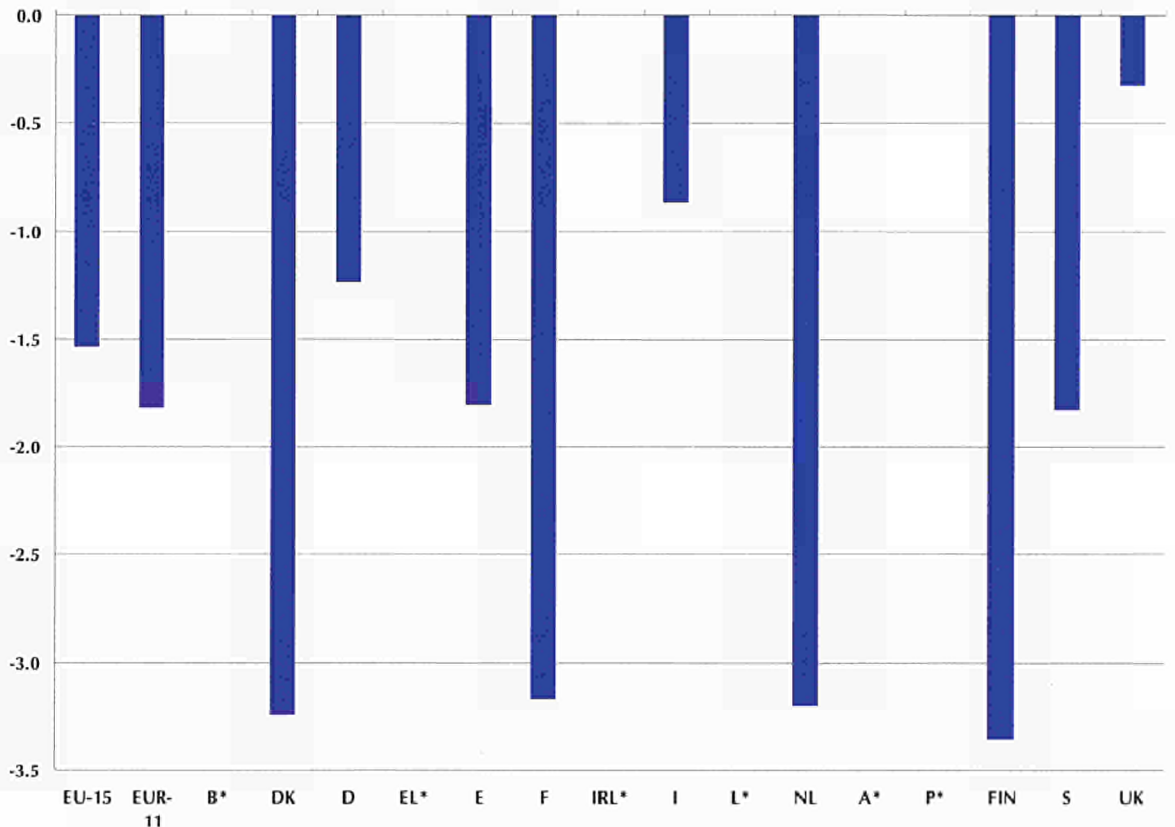
Export prices for manufacturing industry: growth rate, year on year, 06-98 (%)



Source: eurostat

Figure 2.10

Domestic producer price index: growth rate, year on year, 10-98 (%)



Source: eurostat

Domestic producer price index

Table 2.6

	1995	1996	1997	05-98	06-98	07-98	08-98	09-98	10-98
EU-15	100.0	100.7	101.6	101.3	101.0	100.8	100.6	100.5	100.3
B	100.0	100.6	102.3	102.3	101.8	:	:	:	:
DK	100.0	101.6	103.7	103.3	102.9	102.4	102.1	102.2	101.0
D	100.0	99.6	100.7	100.7	100.6	100.4	100.2	100.1	99.7
EL	100.0	107.4	111.0	114.9	114.8	114.5	114.4	115.0	:
E	100.0	101.7	102.7	102.4	102.2	102.1	102.0	101.6	101.4
F	100.0	100.5	100.7	99.2	98.7	98.4	98.0	97.9	97.7
IRL	100.0	101.8	101.9	:	:	:	:	:	:
I	100.0	101.9	103.2	103.6	103.5	103.4	103.1	103.0	102.8
L	100.0	99.6	101.4	103.6	103.8	103.8	103.6	103.3	:
NL	100.0	101.8	104.5	103.8	103.5	102.7	102.4	102.4	101.8
A	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
P	100.0	103.8	106.1	103.1	102.8	102.8	102.1	101.8	:
FIN	100.0	99.1	100.4	99.8	99.5	99.4	99.0	98.6	97.8
S	100.0	100.6	101.7	101.8	101.8	101.7	101.2	100.9	100.5
UK	100.0	100.6	100.3	100.0	99.9	99.5	99.5	99.4	99.6
Japan	100.0	98.2	98.9	97.7	97.6	97.5	97.4	97.2	:
USA	100.0	102.4	102.3	100.3	100.0	100.0	99.6	99.3	:

Domestic producer
price index:
indices
(1995 = 100)

Source:  eurostat

Table 2.7

	1995	1996	1997	05-98	06-98	07-98	08-98	09-98	10-98
EU-15	100.0	102.2	104.7	104.4	104.3	104.0	103.7	103.4	103.0
B	100.0	98.7	97.3	97.1	96.4	:	:	:	:
DK	100.0	101.1	101.5	100.9	100.3	99.8	99.7	100.1	99.5
D	100.0	97.7	96.0	95.9	95.5	95.3	95.3	95.5	95.5
EL	100.0	106.6	108.8	102.3	103.9	105.6	104.6	103.1	:
E	100.0	103.1	100.9	99.8	99.4	99.4	99.4	99.3	99.4
F	100.0	100.9	99.4	98.0	97.3	97.0	96.8	97.0	97.2
IRL	100.0	104.7	111.2	:	:	:	:	:	:
I	100.0	110.8	113.9	113.6	113.3	113.2	112.9	113.0	113.1
L	100.0	97.7	96.5	98.3	98.3	98.3	98.3	98.3	:
NL	100.0	99.9	99.2	98.2	97.7	96.9	96.7	97.0	96.8
A	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
P	100.0	104.0	104.8	100.3	99.8	99.9	99.3	99.2	:
FIN	100.0	97.1	97.4	95.2	94.7	94.6	94.3	94.1	93.8
S	100.0	110.1	109.5	111.1	108.9	108.1	105.3	103.1	100.0
UK	100.0	102.5	120.1	122.3	124.1	123.5	122.2	119.9	117.2
Japan	100.0	87.1	88.5	79.9	77.4	77.3	74.8	76.6	:
USA	100.0	105.5	118.0	118.3	118.8	119.2	118.2	112.5	:

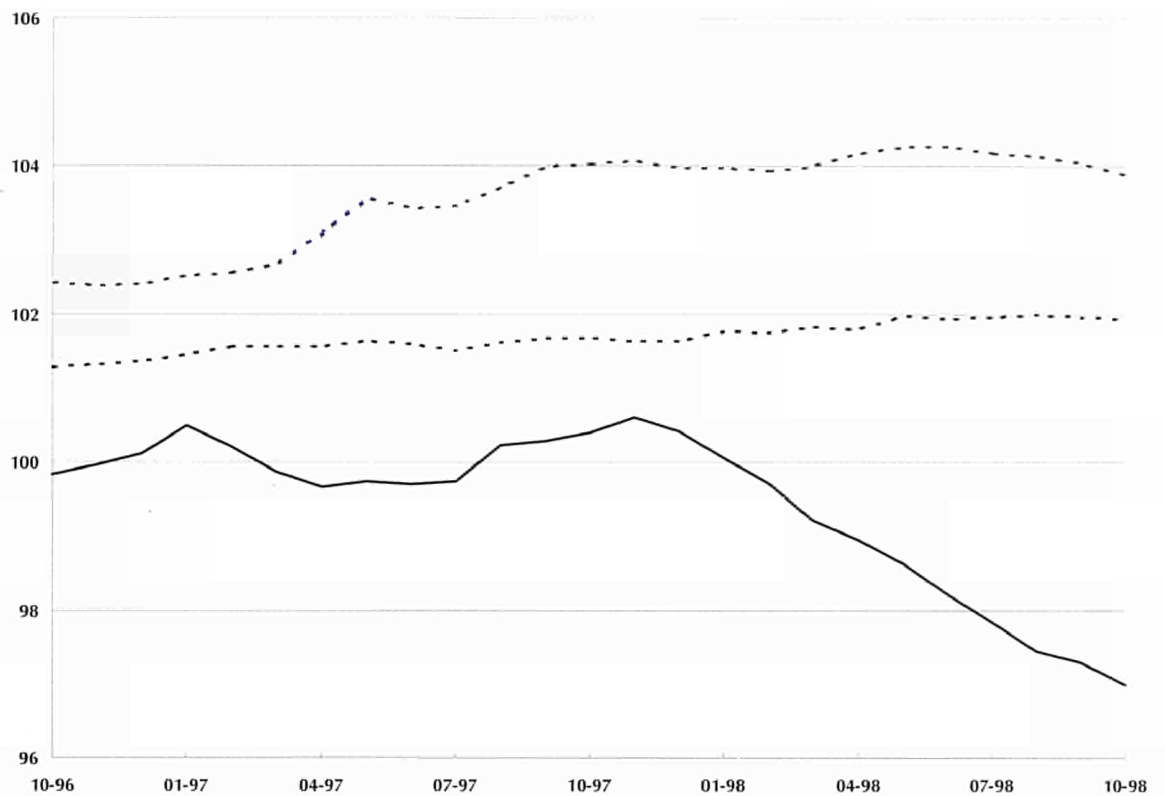
Domestic producer
price index
in ECU terms:
indices
(1995 = 100)

Source:  eurostat

Figure 2.11

EU-15 domestic producer price index for the main industrial groupings: indices (1995 = 100)

Intermediate goods —
Capital goods - - - -
Consumer durables —
Consumer non-durables - - - -



Source: eurostat

Table 2.8

1995 1996 1997 05-98 06-98 07-98 08-98 09-98 10-98

Domestic producer price index for the main industrial groupings: indices (1995 = 100)

	1995	1996	1997	05-98	06-98	07-98	08-98	09-98	10-98
Total industry									
EU-15	100.0	100.7	101.6	101.3	101.0	100.8	100.6	100.5	100.3
Japan	100.0	98.2	98.9	97.7	97.6	97.5	97.4	97.2	:
USA	100.0	102.4	102.3	100.3	100.0	100.0	99.6	99.3	:
Intermediate goods									
EU-15	100.0	99.5	100.1	98.6	98.2	97.8	97.4	97.3	97.0
Japan	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
USA	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Capital goods									
EU-15	100.0	101.4	101.6	102.0	101.9	102.0	102.0	102.0	101.9
Japan	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
USA	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Consumer durables									
EU-15	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Japan	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
USA	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Consumer non-durables									
EU-15	100.0	102.1	103.4	104.3	104.3	104.2	104.1	104.0	103.9
Japan	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
USA	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Source: eurostat

Domestic producer price index

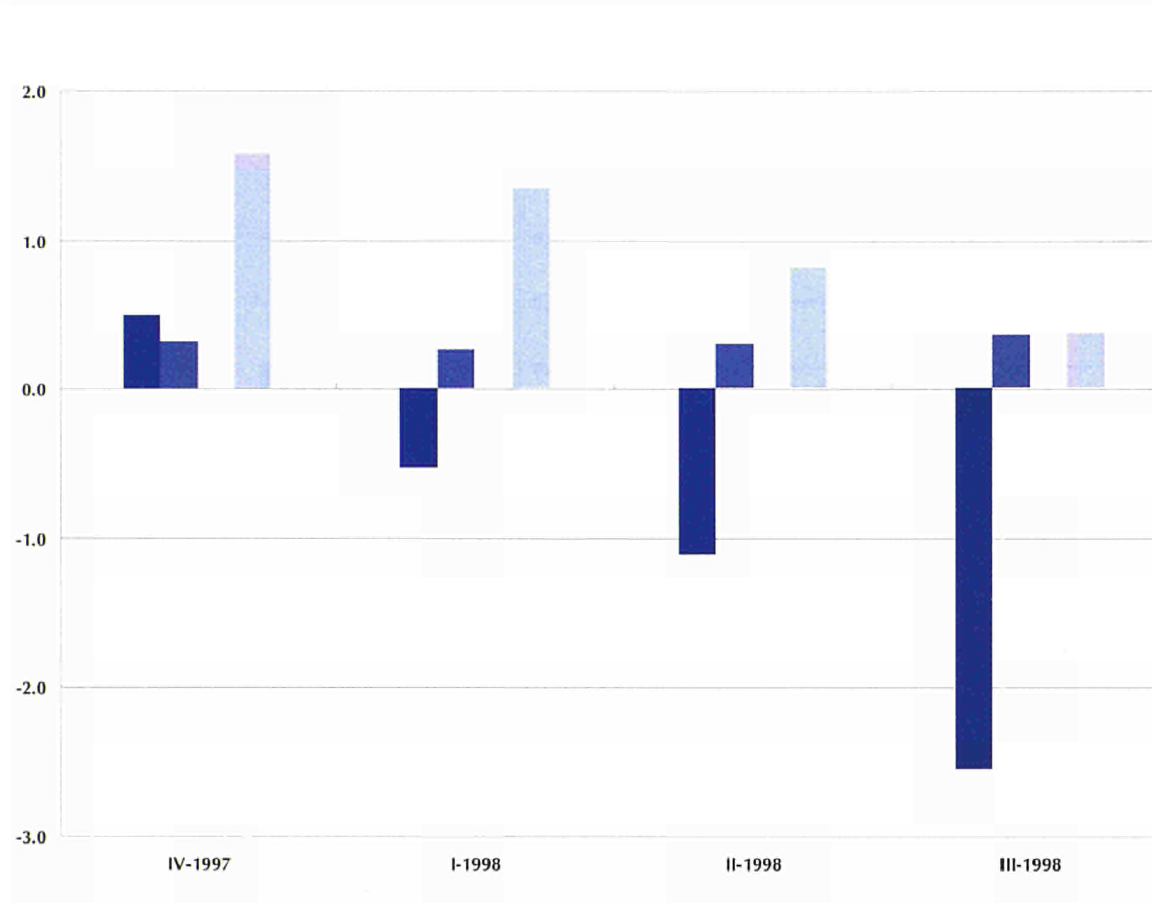


Figure 2.12

EU-15 domestic producer price index for the main industrial groupings: growth rate, year on year (%)

- Intermediate goods
- Capital goods
- Consumer durables
- Consumer non-durables

Source: eurostat

	Latest month available	Total industry	Intermediate goods	Capital goods	Consumer durables	Consumer non-durables
EU-15	10-98	-1.5	-3.4	0.3	:	-0.1
B	06-98	-0.1	0.8	0.1	:	2.6
DK	10-98	-3.2	-2.0	0.9	2.1	-6.9
D	10-98	-1.2	-2.9	0.7	0.4	-0.1
EL	09-98	2.8	1.1	8.9	4.3	3.7
E	10-98	-1.8	-4.3	0.3	1.4	-0.4
F	10-98	-3.2	-4.8	-1.8	-1.7	-1.4
IRL	01-98	0.0	:	:	:	0.5
I	10-98	-0.9	-3.1	1.9	:	1.1
L	09-98	0.7	-1.2	3.0	-3.1	-1.9
NL	10-98	-3.2	-3.7	1.5	1.4	-3.4
A		:	:	:	:	:
P	09-98	-5.6	-7.9	:	1.5	-0.1
FIN	10-98	-3.4	:	-0.9	3.0	-1.3
S	10-98	-1.8	-7.9	1.6	1.5	-1.0
UK	10-98	-0.3	-3.6	-0.9	0.6	0.8
Japan	09-98	-2.0	:	:	:	:
USA	09-98	-2.8	:	:	:	:

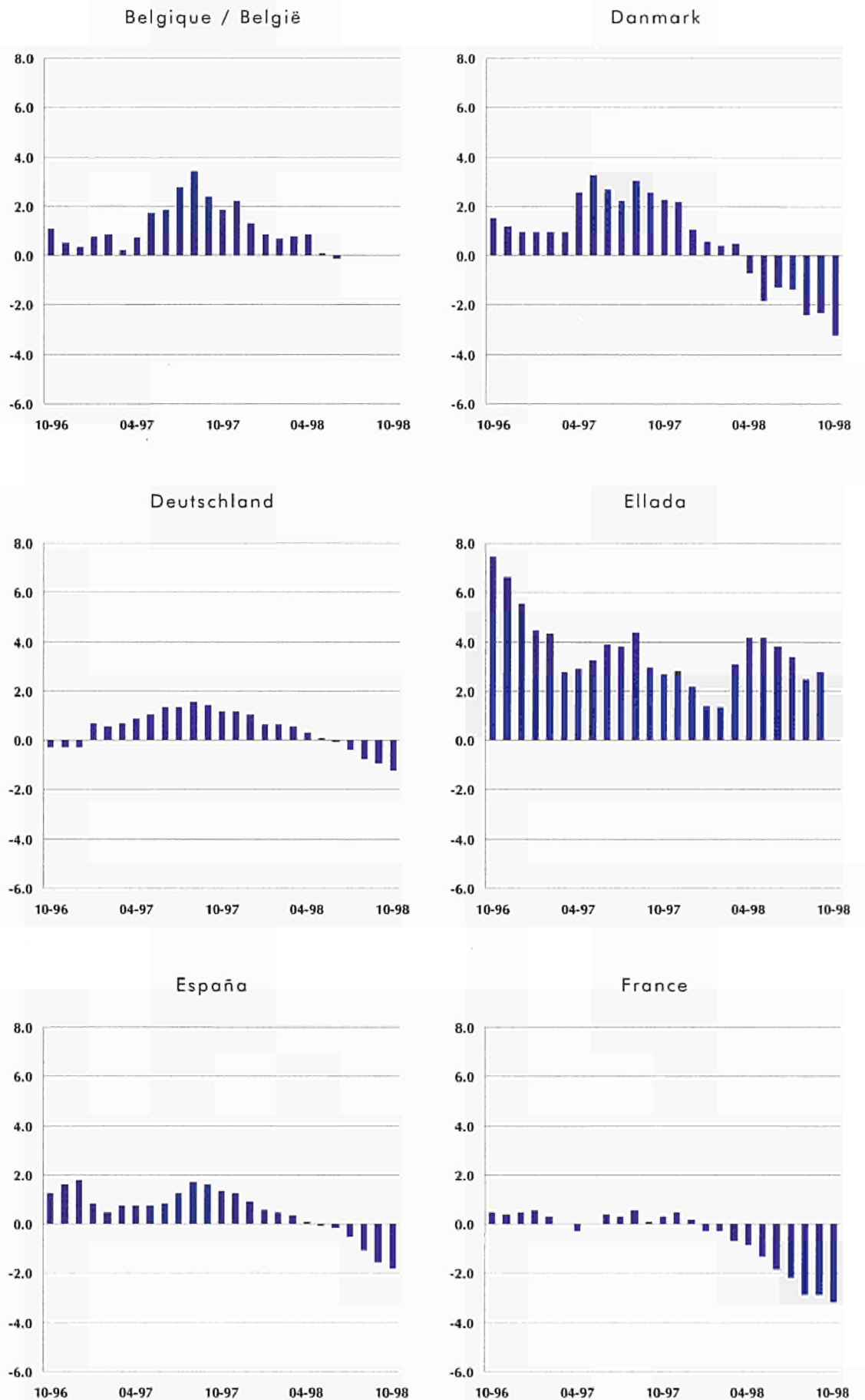
Table 2.9

Domestic producer price index for the main industrial groupings: growth rate, year on year (%)

Source: eurostat

Figure 2.13

Domestic producer price index: growth rate, year on year (%)

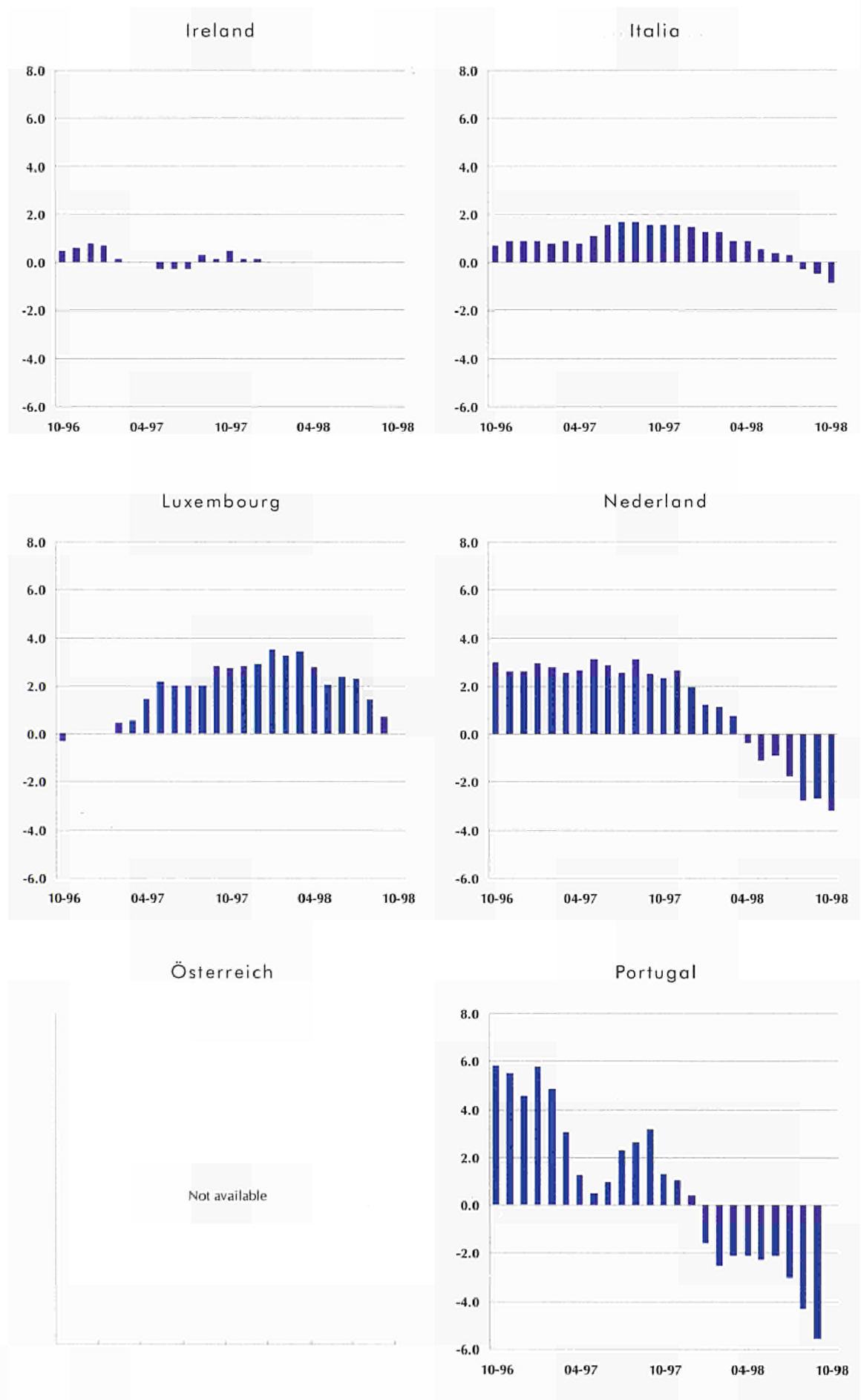


Source: eurostat

Domestic producer price index

Figure 2.13

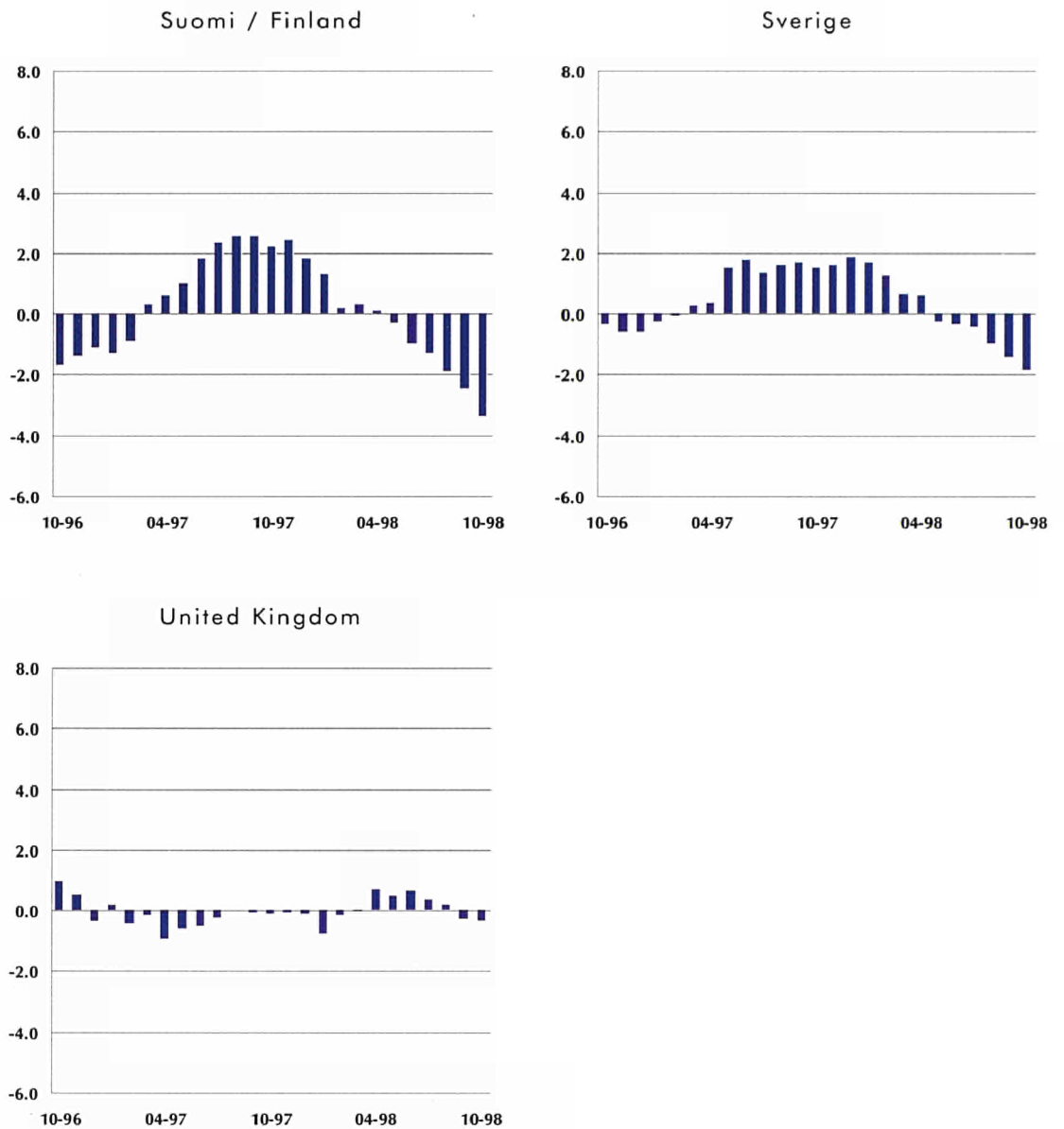
Domestic producer price index: growth rate, year on year (%)



Source: eurostat

Figure 2.13

Domestic producer price index: growth rate, year on year (%)



Further information - price indices:

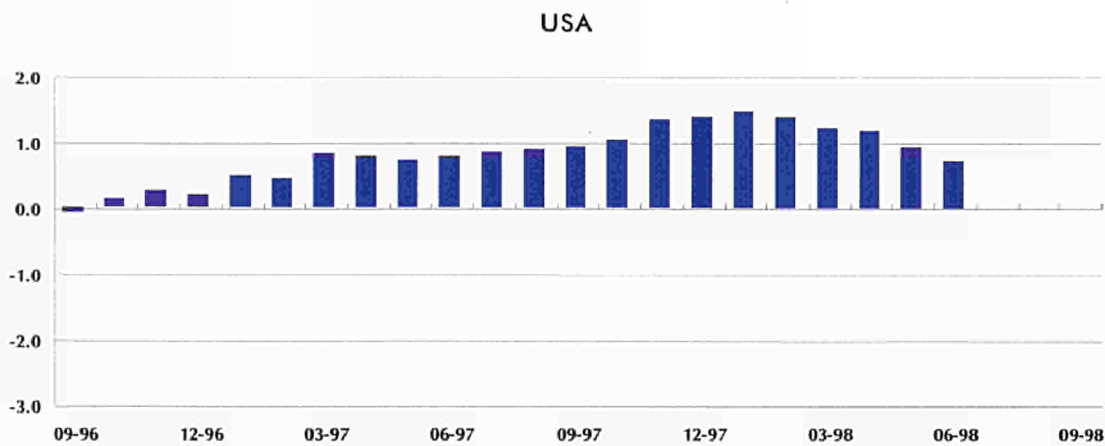
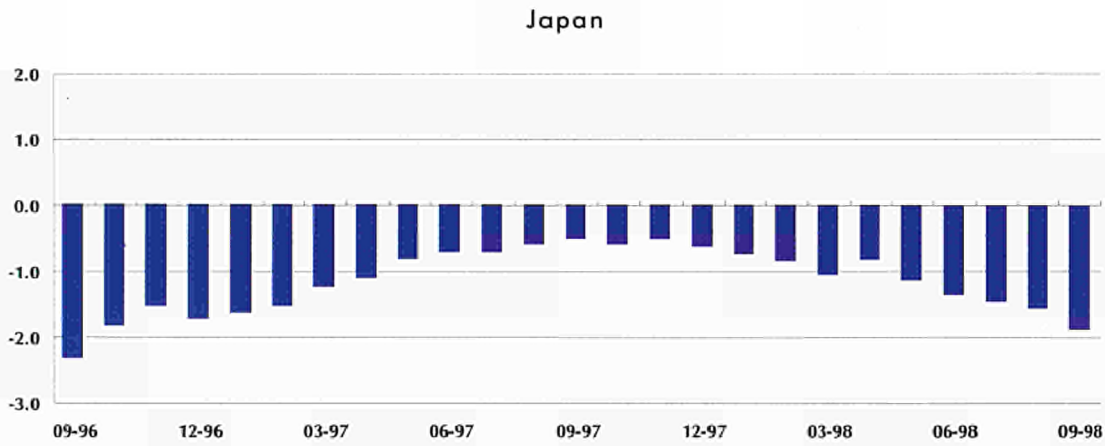
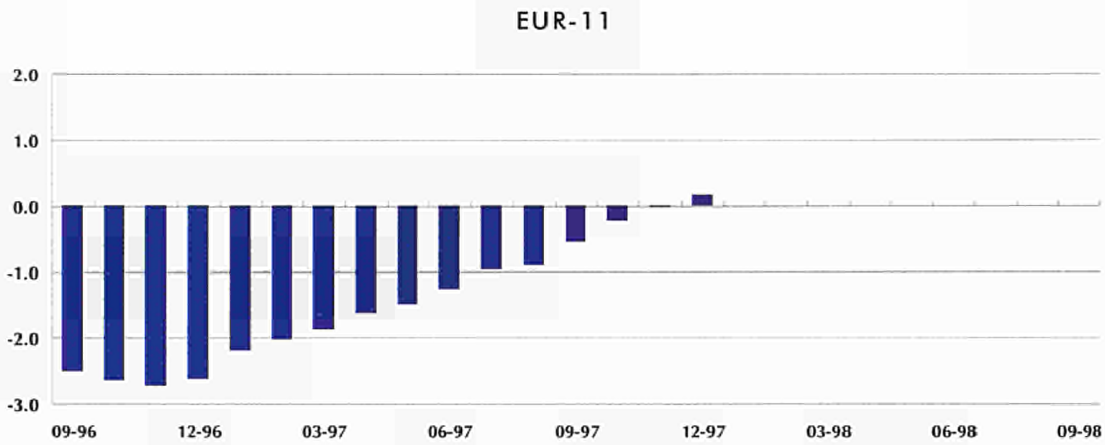
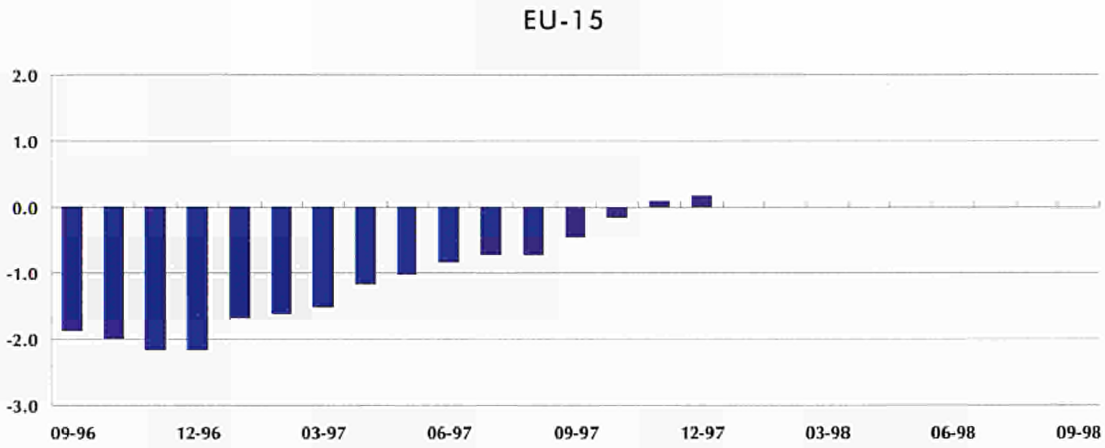
The index of domestic producer prices shows (in the national currency of the Member State in question) changes in the ex-works selling prices of all products sold on the domestic market. Since we deal with producer prices, imports are not included in these price indices. The Community indices (EU-14, 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 111.

Employment index

Figure 2.14

Employment index:
growth rate,
year on year
(%)



Source: eurostat

Figure 2.15

EU-15 employment index for the main industrial groupings: indices (1995 = 100)

Intermediate goods ———
 Capital goods - - - - -
 Consumer durables ———
 Consumer non-durables - - - - -

Source:  eurostat

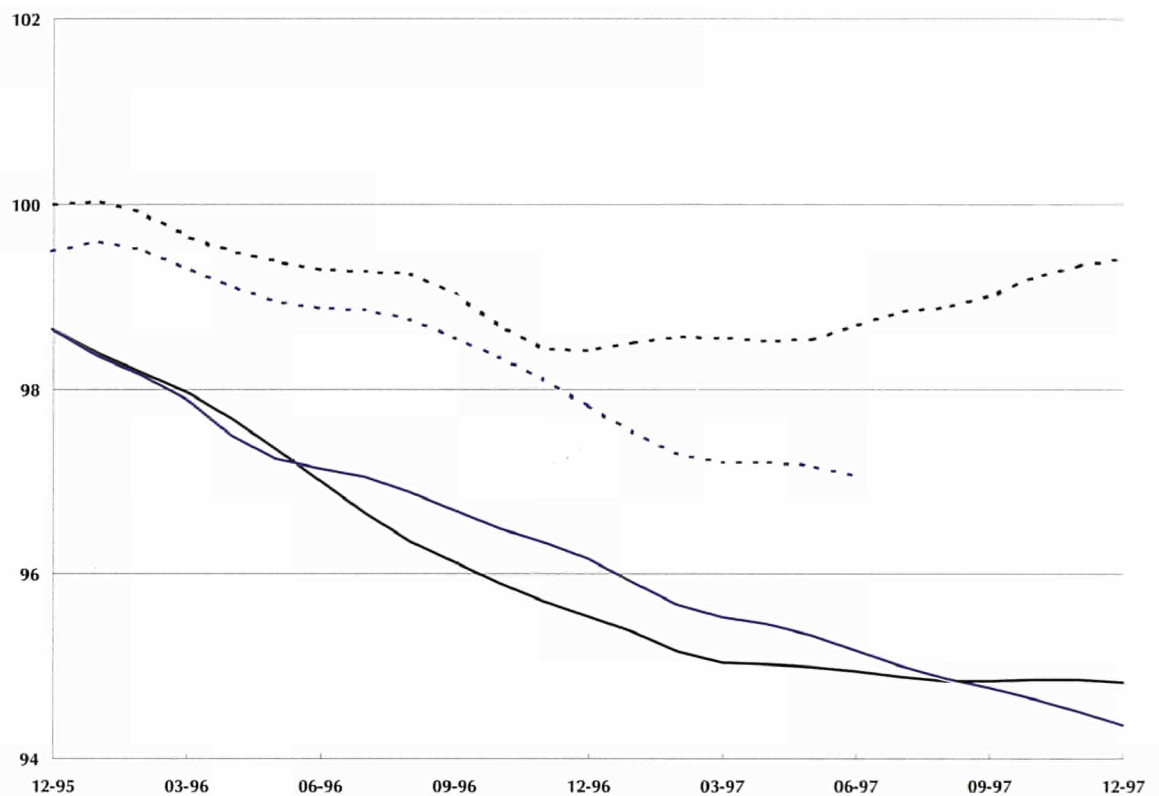


Table 2.10

Employment index for the main industrial groupings: growth rate, three months compared to the previous three months (%)

Source:  eurostat

	Latest 3 months available		Total industry	Intermediate goods	Capital goods	Consumer durables	Consumer non-durables
EU-15	10-97	⇒ 12-97	0.1	0.0	0.4	-0.4	:
B	07-98	⇒ 09-98	-1.4	:	:	0.3	0.2
DK	07-98	⇒ 09-98	4.5	:	7.2	3.3	5.4
D	10-97	⇒ 12-97	-0.3	-0.6	-0.3	-0.7	-0.9
EL	10-97	⇒ 12-97	1.1	-0.4	-0.4	0.4	1.6
E	04-98	⇒ 06-98	2.4	0.5	3.5	1.4	2.7
F	04-98	⇒ 06-98	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	-0.3
IRL	04-98	⇒ 06-98	1.0	0.1	2.3	:	:
I	06-98	⇒ 08-98	-0.7	-0.8	-0.6	-0.4	-0.4
L	07-98	⇒ 09-98	0.4	0.0	1.9	0.0	0.5
NL	04-98	⇒ 06-98	0.3	0.3	1.0	0.4	0.4
A	06-98	⇒ 08-98	0.2	0.7	0.5	2.4	0.8
P	07-98	⇒ 09-98	3.7	4.1	4.5	4.4	2.4
FIN	07-98	⇒ 09-98	1.4	:	:	:	:
S	07-98	⇒ 09-98	1.0	:	:	:	:
UK	07-98	⇒ 09-98	-0.9	-1.1	-0.7	-0.5	-1.5
Japan	07-98	⇒ 09-98	-0.6	:	:	:	:
USA	04-98	⇒ 06-98	-0.1	:	:	:	:

