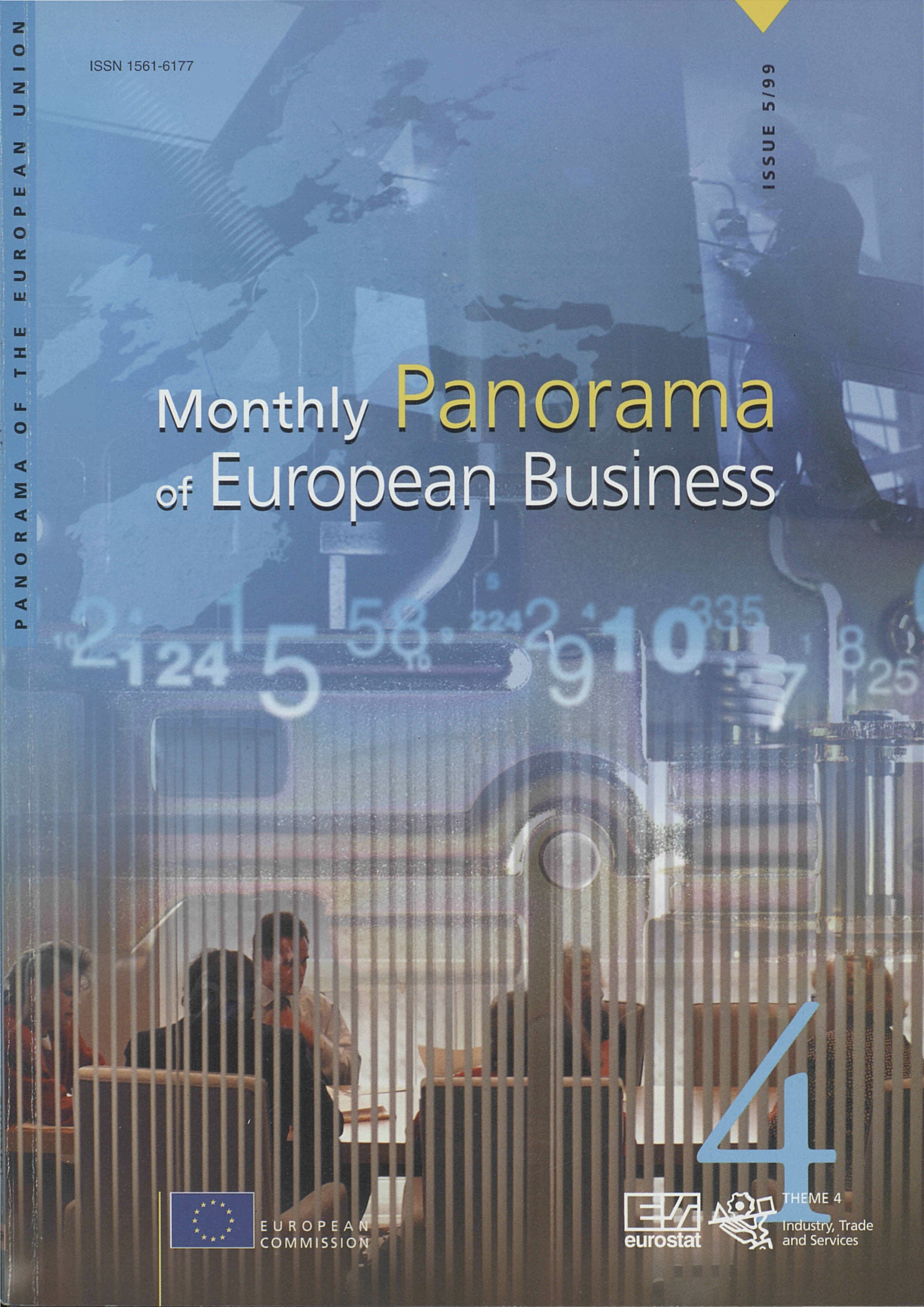


PANORAMA OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

ISSN 1561-6177

ISSUE 5/99

Monthly Panorama of European Business

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

eurostat

THEME 4
Industry, Trade and Services

eurostat

OFICINA ESTADÍSTICA DE LAS COMUNIDADES EUROPEAS
DE EUROPÆISKE FÆLLESSKABERS STATISTISKE KONTOR
STATISTISCHES AMT DER EUROPÄISCHEN GEMEINSCHAFTEN
ΣΤΑΤΙΣΤΙΚΗ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