Employment index

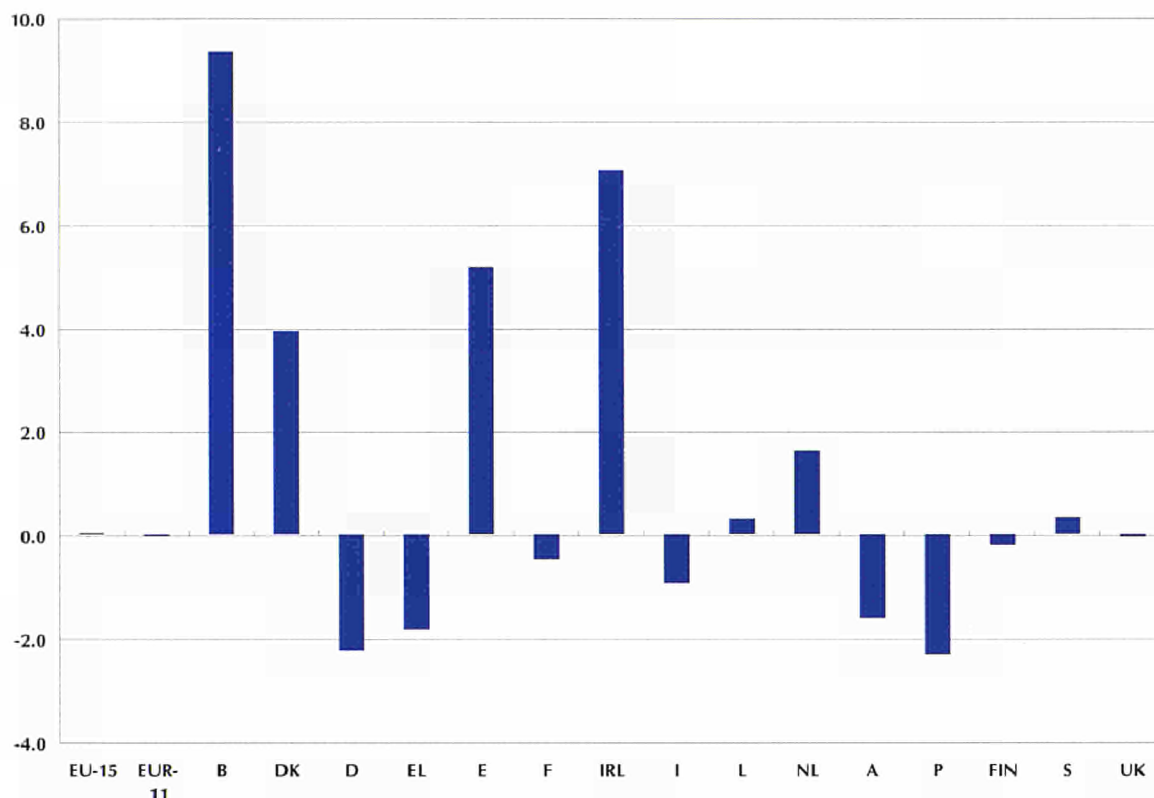


Figure 2.16

Employment index: growth rate, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year, 10-97 to 12-97 (%)

Source: eurostat

Latest 3 months available Total industry Intermediate goods Capital goods Consumer durables Consumer non-durables

Country/Region	Latest 3 months available	Total industry	Intermediate goods	Capital goods	Consumer durables	Consumer non-durables
EU-15	10-97 ⇒ 12-97	0.0	-0.9	0.9	-1.8	:
B	07-98 ⇒ 09-98	-5.0	:	:	0.5	1.4
DK	07-98 ⇒ 09-98	4.2	:	5.3	8.9	2.2
D	10-97 ⇒ 12-97	-2.2	-2.8	-2.1	-4.1	-4.2
EL	10-97 ⇒ 12-97	-1.8	-1.7	-2.3	1.7	-2.7
E	07-98 ⇒ 09-98	4.9	8.3	7.1	-0.4	2.0
F	04-98 ⇒ 06-98	0.1	0.2	0.5	-0.1	-0.5
IRL	04-98 ⇒ 06-98	3.6	2.3	6.2	:	:
I	06-98 ⇒ 08-98	-2.1	-2.1	-2.1	-1.8	-1.8
L	07-98 ⇒ 09-98	1.0	-1.0	8.5	6.4	-1.0
NL	04-98 ⇒ 06-98	1.4	0.5	2.2	1.5	1.5
A	06-98 ⇒ 08-98	2.0	2.6	2.7	3.5	0.9
P	07-98 ⇒ 09-98	22.3	27.0	31.1	18.1	16.1
FIN	07-98 ⇒ 09-98	3.7	:	:	:	:
S	07-98 ⇒ 09-98	1.7	:	:	:	:
UK	07-98 ⇒ 09-98	-1.1	-1.8	-0.4	-0.5	-1.5
Japan	07-98 ⇒ 09-98	-1.6	:	:	:	:
USA	04-98 ⇒ 06-98	0.9	:	:	:	:

Table 2.11

Employment index for the main industrial groupings: growth rate, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year (%)

Source: eurostat

Figure 2.17

Production and employment trends in construction: indices (1995 = 100)

EU-15 construction: production index —
 EU-15 construction: employment index - - - -
 EUR-11 construction: production index —
 EUR-11 construction: employment index - - - -

Source:  eurostat

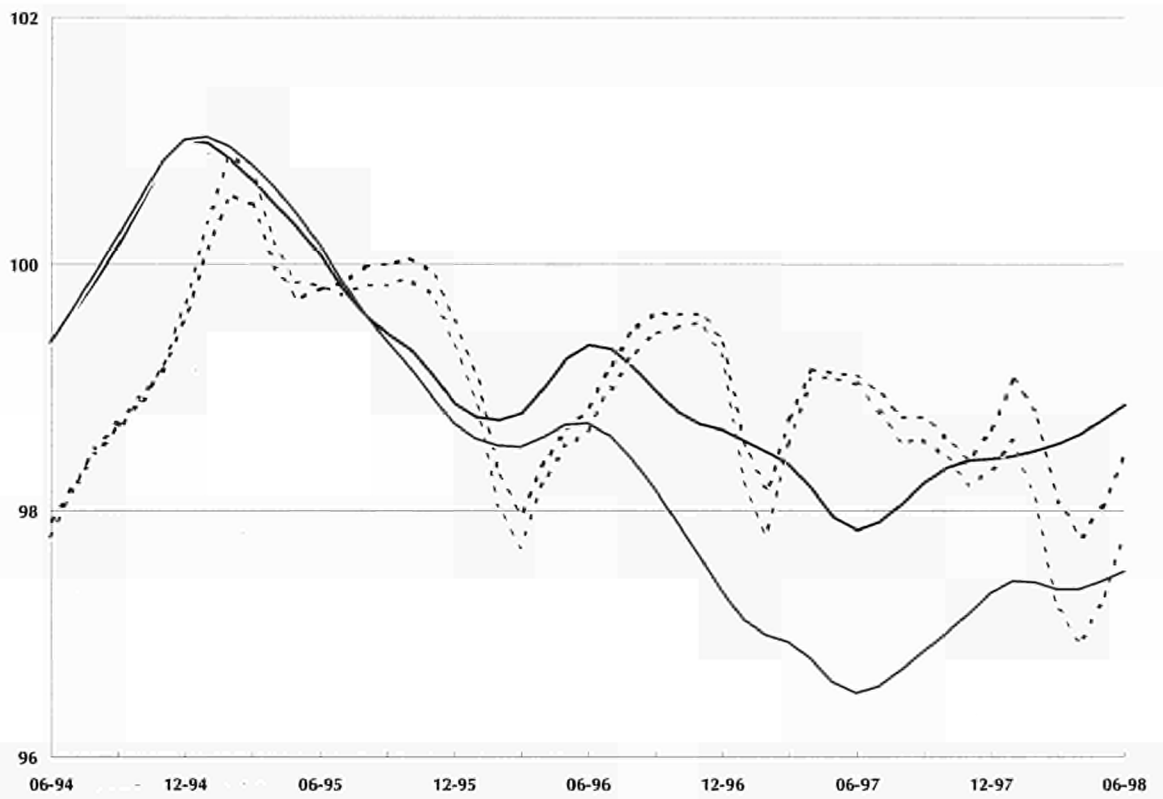
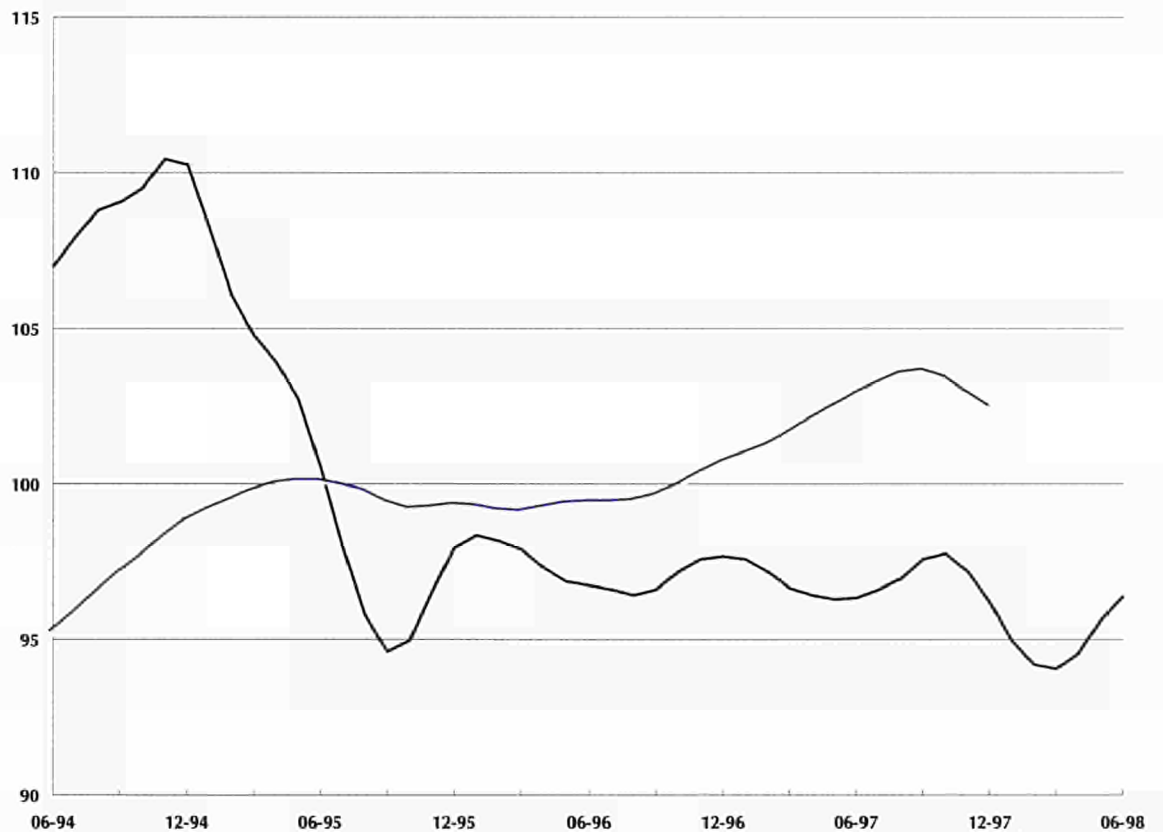


Figure 2.18

EU-15 building permits: indices (1995 = 100)

Residential —
 Non-residential —

Source:  eurostat



Production index (working day adjusted & trend cycle)

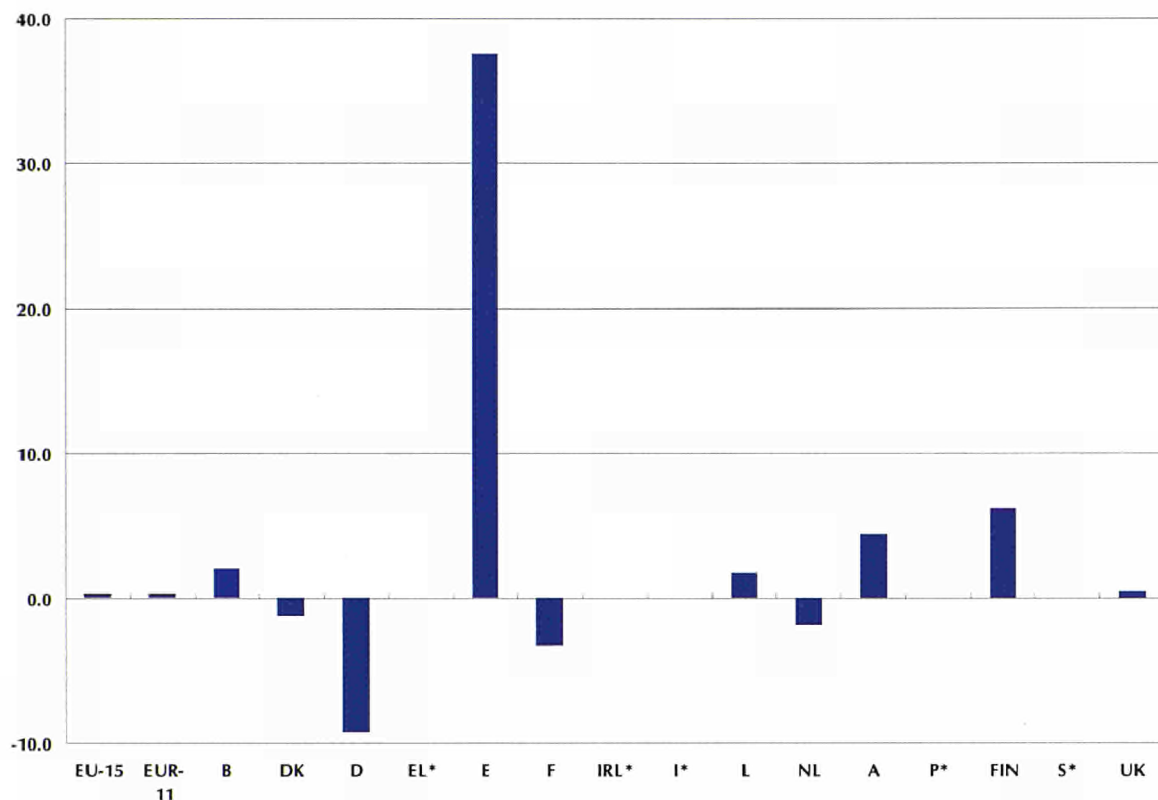


Figure 2.19

Production index for construction: growth rate, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year, 04-98 to 06-98 (%)

Source: eurostat

Latest 3 months available Building t / t-1 t / t-4 Latest 3 months available Civil engineering t / t-1 t / t-4

	Latest 3 months available		Building		Latest 3 months available		Civil engineering	
			t / t-1	t / t-4			t / t-1	t / t-4
EU-15	04-98	⇒ 06-98	-1.9	-3.3	01-98	⇒ 03-98	0.8	6.3
B		⇒	:	:		⇒	:	:
DK	07-98	⇒ 09-98	-3.4	-9.0	07-98	⇒ 09-98	0.4	0.0
D	08-98	⇒ 10-98	:	-7.5	08-98	⇒ 10-98	:	-5.9
EL		⇒	:	:		⇒	:	:
E	04-98	⇒ 06-98	1.9	4.5	04-98	⇒ 06-98	1.7	7.9
F	07-98	⇒ 09-98	-0.3	-2.4	07-98	⇒ 09-98	-0.5	-1.4
IRL		⇒	:	:		⇒	:	:
I	04-98	⇒ 06-98	-1.5	-9.1	01-98	⇒ 03-98	-1.8	12.5
L	07-98	⇒ 09-98	-1.2	1.5	07-98	⇒ 09-98	-2.1	-0.1
NL	01-98	⇒ 03-98	8.3	15.8		⇒	:	:
A	06-98	⇒ 08-98	0.2	2.6	06-98	⇒ 08-98	-1.9	0.6
P		⇒	:	:		⇒	:	:
FIN	04-98	⇒ 06-98	-0.7	7.0	04-98	⇒ 06-98	0.1	4.5
S		⇒	:	:		⇒	:	:
UK	04-98	⇒ 06-98	-2.7	1.7	10-97	⇒ 12-97	-3.8	-27.0

Table 2.12

Production index of building and civil engineering: growth rates (%)

Source: eurostat

Figure 2.20

Output prices for new residential buildings: growth rate, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year, 04-98 to 06-98 (%)

1) Input prices.
2) Input prices and one-dwelling buildings.

Source:  eurostat

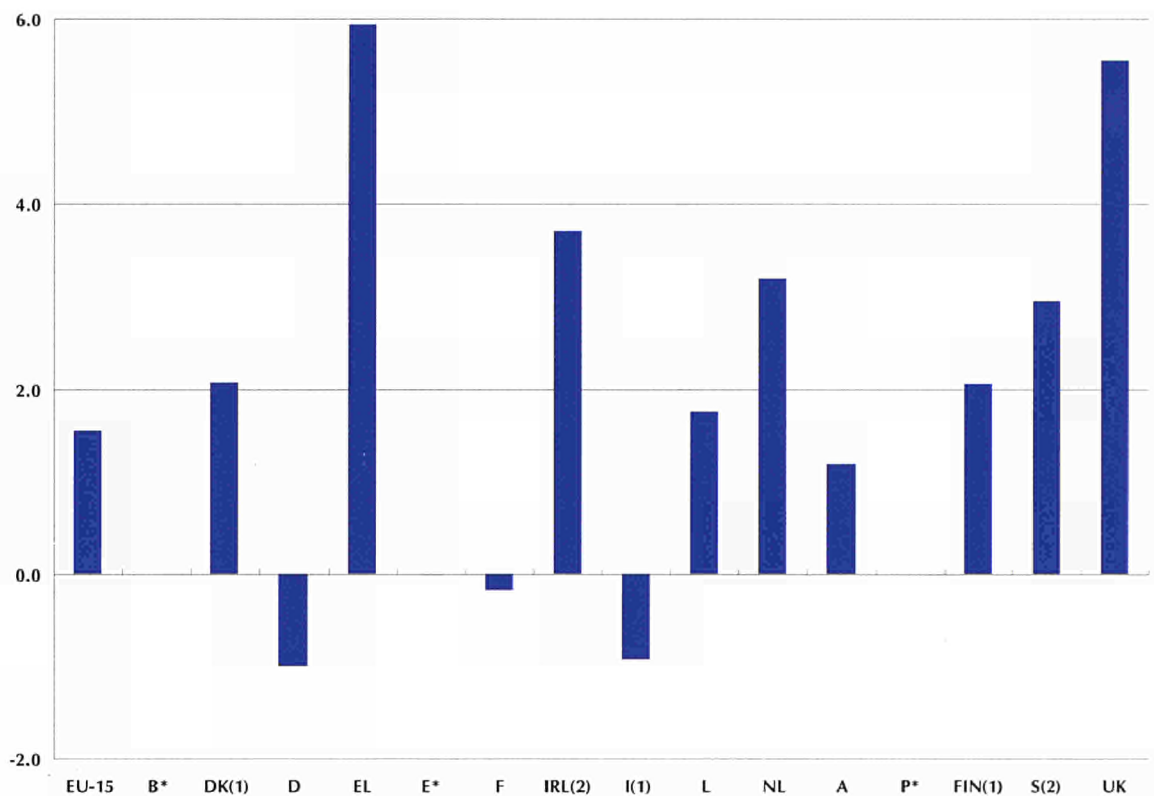


Table 2.13

Output prices for new residential buildings: indices (1995 = 100)

1) Input prices.
2) Input prices and one-dwelling buildings.

Source:  eurostat

	I-1997	II-1997	III-1997	IV-1997	I-1998	II-1998	III-1998	IV-1998
EU-15	103.2	103.6	104.9	105.1	104.8	105.2	:	:
B	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
DK (1)	104.9	105.6	106.4	107.1	107.8	107.8	109.3	110.7
D	99.3	99.1	99.1	98.7	98.3	98.1	98.0	:
EL	110.1	110.7	111.9	113.2	115.8	117.2	119.2	:
E	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
F	102.9	104.2	104.8	104.9	104.0	104.0	:	:
IRL (2)	103.3	104.5	105.6	106.7	107.5	108.3	109.7	:
I (1)	103.3	103.5	105.0	105.3	102.1	102.6	103.2	:
L	102.1	102.1	102.7	102.7	103.9	103.9	:	:
NL	104.6	105.5	106.3	108.0	108.0	108.9	:	:
A	102.4	102.8	103.1	103.1	103.7	104.0	104.1	:
P	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN (1)	101.4	102.5	103.7	103.7	103.9	104.6	105.1	:
S (2)	104.8	105.5	106.3	106.9	107.2	108.6	109.5	:
UK	105.4	106.4	107.4	109.3	110.3	112.3	:	:

Building permits - useful floor area

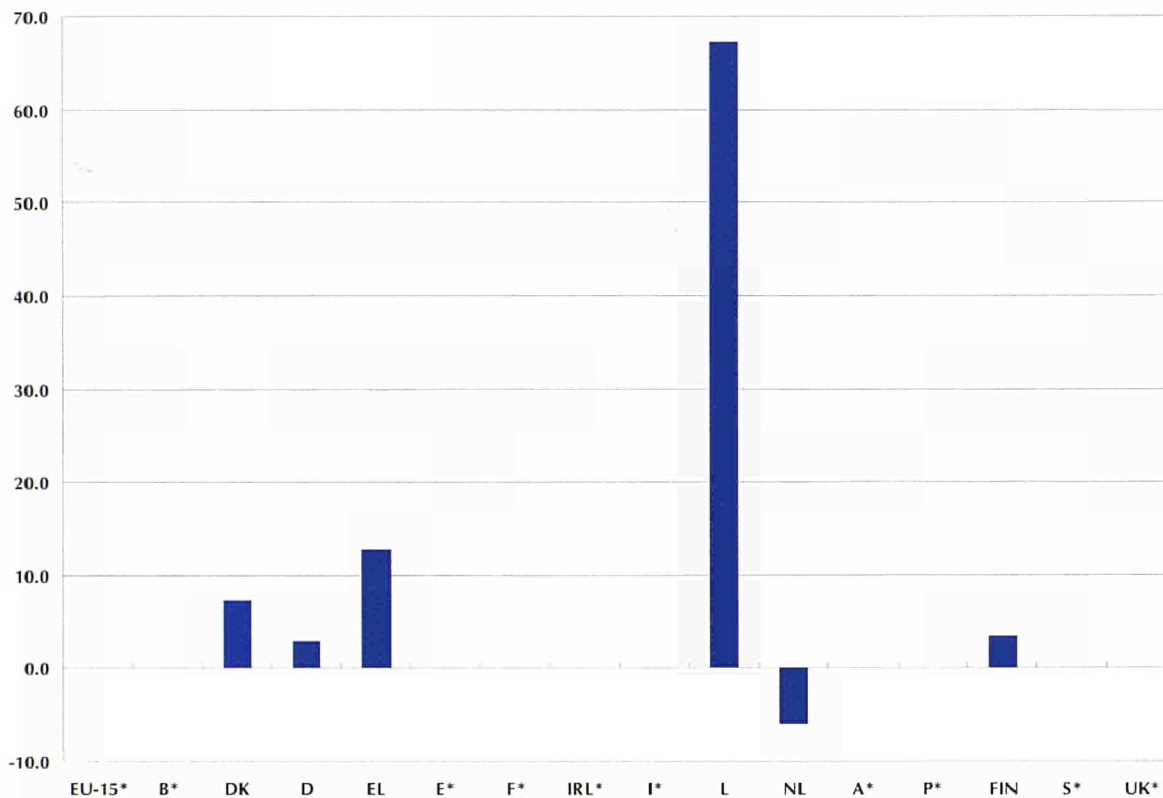


Figure 2.21

Building permits - useful floor area: growth rate, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year, 06-98 to 08-98 (%)

Source: eurostat

Table 2.14

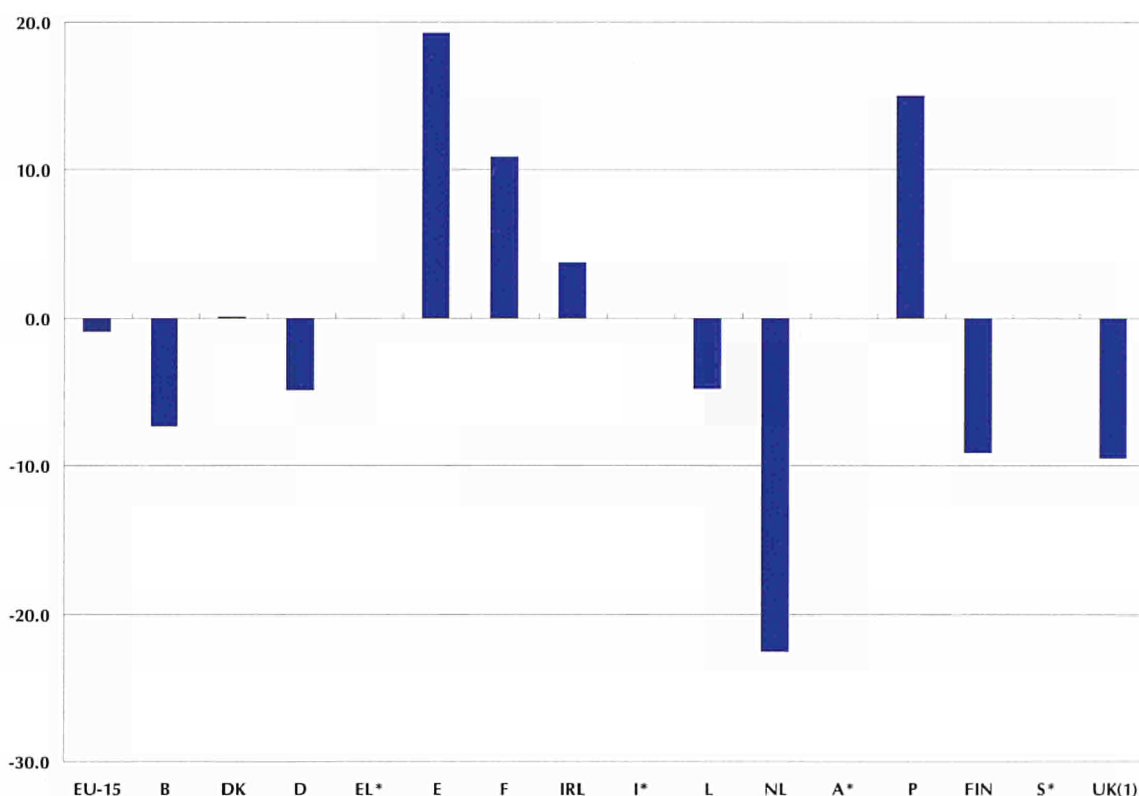
	Latest 3 months available		Residential '000m ² 1995 = 100		Latest 3 months available		Non-residential '000m ² 1995 = 100			
EU-15	⇒		:	:	10-97	⇒	12-97	:	102.4	
B	05-98	⇒	07-98	2,203	99.8	05-98	⇒	07-98	4,348	272.3
DK	07-98	⇒	09-98	603	157.6	07-98	⇒	09-98	1,328	125.3
D	07-98	⇒	09-98	12,840	93.1	07-98	⇒	09-98	11,268	104.6
EL	03-97	⇒	05-97	2,756	130.2	03-97	⇒	05-97	1,091	111.9
E	04-98	⇒	06-98	14,723	130.8	04-98	⇒	06-98	3,055	149.7
F		⇒		:	:	10-97	⇒	12-97	8,674	99.1
IRL	04-98	⇒	06-98	1,517	161.3	04-98	⇒	06-98	775	119.1
I	01-98	⇒	03-98	2,424	64.4	01-98	⇒	03-98	3,047	52.4
L	07-98	⇒	09-98	:	215.7	07-98	⇒	09-98	:	167.7
NL	06-98	⇒	08-98	3,492	88.5	06-98	⇒	08-98	5,954	168.3
A		⇒		:	:		⇒		:	:
P		⇒		:	:		⇒		:	:
FIN	07-98	⇒	09-98	768	165.5	07-98	⇒	09-98	864	150.1
S	07-98	⇒	09-98	252	:	07-98	⇒	09-98	462	:
UK		⇒		:	:		⇒		:	:

Source: eurostat

Building permits - useful floor area: actual values and indices

Figure 2.22

Building permits - no. of dwellings: growth rate, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year, 04-98 to 06-98 (%)



1) Buildings starts.

Source: eurostat

Table 2.15

Number of dwellings authorised (units)

	Latest year available	no. of dwellings	Latest month available	no. of dwellings	no. of dwellings per 1,000 inhabitants	Index, 1995 = 100
EU-15		:	06-98	:	:	107.9
B	1997	50,847	07-98	3,613	:	96.4
DK	1997	16,711	09-98	1,361	:	141.4
D	1997	530,263	09-98	40,574	:	76.2
EL	1996	86,741	05-97	7,527	0.72	127.5
E	1997	304,763	06-98	35,905	:	152.5
F	1997	299,845	10-98	30,073	:	117.1
IRL (1)	1997	37,060	06-98	:	:	154.7
I	1997	145,435	03-98	10,853	:	75.0
L	1997	3,411	09-98	144	:	64.6
NL	1997	101,501	08-98	5,357	:	65.3
A		:		:	:	:
P	1997	94,786	09-98	8,905	:	138.9
FIN	1997	31,117	09-98	1,974	:	125.7
S	1997	11,642	09-98	841	:	:
UK (2)	1997	188,900	09-98	14,400	:	103.0

1) Quarterly data.
2) Buildings starts.

Source: eurostat

Capacity utilisation rates

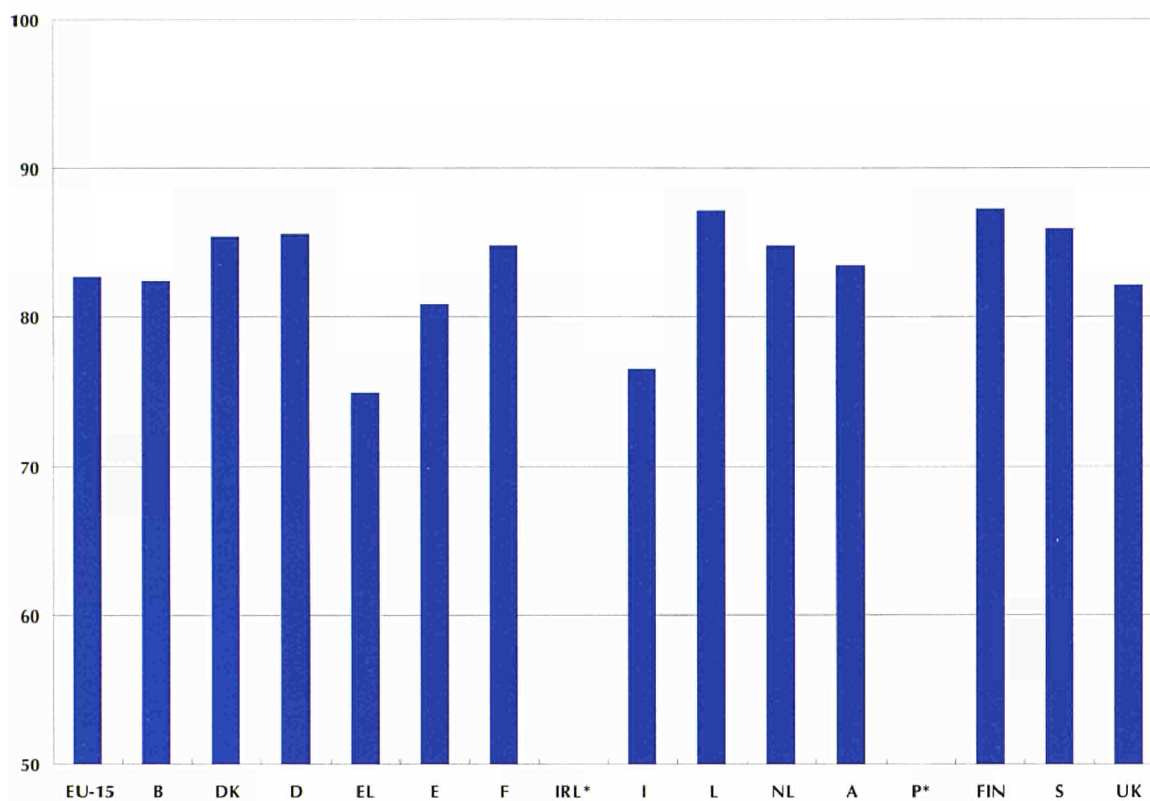


Figure 2.23

Capacity utilisation
rates:
10-98
(%)

Source: DG II,
Business Survey

Growth rate:
latest month, t / t-12 (%)

01-98

04-98

07-98

10-98

	Growth rate: latest month, t / t-12 (%)	01-98	04-98	07-98	10-98
EU-15	-0.5	83.2	83.3	83.8	82.8
B	-0.8	81.9	82.6	83.5	82.5
DK	1.7	85.4	83.9	86.8	85.4
D	0.8	84.7	85.3	86.1	85.6
EL	0.9	75.0	77.0	76.0	75.0
E	0.5	79.4	80.0	81.1	80.9
F	0.0	84.0	85.2	85.6	84.8
IRL	-0.4	76.6	:	:	:
I	-1.4	79.0	78.2	79.5	76.6
L	2.8	87.5	87.9	88.3	87.2
NL	-0.5	85.3	85.6	85.5	84.8
A	-0.6	83.1	83.3	84.7	83.5
P	-1.1	80.5	:	:	:
FIN	-1.9	89.0	88.0	89.8	87.3
S	1.2	87.0	86.0	87.0	86.0
UK	-3.4	84.7	84.1	83.0	82.2

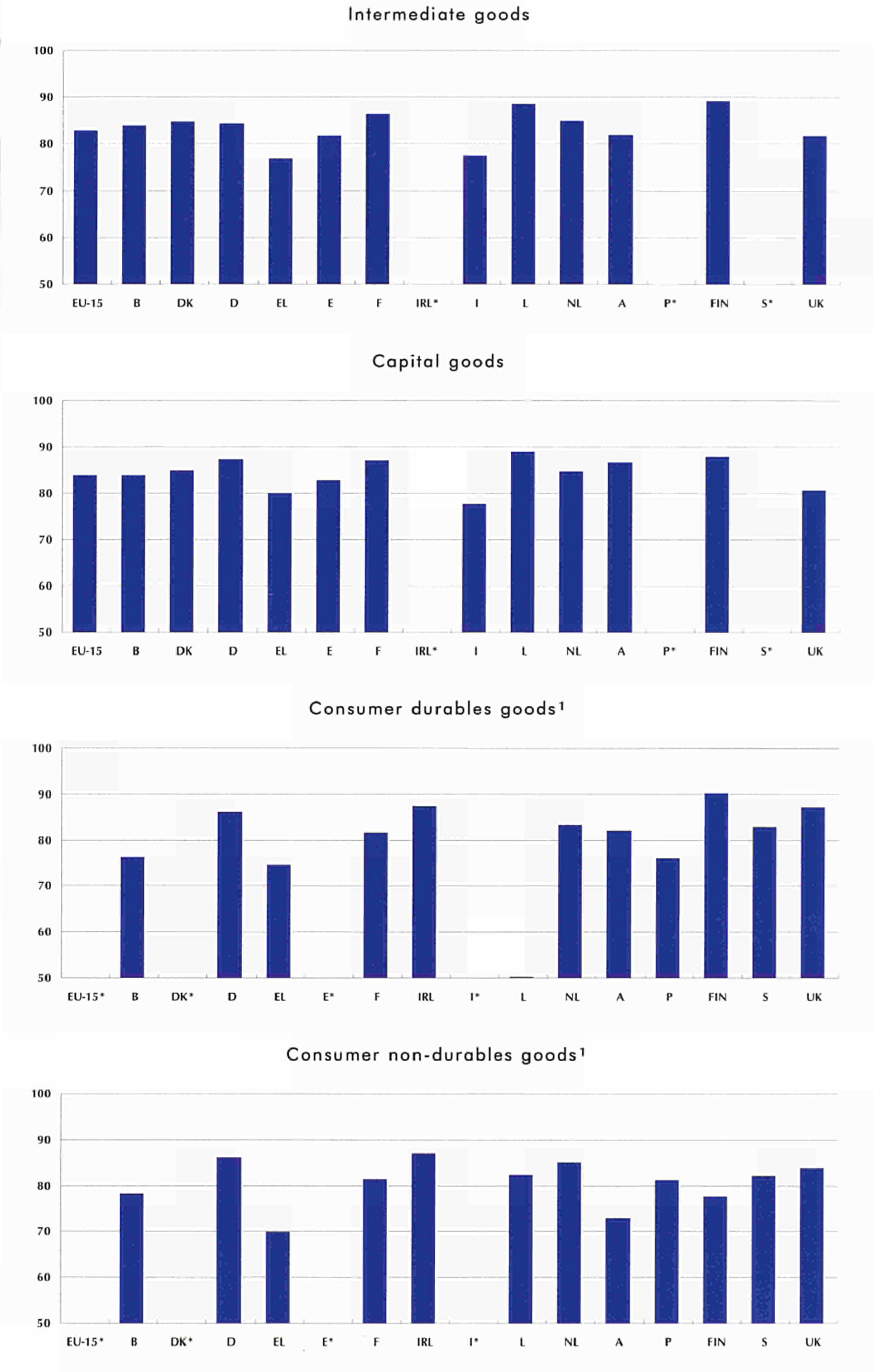
Table 2.16

Capacity utilisation
rates
(%)

Source: DG II,
Business Survey

Figure 2.24

Capacity utilisation rates for the main industrial groupings, 10-98 (%)



1) Data is for 04-97.

Source: DG II, Business Survey

Foreign trade indices

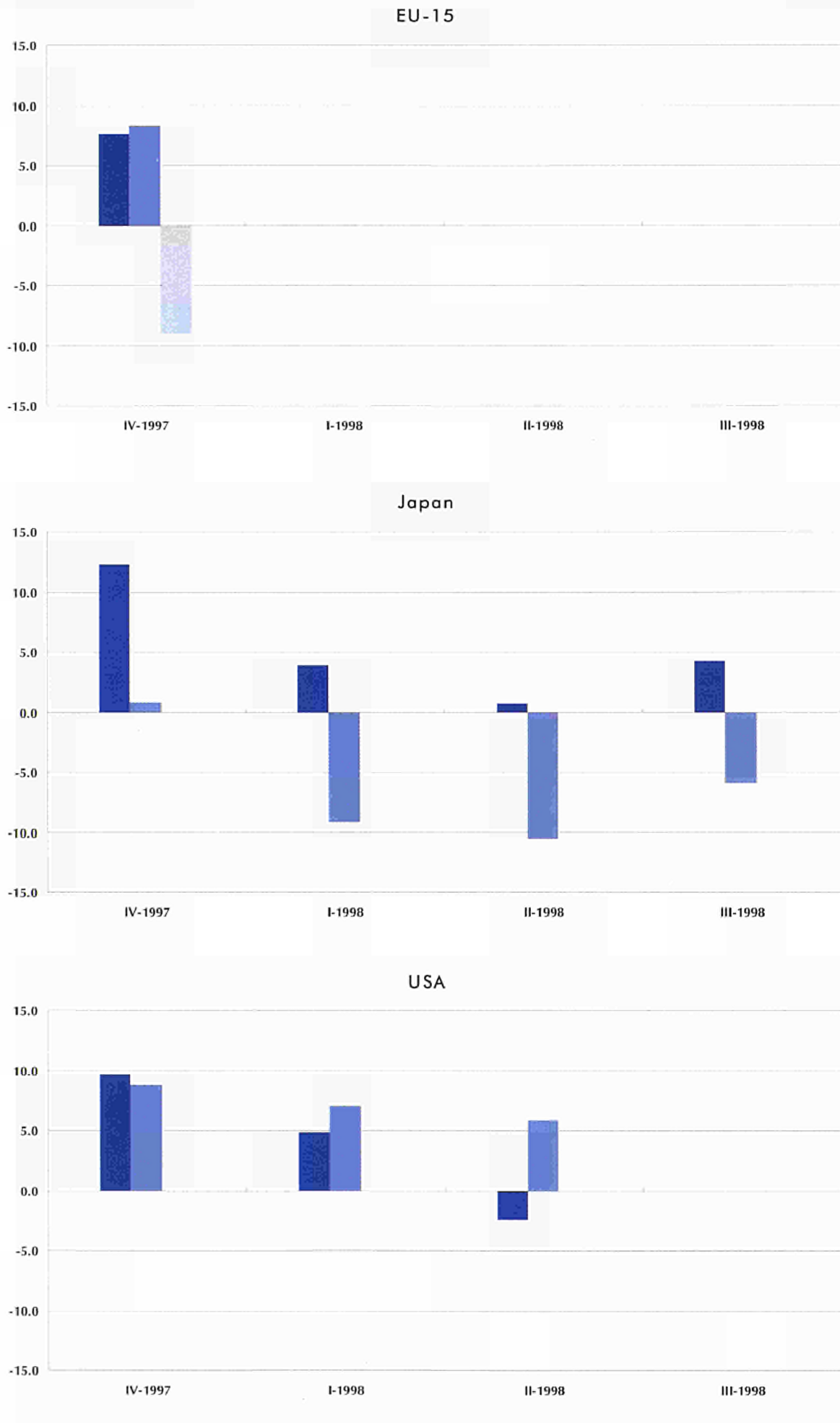


Figure 2.25

Foreign trade indices: growth rate, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year (%)

- Export value
- Import value
- Terms of trade

Source: eurostat

Figure 2.26

EU-15 foreign trade indices in ECU terms (1995 = 100)

Export value index —
 Import value index —
 Terms of trade - - - -

Source:  eurostat

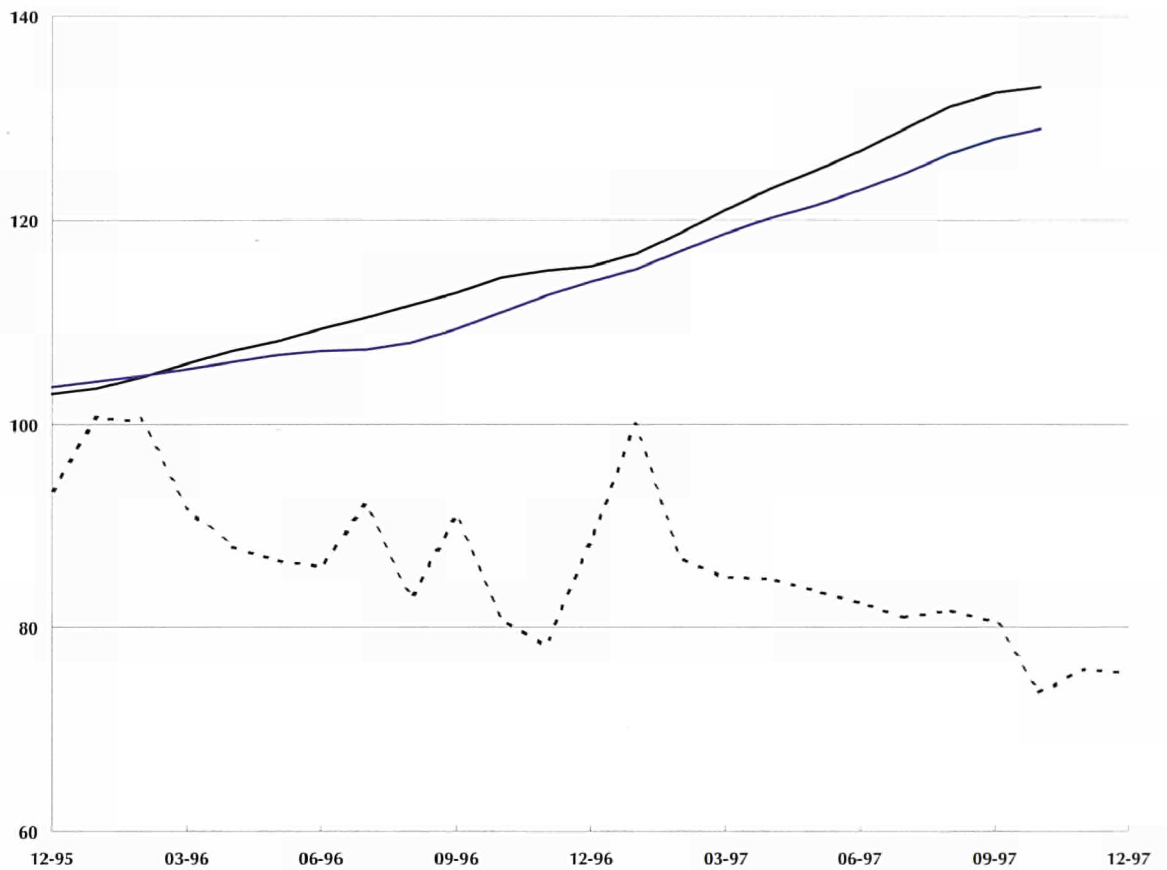


Table 2.17

Foreign trade indices (value indices are in ECU terms): growth rate, three months compared to the previous three months (%)

Source:  eurostat

	Latest 3 months available			Exports		Imports		Terms of trade
	Value	Volume		Value	Volume			
EU-15	10-97	⇨	12-97	:	:	:	:	-7.5
B/L	09-97	⇨	11-97	-3.7	0.6	-2.4	-3.3	-0.5
DK	10-97	⇨	12-97	:	:	:	:	-9.0
D	10-97	⇨	12-97	:	:	:	:	-3.1
EL	10-97	⇨	12-97	:	:	:	:	-11.8
E	10-97	⇨	12-97	:	:	:	:	-7.8
F	10-97	⇨	12-97	:	:	:	:	-4.9
IRL	08-97	⇨	10-97	7.1	5.6	4.1	3.0	1.5
I	10-97	⇨	12-97	:	:	:	:	-2.6
NL	10-97	⇨	12-97	:	:	:	:	3.3
A		⇨		:	:	:	:	:
P	08-97	⇨	10-97	2.3	0.4	3.5	0.9	-0.9
FIN		⇨		:	:	:	:	:
S		⇨		:	:	:	:	:
UK	10-97	⇨	12-97	:	:	:	:	-14.1

Foreign trade indices

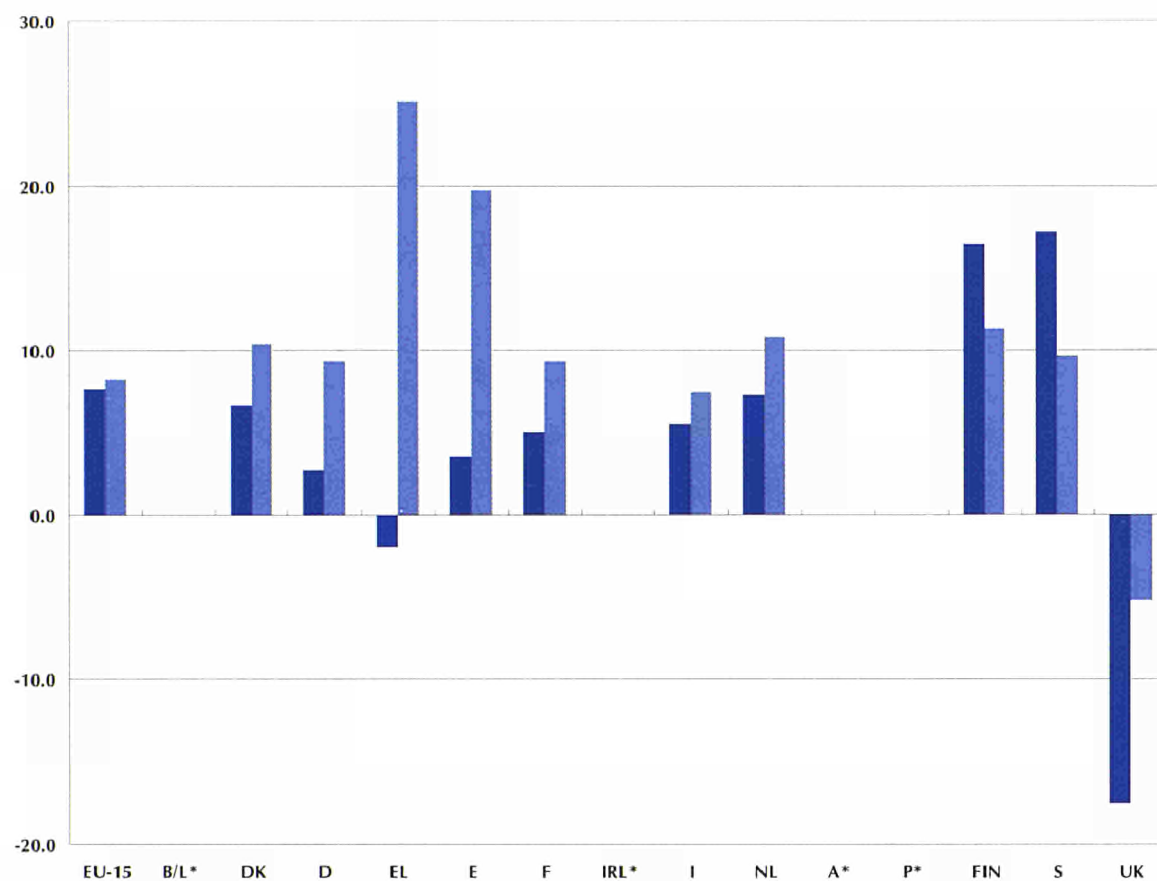


Figure 2.27

Foreign trade indices (in ECU terms): growth rate, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year, 10-97 to 12-97 (%)

■ Export value
■ Import value

Source: eurostat

Latest 3 months available

Exports
Value Volume

Imports
Value Volume

Terms of trade

	Latest 3 months available	Exports Value	Exports Volume	Imports Value	Imports Volume	Terms of trade
EU-15	10-97 ⇨ 12-97	7.6	2.4	8.2	-6.0	-9.1
B/L	09-97 ⇨ 11-97	3.8	-1.5	6.7	0.5	-0.8
DK	10-97 ⇨ 12-97	6.6	15.1	10.4	4.8	-12.0
D	10-97 ⇨ 12-97	2.7	5.2	9.4	-11.7	-21.7
EL	10-97 ⇨ 12-97	-2.0	1.5	25.1	-7.4	-29.0
E	10-97 ⇨ 12-97	3.5	5.1	19.7	20.4	-4.4
F	10-97 ⇨ 12-97	5.0	9.2	9.4	17.6	2.3
IRL	08-97 ⇨ 10-97	28.3	31.3	20.2	17.1	-5.3
I	10-97 ⇨ 12-97	5.5	-0.3	7.5	-31.9	-33.6
NL	10-97 ⇨ 12-97	7.3	27.9	10.8	-6.1	-28.0
A	⇨	:	:	:	:	:
P	08-97 ⇨ 10-97	8.6	1.9	9.6	2.7	-0.6
FIN	10-97 ⇨ 12-97	16.4	7.8	11.3	19.2	:
S	10-97 ⇨ 12-97	17.2	-1.6	9.7	10.1	:
UK	10-97 ⇨ 12-97	-17.5	20.9	-5.2	-2.2	-30.4

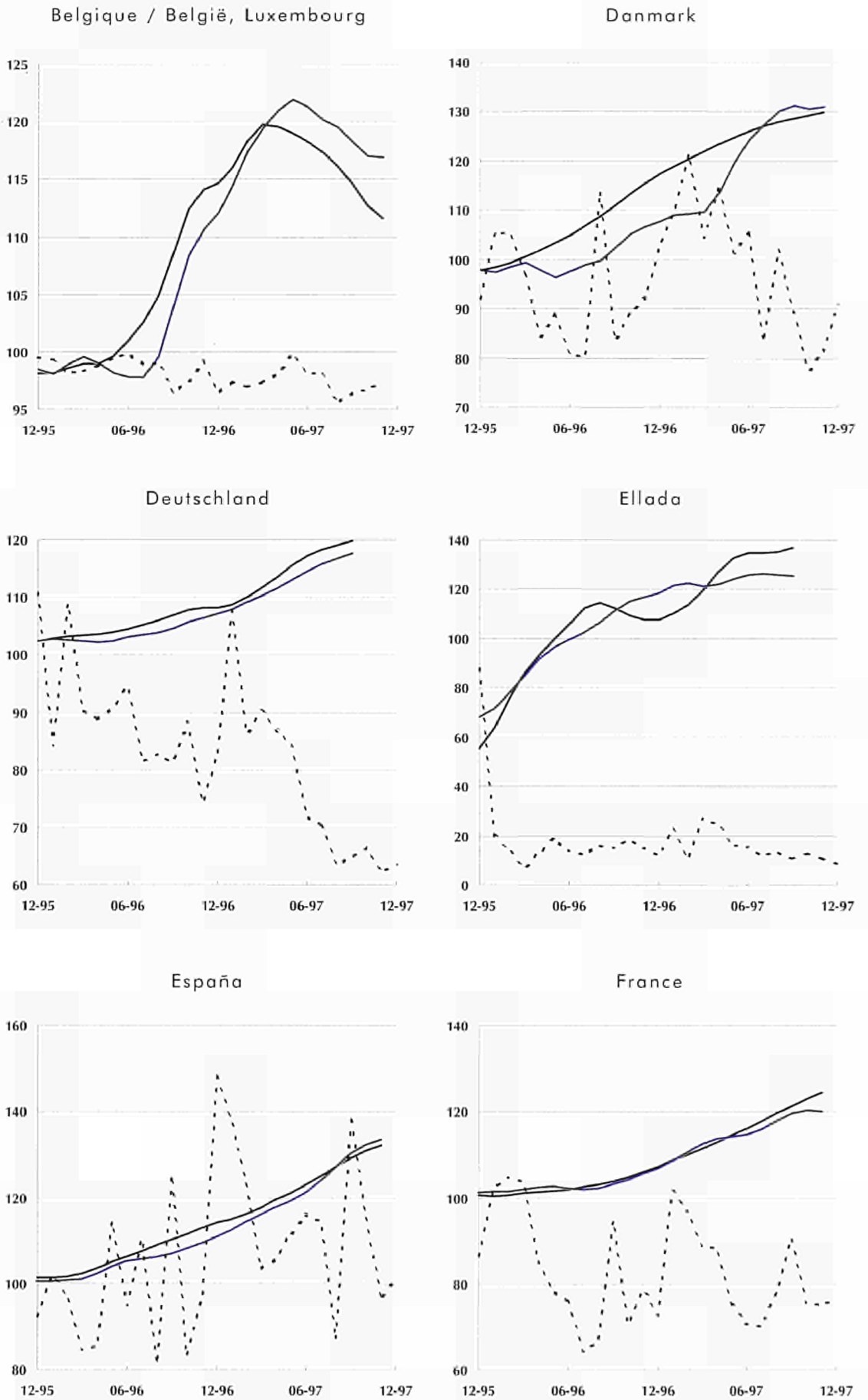
Table 2.18

Foreign trade indices (value indices are in ECU terms): three months compared to the same three months of the previous year (%)

Source: eurostat

Figure 2.28

Foreign trade indices
in ECU terms
(1995 = 100)



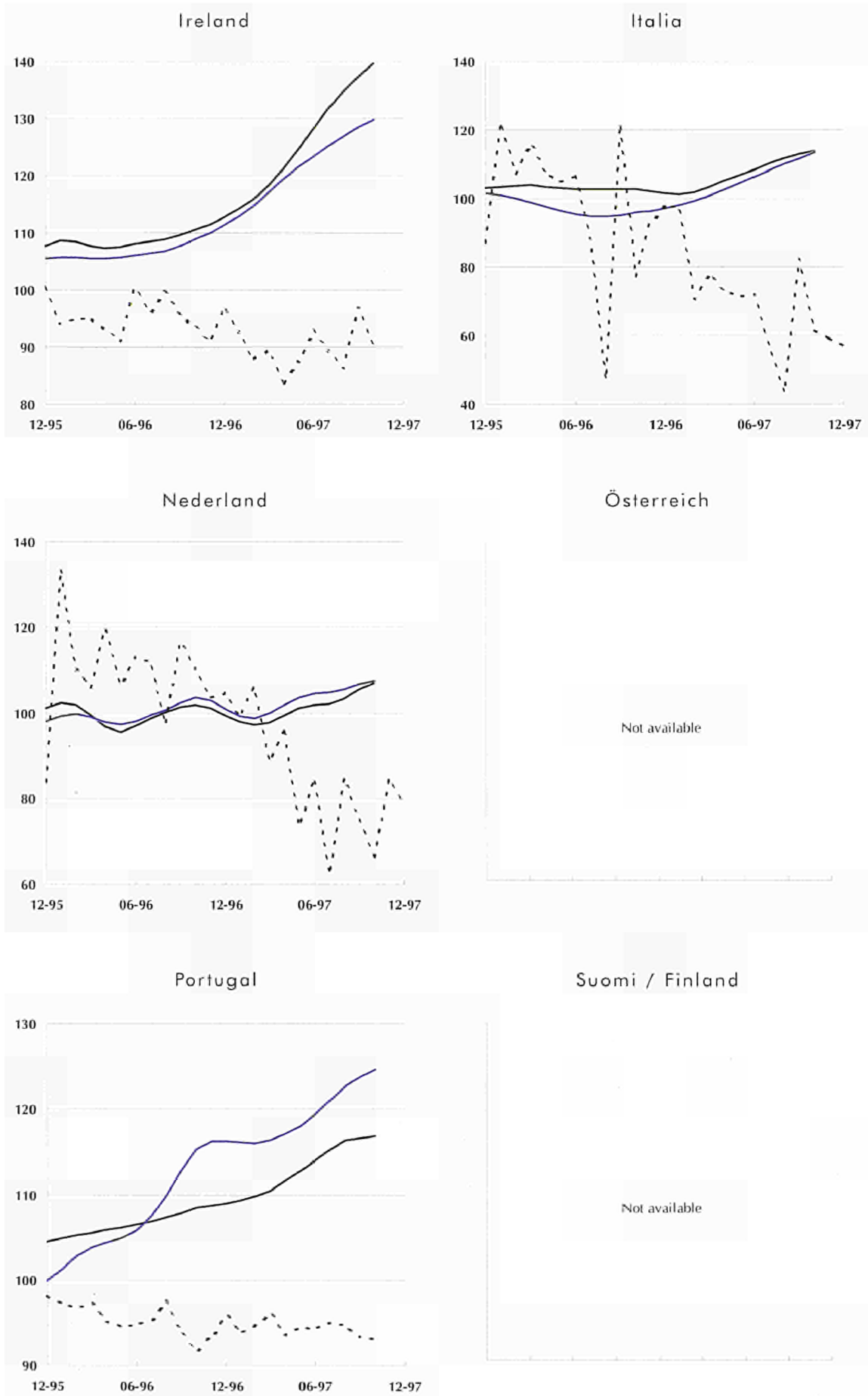
Export value index —
Import value index —
Terms of trade - - - -

Source: eurostat

Foreign trade indices (trend cycle)

Figure 2.28

Foreign trade indices
in ECU terms
(1995 = 100)



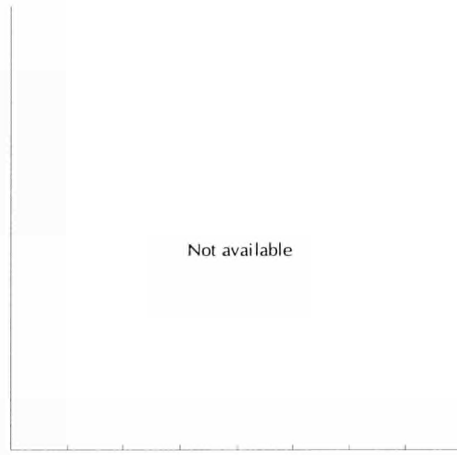
— Export value index
— Import value index
- - - Terms of trade

Source: eurostat

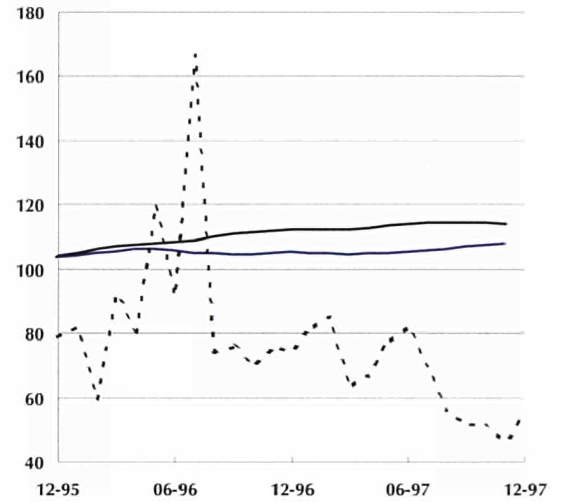
Figure 2.28

Foreign trade indices
in ECU terms
(1995 = 100)

Sverige



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 EU-15 refer only to extra-Union trade, the indices for Member States reflect also intra-Union trade.

Full methodological notes may be found on page 111.

Source:  eurostat

3.

Latest outlook: services

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Tourism	62



3. Latest outlook: services

New vehicle registrations

Within the European Union new vehicle registrations were seen to be rising in the majority of Member States. Negative growth rates were recorded in Austria and Italy - all other countries had positive rates of growth. Growth rates comparing the data for the latest month available with that of a year before showed that there were large increases in the number of new vehicle registrations in the following countries: Spain (17.6%, June 1998), Finland (24.7%, June 1998), the Netherlands (28.8%, July 1998) and Portugal (58.5%, July 1998).

In Sweden there has been a long-term trend of increasing numbers of new vehicle registrations. There have now been 30 months of continuous growth for this particular indicator.

Retail sales volumes

Retail sales within the European Union rose by 0.8% in the three months to March 1998 (based on a growth rate of the latest data available compared to the previous three month period). There was fresher data available for some of the individual Member States. In Germany, there has been very modest growth in the volume of retail sales in recent months. Nevertheless, the data for the first months of 1998 shows some signs of improvement in retail sales volumes compared to the data for 1996 and 1997, when rates of change were usually negative. The first six months of 1998 all displayed positive rates of growth in retail sales volumes in Germany. However, the most recent data for July 1998 showed a return to zero growth. France displayed a somewhat more dynamic retail sales sector, with volumes rising by between 0.8% and 1.0% since March 1997. Italian retail sales slowed during the course of 1997 and the data available for the first four months of 1998 records a contraction in the volume of retail sales. In the United Kingdom, there has been a continued expansion of retail sales into 1998, although at rates somewhat below those that were being recorded in 1997. Latest data for May 1998 recorded growth of 0.7% in retail sales volumes for the United Kingdom.

In the smaller Member States there were generally higher rates of growth in activity of retail trade. For example, in August 1998 the latest growth rates for the volume of retail sales were 1.7% in Sweden, 1.9% in Finland and 1.0% in Greece, whilst in Ireland retail sales expanded by 2.7% (although this figure was for the period to July 1998).

Looking at the data for a breakdown of retail sales activities, the highest growth rates were recorded in the activity of textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (up by 0.7% in the three months to April 1998). In the activity of food, beverages and tobac-

Enquiries regarding the purchase of data should be directed to:

Eurostat Data-Shop
4, rue Alphonse Weicker
L - 2014 Luxembourg
tel: (352) 4335 2251
fax: (352) 4335 22221
e-mail: dslux@eurostat.datashop.lu

New vehicle registrations
rose by 58.5% in Portugal
during the year to July 1998

co, retail sales grew by 0.3% (in the first quarter of 1998), whilst the volume of retail sales of household equipment grew by 0.4% in the three months to April 1998.

Corresponding growth rates for the Euro-zone were somewhat lower than for EU-15 (same months as the EU-15 data). Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather products expanded by 0.6%, food, beverages and tobacco by 0.2%, whilst the volume of retail sale of household equipment was moderately declining, down by 0.1%.

Tourism

Latest data is only available for a selected number of countries well into 1998 - consequently it is not at present possible to calculate European totals for 1998. Nights spent by non-residents in hotels and similar establishments only rose in Portugal (on the basis of an annual growth rate for the latest month of data available). The growth rate observed in Portugal was equal to 11.6% comparing data for June 1997 and 1998. Latest data (for the other countries that were able to provide figures up to the summer of 1998) showed a decline in the number of non-residents spending nights in hotels and similar establishments: Belgium (-0.7%, June 1998), Finland (-7.1%, August 1998), Luxembourg (-5.0%, July 1998) and the United Kingdom (-8.7%, July 1998).

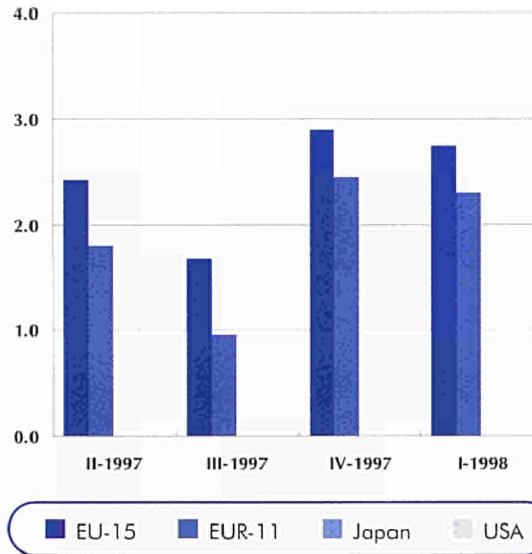


Figure 3.1

Volume of retail sales: growth rate, year on year (%)

Source: eurostat

For nights spent by residents in other collective accommodation there was a decline in the number of nights in the United Kingdom in each of the two latest months for which data is available. In June 1997 there were 10.2 million nights spent in other collective accommodation establishments, compared to only 8.52 million nights in June 1998. Belgium and Finland also saw reductions compared to a year before. On the other hand the number of residents spending nights in other collective accommodation increased in both Luxembourg (July 1998) and Portugal (June 1998), with increases of 21.4% and 18.6% respectively.

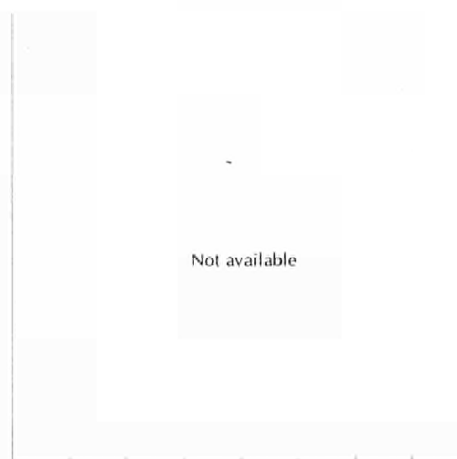


Figure 3.2

First registration of private and commercial cars: growth rate, year on year (%)

Source: eurostat

Retail sales

Table 3.1

Volume of
retail sales:
indices,
gross data
(1995 = 100)

	1995	1996	1997	04-98	05-98	06-98	07-98	08-98	09-98
EU-15	100.0	101.4	103.6	:	:	:	:	:	:
B	100.0	108.2	111.0	120.4	119.4	117.6	118.5	108.2	:
DK	100.0	101.5	103.6	107.4	104.9	102.1	112.0	105.9	:
D	100.0	99.2	97.7	98.6	95.9	90.7	98.1	:	:
EL	100.0	101.4	102.4	109.4	96.9	101.1	110.8	91.3	:
E	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
F	100.0	101.5	104.4	105.9	106.6	107.6	112.4	101.7	:
IRL	100.0	106.6	114.9	123.1	125.9	120.3	130.7	125.0	124.5
I	100.0	100.6	101.7	102.3	105.8	100.0	:	:	:
L	100.0	98.6	104.2	109.9	111.2	100.3	115.9	97.3	105.4
NL	100.0	103.1	107.2	110.5	117.9	113.6	119.2	106.8	111.9
A	100.0	101.8	102.9	102.7	100.4	98.2	106.2	96.8	106.5
P	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	100.0	104.4	108.5	111.4	113.2	119.7	123.3	117.7	:
S	100.0	100.4	103.9	103.6	109.8	107.8	104.0	110.1	:
UK	100.0	102.8	108.1	107.3	106.4	:	:	:	:
Japan	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
USA	:	:	:	*	:	:	:	:	:

Source:  eurostat

Table 3.2

Volume of
retail sales:
indices, seasonally
adjusted data
(1995 = 100)

	1995	1996	1997	04-98	05-98	06-98	07-98	08-98	09-98
EU-15	100.0	101.4	103.6	:	:	:	:	:	:
B	100.0	108.2	111.0	116.8	117.4	114.9	:	:	:
DK	100.0	101.5	103.6	106.9	104.2	103.5	106.8	108.2	:
D	100.0	99.2	97.7	97.7	97.8	97.5	98.0	:	:
EL	100.0	101.4	102.4	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
F	100.0	101.5	104.4	108.5	107.5	110.2	109.9	107.6	:
IRL	100.0	106.6	114.9	123.2	125.7	123.1	128.3	124.4	:
I	100.0	100.6	101.7	101.5	:	:	:	:	:
L	100.0	98.6	104.2	106.0	110.5	105.3	107.7	107.5	106.3
NL	100.0	103.1	107.2	111.2	113.3	110.8	113.8	111.6	112.5
A	100.0	101.8	102.9	:	:	:	:	:	:
P	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	100.0	104.4	108.5	113.1	112.9	114.2	115.0	116.8	:
S	100.0	100.4	103.9	106.7	107.5	107.6	108.0	109.6	:
UK	100.0	102.8	108.1	111.0	112.9	:	:	:	:
Japan	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
USA	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Source:  eurostat

Retail sales

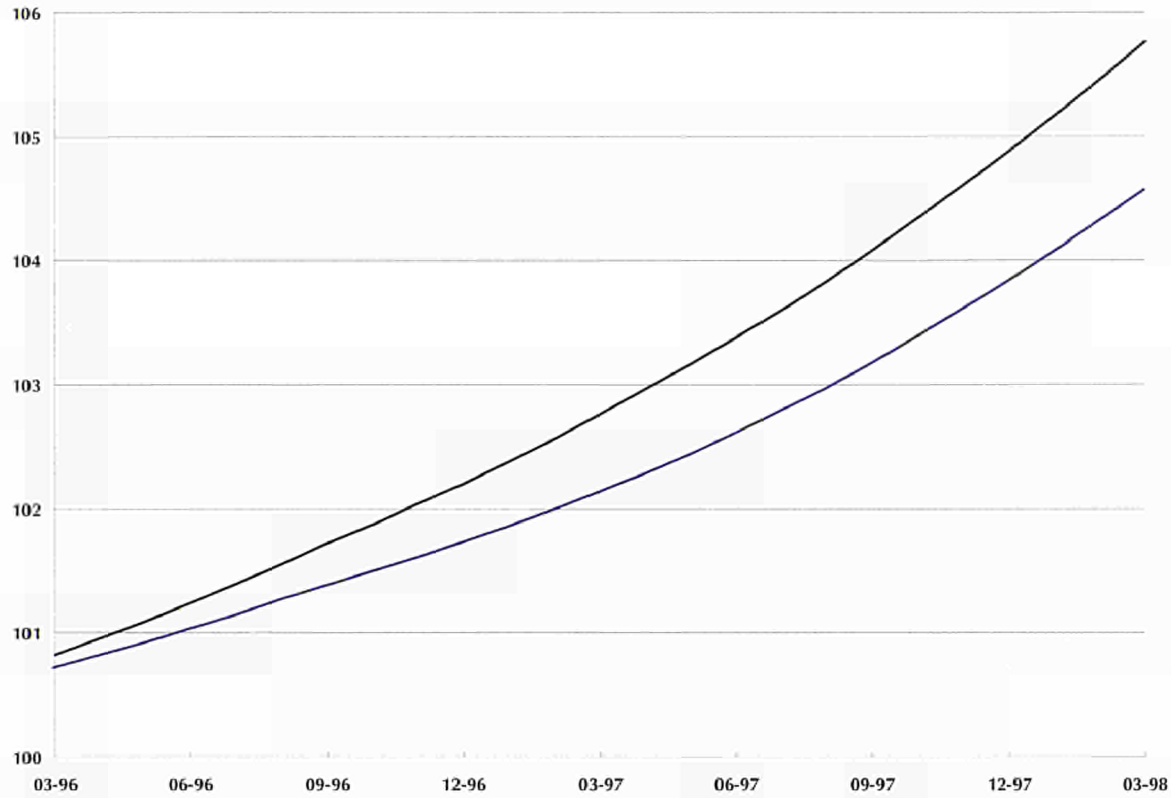


Figure 3.3

Volume of retail sales (1995 = 100)

— EU-15
— EUR-11

Source: eurostat

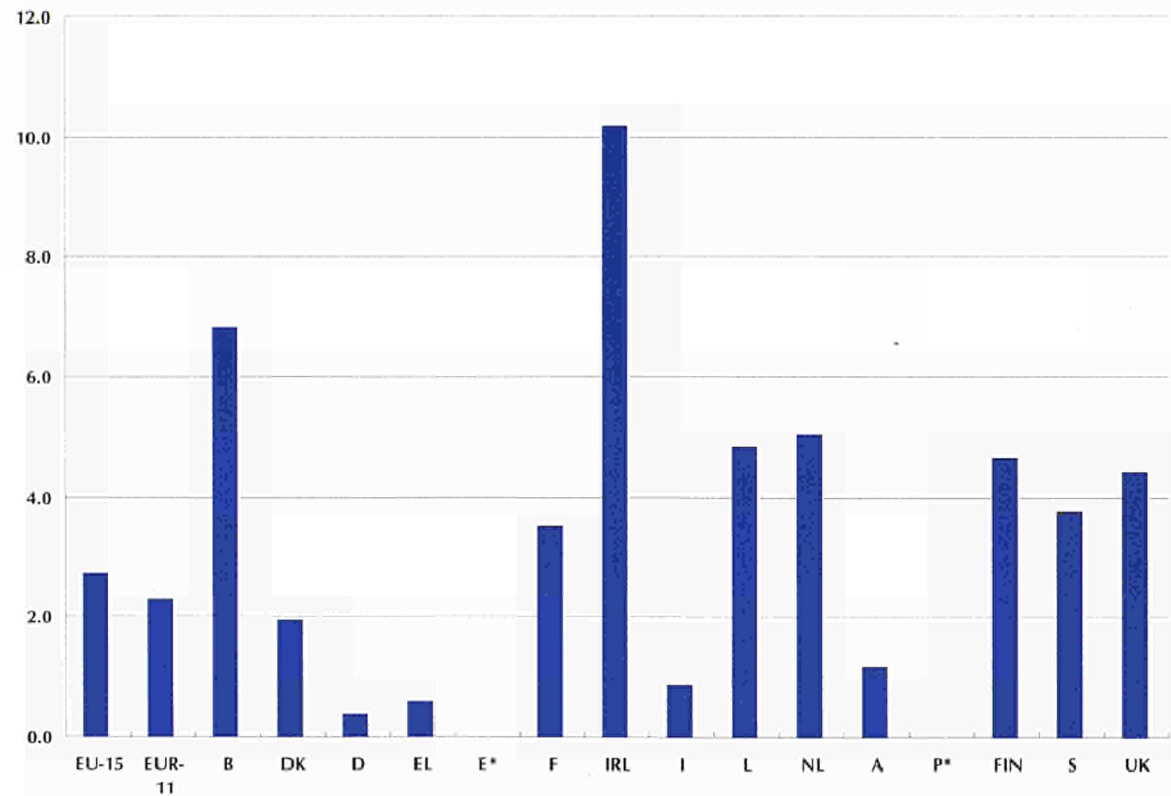


Figure 3.4

Volume of retail sales: growth rate, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year, 01-98 to 03-98 (%)

Source: eurostat

Table 3.3

Volume of retail sales for food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores: indices and latest growth rates (1995 = 100)

	1997	04-98	05-98	06-98	07-98	08-98	09-98	Latest 3 months available		t / t-1 (%)	t / t-4 (%)
EU-15	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	01-98 ⇌ 03-98	0.3	:	
B	111.8	114.1	118.0	115.4	110.6	112.3	:	06-98 ⇌ 08-98	:	2.2	
DK	101.4	107.9	101.3	100.1	107.4	103.1	:	06-98 ⇌ 08-98	-0.6	-0.3	
D	97.8	101.9	98.7	92.6	99.3	:	:	05-98 ⇌ 07-98	0.0	0.1	
EL	102.3	114.6	102.5	99.6	98.2	94.3	:	06-98 ⇌ 08-98	:	4.1	
E	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	⇌	:	:	
F	104.8	104.5	104.7	105.4	115.2	107.0	:	06-98 ⇌ 08-98	1.7	4.4	
IRL	106.4	111.3	112.9	108.9	114.2	113.9	:	06-98 ⇌ 08-98	0.9	4.0	
I	105.6	108.8	103.0	103.6	:	:	:	04-98 ⇌ 06-98	:	1.9	
L	100.8	102.8	106.6	98.9	109.1	95.8	98.0	07-98 ⇌ 09-98	0.1	-1.3	
NL	:	103.0	107.9	102.2	106.7	100.0	98.9	07-98 ⇌ 09-98	:	:	
A	98.8	101.2	100.5	98.3	104.7	98.3	96.3	07-98 ⇌ 09-98	-0.1	1.2	
P	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	⇌	:	:	
FIN	103.7	111.4	106.2	115.5	121.0	111.3	:	06-98 ⇌ 08-98	0.7	3.5	
S	103.3	100.5	106.7	105.4	105.9	106.1	:	06-98 ⇌ 08-98	0.0	-1.0	
UK	104.7	108.9	107.3	:	:	:	:	03-98 ⇌ 05-98	1.0	4.0	
Japan	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	⇌	:	:	
USA	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	⇌	:	:	

Source:  eurostat

Table 3.4

Volume of retail sales for textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods in specialised stores: indices and latest growth rates (1995 = 100)

	1997	04-98	05-98	06-98	07-98	08-98	09-98	Latest 3 months available		t / t-1 (%)	t / t-4 (%)
EU-15	106.4	108.6	:	:	:	:	:	02-98 ⇌ 04-98	0.7	0.4	
B	124.1	143.6	144.6	113.9	157.5	119.8	:	06-98 ⇌ 08-98	:	13.4	
DK	105.6	103.2	115.4	98.4	117.7	97.9	:	06-98 ⇌ 08-98	2.4	5.3	
D	96.0	98.9	97.7	80.0	93.1	:	:	05-98 ⇌ 07-98	-0.9	-3.0	
EL	97.0	115.6	90.4	96.8	121.5	87.9	:	06-98 ⇌ 08-98	:	3.7	
E	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	⇌	:	:	
F	103.7	106.9	121.2	104.4	112.5	90.5	:	06-98 ⇌ 08-98	1.1	5.0	
IRL	124.4	122.4	140.7	126.5	150.5	158.2	:	06-98 ⇌ 08-98	0.8	14.9	
I	99.1	100.3	103.9	94.0	:	:	:	04-98 ⇌ 06-98	:	1.8	
L	103.0	110.5	108.0	80.5	118.3	93.6	112.6	07-98 ⇌ 09-98	0.3	9.3	
NL	104.7	107.9	119.5	108.6	118.4	103.4	120.5	07-98 ⇌ 09-98	1.4	9.0	
A	102.1	106.4	104.0	89.6	99.8	85.4	117.5	07-98 ⇌ 09-98	0.5	7.1	
P	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	⇌	:	:	
FIN	105.5	102.2	119.8	109.6	118.4	106.9	:	06-98 ⇌ 08-98	2.5	10.4	
S	99.0	101.6	115.4	104.3	95.5	107.0	:	06-98 ⇌ 08-98	3.1	10.0	
UK	112.1	104.0	110.0	:	:	:	:	03-98 ⇌ 05-98	1.0	3.1	
Japan	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	⇌	:	:	
USA	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	⇌	:	:	

Source:  eurostat

Retail sales and first registration of private and commercial cars

	1997	04-98	05-98	06-98	07-98	08-98	09-98	Latest 3 months available		t / t-1 (%)	t / t-4 (%)	
EU-15	106.2	102.8	:	:	:	:	:	02-98	⇄	04-98	0.4	4.3
B	96.7	98.4	99.5	104.3	106.5	88.9	:	06-98	⇄	08-98	:	3.7
DK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		⇄		:	:
D	96.6	95.6	95.5	92.0	95.9	:	:	05-98	⇄	07-98	-0.2	0.3
EL	114.8	106.5	102.6	114.8	132.7	107.7	:	06-98	⇄	08-98	:	2.7
E	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		⇄		:	:
F	105.5	108.8	109.2	108.1	113.9	106.3	:	06-98	⇄	08-98	1.2	7.2
IRL	118.0	122.6	120.6	118.0	134.1	129.0	:	06-98	⇄	08-98	2.3	7.1
I	98.4	91.7	105.9	98.0	:	:	:	04-98	⇄	06-98	:	-0.2
L	114.6	120.6	132.3	117.4	130.0	104.9	118.9	07-98	⇄	09-98	0.8	3.9
NL	111.6	116.5	121.2	125.9	130.8	108.6	119.4	07-98	⇄	09-98	2.1	9.9
A	105.2	92.5	89.3	94.2	106.6	89.6	110.9	07-98	⇄	09-98	0.3	-0.1
P	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		⇄		:	:
FIN	116.4	107.7	126.4	139.5	144.3	138.4	:	06-98	⇄	08-98	3.5	12.0
S	104.1	100.6	103.9	106.9	109.6	120.7	:	06-98	⇄	08-98	5.5	16.3
UK	117.6	120.1	113.3	:	:	:	:	03-98	⇄	05-98	0.9	9.1
Japan	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		⇄		:	:
USA	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		⇄		:	:

Table 3.5

Volume of retail sales of household equipment in specialised stores: indices and latest growth rates (1995 = 100)

Source:  eurostat

	1997	04-98	05-98	06-98	07-98	08-98	09-98	Latest 3 months available		t / t-1 (%)	t / t-4 (%)	
EU-15	13,328	:	:	:	:	:	:	02-98	⇄	04-98	2.6	:
B	407	49	:	:	:	:	:	02-98	⇄	04-98	2.7	14.2
DK	153	16	13	21	12	12	:	06-98	⇄	08-98	-2.2	73.6
D	3,528	299	319	343	323	256	:	06-98	⇄	08-98	5.2	0.9
EL	162	:	:	:	:	:	:	01-98	⇄	03-98	3.0	9.5
E	1,091	101	101	118	:	:	:	04-98	⇄	06-98	2.4	10.3
F	1,713	166	137	102	:	:	:	04-98	⇄	06-98	-1.8	7.2
IRL	126	17	:	:	:	:	:	02-98	⇄	04-98	0.9	9.7
I	2,412	231	217	216	:	:	:	04-98	⇄	06-98	-1.7	-3.4
L	32	4	3	3	3	:	:	05-98	⇄	07-98	1.8	15.5
NL	478	48	47	49	50	:	:	05-98	⇄	07-98	1.7	17.3
A	302	:	:	:	:	:	:	10-97	⇄	12-97	-0.2	-3.1
P	317	48	47	49	50	:	:	05-98	⇄	07-98	21.0	72.4
FIN	105	12	11	11	:	:	:	04-98	⇄	06-98	3.1	18.6
S	259	27	25	27	21	20	24	07-98	⇄	09-98	9.9	11.1
UK	2,244	178	:	:	:	:	:	02-98	⇄	04-98	1.3	9.9
Japan	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		⇄		:	:
USA	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		⇄		:	:

Table 3.6

First registration of private and commercial cars: units and latest growth rates (thousands)


Source:  eurostat

Figure 3.5

First registration of private and commercial cars (1995 = 100)

EU-15

Source:  eurostat

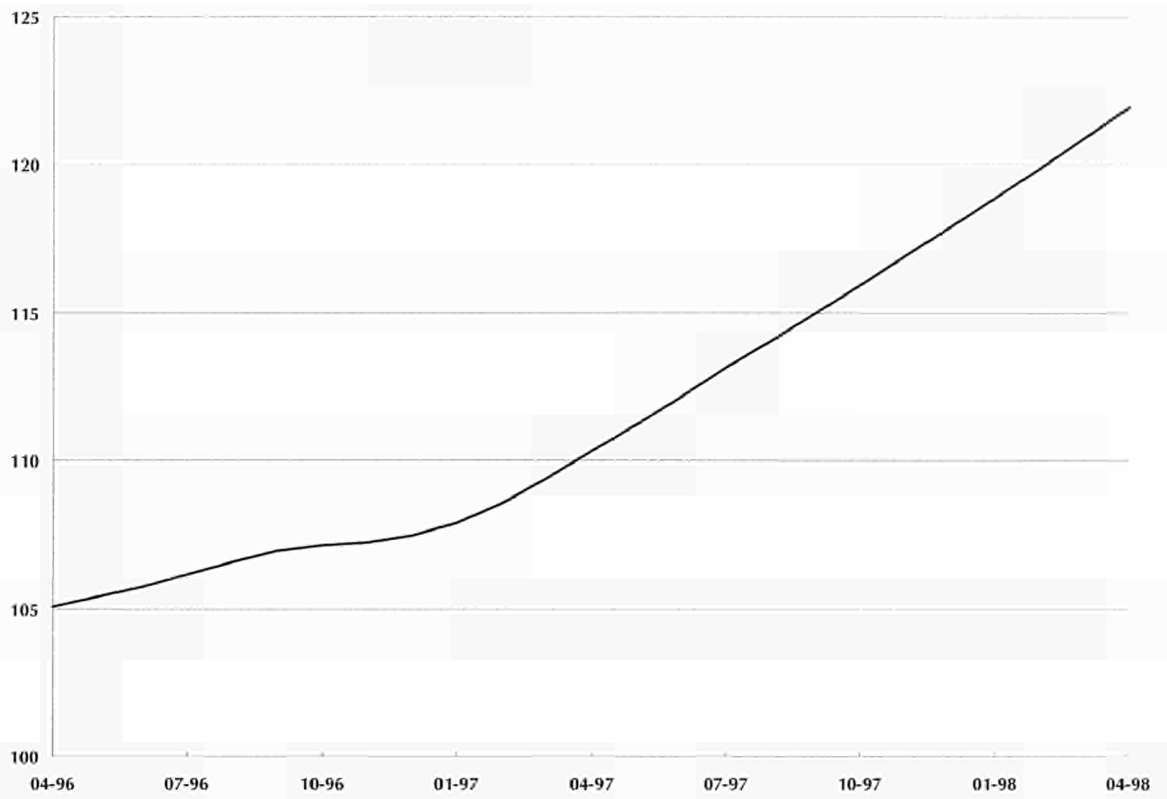
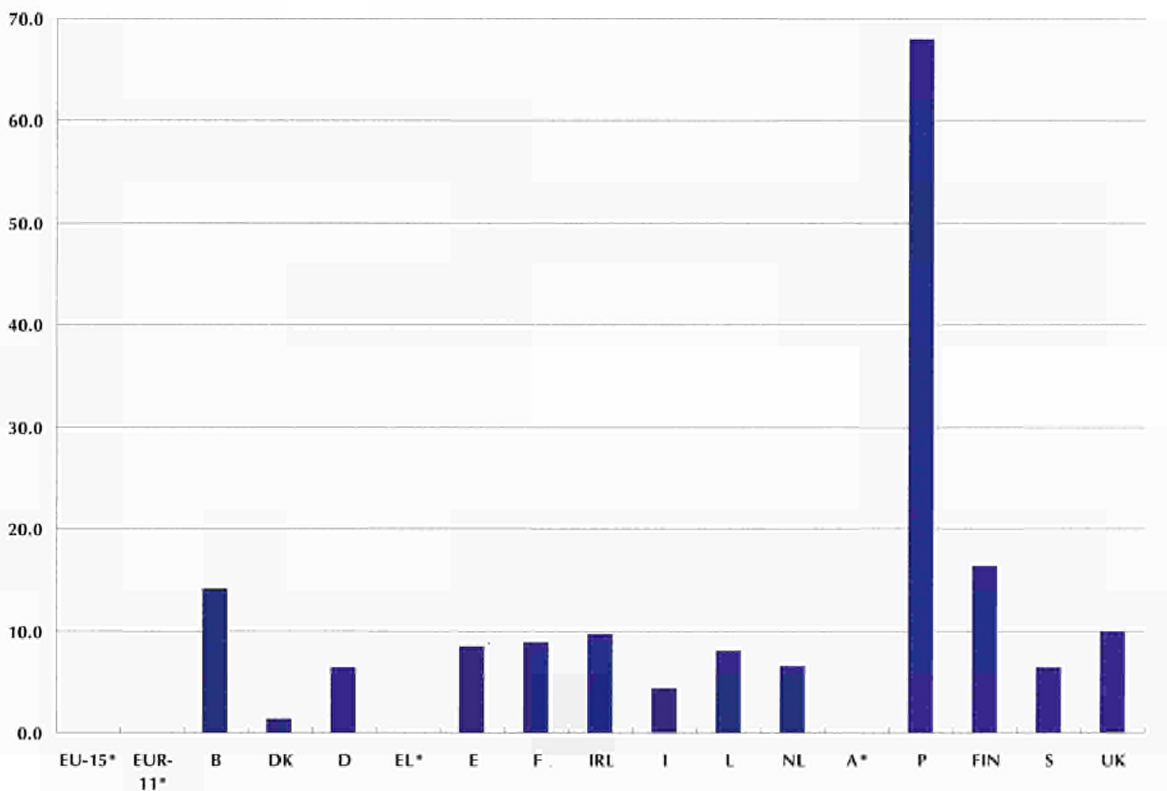


Figure 3.6

First registration of private and commercial cars: growth rate, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year, 02-98 to 04-98 (%)

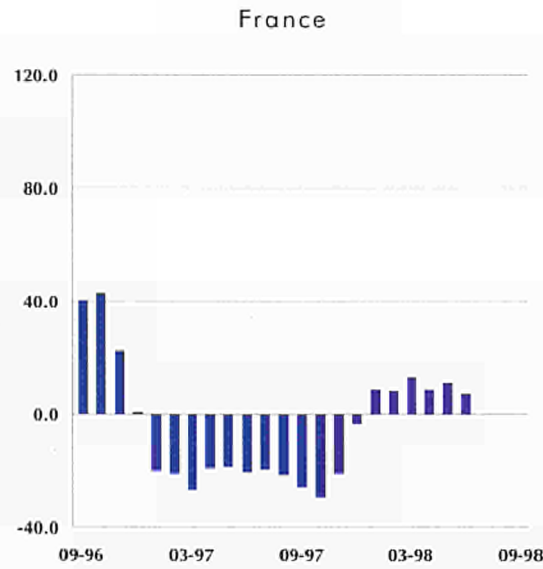
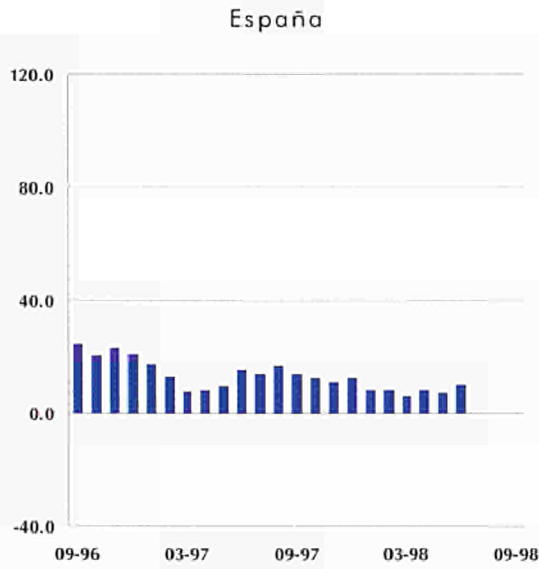
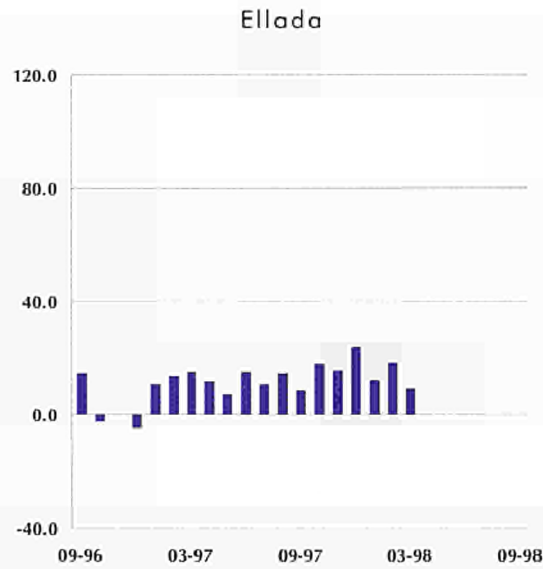
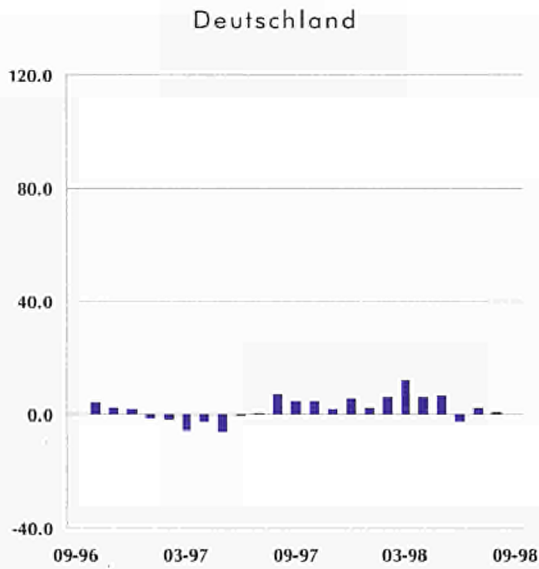
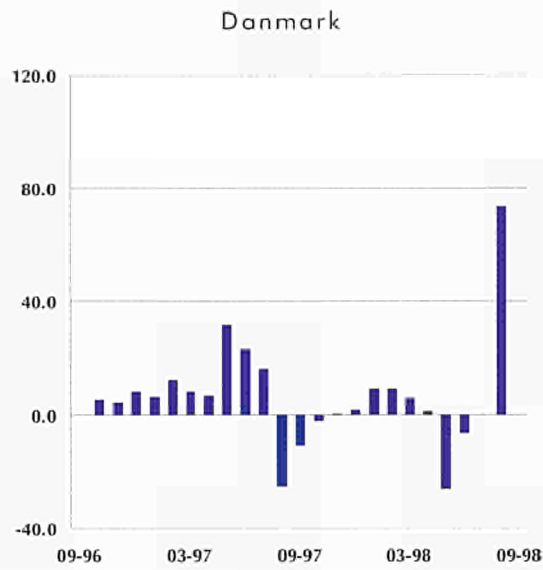
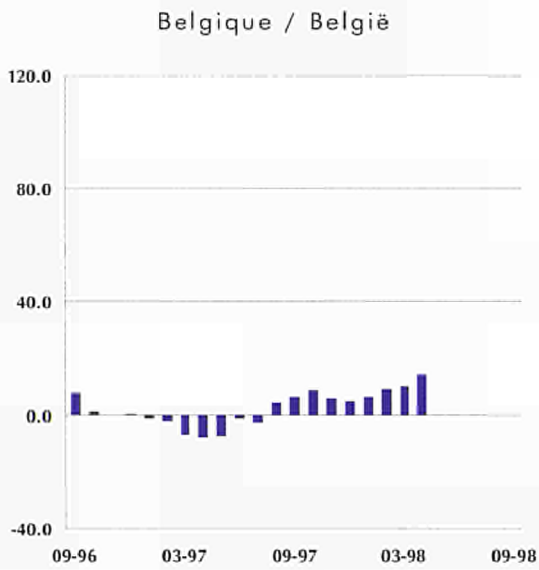
Source:  eurostat



First registration of private and commercial cars

Figure 3.7

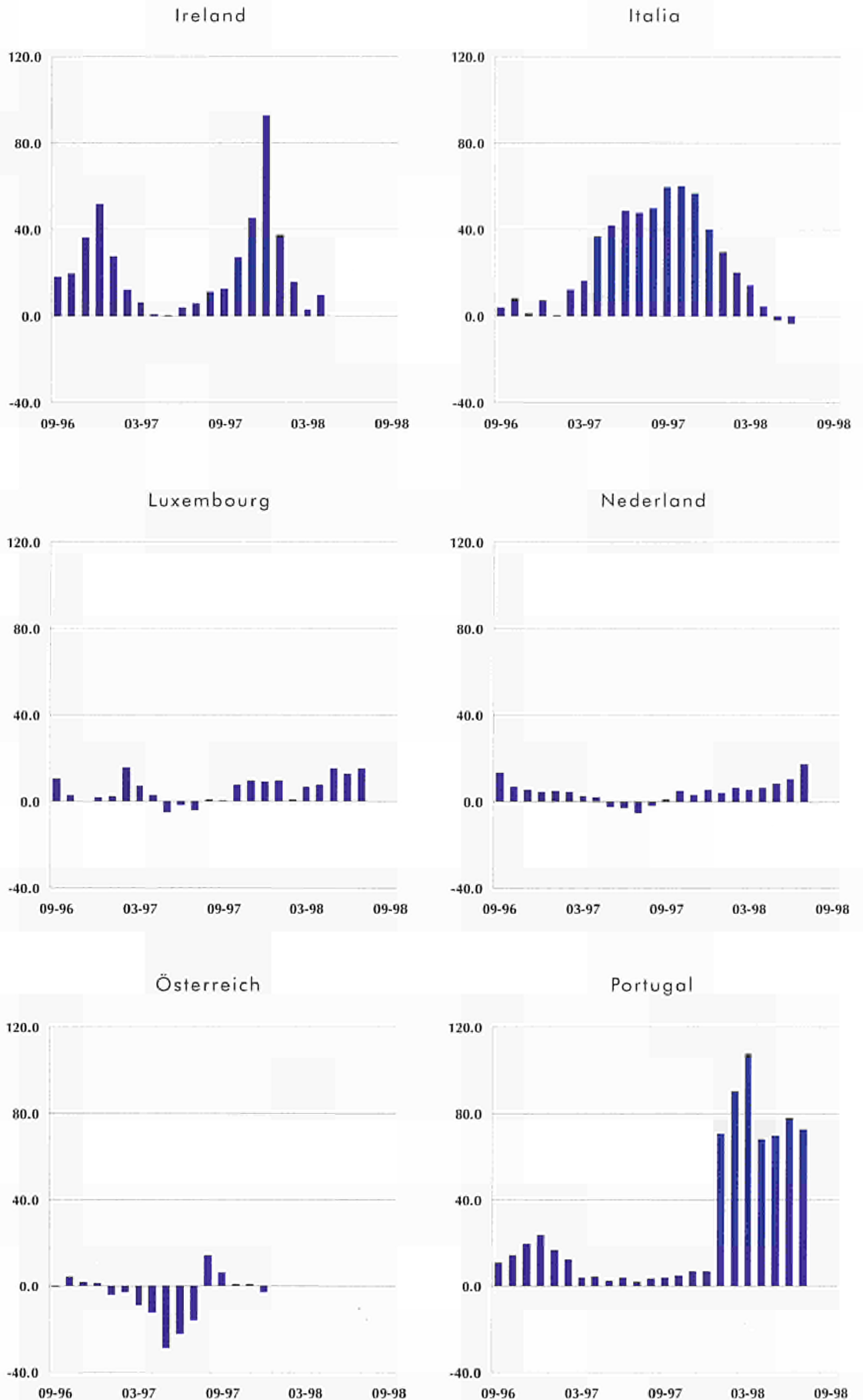
First registration of private and commercial cars: growth rate, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year (%)




Source: eurostat

Figure 3.7

First registration of private and commercial cars: growth rate, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year (%)

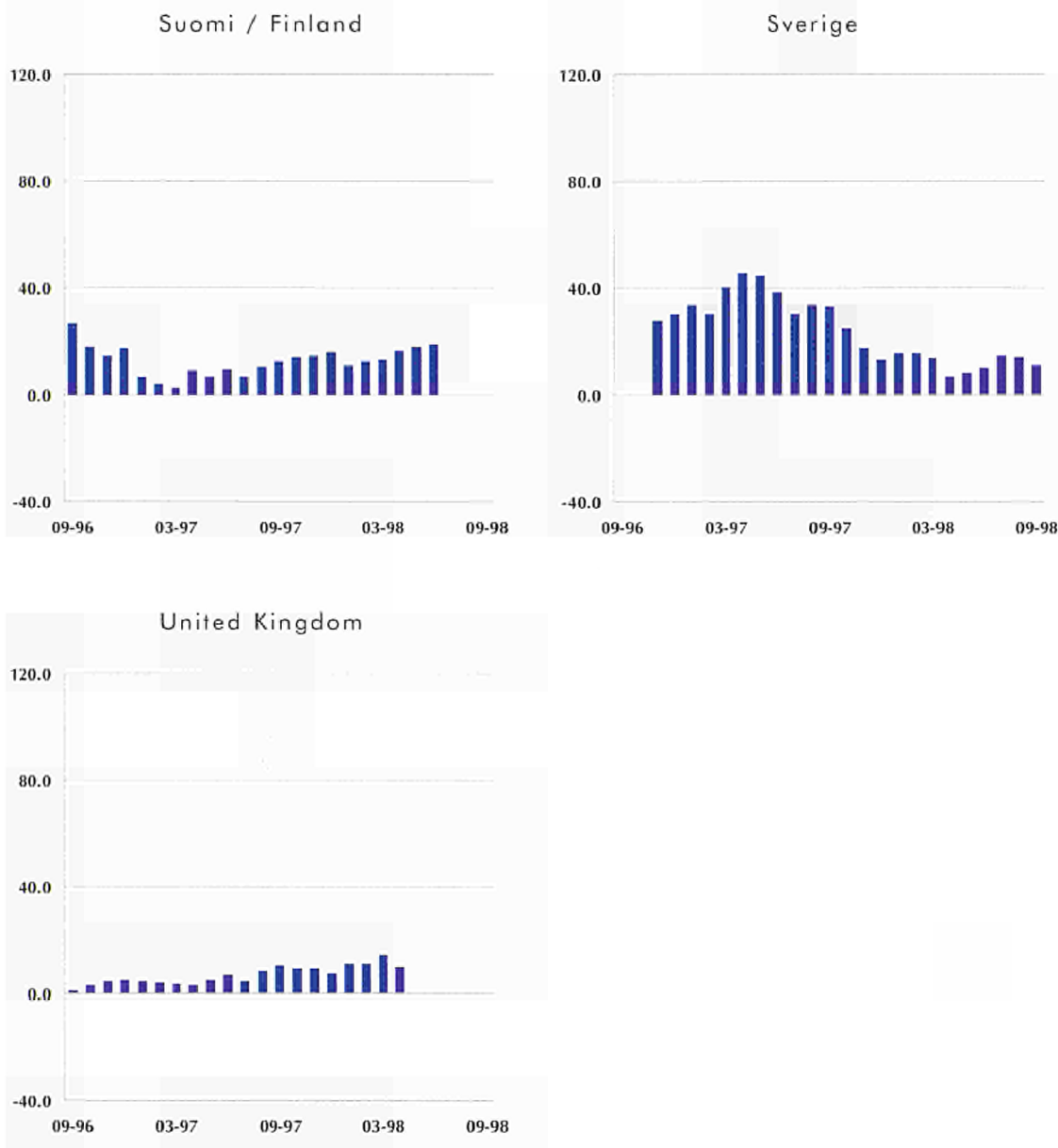


Source:  eurostat

First registration of private and commercial cars

Figure 3.7

First registration of private and commercial cars: growth rate, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year (%)



Source:  eurostat

Table 3.7

Guest flows in hotels and similar establishments, residents in the country: units and latest growth rates (thousands)

	1997	01-98	02-98	03-98	04-98	05-98	06-98	Latest 3 months available		t / t-4 (%)
EU-15	514,955	:	:	:	:	:	:	⇔		:
B	9,267	513	584	746	854	992	:	03-98	⇔ 05-98	5.1
DK	4,505	176	189	234	282	376	:	03-98	⇔ 05-98	-27.5
D	28,576	:	:	:	:	:	:	10-97	⇔ 12-97	2.6
EL	39,992	:	:	:	:	:	:	10-97	⇔ 12-97	12.3
E	106,102	4,540	5,039	6,083	7,544	11,723	12,942	04-98	⇔ 06-98	6.4
F	60,624	:	:	:	:	:	:	10-97	⇔ 12-97	9.5
IRL	13,000	:	:	:	:	:	:		⇔	:
I	84,565	3,386	:	:	:	:	:	11-97	⇔ 01-98	-0.5
L	1,026	51	61	71	88	107	:	03-98	⇔ 05-98	5.3
NL	11,245	:	:	:	:	:	:	10-97	⇔ 12-97	18.8
A	53,376	:	:	:	:	:	:	10-97	⇔ 12-97	0.2
P	20,851	896	1,131	1,554	1,815	2,139	:	03-98	⇔ 05-98	0.0
FIN	3,171	247	180	217	179	236	:	03-98	⇔ 05-98	-2.3
S	4,051	:	:	:	:	:	:	10-97	⇔ 12-97	7.2
UK	88,200	3,650	3,070	4,460	5,480	6,950	8,540	04-98	⇔ 06-98	0.6

Source:  eurostat

Table 3.8

Guest flows in hotels and similar establishments, non-residents in the country: units and latest growth rates (thousands)

	1997	01-98	02-98	03-98	04-98	05-98	06-98	Latest 3 months available		t / t-4 (%)
EU-15	589,541	:	:	:	:	:	:	⇔		:
B	3,338	154	215	195	307	327	:	03-98	⇔ 05-98	8.2
DK	6,122	273	275	352	295	348	:	03-98	⇔ 05-98	-39.4
D	144,469	:	:	:	:	:	:	10-97	⇔ 12-97	-0.6
EL	13,373	:	:	:	:	:	:	10-97	⇔ 12-97	20.7
E	61,159	3,048	3,559	4,572	5,829	5,168	5,683	04-98	⇔ 06-98	12.3
F	92,666	:	:	:	:	:	:	10-97	⇔ 12-97	1.3
IRL	6,000	:	:	:	:	:	:		⇔	:
I	120,920	6,656	:	:	:	:	:	11-97	⇔ 01-98	-0.9
L	83	5	6	7	7	7	:	03-98	⇔ 05-98	-2.1
NL	9,861	:	:	:	:	:	:	10-97	⇔ 12-97	13.7
A	16,083	:	:	:	:	:	:	10-97	⇔ 12-97	7.1
P	8,499	434	504	559	703	646	:	03-98	⇔ 05-98	-4.1
FIN	9,115	574	714	822	766	746	:	03-98	⇔ 05-98	0.6
S	14,815	:	:	:	:	:	:	10-97	⇔ 12-97	4.5
UK	94,900	3,310	4,480	5,570	6,390	7,330	:	03-98	⇔ 05-98	-10.7

Source:  eurostat

Tourism

	1997	01-98	02-98	03-98	04-98	05-98	06-98	Latest 3 months available	t / t-4 (%)
EU-15	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	⇒	:
B	5,495	156	245	295	389	468	:	03-98 ⇒ 05-98	-4.6
DK	6,414	21	35	315	423	159	:	03-98 ⇒ 05-98	81.7
D	7,672	:	:	:	:	:	:	10-97 ⇒ 12-97	-5.9
EL	676	:	:	:	:	:	:	10-97 ⇒ 12-97	-4.0
E	50,675	:	:	:	:	:	:	10-97 ⇒ 12-97	69.8
F	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	⇒	:
IRL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	⇒	:
I	32,636	358	:	:	:	:	:	11-97 ⇒ 01-98	5.5
L	1,249	6	10	8	56	121	:	03-98 ⇒ 05-98	-15.8
NL	9,608	:	:	:	:	:	:	10-97 ⇒ 12-97	12.9
A	6,918	:	:	:	:	:	:	10-97 ⇒ 12-97	24.9
P	1,750	63	65	39	92	92	:	03-98 ⇒ 05-98	8.5
FIN	474	12	8	11	9	17	:	03-98 ⇒ 05-98	-10.0
S	3,608	:	:	:	:	:	:	10-97 ⇒ 12-97	-19.3
UK	39,420	2,350	1,750	3,050	1,890	2,560	4,130	04-98 ⇒ 06-98	-0.2

Table 3.9

Guest flows in other collective accommodation establishments, residents in the country: units and latest growth rates (thousands)

Source:  eurostat

	1997	12-97	01-98	02-98	03-98	04-98	05-98	Latest 3 months available	t / t-4 (%)
EU-15	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	⇒	:
B	10,394	444	262	403	437	758	742	03-98 ⇒ 05-98	-15.6
DK	8,779	:	:	:	:	:	:	⇒	:
D	127,263	5,202	:	:	:	:	:	10-97 ⇒ 12-97	-12.3
EL	461	:	:	:	:	:	:	⇒	:
E	19,367	301	:	:	:	:	:	10-97 ⇒ 12-97	-15.7
F	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	⇒	:
IRL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	⇒	:
I	51,418	990	1,210	:	:	:	:	11-97 ⇒ 01-98	-2.0
L	117	3	2	3	3	14	24	03-98 ⇒ 05-98	22.1
NL	32,492	1,014	:	:	:	:	:	10-97 ⇒ 12-97	-4.8
A	7,388	304	:	:	:	:	:	10-97 ⇒ 12-97	7.8
P	6,208	72	71	99	116	150	262	03-98 ⇒ 05-98	-19.2
FIN	2,150	34	33	55	67	74	68	03-98 ⇒ 05-98	-13.3
S	14,454	217	:	:	:	:	:	10-97 ⇒ 12-97	-16.5
UK	90,700	1,310	860	1,220	1,750	5,420	9,590	03-98 ⇒ 05-98	-17.8

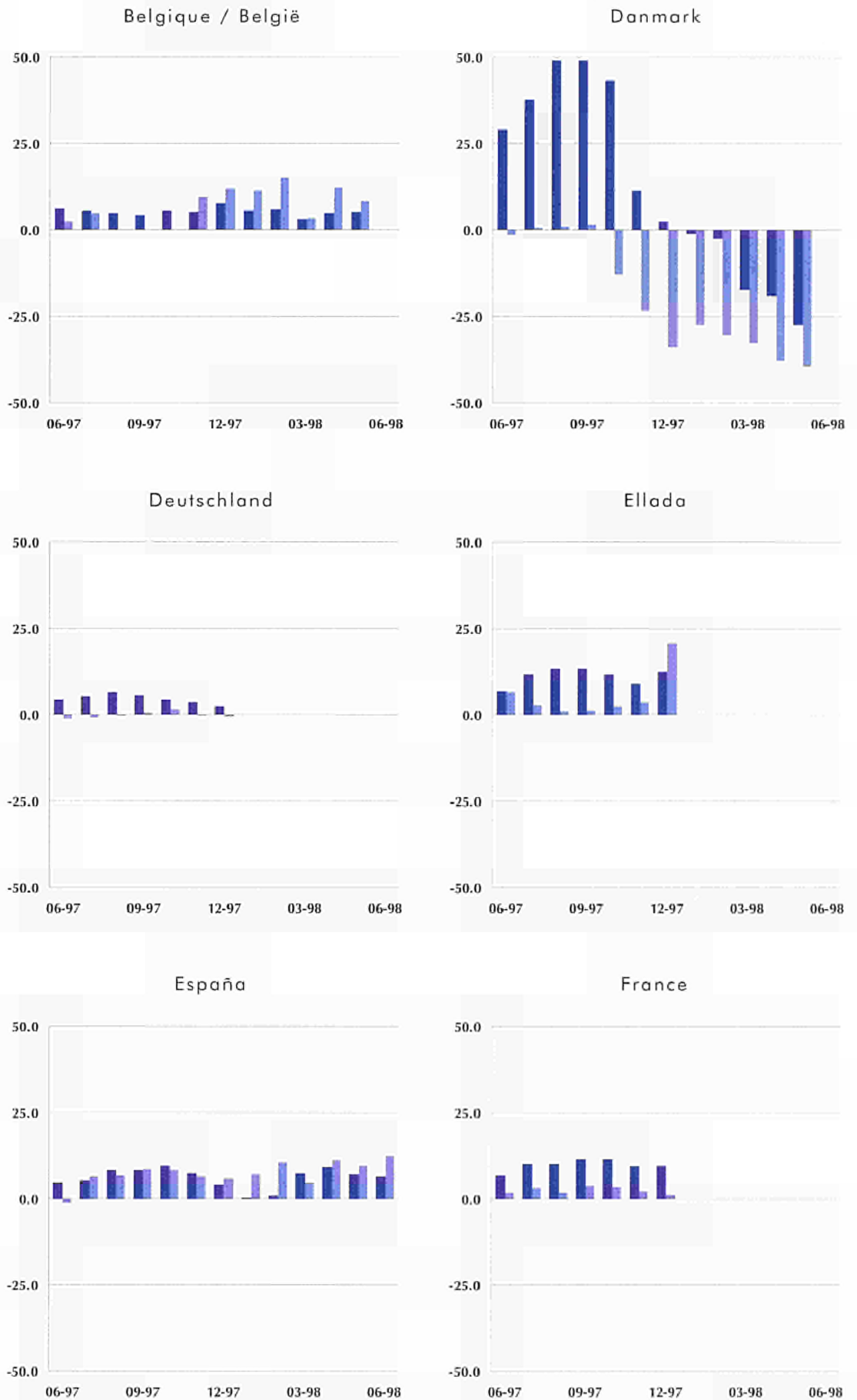
Table 3.10

Guest flows in other collective accommodation establishments, non-residents in the country: units and latest growth rates (thousands)

Source:  eurostat

Figure 3.8

Nights spent in hotels and similar establishments: growth rate, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year (%)



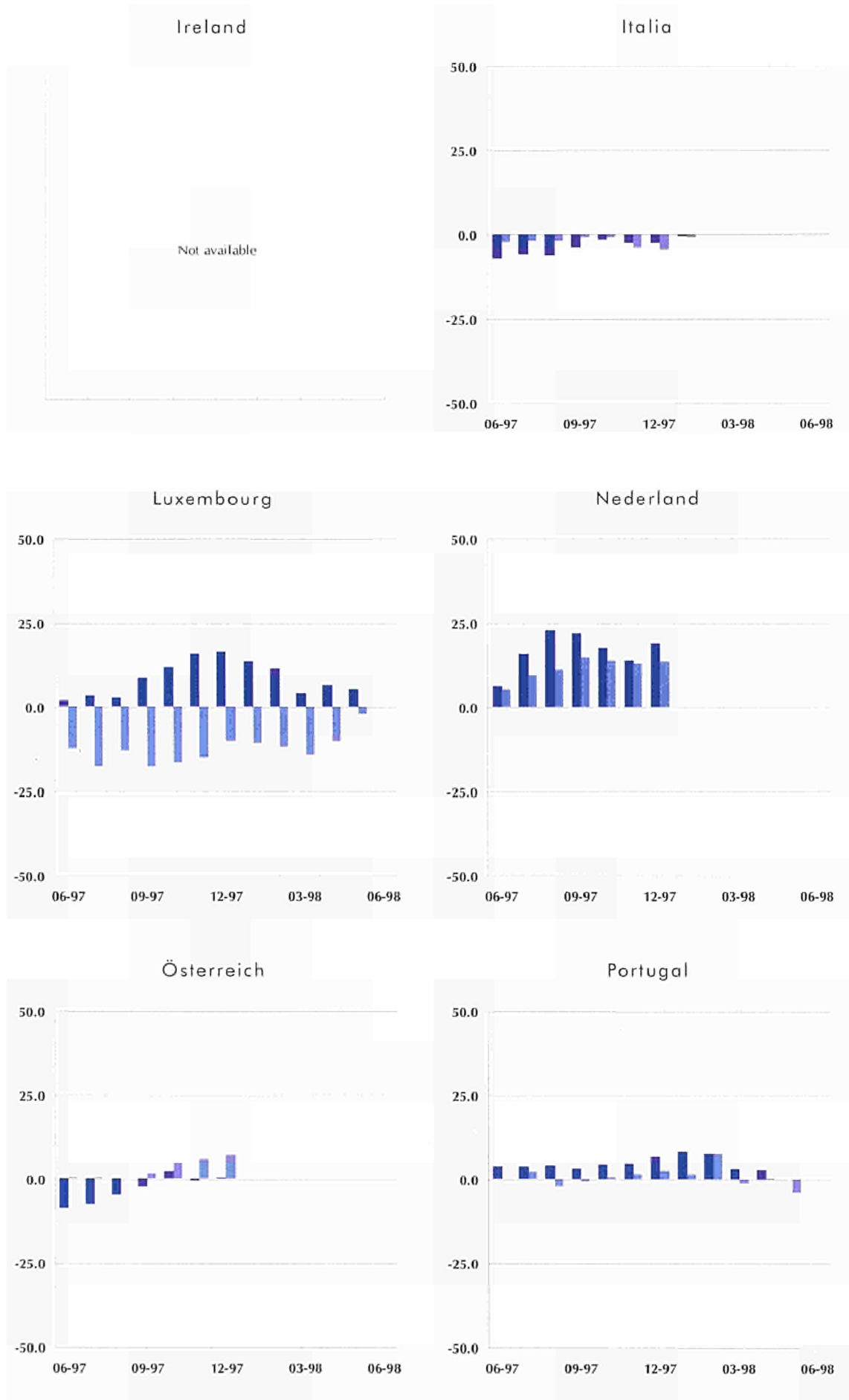
Residents ■
Non-residents ■

Source: eurostat

Tourism

Figure 3.8

Nights spent in hotels and similar establishments: growth rate, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year (%)

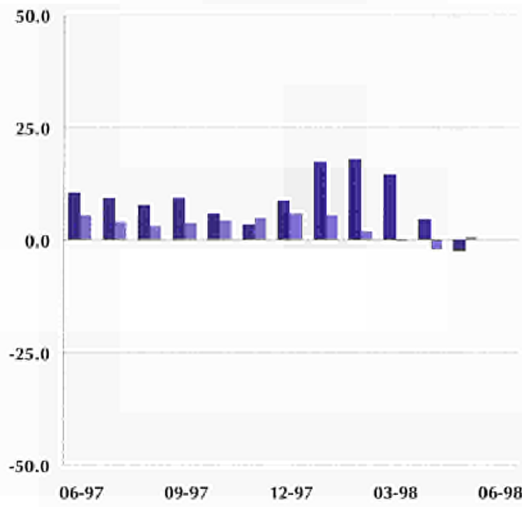


Source: eurostat

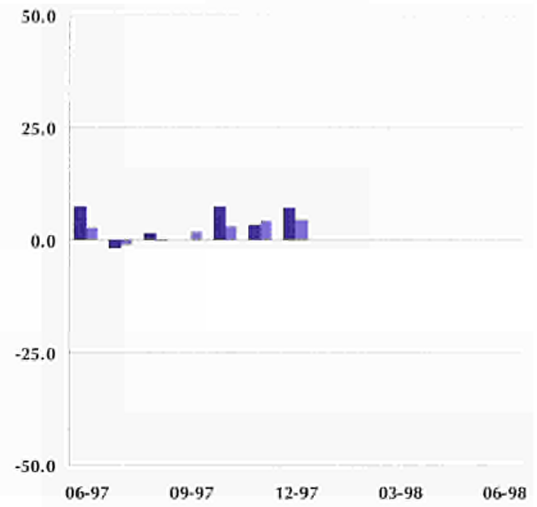
Figure 3.8

Nights spent in hotels and similar establishments: growth rate, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year (%)

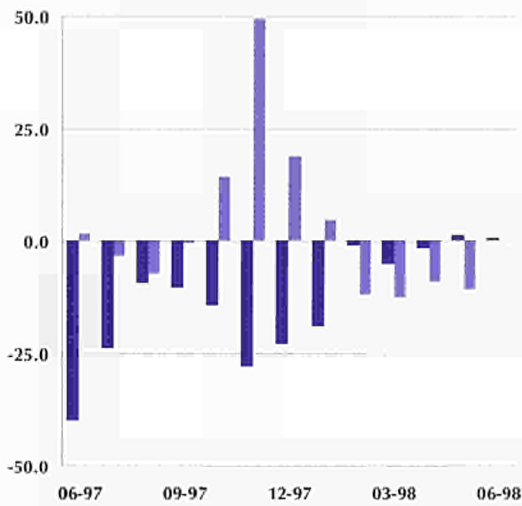
Suomi / Finland



Sverige



United Kingdom



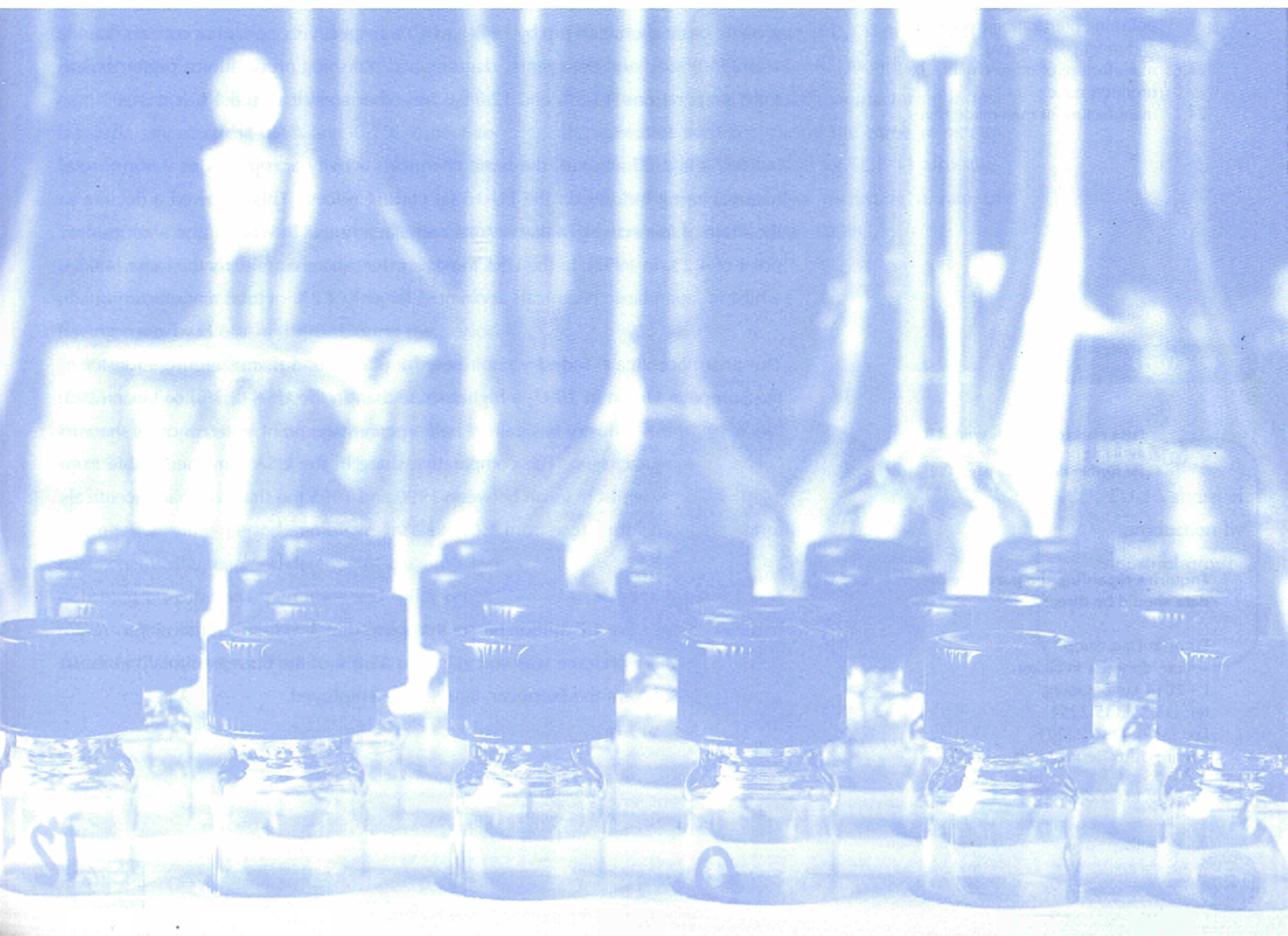
Residents ■
Non-residents ■

Source: eurostat

4.

Chemicals and chemical products

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	extra EU-15 exports and extra EU-15 imports	
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4. Chemicals and chemical products

Description of the NACE Rev. 1 Groups in Division 24:

- 24.1: manufacture of basic chemicals;
- 24.2: manufacture of pesticides and other agro-chemical products;
- 24.3: manufacture of paints, varnishes and similar coating, printing ink and mastics;
- 24.4: manufacture of pharmaceuticals, medicinal chemicals and botanical products;
- 24.5: manufacture of soap and detergents, cleaning and polishing preparations, perfumes and toilet preparations;
- 24.6: manufacture of other chemical products n.e.c.;
- 24.7: manufacture of man-made fibres.



Data marked with this symbol is available on the diskette - for further details see page 110

Enquiries regarding the purchase of data should be directed to:

Eurostat Data-Shop
4, rue Alphonse Weicker
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tel: (352) 4335 2251
fax: (352) 4335 22221
e-mail: dslux@eurostat.datashop.lu

Structure of the industry

In 1997 EU production at current prices grew by 6.9%, accelerating after growth of 2% in 1996. Growth was above average in the groups of other chemical products (10.5%) and basic chemicals (7.2%). Soap and detergents, cleaning and polishing preparations, perfumes and toilet preparations also displayed positive trends in 1997, up by 5.8%. In comparison, the growth rate of pharmaceuticals weakened, with the 7.7% growth rate of 1996 being reduced to only 4.3% growth in 1997.

Of the five largest chemical producing countries, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands had the highest growth rates (in current prices): up by 16% and 17.9% respectively. The data at a more disaggregated level also shows similar rates of growth: basic chemicals (up by 16% and 10% respectively), pharmaceuticals (15.4% and 29%), soap and detergents, cleaning and polishing preparations, perfumes and toilet preparations (14.9% and 12.8%), and other chemicals (26.1% and 31.8%).

In 1997 the production of the basic chemicals activity accounted for 4.5% of total manufacturing industry in the EU-15 (at current prices). This followed a decline in the share of this activity in that of total manufacturing at the start of the nineties (low point of 4.2% in 1992). In the USA the equivalent share was nearly the same (4.6%), whilst in Japan basic chemicals accounted for only 3.2% of total manufacturing.

The pharmaceuticals' industry contributed 2.6% of total manufacturing industry in the European Union in 1997, a higher share than in the USA (2.3%) or Japan (2%). Since 1990, this industry has gained half a percentage point in terms of its share in European manufacturing. The comparative share in the USA remained stable from 1991 onwards, whilst in Japan between 1990 and 1995 the share of pharmaceuticals in total manufacturing rose from 1.6% to 2%.

Employment trends

In the EU there were 1.7 million persons employed in the chemical industry in 1997. In the USA, the workforce was equivalent to 55.8% of the European total, whilst in Japan only 22.8% of the European figure were employed.

Production & activity breakdown

EUR-11 chemical production

down by 0.3% in June 1998

Employment in the chemical industry rose slightly in 1997 (up by 0.6%). This may be compared to the annual average reduction of 1.9% seen during the period 1990 to 1997. In the USA and Japan employment also fell over this period, although at less pronounced rates (-0.4% and -0.7% respectively per annum on average).

Turning to a breakdown of the chemical industry (where data is available), employment rose in the pharmaceuticals industry in 1997 by 0.7%, after having risen by 3.6% in 1996. During the period 1990 to 1997 the growth rate of employment for pharmaceuticals was higher in the USA than in Europe. In comparison, in Japan employment fell by 0.5%.

During the same period, employment levels in basic chemicals, soap and detergents, cleaning and polishing preparations, perfumes and toilet preparations fell within the EU at a rate quicker than in either of the other two Triad countries.

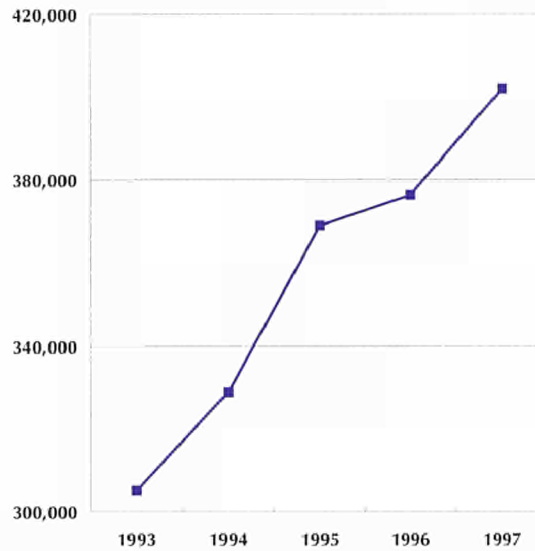


Figure 4.1

EU-15 production in constant prices (million ECU)

Source: eurostat

Short-term indicators:

decline in Germany and Italy

In May 1998 the production index for the chemicals industry within Europe was almost unchanged, with output rising at the rate of 0.1% (three months compared with the three months before). Production volumes for total manufacturing industry increased by 1.0% during the same month in Europe. Chemical production for EUR-11 also stagnated, with the latest data recording a rate of change equal to -0.3% (June 1998).

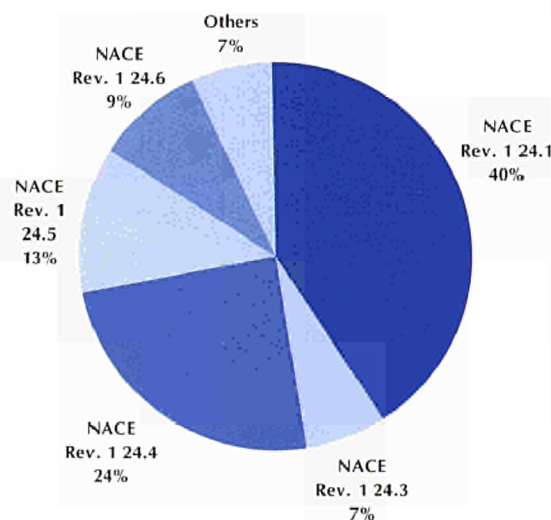


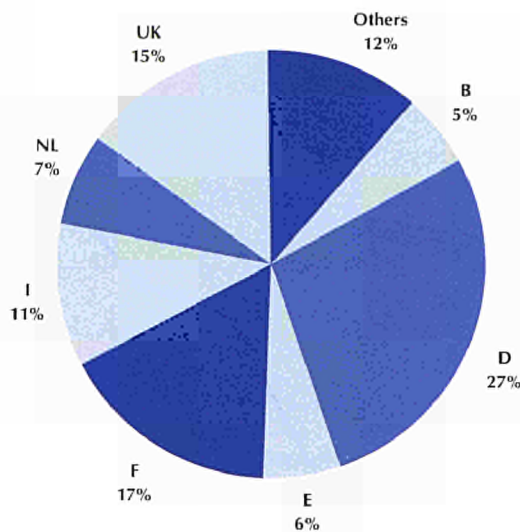
Figure 4.2


EU-15 share of production by industrial group, 1997

Source: eurostat

Figure 4.3

Share of EU-15
value-added
at factor cost,
1997



Source:  eurostat

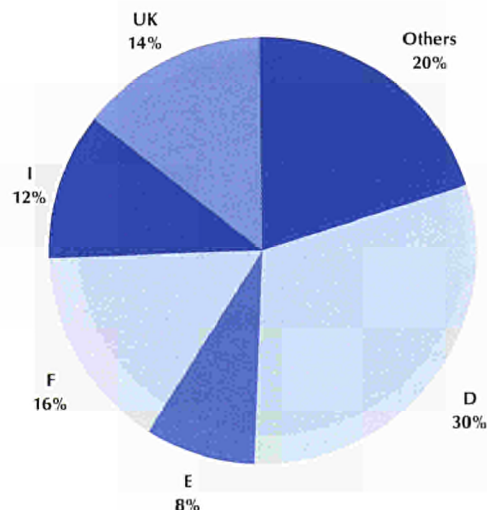
European manufacturers hope that biotechnology will be a fast expanding market in the future

In the individual Member States (for September 1998) the highest growth rates were registered in Luxembourg (3.0%), Greece (1.8%, August 1998), Denmark (1.5%), Austria (3.4%, August 1998) and Portugal (2.8%, August 1998). Two of the four largest producing countries recorded slightly negative growth rates: Germany and Italy, down by 0.7% (October 1998) and 0.6% (September 1998).

The manufacture of pharmaceuticals, medicinal chemicals and botanical products saw its output increase by 1.7% in May 1998. The highest rates of growth were being recorded in France (up by 4.1% in September 1998). Growth was also registered (although at more modest rates) in the area of manufacture of soap and detergents, cleaning and polishing preparations, perfumes and toilet preparations (0.3%, September 1998) and in the man-made fibres industry (just above 0%, again September 1998). A decline was seen for the manufacture of pesticides and other agro-chemical products (-1.9%, September 1998), for paints, varnishes and similar coatings, printing inks and mastics (-0.1%, August 1998) and for other chemical products (-0.5%, May 1998).

Figure 4.4

Share of EU-15
number of persons
employed,
1997



Source:  eurostat

Producer prices for chemicals fell by 2.4% in Europe in September 1998 (monthly change compared with the same month of the year before). For EUR-11 there was a similar change, equal to -2.9% in October 1998. Latest data shows that all Member States were experiencing falling producer prices with the exception of Sweden (1.1%, October 1998) and Greece (3.8%, September 1998). The largest decline in prices was registered in Spain (-7.1% in October 1998), Finland (-6.1%, October 1998) and the Netherlands (-4.7%, October 1998).

Labour costs & production

The manufacture of basic chemicals reported a rapid decline in producer prices, equal to some 9.0% in October 1998. In comparison, prices increased within the pharmaceuticals, medicinal chemicals and botanical products industry (by 1.2%) and in the soap and detergents, cleaning and polishing preparations, perfumes and toilet preparations industry (1.8%).

Influence of the south-east Asian crisis

South-east Asia has been an important and expanding market for European chemical manufacturers during recent years. The recent crisis in financial markets has increased global competition in other world markets for chemicals, as a result of a lack of demand in south-east Asia.

The European trade surplus with the region of south-east Asia has been in decline since October 1997 and this trend continued in 1998. Some chemical groups are affected more directly than others, for example basic chemicals and man-made fibres. The devaluation of Asian currencies has also strengthened the direct comparative advantage of Asian competitors, whilst making it more difficult for European manufacturers to compete on these markets. Pharmaceuticals and soap and detergents, cleaning and polishing preparations, perfumes and toilet preparations are the areas most affected by the reduction in world demand.

Competitiveness and research and development

There have been a large number of mergers in the chemical industry in the previous decade. This wave of merger activity may be seen as a response to the growing globalisation of the chemicals market. Major players are trying to produce more efficiently, to intensify research and simultaneously reduce risk by concentrating their financial and productive assets. The pressure to restructure is greater in Europe than in the USA, as European suppliers gain less profit and grow at a slower rate.

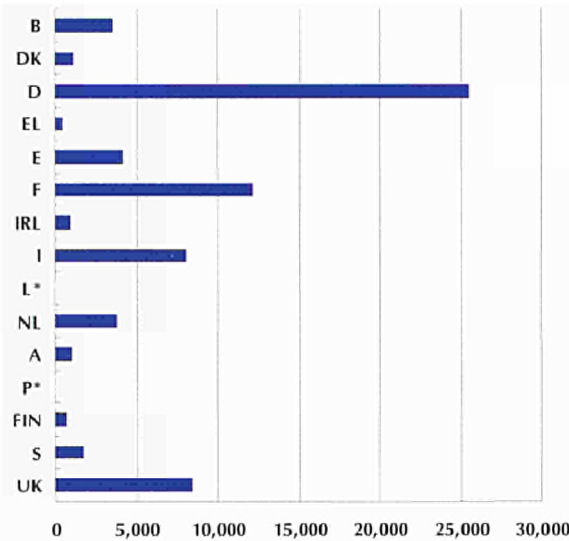


Figure 4.5

Labour costs,
1997
(million ECU)

Source:  eurostat

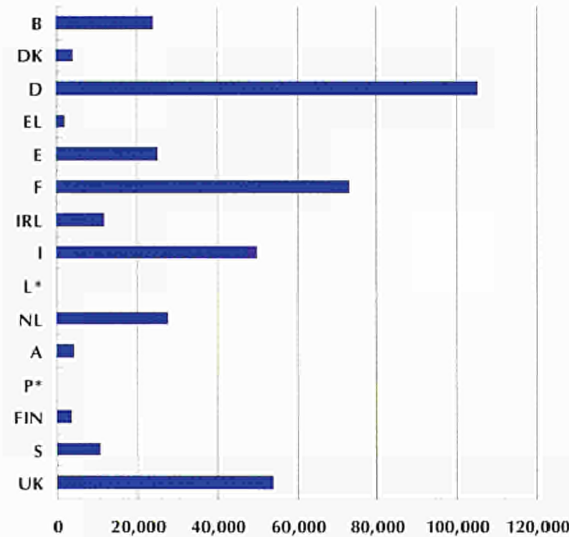


Figure 4.6

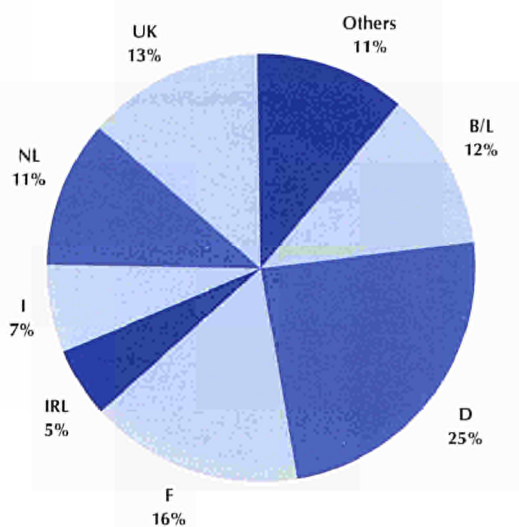
Production in
constant prices,
1997
(million ECU)

Source:  eurostat

The industry hopes that costs may be recouped in the future, especially in areas such as biotechnology. Nevertheless, research in this particular field is not well developed in Europe compared to either the USA or Japan. In the USA there are 2.5 times more firms engaged in biotechnology, with 6 times more persons employed and 9 times more expenditure on R&D.

Figure 4.7

Share of European exports to the rest of the world, 1997



Source: eurostat

Foreign trade performance

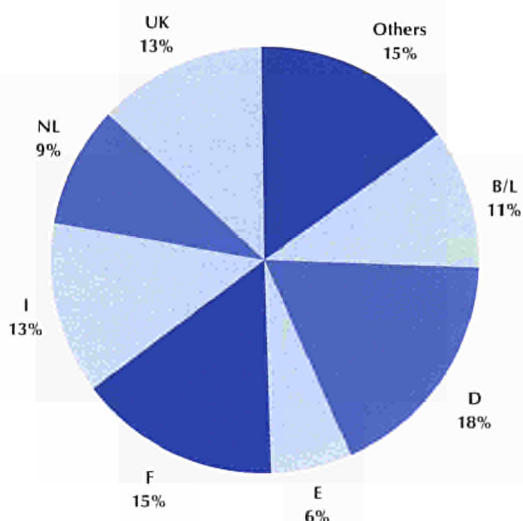
The surplus of the trade balance for the chemicals industry reached 37.1 billion ECU in 1997, up by some 16.1% compared with the year before. Positive trade balances were recorded in all chemicals groups with the exception of man-made fibres, where imports developed more dynamically and exports fell by 11.1% during 1997.

The export rate of the chemical industry rose continuously throughout the nineties, it was equal to 22.4% in 1997. The USA export rate was 16.6% in 1997, 5.8 percentage points below that of the EU, whilst the Japanese rate was 19.3%.

A comparison of the level of imports within the Triad shows similar patterns to those seen for exports. The European import penetration ratio in 1997 was equal to 14.5%, which was higher than in the USA or Japan, where the corresponding rates were 1.5 percentage points and 1.6 percentage points below the EU rate.

Figure 4.8

Share of European imports from the rest of the world, 1997



Source: eurostat

Basic chemicals account for the largest share of foreign trade within the chemical industry, for both exports (43.5% of the chemicals total) and imports (49.6%). The share of pharmaceuticals is equal to 23% of all exports in the EU chemicals industry and 20.6% of all EU imports. Foreign trade in this particular activity developed dynamically in 1997, with an increase of 16.5% in exports and 14.2% for imports. Exports of other chemical products and of paints, varnishes and similar coatings, printing inks and mastics also rose by more than 10% in 1997.

**Enterprises in Europe:
fourth report**

This is a biennial publication produced by Eurostat in co-operation with DG XXIII of the European Commission.

There were around 16 million small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in 1992 in the countries of EU-15, employing more than 100 million people.



The publication contains several parts which present the information that has been gathered by Eurostat. Each has been designed to facilitate the rapid acquisition of the facts. The interested reader may turn to detailed country or sectoral information. Besides this information, an update of the whole SME database will be published on CD-Rom in the first half of 1998. Eurostat Data-Shops also have the most recent data and can make user-specific extractions suited to customers' needs.

The paper publication is broken down into the following sections:

- Part 1: main information on European enterprises;
- Part 2: specific analyses, such as enterprise creation, the innovative behaviour of SMEs or regional analyses;
- Parts 3 & 4: sectoral and country analyses.

The sources used are normally existing business registers in the European countries. The following economic indicators are provided: employment, turnover and sometimes value added and labour costs.

Enquiries regarding the purchase of data should be directed to:

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4, rue Alphonse Weicker
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Table 4.1

Value-added at
factor cost
(million ECU)

	1993 t / t-1 (%)		1994 t / t-1 (%)		1995 t / t-1 (%)		1996 t / t-1 (%)		1997 t / t-1 (%)	
EU-15	104,161	-0.4	113,595	9.1	126,644	11.5	128,944	1.8	138,018	7.0
EUR-11	84,128	-0.8	91,933	9.3	104,192	13.3	104,745	0.5	110,777	5.8
B	:	:	:	:	7,003	:	6,926	-1.1	7,457	7.7
DK	1,694	6.1	1,849	9.2	1,687	-8.8	1,794	6.4	2,000	11.5
D	33,157	0.1	35,230	6.3	39,072	10.9	37,389	-4.3	38,378	2.6
EL	403	19.2	458	13.6	476	4.0	507	6.4	544	7.3
E	6,360	-8.2	6,864	7.9	7,370	7.4	7,343	-0.4	7,823	6.5
F	17,635	4.0	19,521	10.7	21,790	11.6	22,035	1.1	22,870	3.8
IRL	2,847	13.8	3,269	14.8	3,580	9.5	4,288	19.8	5,454	27.2
I	11,900	-7.5	12,552	5.5	13,358	6.4	14,341	7.4	15,468	7.9
L	120	6.5	112	-6.0	96	-14.9	:	:	:	:
NL	4,786	-4.6	6,896	44.1	8,085	17.2	6,910	-14.5	9,245	33.8
A	1,994	5.8	2,098	5.2	1,572	-25.1	1,582	0.6	1,620	2.4
P	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	1,073	-8.2	1,296	20.8	1,354	4.4	1,352	-0.1	1,438	6.4
S	2,416	-2.5	2,712	12.2	2,786	2.7	3,879	39.2	3,816	-1.6
UK	15,520	0.8	16,644	7.2	17,503	5.2	18,020	2.9	20,881	15.9

Source:  eurostat

Table 4.2

Production in
constant prices
(million ECU)

	1993 t / t-1 (%)		1994 t / t-1 (%)		1995 t / t-1 (%)		1996 t / t-1 (%)		1997 t / t-1 (%)	
EU-15	304,985	-1.8	328,683	7.8	369,054	12.3	376,400	2.0	402,234	6.9
EUR-11	253,521	-2.0	273,222	7.8	309,943	13.4	311,666	0.6	330,503	6.0
B	:	:	13,130	:	22,932	74.7	22,721	-0.9	24,404	7.4
DK	3,488	3.5	3,871	11.0	4,195	8.4	4,415	5.2	4,374	-0.9
D	86,703	-0.8	92,935	7.2	106,897	15.0	101,970	-4.6	105,138	3.1
EL	1,673	12.9	1,740	4.0	1,919	10.3	2,028	5.7	2,136	5.3
E	19,836	-8.1	21,853	10.2	23,822	9.0	24,455	2.7	25,196	3.0
F	59,529	2.8	64,034	7.6	69,668	8.8	70,408	1.1	73,118	3.8
IRL	:	:	5,932	:	6,809	14.8	8,147	19.6	11,965	46.9
I	39,965	-9.8	41,773	4.5	43,017	3.0	46,392	7.8	50,111	8.0
L	366	4.6	371	1.4	334	-9.8	:	:	:	:
NL	18,397	1.5	21,226	15.4	24,684	16.3	23,680	-4.1	27,920	17.9
A	6,130	-0.4	6,528	6.5	4,479	-31.4	4,508	0.6	4,615	2.4
P	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	2,691	-6.5	3,262	21.2	3,804	16.6	3,779	-0.6	4,026	6.5
S	5,173	-6.7	6,035	16.7	7,517	24.6	11,469	52.6	10,923	-4.8
UK	41,130	-1.1	43,816	6.5	45,480	3.8	46,822	3.0	54,298	16.0

Source:  eurostat

Number of persons employed & labour costs

Table 4.3

	1993 t/t-1 (%)		1994 t/t-1 (%)		1995 t/t-1 (%)		1996 t/t-1 (%)		1997 t/t-1 (%)	
EU-15	1,777,270	-4.7	1,716,090	-3.4	1,699,170	-1.0	1,696,600	-0.2	1,707,520	0.6
EUR-11	1,449,011	-5.4	1,393,655	-3.8	1,371,946	-1.6	1,363,706	-0.6	1,377,474	1.0
B	:	:	59,111	:	66,418	12.4	66,743	0.5	66,436	-0.5
DK	21,643	1.8	22,538	4.1	23,502	4.3	24,145	2.7	26,186	8.5
D	592,213	-6.9	556,308	-6.1	553,306	-0.5	538,122	-2.7	517,637	-3.8
EL	19,105	7.6	18,550	-2.9	17,798	-4.1	17,933	0.8	21,111	17.7
E	138,265	-5.2	134,752	-2.5	129,656	-3.8	127,789	-1.4	142,721	11.7
F	274,091	-2.9	272,619	-0.5	270,479	-0.8	266,286	-1.6	265,825	-0.2
IRL	16,089	6.5	17,312	7.6	18,149	4.8	19,513	7.5	29,232	49.8
I	204,589	-4.2	196,282	-4.1	187,292	-4.6	189,296	1.1	201,059	6.2
L	1,420	-2.7	1,389	-2.2	1,440	3.7	:	:	:	:
NL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
A	35,423	-5.0	34,196	-3.5	22,478	-34.3	21,803	-3.0	23,443	7.5
P	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	18,101	-3.0	17,695	-2.2	18,399	4.0	18,920	2.8	20,122	6.4
S	28,773	-7.6	30,146	4.8	31,450	4.3	43,083	37.0	41,966	-2.6
UK	258,738	-1.8	251,201	-2.9	254,474	1.3	247,733	-2.6	240,783	-2.8

Number of persons
employed
(units)

Source:  eurostat

Table 4.4

	1993 t/t-1 (%)		1994 t/t-1 (%)		1995 t/t-1 (%)		1996 t/t-1 (%)		1997 t/t-1 (%)	
EU-15	69,761	-0.7	69,768	0.0	71,929	3.1	71,539	-0.5	72,251	1.0
EUR-11	60,105	-0.4	59,847	-0.4	61,932	3.5	60,947	-1.6	60,583	-0.6
B	:	:	:	:	3,709	:	3,657	-1.4	3,529	-3.5
DK	833	8.2	905	8.7	1,002	10.7	1,035	3.3	1,100	6.2
D	27,055	2.3	26,897	-0.6	28,820	7.2	26,725	-7.3	25,443	-4.8
EL	362	13.7	373	3.0	386	3.6	408	5.6	447	9.6
E	4,145	-11.2	4,002	-3.4	3,912	-2.3	4,004	2.4	4,205	5.0
F	11,876	5.2	12,152	2.3	12,563	3.4	12,429	-1.1	12,183	-2.0
IRL	:	:	516	:	551	6.9	617	11.8	969	57.2
I	7,688	-12.9	7,384	-4.0	6,793	-8.0	7,503	10.5	8,095	7.9
L	46	9.3	46	0.4	49	7.2	:	:	:	:
NL	3,461	5.9	3,274	-5.4	3,334	1.8	3,317	-0.5	3,869	16.7
A	1,416	3.9	1,433	1.2	1,022	-28.7	1,036	1.4	1,064	2.7
P	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	475	-9.9	528	11.1	640	21.2	642	0.3	678	5.6
S	1,000	-21.8	1,094	9.4	1,193	9.0	1,796	50.6	1,720	-4.2
UK	7,461	-1.3	7,549	1.2	7,416	-1.8	7,352	-0.9	8,400	14.3

Labour costs
(million ECU)

Source:  eurostat

Table 4.5

Extra-EU-15
exports
(million ECU)

	1993 t/t-1 (%)		1994 t/t-1 (%)		1995 t/t-1 (%)		1996 t/t-1 (%)		1997 t/t-1 (%)	
EU-15	59,053	19.1	67,223	13.8	71,311	6.1	78,506	10.1	90,144	14.8
B/L	4,008	17.9	4,993	24.6	5,711	14.4	6,692	17.2	7,378	10.3
DK	1,211	72.7	1,421	17.3	1,449	2.0	1,750	20.8	1,735	-0.8
D	18,243	23.1	20,623	13.0	22,017	6.8	23,137	5.1	26,166	13.1
EL	184	39.4	180	-1.7	187	3.4	279	49.4	352	26.3
E	2,186	10.6	2,265	3.6	2,554	12.8	2,776	8.7	2,934	5.7
F	9,281	15.2	10,429	12.4	10,984	5.3	12,111	10.3	13,789	13.9
IRL	1,842	32.6	2,133	15.8	1,974	-7.4	2,903	47.0	4,348	49.8
I	4,569	16.8	4,997	9.4	5,859	17.3	6,455	10.2	7,111	10.2
NL	4,459	13.4	5,489	23.1	5,954	8.5	6,243	4.8	6,903	10.6
A	1,250	12.0	1,353	8.2	1,424	5.2	1,462	2.7	1,971	34.7
P	154	8.6	186	20.6	202	8.4	216	7.3	263	21.8
FIN	692	11.5	870	25.7	685	-21.3	860	25.6	1,069	24.4
S	1,458	13.8	2,247	54.1	1,962	-12.7	2,085	6.3	2,365	13.4
UK	9,516	17.2	10,037	5.5	10,349	3.1	11,539	11.5	13,760	19.2

Source:  eurostat

Table 4.6

Extra EU-15
imports
(million ECU)

	1993 t/t-1 (%)		1994 t/t-1 (%)		1995 t/t-1 (%)		1996 t/t-1 (%)		1997 t/t-1 (%)	
EU-15	34,022	-0.6	39,487	16.1	44,993	13.9	46,463	3.3	52,944	13.9
B/L	3,200	-6.0	3,553	11.0	4,552	28.1	4,745	4.2	5,456	15.0
DK	620	19.6	648	4.6	672	3.7	675	0.5	699	3.6
D	7,296	-1.9	8,342	14.3	9,549	14.5	9,582	0.3	10,655	11.2
EL	484	19.1	499	3.1	533	6.9	585	9.7	597	2.1
E	1,612	-24.7	2,001	24.1	2,324	16.2	2,286	-1.6	2,666	16.6
F	4,708	7.3	5,586	18.7	6,215	11.3	6,418	3.3	7,424	15.7
IRL	723	37.5	840	16.2	1,063	26.6	1,120	5.4	1,496	33.5
I	4,558	0.9	5,031	10.4	5,776	14.8	5,900	2.1	6,649	12.7
NL	3,226	-14.7	4,119	27.7	5,065	23.0	5,038	-0.5	6,086	20.8
A	917	7.3	1,076	17.3	972	-9.6	1,096	12.7	1,170	6.8
P	365	0.9	393	7.8	389	-1.1	376	-3.4	389	3.5
FIN	553	12.6	698	26.1	563	-19.3	518	-7.9	614	18.6
S	924	6.1	1,138	23.2	1,100	-3.3	1,079	-2.0	1,237	14.7
UK	4,838	7.2	5,567	15.1	6,222	11.8	7,047	13.3	7,807	10.8

Source:  eurostat

Production (trend cycle) & producer price indices

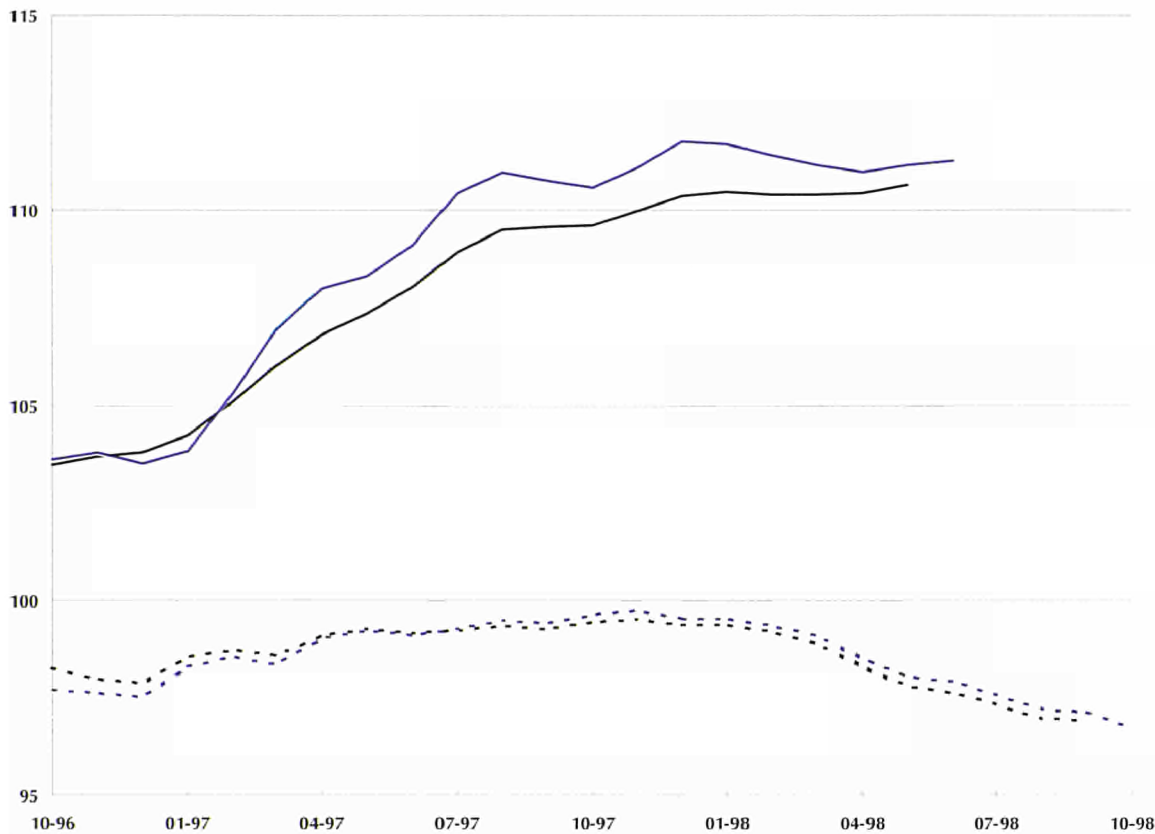


Figure 4.9

Production and producer price indices (1995 = 100)

EU-15 production index
 EU-15 producer price index
 EUR-11 production index
 EUR-11 producer price index

Source: eurostat

	Latest 3 months available		Production index		Latest month available	Producer price index	
	t-1	t-4	t/t-1	t/t-4		t/t-3	t/t-12
EU-15	07-98	⇒ 09-98	:	0.8	09-98	-0.7	-2.4
B	07-98	⇒ 09-98	-0.7	-3.8	06-98	-0.8	0.0
DK	08-98	⇒ 10-98	:	10.3	10-98	-1.5	0.0
D	08-98	⇒ 10-98	-0.7	-1.8	10-98	-1.0	-1.9
EL	06-98	⇒ 08-98	1.8	6.7	09-98	0.1	3.8
E	07-98	⇒ 09-98	0.8	2.0	10-98	-2.2	-7.1
F	07-98	⇒ 09-98	0.3	2.9		:	:
IRL	05-98	⇒ 07-98	:	19.6	01-98	-1.2	-2.9
I	07-98	⇒ 09-98	-0.6	-2.3	10-98	-0.5	-2.8
L	07-98	⇒ 09-98	3.0	19.0	09-98	-1.7	-3.0
NL	04-98	⇒ 06-98	0.0	3.9	10-98	-1.0	-4.7
A	06-98	⇒ 08-98	3.4	7.1		:	:
P	06-98	⇒ 08-98	2.8	-2.2	09-98	-0.7	-1.1
FIN	07-98	⇒ 09-98	0.1	3.6	10-98	-2.6	-6.1
S	07-98	⇒ 09-98	1.3	3.6	10-98	-0.5	1.1
UK	07-98	⇒ 09-98	0.0	0.4	09-98	-0.5	-3.6
Japan	07-97	⇒ 09-97	0.8	3.1	09-98	-0.7	-2.3
USA	11-97	⇒ 01-98	1.3	2.2	01-98	-0.3	-0.9

Table 4.7

Production and producer price indices: growth rates (%)

Source: eurostat

Figure 4.10

Production and producer price indices: growth rate, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year, 07-98 to 09-98 (%)

Production ■
 Producer price index ■

Source:  eurostat

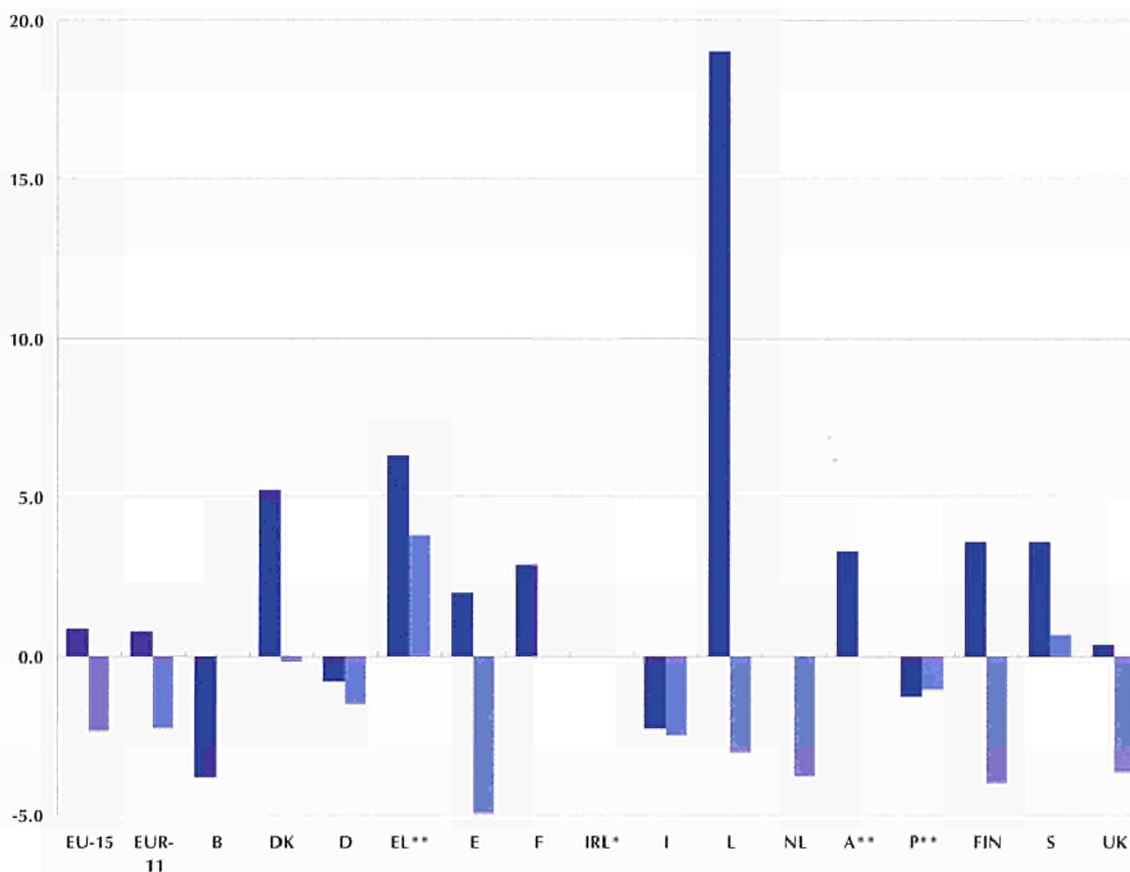
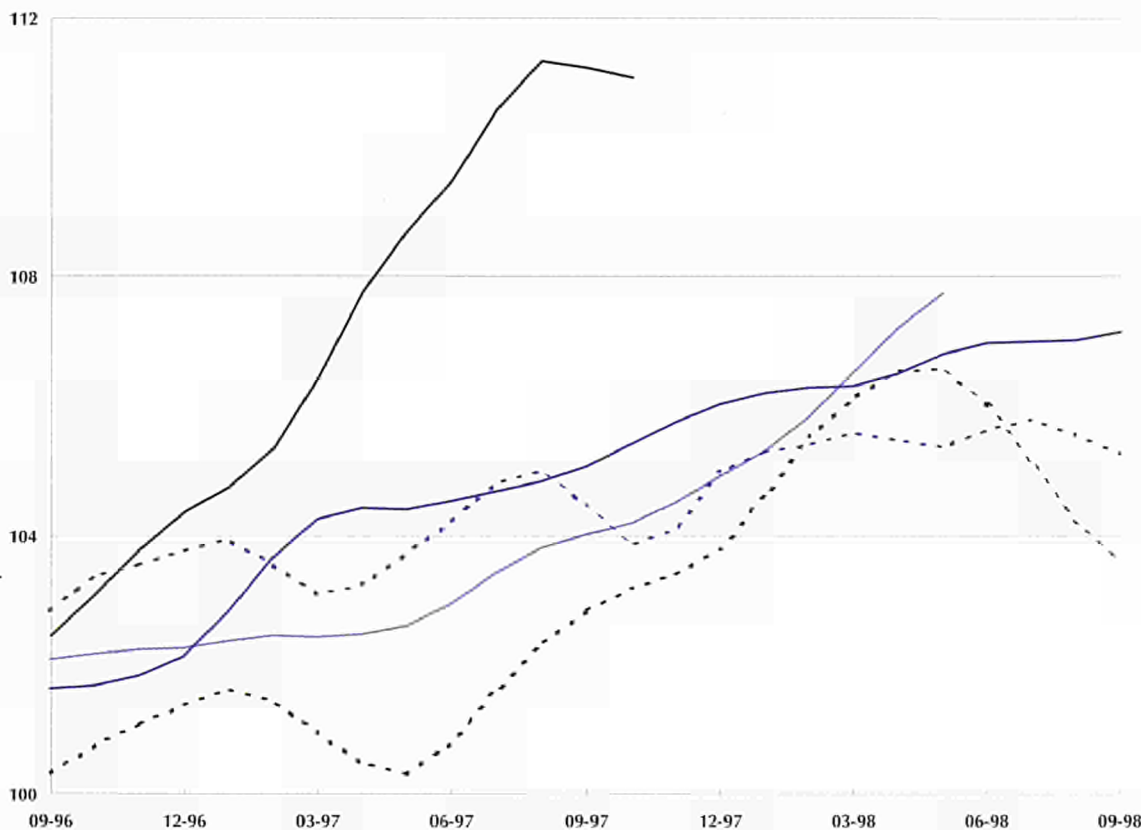


Figure 4.11

EU-15 production index for individual groups, trend cycle (1995 = 100)

Basic chemicals —
 Agro-chemical products - - -
 Pharmaceuticals —
 Soap, detergents and cleaning preparations —
 Man-made fibres - - -

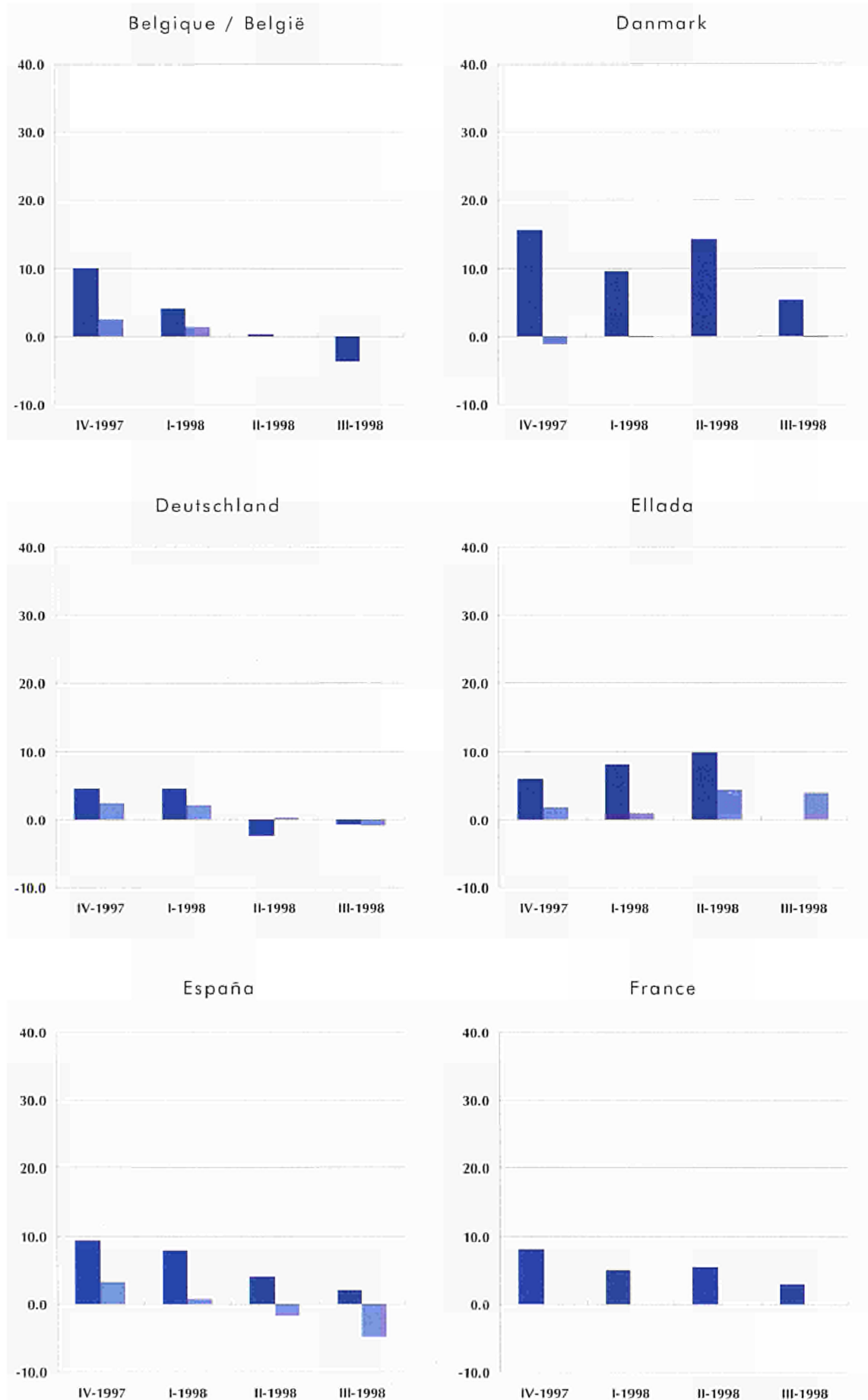
Source:  eurostat



Production & producer price indices

Figure 4.12

Production and producer price indices: growth rate, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year (%)



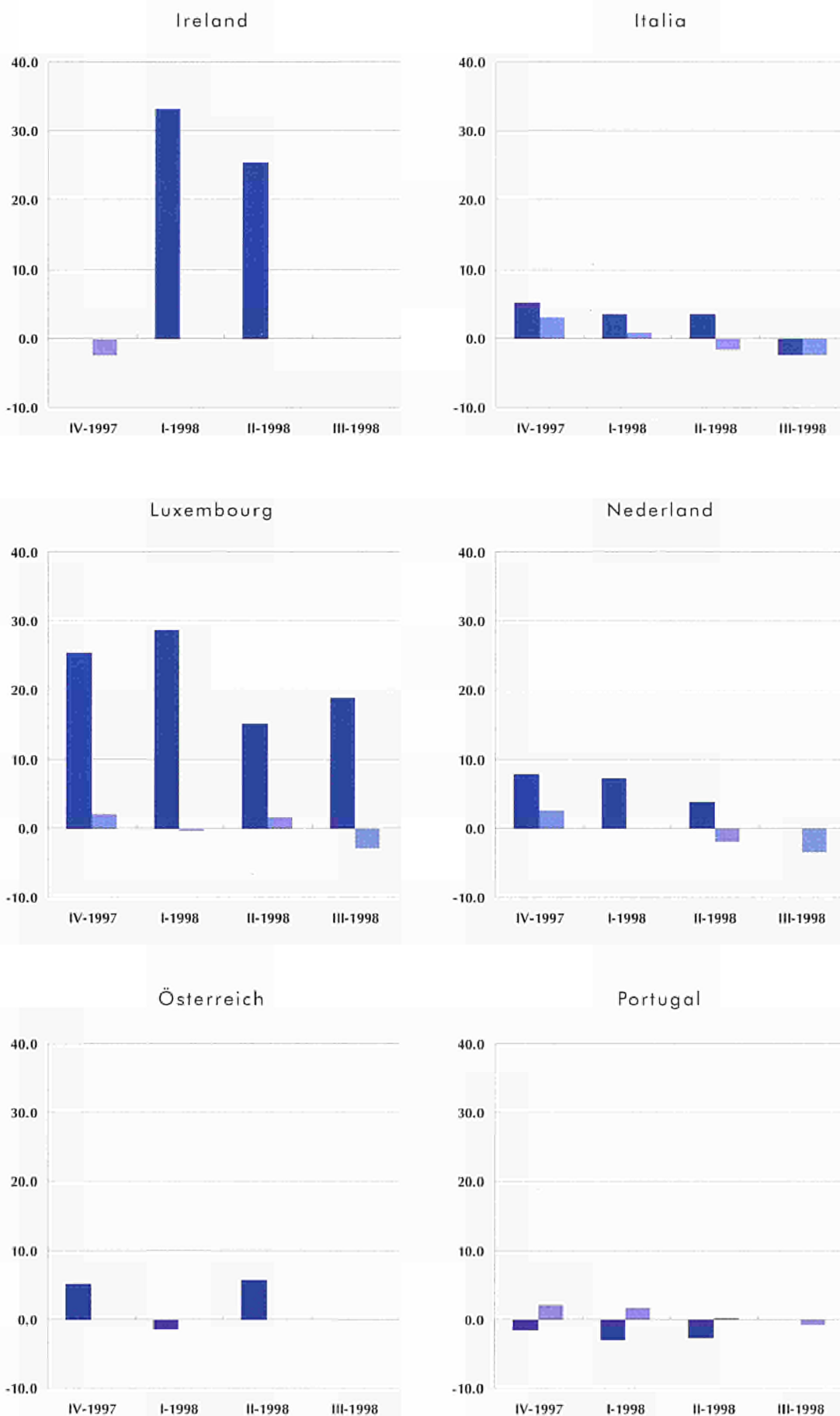
■ Production index

■ Producer price index

Source: eurostat

Figure 4.12

Production and producer price indices: growth rate, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year (%)

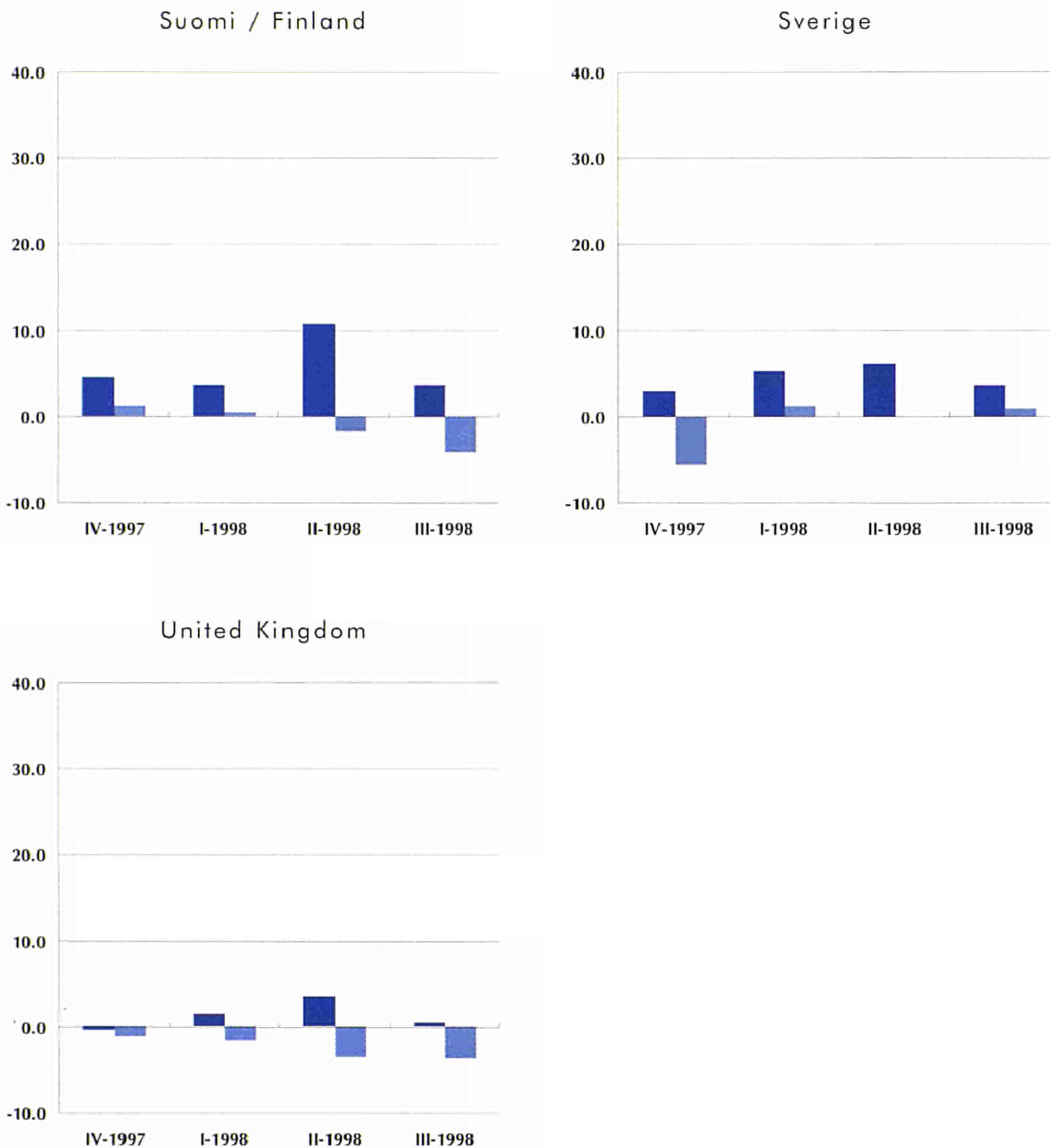


Production index ■
 Producer price index ■

Source: eurostat

Production & producer price indices

Figure 4.12



Production and producer price indices: growth rate, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year (%)

■ Production index

■ Producer price index

Further information - 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 EU-15 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.

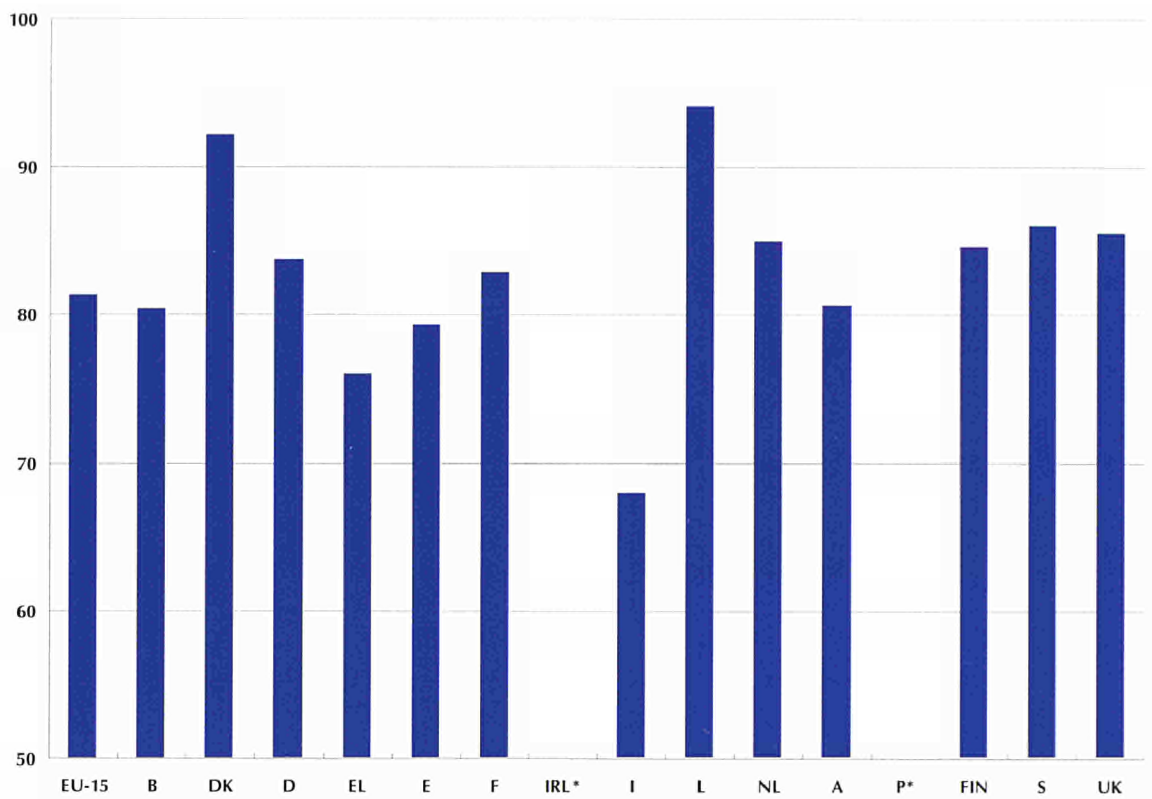
The index of producer prices shows (in the national currency of the Member State in question) changes in the ex-works selling prices of all products sold on the domestic market. Since we deal with producer prices, imports are not included in these price indices. Producer price indices are not seasonally adjusted.

Full methodological notes may be found on page 111.

Source:  eurostat

Figure 4.13

Capacity
utilisation rates,
10-98
(%)



Source: DG II,
Business Survey

Table 4.8

Capacity
utilisation rates
(%)

	Growth rate: latest month, t / t-12 (%)	01-98	04-98	07-98	10-98
EU-15	0.0	82.2	81.9	83.1	81.4
B	-2.4	80.1	84.7	80.2	80.4
DK	0.2	92.7	87.9	87.1	92.2
D	-0.7	82.0	84.2	83.7	83.7
EL	-1.0	74.0	78.0	77.0	76.0
E	2.1	79.0	82.2	80.8	79.3
F	-2.0	83.6	85.7	82.4	82.9
IRL	-3.7	85.1	:	:	:
I	-5.6	77.5	63.8	76.8	67.9
L	8.8	93.1	89.7	89.1	94.1
NL	-1.0	85.7	88.2	86.5	84.9
A	-2.7	81.8	82.7	83.4	80.6
P	7.6	77.8	:	:	:
FIN	-1.6	87.0	87.0	88.2	84.6
S	-1.1	88.0	86.0	87.0	86.0
UK	6.7	83.3	84.0	87.6	85.5

Source: DG II,
Business Survey

Foreign trade indices (trend cycle)

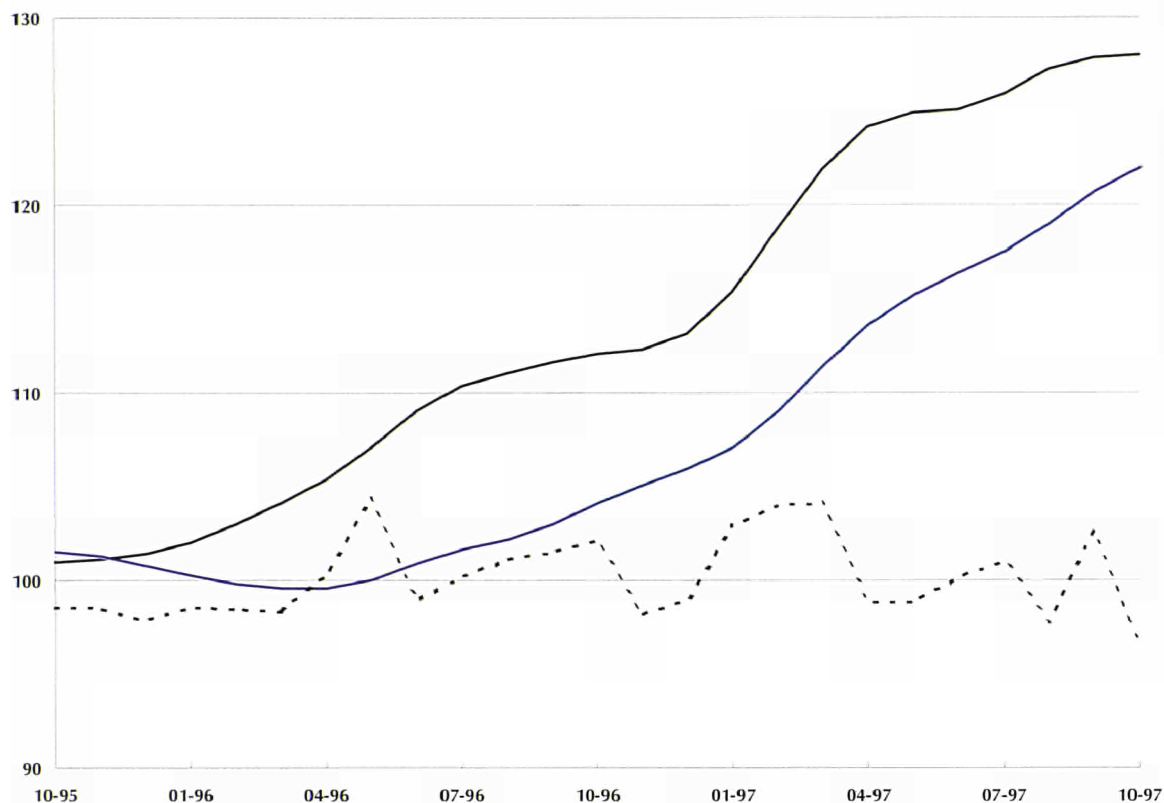


Figure 4.14

EU-15 foreign trade indices in ECU terms (1995 = 100)

— Export value index
— Import value index
- - - Terms of trade

Source: eurostat

	Latest 3 months available	Exports		Imports		Terms of trade
		Value	Volume	Value	Volume	
EU-15	08-97 ⇒ 10-97	1.9	0.6	3.6	1.7	-1.0
B / L	09-97 ⇒ 11-97	-3.8	-4.1	0.0	-0.9	2.3
DK	09-97 ⇒ 11-97	-4.6	-6.2	3.5	3.0	4.9
D	07-97 ⇒ 09-97	-0.7	-2.1	2.2	1.1	0.4
EL	07-97 ⇒ 09-97	-3.3	0.0	0.3	-5.1	-1.6
E	09-97 ⇒ 11-97	3.6	-1.0	6.8	4.0	-1.2
F	09-97 ⇒ 11-97	3.3	2.0	3.2	1.5	1.9
IRL	08-97 ⇒ 10-97	7.9	6.4	1.9	1.1	10.5
I	08-97 ⇒ 10-97	4.1	2.0	4.4	2.5	-0.7
NL	08-97 ⇒ 10-97	1.0	-2.3	1.6	-1.3	0.3
A	⇒	:	:	:	:	:
P	08-97 ⇒ 10-97	1.7	-0.6	2.0	-1.5	-1.4
FIN	⇒	:	:	:	:	:
S	⇒	:	:	:	:	:
UK	09-97 ⇒ 11-97	-0.3	-1.0	1.9	0.4	1.7

Table 4.9

Foreign trade indices (value indices are in ECU terms): growth rate, three months compared to the previous three months (%)

Source: eurostat

Figure 4.15

Foreign trade indices in ECU terms: growth rate, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year, 08-97 to 10-97 (%)

Export value ■
Import value ■

Source:  eurostat

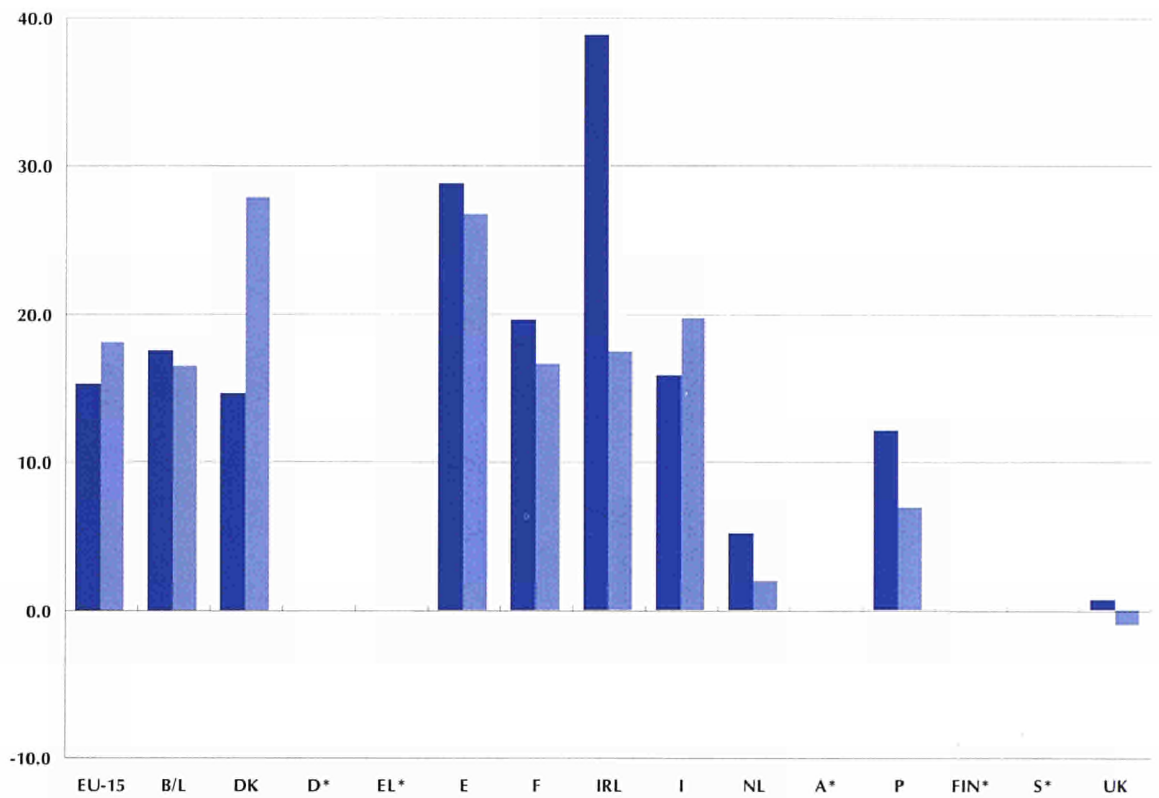


Table 4.10

Foreign trade indices (value indices are in ECU terms): growth rates, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year (%)


Latest 3 months available

Exports
Value Volume

Imports
Value Volume

Terms
of trade

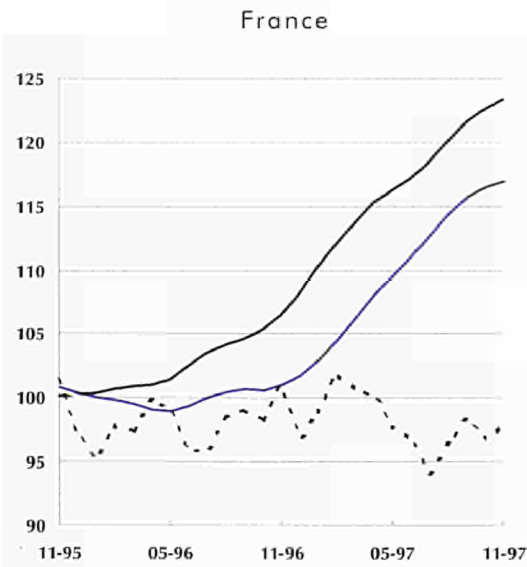
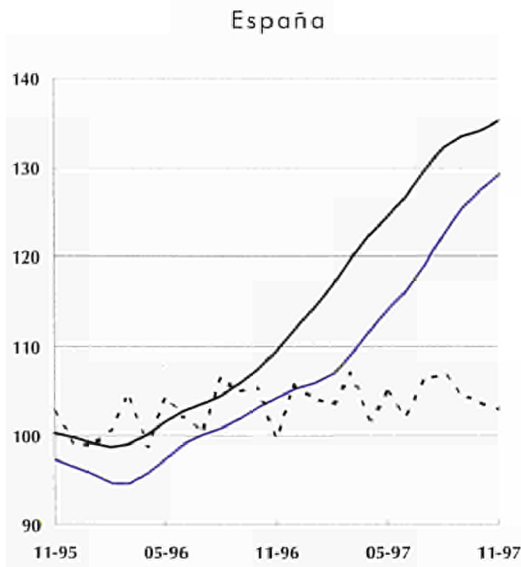
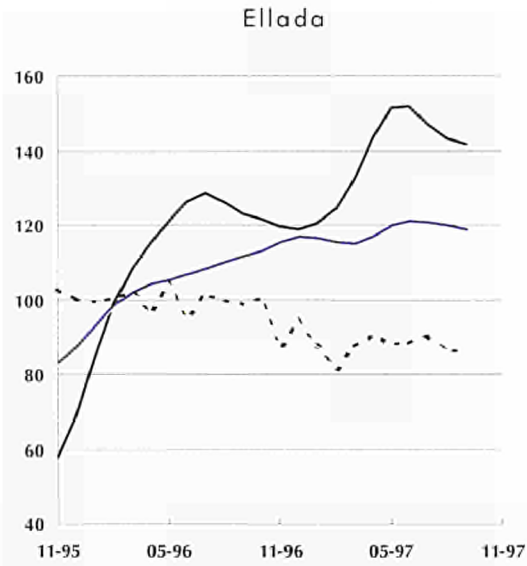
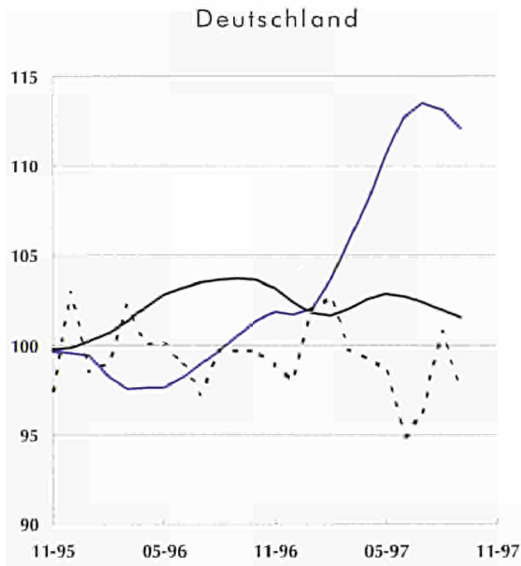
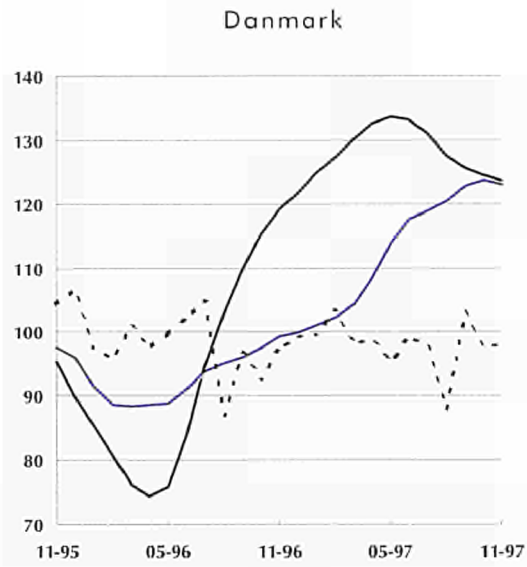
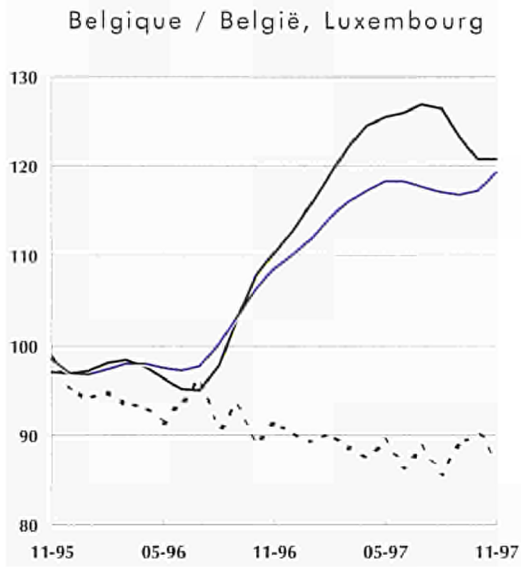
	Latest 3 months available	Exports Value	Exports Volume	Imports Value	Imports Volume	Terms of trade
EU-15	08-97 ⇒ 10-97	15.3	9.0	18.1	8.7	-2.6
B / L	09-97 ⇒ 11-97	6.9	0.6	9.5	0.4	-2.7
DK	09-97 ⇒ 11-97	8.2	-2.7	25.4	17.7	4.3
D	07-97 ⇒ 09-97	-2.6	-8.6	14.0	6.1	-0.8
EL	07-97 ⇒ 09-97	6.3	1.6	13.0	-4.9	-12.3
E	09-97 ⇒ 11-97	23.9	15.0	23.4	15.0	0.4
F	09-97 ⇒ 11-97	18.5	12.0	16.0	7.8	-1.8
IRL	08-97 ⇒ 10-97	38.9	51.2	17.4	17.9	-6.4
I	08-97 ⇒ 10-97	15.8	11.2	19.7	13.7	-1.6
NL	08-97 ⇒ 10-97	5.1	-2.4	1.9	-6.6	-0.9
A	⇒	:	:	:	:	:
P	08-97 ⇒ 10-97	12.1	0.4	6.9	-5.5	-1.5
FIN	⇒	:	:	:	:	:
S	⇒	:	:	:	:	:
UK	09-97 ⇒ 11-97	-2.3	1.7	1.3	6.1	0.7

Source:  eurostat

Foreign trade indices (trend cycle)

Figure 4.16

Foreign trade indices
in ECU terms
(1995 = 100)



— Export value index
— Import value index
- - - Terms of trade


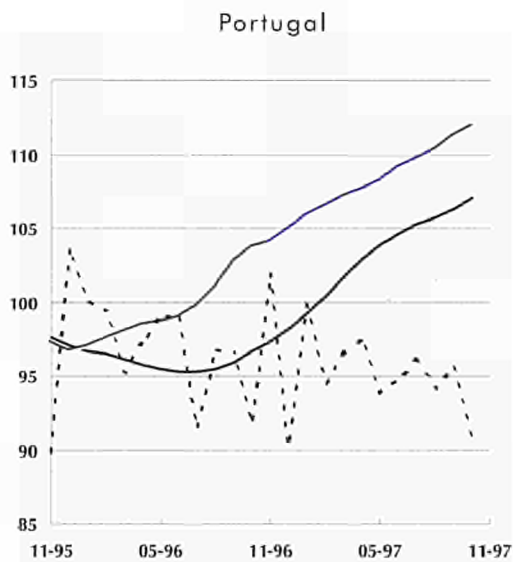
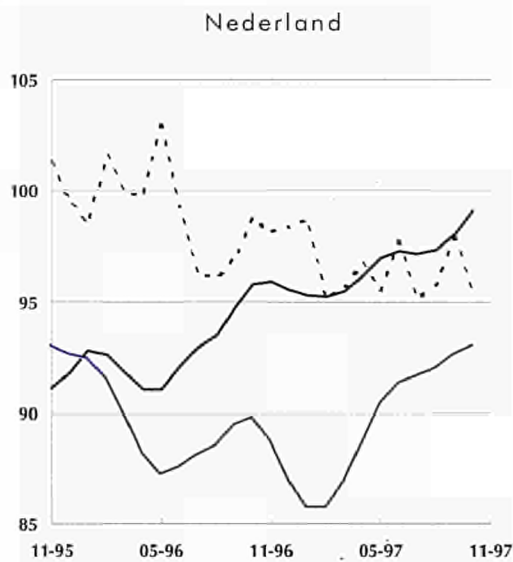
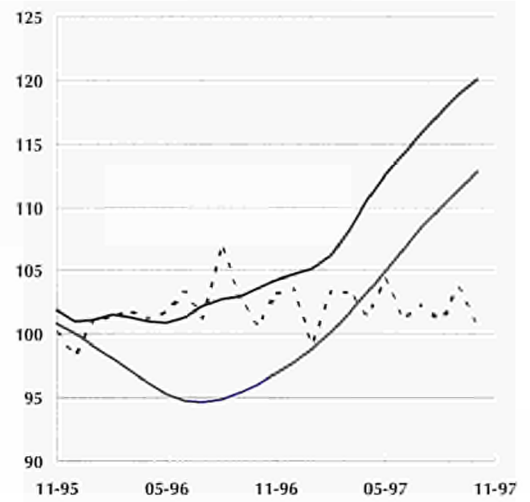
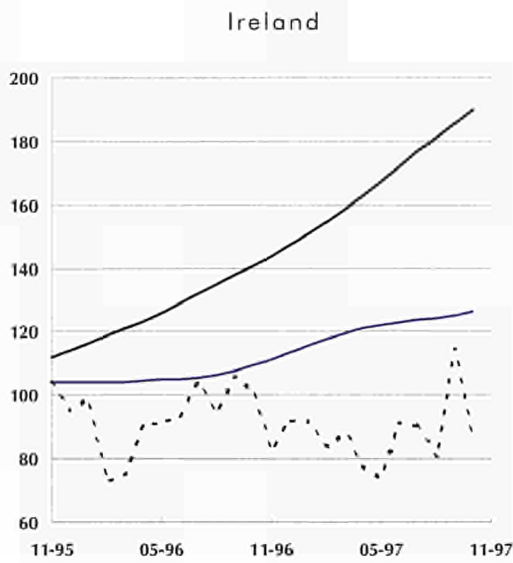
Source:  eurostat

Figure 4.16

Foreign trade indices
in ECU terms
(1995 = 100)



Export value index —
Import value index —
Terms of trade - - -

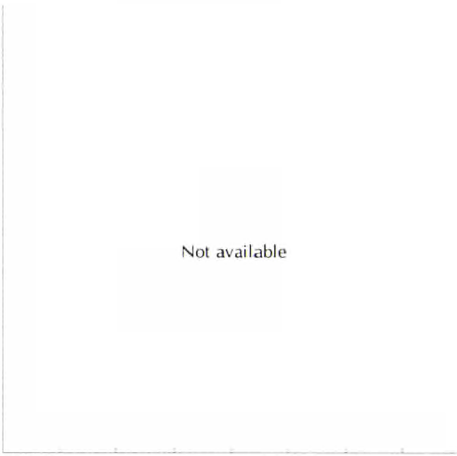
Source: eurostat

Foreign trade indices (trend cycle)

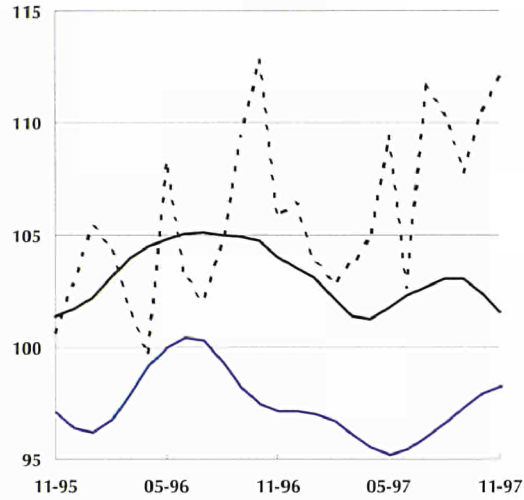
Figure 4.16

Foreign trade indices
in ECU terms
(1995 = 100)

Sverige



United Kingdom



- Export value index
- Import value index
- - - - Terms of trade

Further information - 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 EU-15 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 111.

Source: eurostat



5. Rubber and plastic products

Commentary	90
Structural indicators value-added, production, employment and labour costs	96
External trade extra EU-15 exports and extra EU-15 imports	98
Short-term indicators production index, producer prices, capacity utilisation and foreign trade indices	99



5. Rubber and plastic products

Description of the NACE Rev. 1 Groups in Division 25:

25.1: manufacture of rubber products;
25.2: manufacture of plastic products.



Data marked with this symbol is available on the diskette - for further details see page 110

Enquiries regarding the purchase of data should be directed to:

Eurostat Data-Shop
4, rue Alphonse Weicker
L - 2014 Luxembourg
tel: (352) 4335 2251
fax: (352) 4335 2221
e-mail: dslux@eurostat.datashop.lu

Structure of the rubber and plastics industry

The output of the rubber and plastics industry may be split as follows: 24.3% of production is accounted for by the manufacture of rubber products and 75.1% by plastic products. In 1997 the whole industry accounted for 136 billion ECU of production value (a share in total European manufacturing of 3.7%). This share is very similar to that seen in the USA (3.8%), whilst being much lower than that found in Japan (6.2%). This may largely be attributed to the share of plastic products in Japan, which account for almost double the share of total manufacturing output (when compared to the other two Triad countries). It should be noted that production value in current prices is almost at the same level in all three members of the Triad.

Year-on-year changes in production

The manufacture of rubber and plastic products recorded growth of 5.9% in 1997 compared to the year before (using current prices). The industry accounted for a 5.8% share of total manufacturing. In 1996 there was a reduction in the level of activity, equal to some 2.3%.

The USA recorded growth of 13.3% in 1997 and Japan even higher growth, equivalent to some 37.8%. However, it should be noted that in Japan, 1996 saw a reduction of 36.8% (and therefore the 1997 increase should be seen as consolidation). If we look at the development of the industry during the period 1990 to 1997 we can see that the manufacture of rubber and plastic products increased in Europe by 2.8% on average (constant prices series). In the same period American production grew by 4.3% and Japanese production by 0.7%.

In the individual Member States, production at constant prices rose substantially in Belgium (9.4%), Austria (6.1%) and Spain (4.7%) during the period 1990 to 1997 (annual average increases). In 1997 Ireland (9.2%) and Sweden (7.1%) also had high growth rates. Of the five largest producing countries Italy's rate of 6.8% lay above the EU-15 average. France recorded modest growth of 1.6%, due largely to a decline in the manufacture of rubber products (-6.1%), whilst the manufacture of plastic products increased by 5.4% (also below the EU average). The high growth seen in the United Kingdom (16.6%) was largely based on a 17.3% increase in plastic products and a 14.2% increase for rubber products.

Production & activity breakdown

Producer prices falling in both the manufacture of rubber (0.6%) and plastics (0.9%)

In 1997 the consumption of natural rubber in EU-15 reached 916 thousand tons, growing by 10.2% compared to the year before. The European Union processed a 13.9% share of global consumption (in 1996 the comparable figure was 13.6%). Production of synthetic rubber grew in Europe by 2.8%, its share in total world production being equal to 22.6% (in 1996 the figure was 22.8%). Consumption of synthetic rubber in EU-15 increased more slowly, up by 1.8%¹.

The tyre industry (including the renewal of tyres) accounts for an important share of the rubber products industry. The market is dominated by three global firms (one based in each of the Triad countries). The development of products is influenced on the one hand by public opinion relating to ecological issues (with research being increasingly concentrated in the areas of improving durability and developing recyclable materials).

Moderate increase in employment in 1997 in the EU

1.1 million persons were employed in the manufacture of rubber and plastic products in the EU in 1997. This figure was equal to an increase of 11.7 thousand persons or 1.0% when compared to the

1) Volume data for natural and synthetic rubber is sourced to the International Rubber Study Group.

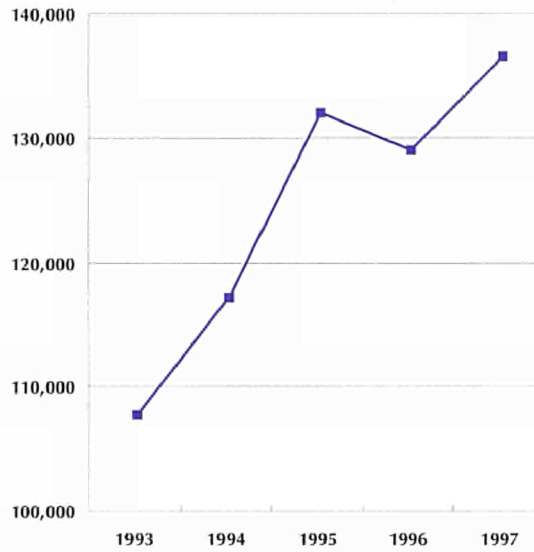


Figure 5.1

EU-15 production in constant prices (million ECU)

Source: eurostat

data for 1996. 4.9% of total manufacturing employment in the EU may be found in the activities of rubber and plastics: 1.3% within the manufacture of rubber products and 3.6% within plastic products.

In the USA, employment rose at a faster rate, up by 1.6% (or in absolute figures 15.9 thousand persons). In comparison, Japanese employment levels fell by 1.1% in 1997, having been reduced by 1.8% in 1996.

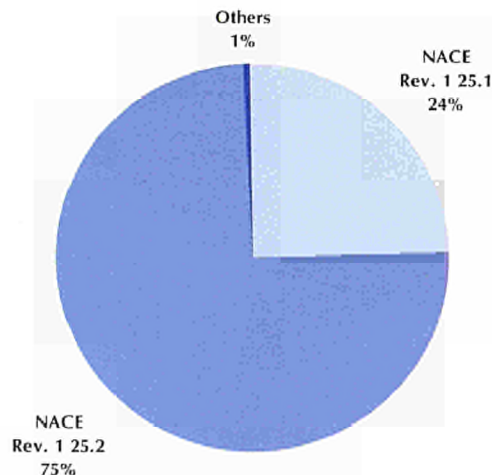


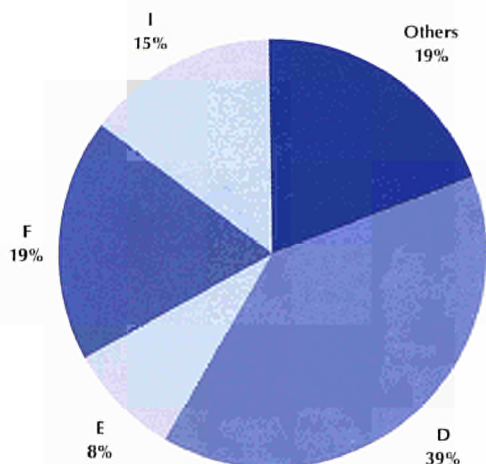
Figure 5.2

EU-15 share of production by industrial group, 1997

Source: eurostat

Figure 5.3

Share of EU-15 value-added at factor cost, 1997



Source: eurostat

Rubber products' employment levels went slightly up (0.8%) in 1997, after a reduction of 11% in 1996. In the USA fluctuations in employment were less marked, with employment falling by 1.3% in 1997. In the manufacture of plastic products the EU-15 employment figure rose by 1.1% in 1997 (following a decline of 2.8% in 1996). Comparable figures for 1997 in the USA and Japan for 1997 were 2.3% and -1%.

The United Kingdom increased its production by 16.6% in 1997

Slowdown of growth for production in Germany and the United Kingdom

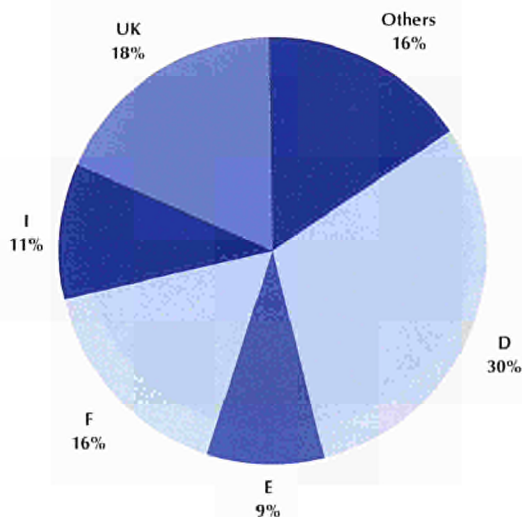
The manufacture of rubber and plastics in EU-15 grew by a rate of 0.7% in September 1998 (three months compared with the three previous months). The growth of production in EUR-11 was higher, up by 0.8%.

Austria recorded the largest growth rate in August 1998, up by 4.5%. Production growth above the EU-15 average was also seen in Greece (3.1%), Luxembourg (7.1%, September 1998), Portugal (3.1%, August 1998) and Spain (1.9%, September 1998).

In the years 1996 to 1998, EU growth rates for the manufacture of rubber and plastics remained modest, fluctuating between -1.8% and 2.7%. The highest growth rate was recorded in May 1997. Growth rates had been reduced to 2.1% by December 1997 and this trend continued through until June 1998, when production was increasing by 0.7%.

Figure 5.4

Share of EU-15 number of persons employed, 1997



Source: eurostat

Labour costs & production

In Germany growth slowed down from 2.0% in January 1998 to 0.7% by October 1998. A similar development of production volumes could be witnessed in France: where growth rates climbed in 1997 to a high of 2.7%. In the United Kingdom growth rates were more moderate, the latest figure available showing growth of 0.2% (September 1998). Production declined in Italy at the beginning of 1998 (-0.5% in January 1998), although this turned positive in the second half of the year (1.2%, September 1998).

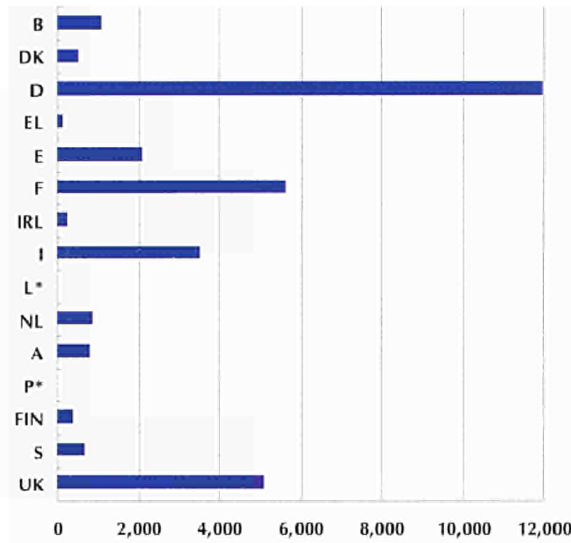
Declining producer prices in the United Kingdom and France in October 1998

In September 1998 European producer prices for the manufacture of rubber and plastics were falling by 0.8% (monthly change compared with the same month of the year before). The start of this trend goes back to May 1996. The reduction in price levels was equal to -1.3% in the late summer of 1996. Between the start of 1997 and March 1998 the change in producer prices fluctuated between -0.6% and -0.4%. Since March 1998 prices have been reduced by between 0.7% and 0.9%.

Most Member States registered negative rates of change for producer prices in the rubber and plastics industry. The largest declines were recorded in the United Kingdom (-2.4%, September 1998), in France (-2.1%, October 1998) and in Finland (-1.9%, October 1998). A slight rise in prices was seen in the Netherlands (0.9%, October 1998) and Belgium (0.1%, June 1998), as well as in Greece (where a much sharper increase could be observed, 8.8% in September 1998).

German producer prices have showed almost no change in the last couple of years. Indeed, the latest rate of change for October 1998 signals continuity in this trend (-0.3%). In the United Kingdom the decline in prices became more pronounced at the start of 1998, between 2% and 3% between February 1998 and October 1998.

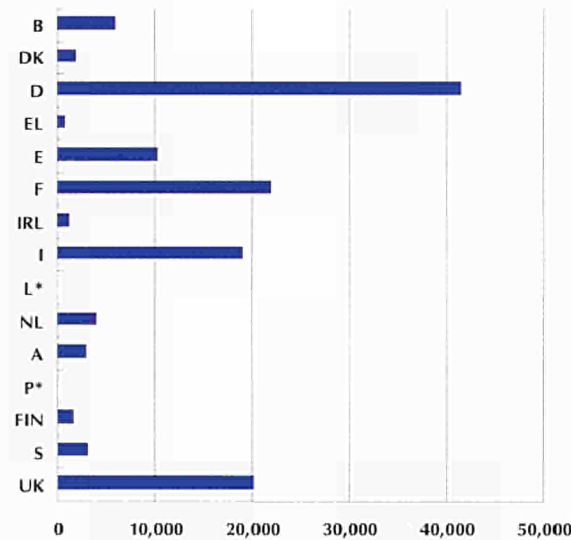
Figure 5.5



Labour costs,
1997
(million ECU)

Source: eurostat

Figure 5.6

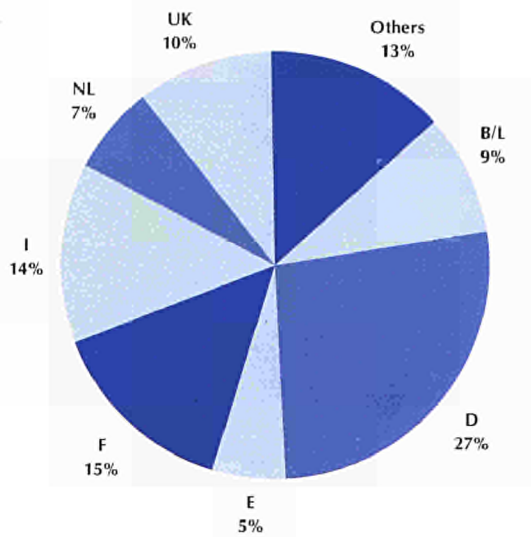


Production in
constant prices,
1997
(million ECU)

Source: eurostat

Figure 5.7

Share of European exports to the rest of the world, 1997



Source: eurostat

again.

EU trade balance rose by 22.1% in 1997 compared with the year before

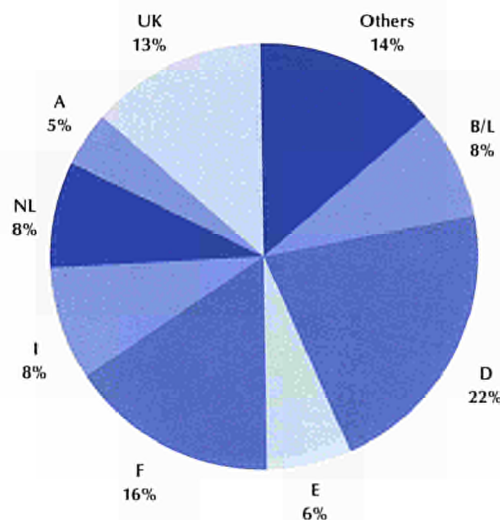
The EU-15 trade balance for rubber and plastics is positive and reached 4.2 billion ECU in 1997. This was equivalent to a 22.1% increase on the figure for 1996. In contrast, the USA's trade balance for this industry was negative in 1997, despite the fact that exports of plastic products rose sharply (the foreign trade deficit was subsequently reduced by 41.7%). The trade balance of Japan grew by 9.0% (after two year's decline) to reach its 1994 level

EU-15 exports rose by 15.2% in 1997, following an increase of 9.6% in 1996. EU-15 imports grew by 13.0% (after growth of 7.4% in 1996). The EU-15 export rate for 1997 was equal to 12.1%. Corresponding rates for the other Triad countries were 10.6% for the USA and 6% for Japan.

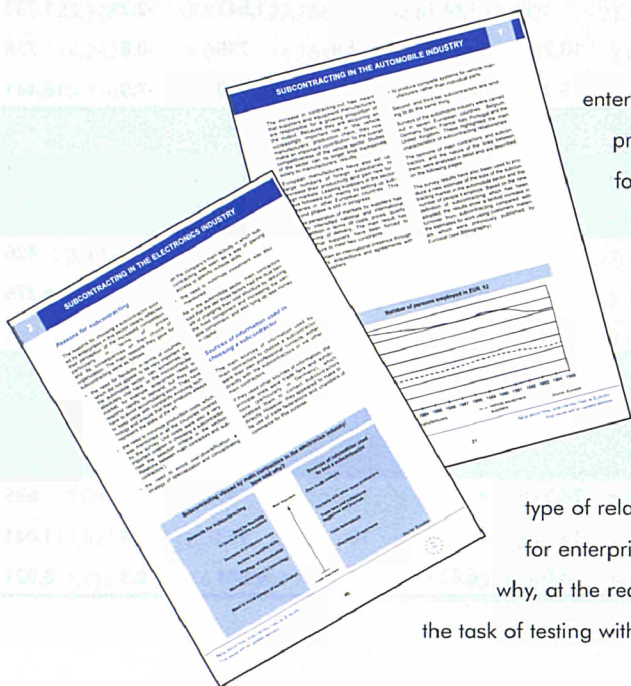
In the five largest producing countries, exports increased most in 1997 in the United Kingdom (up by 10.7%) and in France (9.7%). The growth experienced in the United Kingdom was based largely on the performance of the manufacture of other rubber products (16.6%) and other plastic products (24.3%). In France high export growth was registered in the activity of renewable tyres (34.9%) and in the manufacture of other plastic products (17.7%). In Italy the main reason for an increase in exports was the 21.2% growth in the plastic packaging materials industry.

Figure 5.8

Share of European imports from the rest of the world, 1997



Source: eurostat



New industrial sub-contracting in Europe

Within a context of increased international competition, European enterprises have been forced to restructure and to outsource a number of production functions. Recourse to subcontracting constitutes one of the forms of this outsourcing. However, subcontracting itself is evolving: in most cases, it is not restricted to the simple processing of materials supplied by a main contractor. Subcontractors are increasingly responsible for key operations in the production process (purchase of raw materials, design of products, investment, etc).

The nature of the interdependence between subcontractors and main contractors is therefore changing, and is bringing about a new type of relationship which must be taken into account in the policies carried out for enterprises. Information about enterprises must adapt to this change. This is why, at the request of the European Commission's DG XXIII, Eurostat has taken on the task of testing within volunteer Member States a new concept of subcontracting and of evaluating its importance and characteristics.

New industrial subcontracting in Europe presents the results of Eurostat's pilot statistical exercise in which four sectors were the subject of surveys or studies:

- ★ the automobile sector;
- ★ electronics;
- ★ textiles/clothing;
- ★ aeronautics.

For each sector, a study was made of the importance of subcontracting within the purchases of main contractors, the importance of subcontracting sales within the subcontractors' turnover figures, the geographical extent of subcontracting transactions, and finally the main characteristics of the links established between main contractors and subcontractors (existence of contracts, supply of materials, cooperation in research and development, etc).

The measurements that were carried out within this pilot exercise, using harmonised methodology and concepts, contribute today to a better understanding of the organisation of industrial relationships which underpin four essential sectors of the European economy.

The publication is available in French and English.
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Price: 19 ECU.

Please see the list of sales offices at the end of the publication.

Table 5.1

Value-added at
factor cost
(million ECU)

	1993 t/t-1 (%)		1994 t/t-1 (%)		1995 t/t-1 (%)		1996 t/t-1 (%)		1997 t/t-1 (%)	
EU-15	42,804	-2.4	45,953	7.4	48,639	5.8	47,505	-2.3	50,288	5.9
EUR-11	34,463	-2.0	36,840	6.9	39,998	8.6	38,723	-3.2	40,271	4.0
B	:	:	:	:	1,683	:	1,647	-2.2	1,732	5.2
DK	695	-2.0	766	10.2	745	-2.8	739	-0.8	778	5.3
D	15,408	1.0	16,231	5.3	17,157	5.7	15,799	-7.9	16,441	4.1
EL	151	2.6	159	5.0	178	11.9	186	4.8	176	-5.2
E	2,770	-14.6	3,013	8.8	3,266	8.4	3,632	11.2	3,574	-1.6
F	7,076	0.7	7,610	7.5	7,851	3.2	7,786	-0.8	7,867	1.0
IRL	294	-7.1	346	17.7	366	5.8	386	5.6	426	10.3
I	4,654	-4.9	5,109	9.8	5,762	12.8	5,888	2.2	6,276	6.6
L	267	4.9	303	13.5	319	5.3	:	:	:	:
NL	1,303	-1.2	1,397	7.2	1,393	-0.2	1,421	2.0	1,347	-5.2
A	835	5.2	879	5.2	1,225	39.4	1,188	-3.1	1,208	1.8
P	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	440	-6.4	523	18.9	604	15.6	590	-2.3	635	7.6
S	700	-16.8	810	15.7	896	10.7	973	8.5	1,041	7.1
UK	6,796	-3.2	7,379	8.6	6,823	-7.5	6,884	0.9	8,021	16.5

Source:  eurostat

Table 5.2

Production in
constant prices
(million ECU)

	1993 t/t-1 (%)		1994 t/t-1 (%)		1995 t/t-1 (%)		1996 t/t-1 (%)		1997 t/t-1 (%)	
EU-15	107,580	-2.7	117,066	8.8	131,877	12.7	128,808	-2.3	136,367	5.9
EUR-11	87,776	-3.2	95,371	8.7	109,627	14.9	106,177	-3.1	110,595	4.2
B	3,269	-8.1	3,319	1.5	5,826	75.5	5,695	-2.2	5,989	5.2
DK	1,476	-2.5	1,628	10.3	1,856	14.0	1,852	-0.2	1,944	5.0
D	37,331	-0.7	39,548	5.9	43,390	9.7	39,804	-8.3	41,419	4.1
EL	523	-4.4	554	6.0	662	19.5	706	6.7	688	-2.5
E	7,002	-15.7	7,948	13.5	9,423	18.6	9,993	6.0	10,284	2.9
F	18,030	-1.2	19,696	9.2	21,775	10.6	21,559	-1.0	21,898	1.6
IRL	:	:	822	:	935	13.8	1,010	8.1	1,104	9.2
I	13,366	-4.5	15,233	14.0	17,477	14.7	17,717	1.4	18,919	6.8
L	707	0.2	794	12.3	840	5.8	:	:	:	:
NL	3,539	-1.9	3,779	6.8	4,113	8.8	3,994	-2.9	3,977	-0.4
A	2,074	1.1	2,186	5.4	2,982	36.4	2,891	-3.1	2,941	1.7
P	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	982	-3.5	1,196	21.9	1,577	31.9	1,548	-1.9	1,656	7.0
S	1,684	-16.1	1,988	18.0	2,567	29.2	2,784	8.4	2,980	7.1
UK	16,121	2.0	17,526	8.7	17,165	-2.1	17,289	0.7	20,160	16.6

Source:  eurostat

Number of persons employed & labour costs

Table 5.3

	1993 t/t-1 (%)		1994 t/t-1 (%)		1995 t/t-1 (%)		1996 t/t-1 (%)		1997 t/t-1 (%)	
EU-15	1,120,250	-4.2	1,120,190	0.0	1,149,870	2.6	1,123,150	-2.3	1,134,860	1.0
EUR-11	869,368	-4.9	869,474	0.0	899,486	3.5	870,327	-3.2	880,201	1.1
B	23,178	-7.9	22,708	-2.0	27,992	23.3	28,413	1.5	28,971	2.0
DK	14,242	-1.0	14,784	3.8	15,639	5.8	15,611	-0.2	16,224	3.9
D	378,356	-3.8	368,099	-2.7	365,773	-0.6	351,900	-3.8	344,938	-2.0
EL	7,601	-2.0	7,603	0.0	8,038	5.7	7,876	-2.0	8,881	12.8
E	88,786	-11.5	94,275	6.2	95,726	1.5	101,978	6.5	98,541	-3.4
F	182,464	-1.6	182,795	0.2	186,235	1.9	184,038	-1.2	185,360	0.7
IRL	8,423	1.2	8,936	6.1	9,594	7.4	10,329	7.7	10,260	-0.7
I	111,738	0.5	115,837	3.7	121,758	5.1	114,602	-5.9	120,259	4.9
L	4,312	-2.8	4,305	-0.2	4,419	2.6	:	:	:	:
NL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
A	19,248	-2.2	19,656	2.1	24,656	25.4	24,506	-0.6	22,819	-6.9
P	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	11,089	-6.4	11,770	6.1	13,287	12.9	13,227	-0.5	14,360	8.6
S	17,821	-12.0	18,531	4.0	19,089	3.0	19,123	0.2	20,586	7.7
UK	211,218	-0.6	209,798	-0.7	207,618	-1.0	210,213	1.2	208,968	-0.6

Number of persons
employed
(units)

Source:  eurostat

Table 5.4

	1993 t/t-1 (%)		1994 t/t-1 (%)		1995 t/t-1 (%)		1996 t/t-1 (%)		1997 t/t-1 (%)	
EU-15	31,067	-0.5	31,886	2.6	33,293	4.4	32,751	-1.6	33,351	1.8
EUR-11	25,746	0.3	26,285	2.1	27,852	6.0	27,123	-2.6	26,949	-0.6
B	:	:	:	:	1,095	:	1,091	-0.4	1,078	-1.1
DK	444	0.7	477	7.5	522	9.4	520	-0.4	523	0.6
D	12,359	4.3	12,417	0.5	13,005	4.7	12,345	-5.1	11,966	-3.1
EL	108	6.5	114	5.6	125	9.5	127	2.1	126	-1.3
E	1,978	-16.5	2,016	1.9	2,040	1.2	2,268	11.2	2,075	-8.5
F	5,331	5.1	5,492	3.0	5,752	4.7	5,712	-0.7	5,649	-1.1
IRL	:	:	190	:	202	6.6	226	11.9	228	0.8
I	2,990	-9.6	3,131	4.7	3,199	2.2	3,283	2.6	3,496	6.5
L	174	7.4	177	1.9	187	5.9	:	:	:	:
NL	892	4.6	898	0.7	905	0.7	896	-0.9	866	-3.4
A	583	5.1	621	6.5	865	39.3	893	3.2	802	-10.2
P	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	245	-12.0	296	21.1	379	28.0	371	-2.2	396	6.9
S	476	-25.9	525	10.2	570	8.6	626	9.8	663	6.0
UK	4,293	-1.2	4,485	4.5	4,224	-5.8	4,356	3.1	5,090	16.9

Labour costs
(million ECU)

Source:  eurostat

Table 5.5

Extra-EU-15
exports
(million ECU)

	1993 t / t-1 (%)		1994 t / t-1 (%)		1995 t / t-1 (%)		1996 t / t-1 (%)		1997 t / t-1 (%)	
EU-15	10,195	11.8	11,381	11.6	13,052	14.7	14,304	9.6	16,473	15.2
B/L	397	14.6	480	20.7	578	20.6	780	34.9	764	-2.1
DK	231	5.0	251	8.3	281	11.9	322	14.7	330	2.6
D	3,244	10.8	3,766	16.1	4,361	15.8	4,771	9.4	5,587	17.1
EL	63	45.2	77	21.4	83	8.8	99	19.1	105	6.1
E	476	1.1	540	13.3	620	14.9	776	25.3	812	4.6
F	1,251	8.4	1,331	6.4	1,754	31.8	1,614	-8.0	1,814	12.4
IRL	50	35.1	56	12.2	61	9.1	59	-4.2	81	38.4
I	1,336	13.6	1,510	13.0	1,746	15.6	1,973	13.0	2,259	14.5
NL	656	25.7	685	4.4	752	9.7	726	-3.4	728	0.3
A	547	9.7	619	13.1	544	-12.1	659	21.3	866	31.3
P	35	-16.5	37	5.4	52	39.7	57	9.2	68	19.5
FIN	214	35.8	252	17.8	230	-9.0	238	3.8	302	26.9
S	520	9.5	535	3.0	619	15.6	707	14.2	837	18.5
UK	1,173	12.1	1,244	6.0	1,373	10.4	1,523	10.9	1,920	26.1

Source:  eurostat

Table 5.6

Extra EU-15
imports
(million ECU)

	1993 t / t-1 (%)		1994 t / t-1 (%)		1995 t / t-1 (%)		1996 t / t-1 (%)		1997 t / t-1 (%)	
EU-15	7,793	4.7	8,846	13.5	10,111	14.3	10,855	7.4	12,263	13.0
B/L	495	-0.7	522	5.5	637	22.0	714	12.1	816	14.3
DK	151	6.0	169	12.0	205	21.3	204	-0.9	225	10.6
D	2,350	5.5	2,614	11.2	3,024	15.7	3,131	3.5	3,477	11.0
EL	97	9.9	100	2.8	114	13.4	136	20.1	143	4.8
E	215	-15.7	257	19.3	344	34.0	383	11.3	455	18.6
F	879	8.8	983	11.9	1,102	12.1	1,116	1.2	1,299	16.4
IRL	120	11.8	146	22.2	134	-8.2	170	26.5	205	20.8
I	644	-2.7	741	15.1	877	18.3	932	6.3	1,061	13.8
NL	680	0.2	793	16.7	963	21.4	1,115	15.8	1,177	5.5
A	280	15.6	308	10.0	311	0.8	372	19.8	423	13.6
P	54	24.8	65	18.8	86	34.0	107	23.3	112	4.9
FIN	86	-3.4	108	26.1	98	-9.7	107	9.2	119	11.3
S	287	-7.6	321	11.9	349	8.7	371	6.4	384	3.4
UK	1,455	12.9	1,717	18.0	1,868	8.8	1,997	6.9	2,368	18.6

Source:  eurostat

Production (trend cycle) & producer price indices

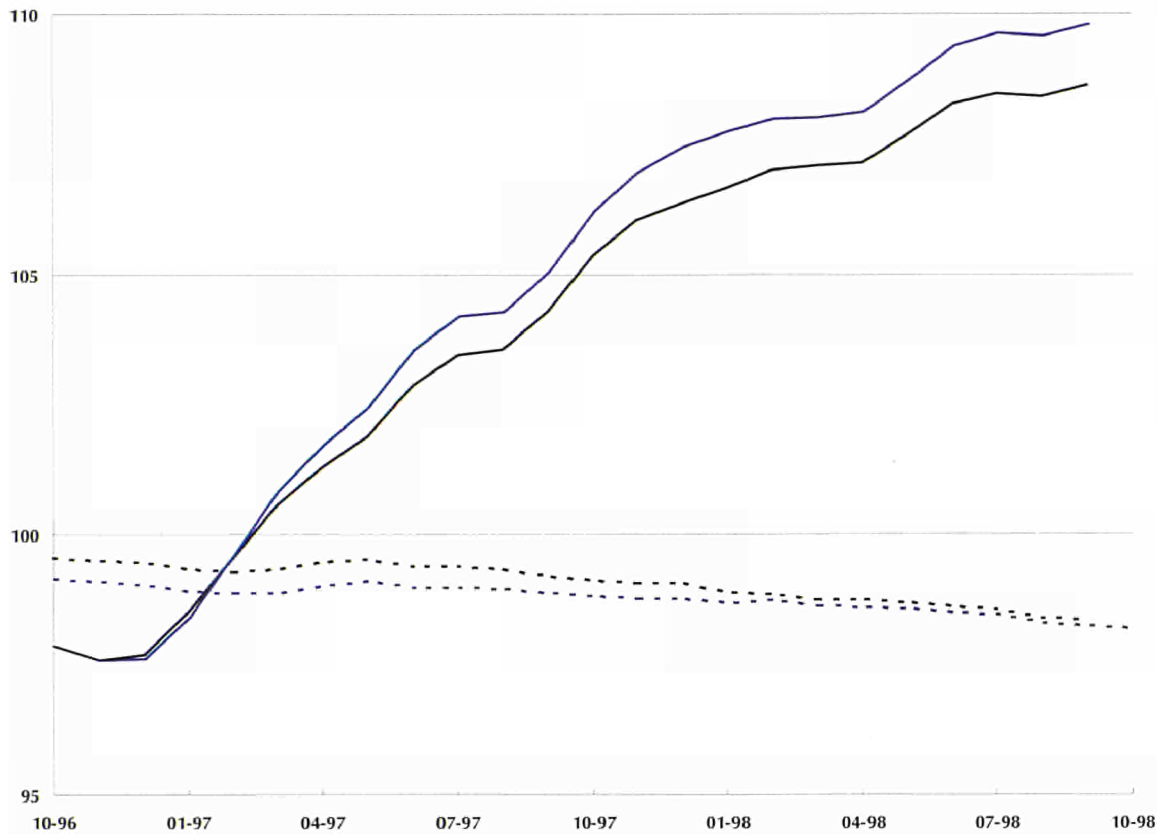


Figure 5.9

Production and producer price indices (1995 = 100)

EU-15 production index
 EU-15 producer price index
 EUR-11 production index
 EUR-11 producer price index

Source: eurostat

	Latest 3 months available		Production index		Latest month available	Producer price index	
	t-1	t-4	t / t-1	t / t-4		t / t-3	t / t-12
EU-15	07-98	⇒ 09-98	0.7	5.1	09-98	-0.2	-0.8
B	07-98	⇒ 09-98	0.9	3.6	06-98	0.0	0.1
DK	08-98	⇒ 10-98	:	5.4	10-98	-0.4	0.5
D	08-98	⇒ 10-98	0.7	4.9	10-98	-0.3	-0.3
EL	06-98	⇒ 08-98	3.1	10.3	09-98	0.5	8.8
E	07-98	⇒ 09-98	1.9	9.9	10-98	0.2	-0.2
F	07-98	⇒ 09-98	1.4	6.8	10-98	-0.4	-2.1
IRL		⇒	:	:		:	:
I	07-98	⇒ 09-98	1.2	1.6	10-98	-0.4	-0.1
L	07-98	⇒ 09-98	7.1	12.6	09-98	0.6	0.3
NL	04-98	⇒ 06-98	-1.0	2.3	10-98	0.0	0.9
A	06-98	⇒ 08-98	4.5	5.0		:	:
P	06-98	⇒ 08-98	3.1	6.2	09-98	-0.2	0.6
FIN	07-98	⇒ 09-98	-1.6	-4.7	10-98	-1.2	-1.9
S	07-98	⇒ 09-98	0.1	-0.7	10-98	-0.1	0.2
UK	07-98	⇒ 09-98	0.2	2.3	09-98	-0.3	-2.4
Japan		⇒	:	:		:	:
USA		⇒	:	:		:	:

Table 5.7

Production and producer price indices: growth rates (%)

Source: eurostat

Figure 5.10

Production and producer price indices: growth rate, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year, 07-98 to 09-98 (%)

Production ■
Producer price index ■

Source:  eurostat

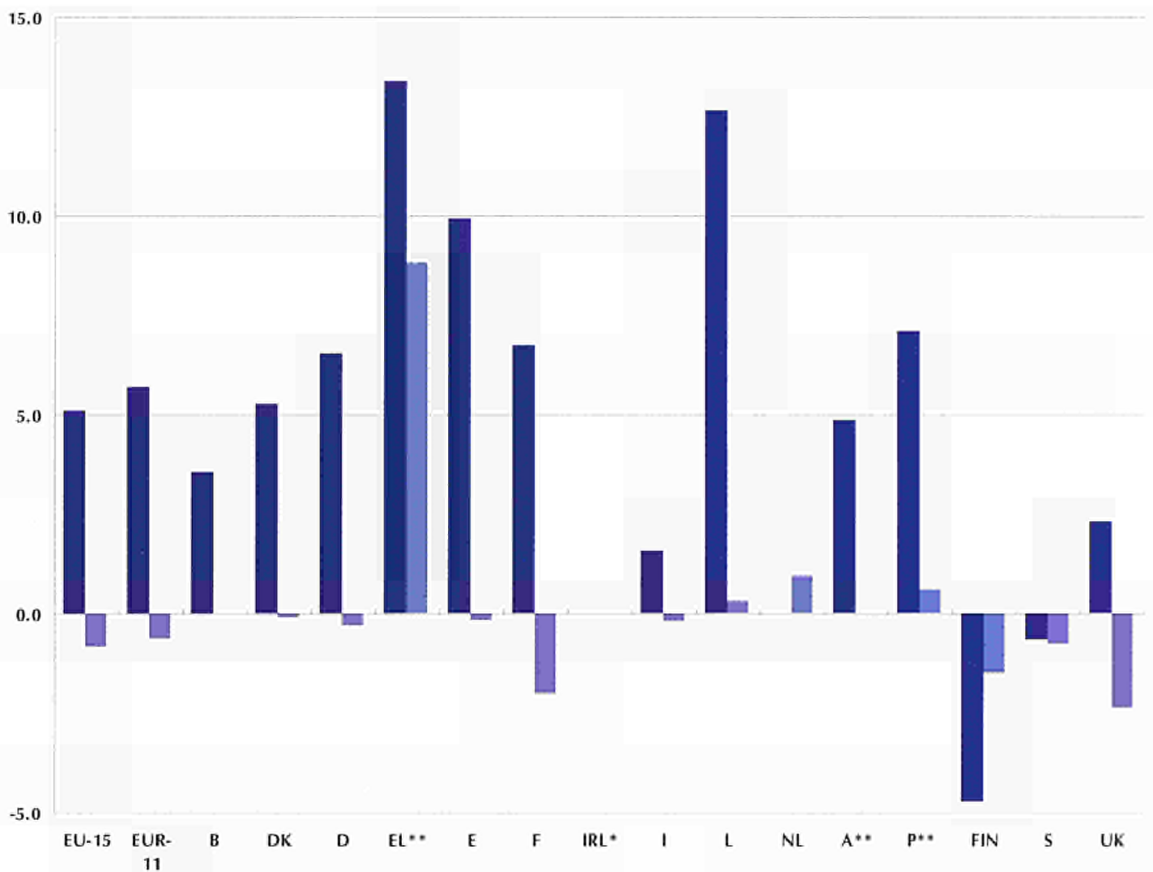
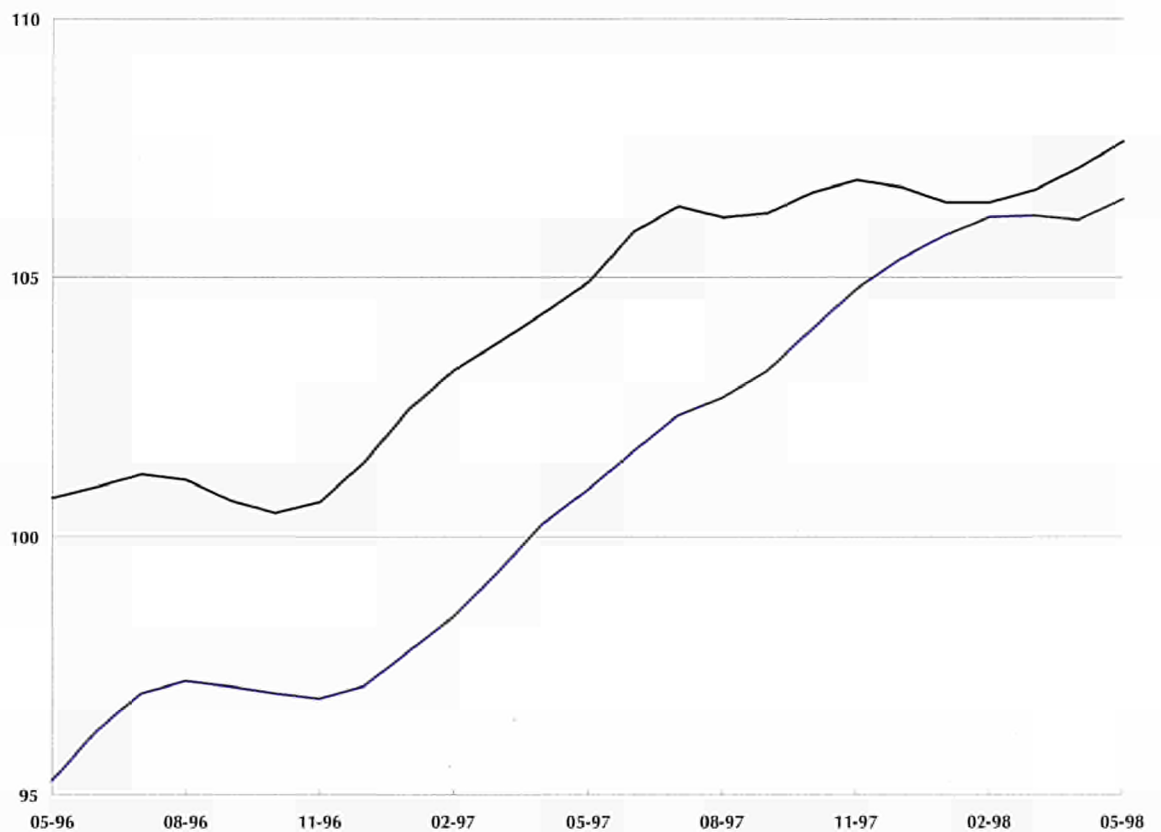


Figure 5.11

EU-15 production index for individual groups, trend cycle (1995 = 100)

Rubber products —
Plastic products —

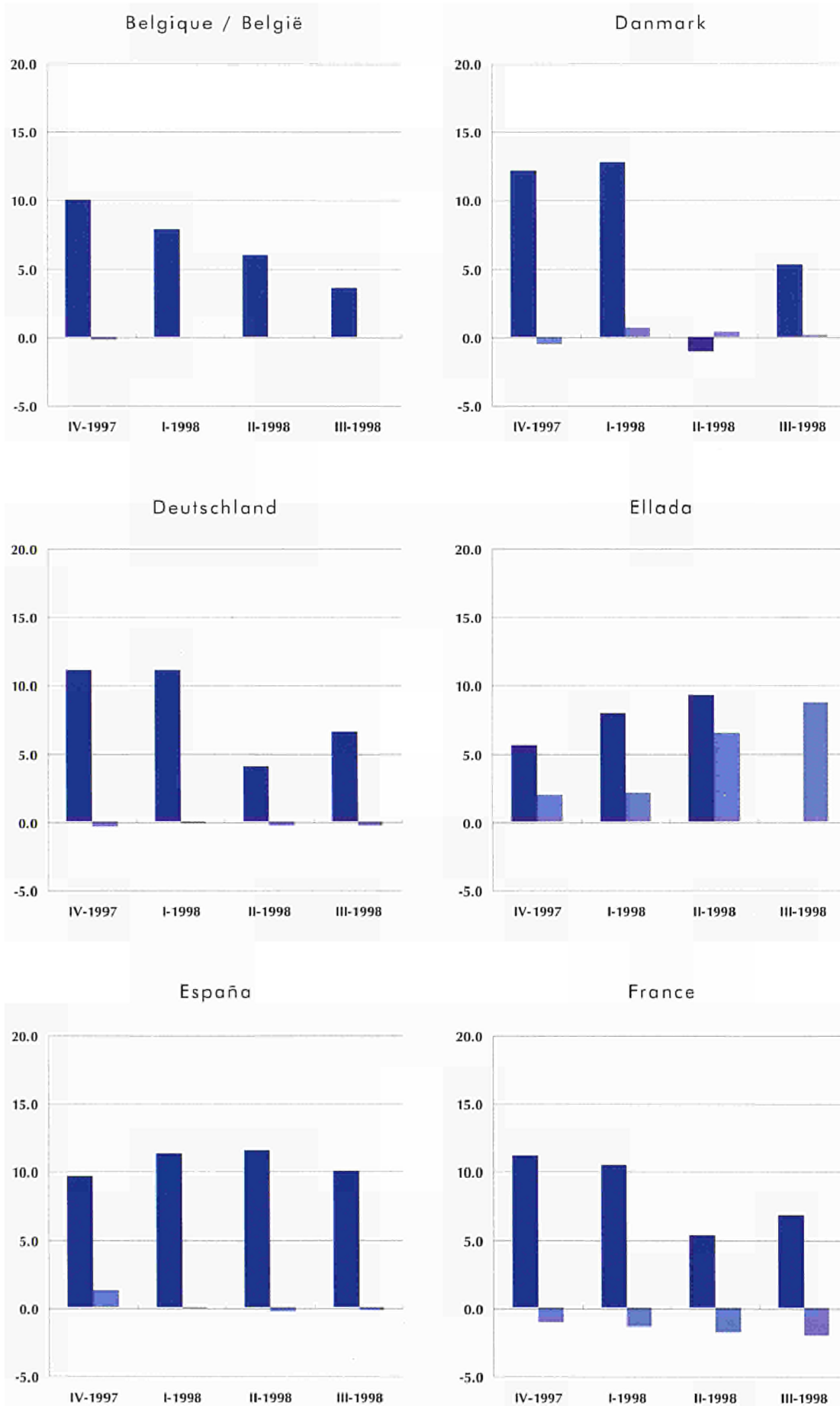
Source:  eurostat



Production & producer price indices

Figure 5.12

Production and producer price indices: growth rate, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year (%)



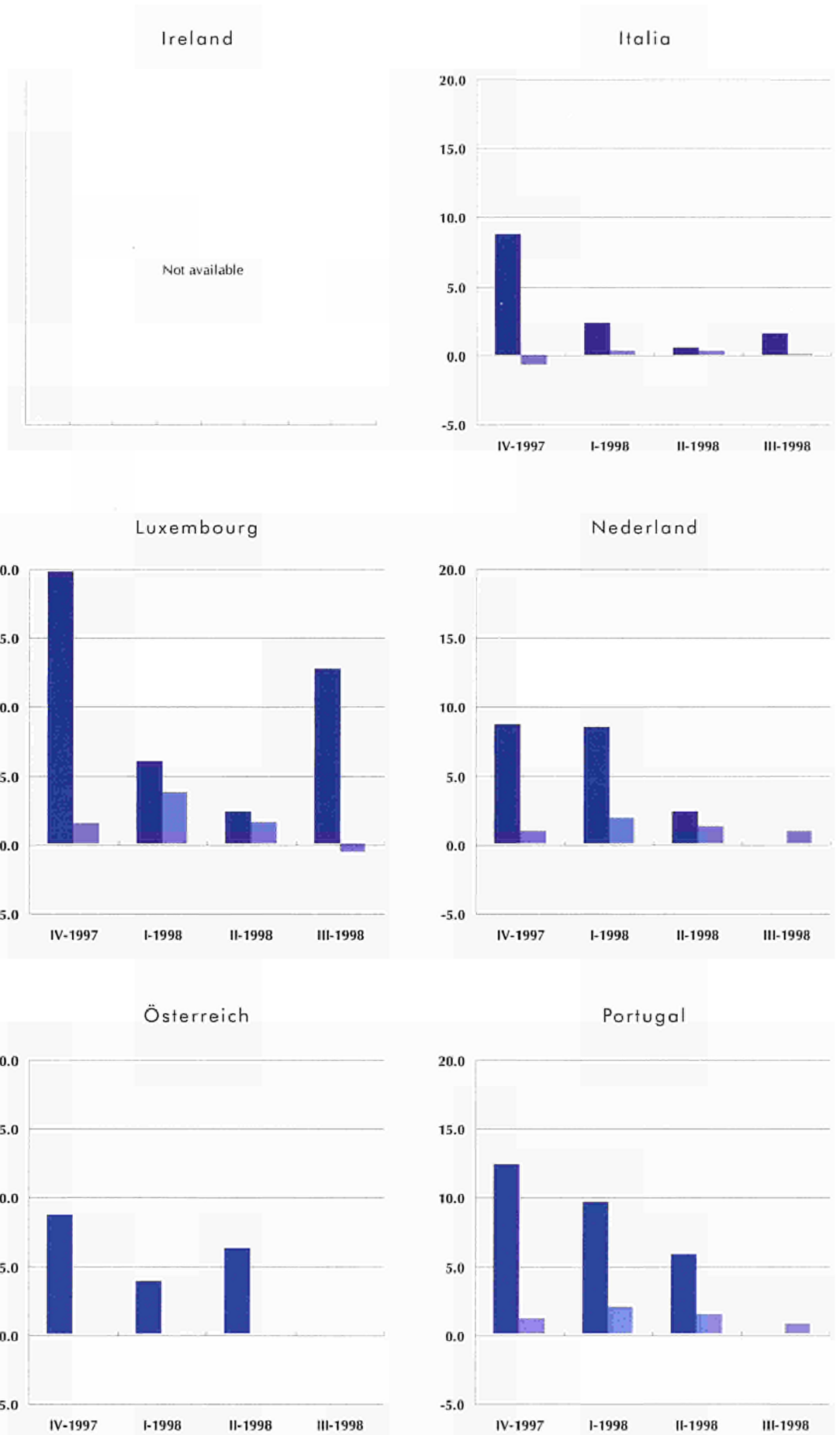
■ Production index

■ Producer price index

Source: eurostat

Figure 5.12

Production and producer price indices: growth rate, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year (%)

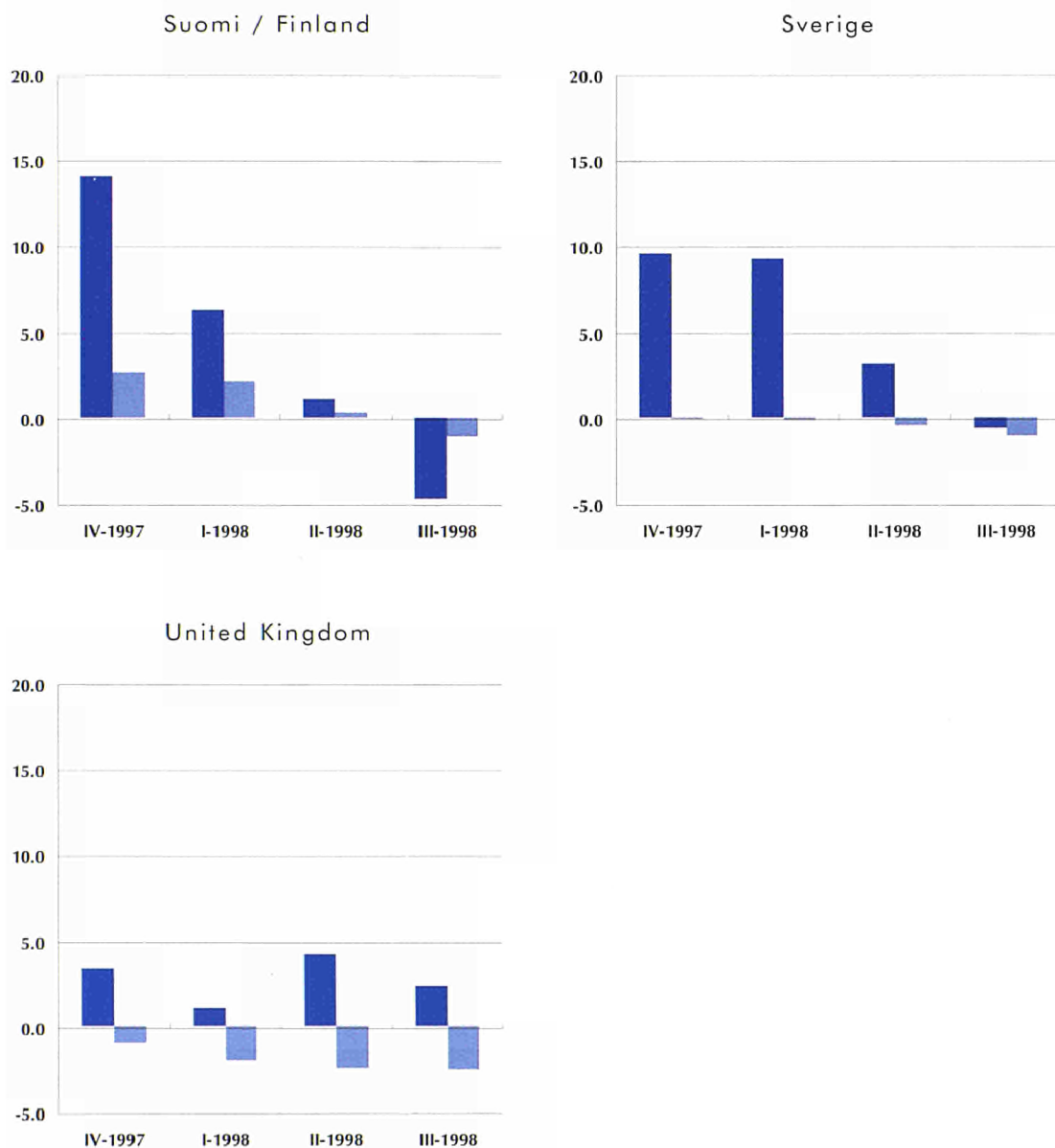


Production index ■
 Producer price index ■

Source: eurostat

Production & producer price indices

Figure 5.12



Production and producer price indices: growth rate, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year (%)

■ Production index
■ Producer price index

Further information - 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 EU-15 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.

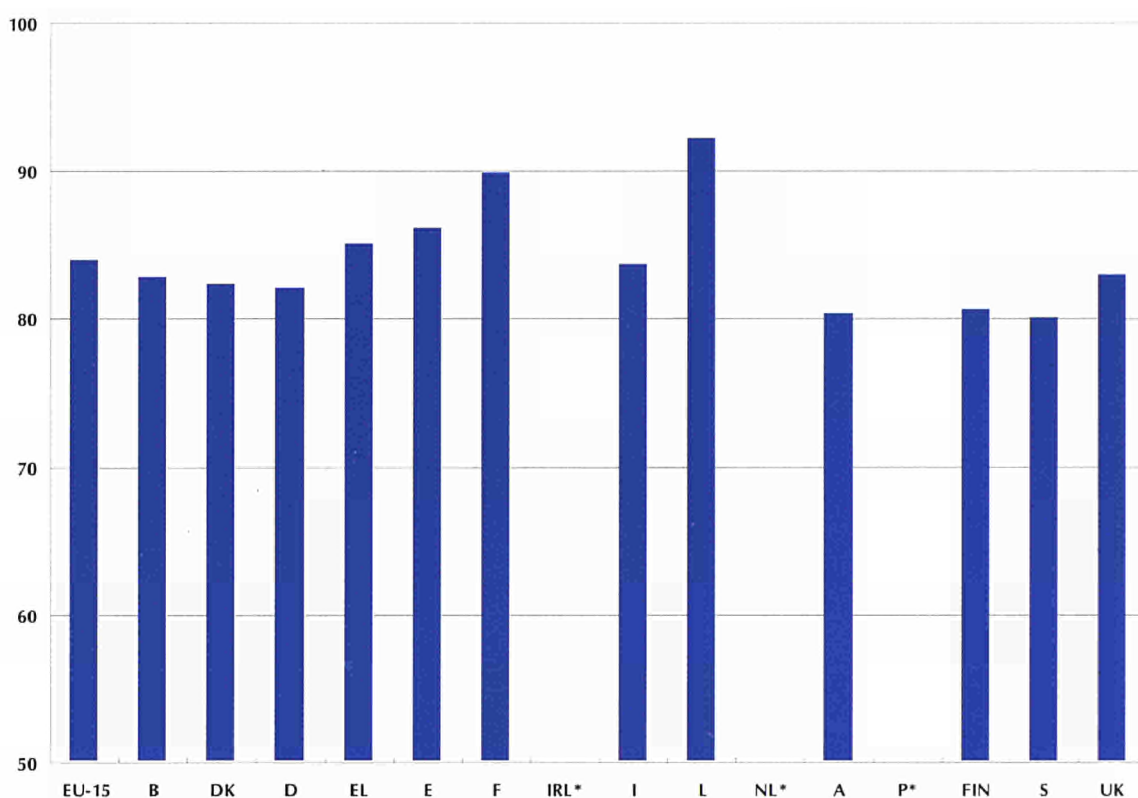
The index of producer prices shows (in the national currency of the Member State in question) changes in the ex-works selling prices of all products sold on the domestic market. Since we deal with producer prices, imports are not included in these price indices. Producer price indices are not seasonally adjusted.

Full methodological notes may be found on page 111.

Source: eurostat

Figure 5.13

Capacity
utilisation rates,
10-98
(%)



Source: DG II,
Business Survey

Table 5.8

Capacity
utilisation rates
(%)

	Growth rate: latest month, t / t-12 (%)	01-98	04-98	07-98	10-98
EU-15	-0.8	81.0	83.5	83.9	83.9
B	-3.8	79.5	81.8	81.6	82.8
DK	-2.0	82.2	83.1	85.3	82.3
D	0.7	78.6	81.3	83.5	82.0
EL	11.7	74.0	84.0	78.0	85.0
E	-17.8	86.4	84.9	86.2	86.1
F	1.5	88.6	88.7	90.2	89.8
IRL	6.5	78.8	:	:	:
I	1.7	73.1	85.1	83.9	83.6
L	-2.8	91.9	92.9	93.4	92.2
NL	:	:	:	:	:
A	5.5	77.5	77.8	79.7	80.3
P	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	2.0	78.0	84.0	84.1	80.6
S	0.0	81.0	80.0	81.0	80.0
UK	0.1	84.6	82.3	80.9	83.0

Source: DG II,
Business Survey

Foreign trade indices (trend cycle)

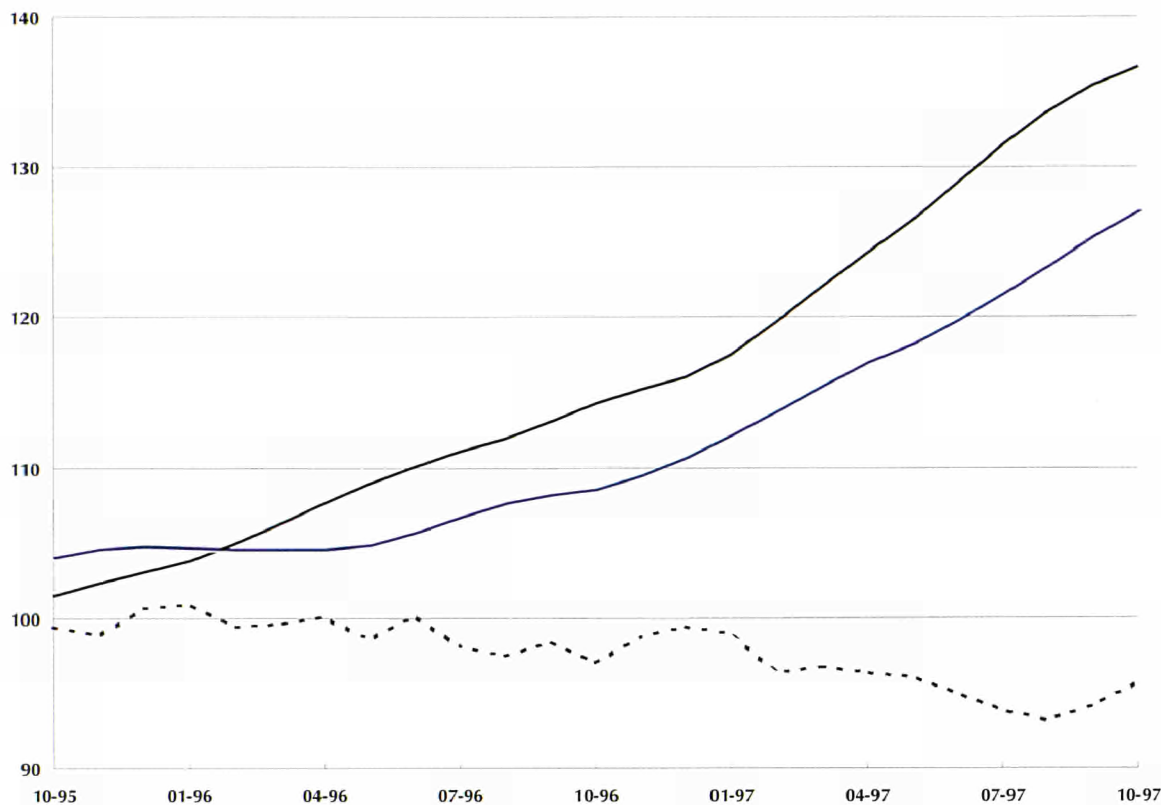


Figure 5.14

EU-15 foreign trade indices in ECU terms (1995 = 100)

— Export value index
— Import value index
- - - Terms of trade

Source: eurostat

	Latest 3 months available		Exports		Imports		Terms of trade
	Value	Volume	Value	Volume			
EU-15	08-97	⇒ 10-97	4.9	3.7	4.6	2.4	-0.7
B / L	09-97	⇒ 11-97	-1.6	-2.2	-2.9	-1.5	-0.5
DK	09-97	⇒ 11-97	2.5	0.5	2.7	0.9	2.4
D	07-97	⇒ 09-97	3.4	2.7	4.5	3.2	-1.9
EL	07-97	⇒ 09-97	1.2	-0.9	1.4	-0.7	0.0
E	09-97	⇒ 11-97	4.0	3.4	6.5	2.8	1.8
F	09-97	⇒ 11-97	3.9	4.1	3.8	2.8	-0.9
IRL	08-97	⇒ 10-97	-1.4	-4.7	3.5	-2.4	-4.2
I	08-97	⇒ 10-97	2.9	2.0	3.1	3.3	1.5
NL	08-97	⇒ 10-97	-0.2	-3.2	-2.4	-4.4	0.8
A		⇒	:	:	:	:	:
P	08-97	⇒ 10-97	-1.5	-1.7	2.7	1.7	1.3
FIN		⇒	:	:	:	:	:
S		⇒	:	:	:	:	:
UK	09-97	⇒ 11-97	-0.8	-1.2	2.8	5.0	4.9

Table 5.9

Foreign trade indices (value indices are in ECU terms): growth rate, three months compared to the previous three months (%)

Source: eurostat

Figure 5.15

Foreign trade indices in ECU terms: growth rate, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year, 08-97 to 10-97 (%)

Export value ■
Import value ■

Source:  eurostat

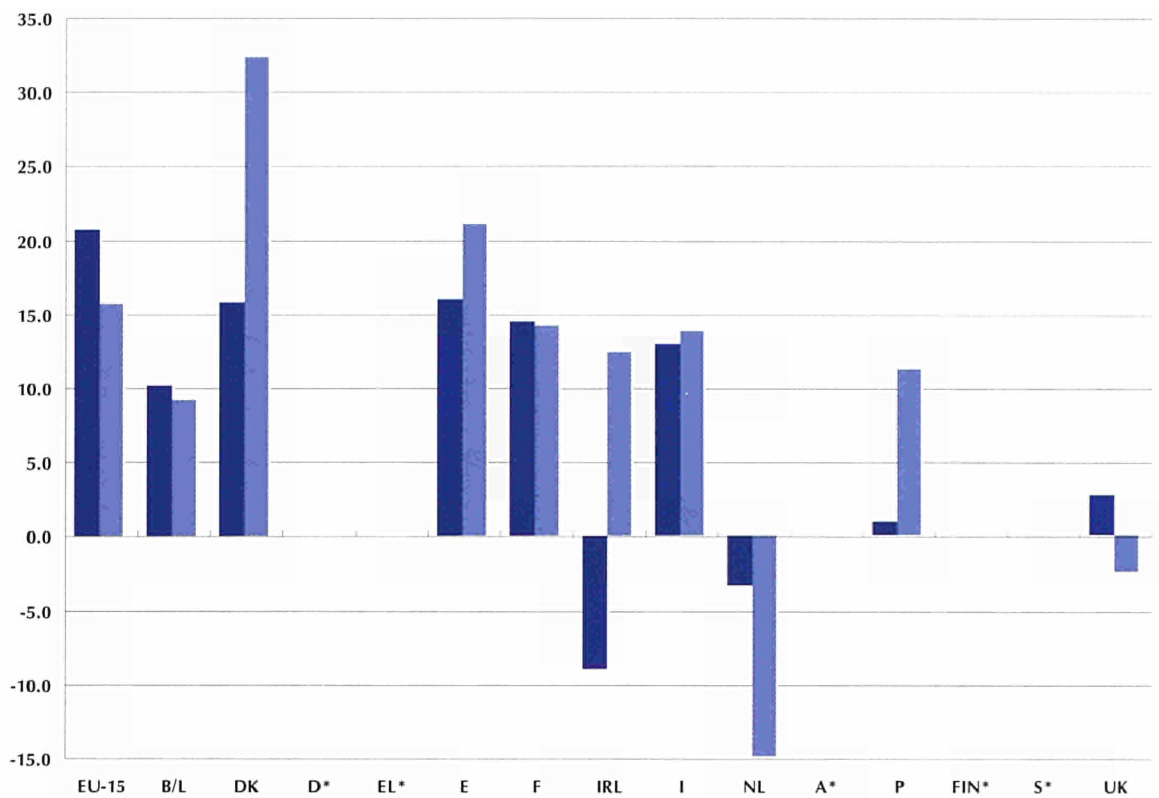


Table 5.10

Foreign trade indices (value indices are in ECU terms): growth rates, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year (%)

Latest 3 months available

Exports
Value Volume

Imports
Value Volume

Terms of trade

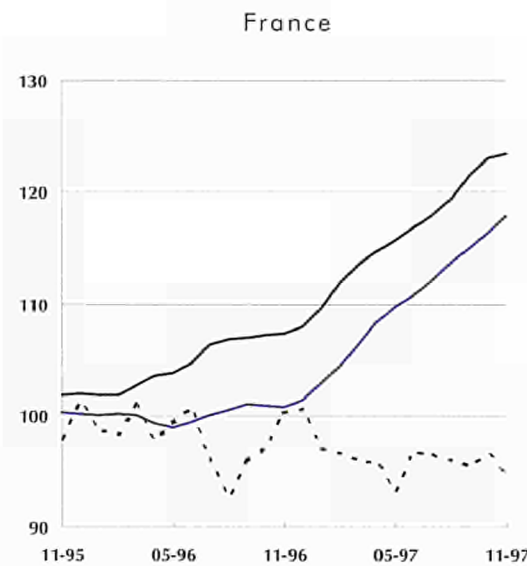
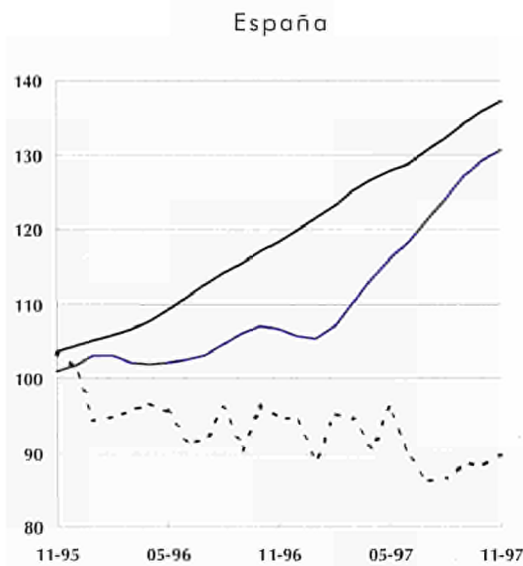
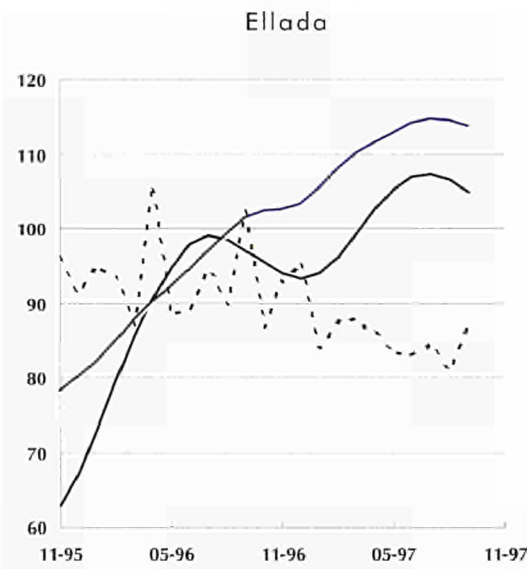
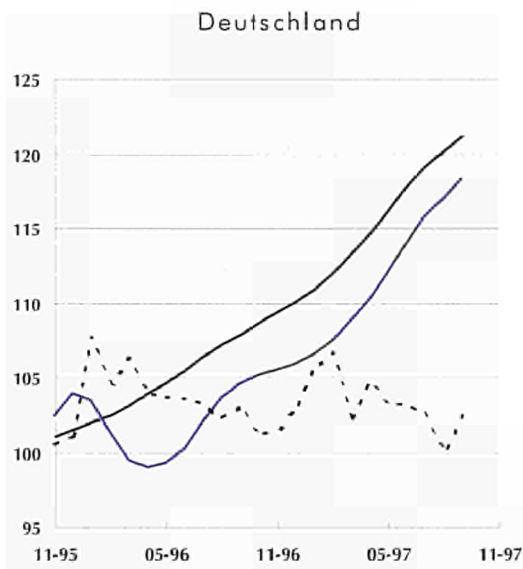
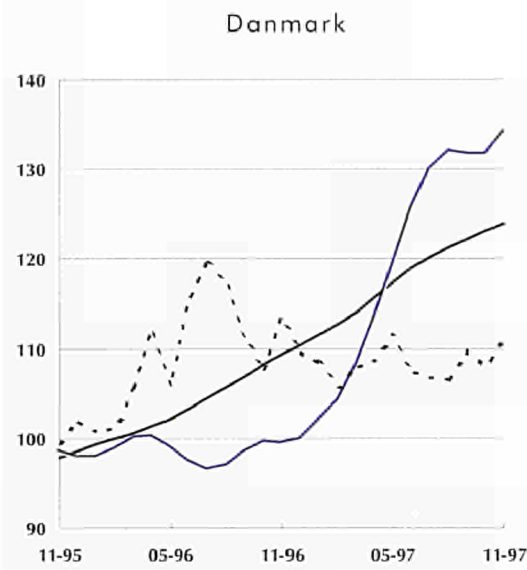
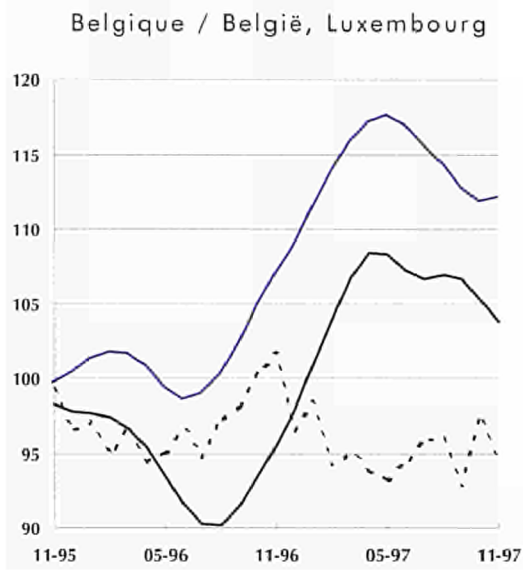
	Latest 3 months available	Exports Value	Exports Volume	Imports Value	Imports Volume	Terms of trade
EU-15	08-97 ⇒ 10-97	20.7	17.8	15.7	9.1	-3.4
B / L	09-97 ⇒ 11-97	-0.2	-4.0	4.5	-4.6	-5.1
DK	09-97 ⇒ 11-97	12.4	0.5	33.0	17.7	-1.1
D	07-97 ⇒ 09-97	11.5	9.3	13.4	10.0	-1.2
EL	07-97 ⇒ 09-97	-1.1	-0.4	10.0	-2.0	-12.0
E	09-97 ⇒ 11-97	15.8	12.1	20.5	10.5	-5.2
F	09-97 ⇒ 11-97	14.9	13.9	14.8	11.4	-2.3
IRL	08-97 ⇒ 10-97	-9.0	-13.0	12.5	-5.9	-12.3
I	08-97 ⇒ 10-97	13.0	11.0	13.8	15.1	1.8
NL	08-97 ⇒ 10-97	-3.4	-12.6	-14.9	-19.1	5.1
A	⇒	:	:	:	:	:
P	08-97 ⇒ 10-97	1.0	-0.3	11.3	8.5	-0.8
FIN	⇒	:	:	:	:	:
S	⇒	:	:	:	:	:
UK	09-97 ⇒ 11-97	1.4	2.9	-0.1	7.9	6.5

Source:  eurostat

Foreign trade indices (trend cycle)

Figure 5.16

Foreign trade indices
in ECU terms
(1995 = 100)

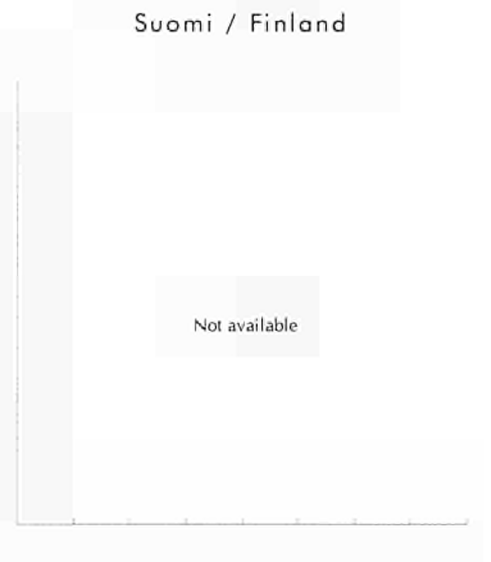
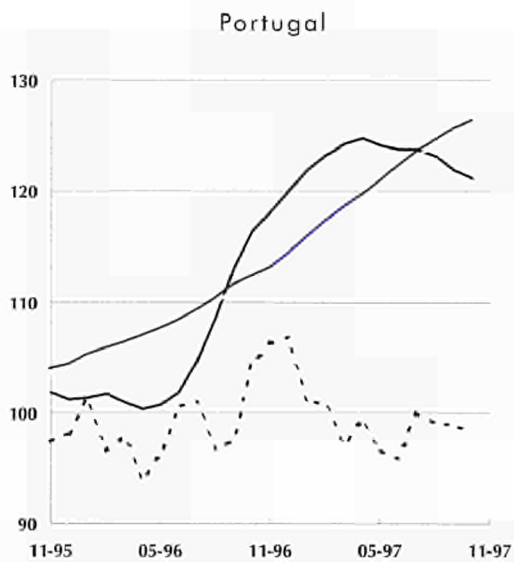
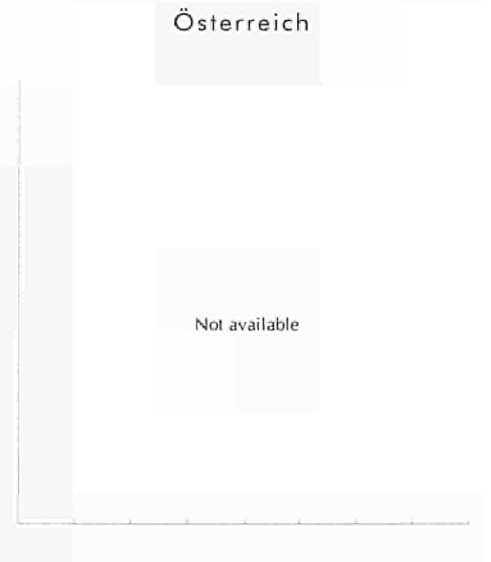
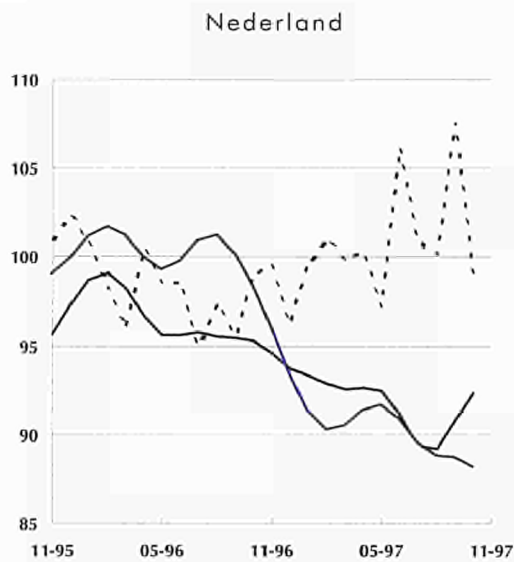
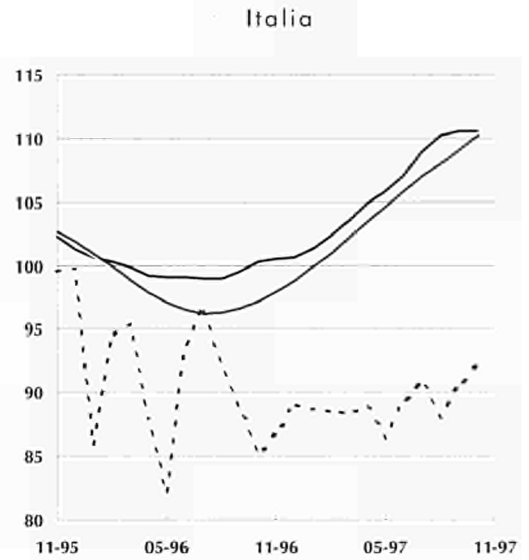
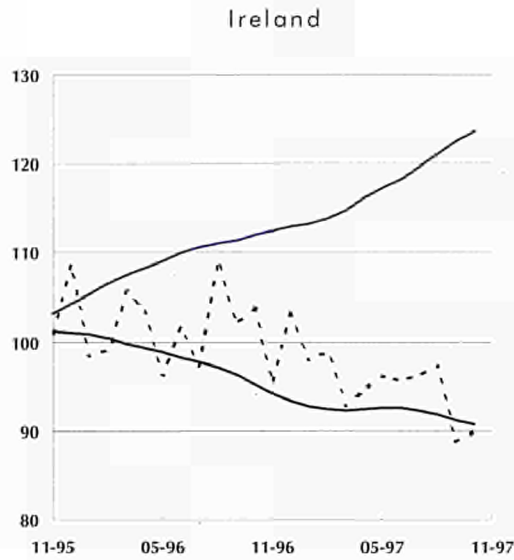


— Export value index
— Import value index
- - - Terms of trade

Source:  eurostat

Figure 5.16

Foreign trade indices
in ECU terms
(1995 = 100)



Export value index —
 Import value index —
 Terms of trade - - -

Source: eurostat

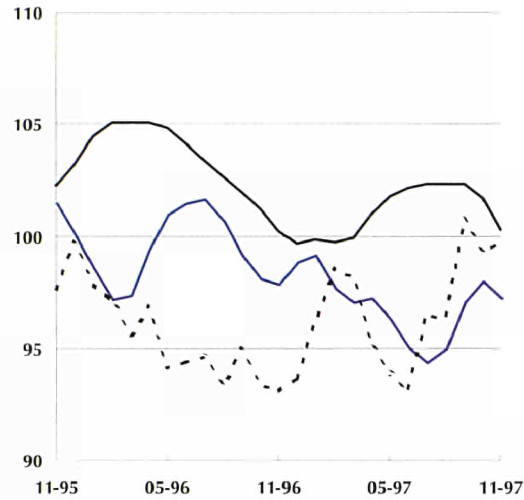
Foreign trade indices (trend cycle)

Figure 5.16

Sverige



United Kingdom



Foreign trade indices
in ECU terms
(1995 = 100)

— Export value index

— Import value index

- - - - Terms of trade

Further information - 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 EU-15 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 111.

Source: eurostat

6.

Data diskette



The files on the diskette are broken down by industrial branch. 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 <F5> 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.

7. Furthermore, there are two files called STRUCT1.EXE (English number format) and STRUCT2.EXE (continental European number format) with the structural data, for the industry covered in section 4 of the publication. It is also detailed in the README.TXT file.

If you would like to receive the data by e-mail as soon as it is extracted, please send a message to Giuseppe Panbianco (giuseppe.panbianco@eurostat.cec.be) requesting the data.

Divisions:

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

7.

Methodological notes

Industry classification 112

NACE Rev. 1, definitions of main industrial groupings

Statistical sources 112

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

Signs and abbreviations 113

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. Data have been based on 1995 = 100, using weights from the annual surveys of 1995.

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 made by Eurostat;
- 3) the data for the USA and Japan, which are supplied by the OECD.

Every effort has been made to include data for the EU-15 Member States. The data from 1991 onwards are on a post-unification basis and include East-Germany.

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 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.

Sometimes statistics are collected at the product level. This may be the case for prices, production, imports and exports. Thus, data is not strictly speaking following an activity classification (NACE Rev. 1) but a product classification (Classification of Products by Activity "CPA"). CPA, was laid down in a Council Regulation in 1993. It is a six digit classification which for the 2-digit, 3-digit and 4-digit level is identical to NACE Rev. 1 in its coding.

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.

Statistical sources, signs & abbreviations

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.

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. 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 and graphs show three different growth rates. The first being for the latest three months data compared to the previous three months data ($t/t-1$) - 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 ($t/t-4$) - here a series only adjusted for the number of working days is used. The third is a year on year growth rate for a particular month ($t/t-12$) - here gross data for prices is used. Estimates are sometimes made to create a EU-15 or EUR-11 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 (where available). Growth rates are either one month compared to the same month of the previous year or three months compared to the same three months of the previous year. For Member States where just one month is missing (and not more), this missing value is 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.

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 the data have been filled by estimates made by Eurostat. Thus, EU-15 and EUR-11 totals often contain estimates for missing countries. Estimates are shown in bold. Attention should be drawn to the fact that the data has switched to the NACE Rev. 1 classification, this may result in revisions of data being made in the medium-term.

Annual foreign trade data comes from the COMEXT database. Statistical régime 4 (total trade) is used.

Signs and abbreviations

EUR-11	Monetary union participating countries
B / L	Belgo-Luxembourg Economic Union
ECU	European currency unit
TRIAD	EU-15, Japan and the USA
Billion	thousand million
*	not available (in graphs)
:	not available (in tables)
**	estimation (in graphs)
data in bold	estimation (in tables)
1995 = 100	reference year

For more information on methodology, please contact Berthold Feldmann - tel: (352) 4301 34401 or e-mail: berthold.feldmann@eurostat.cec.be



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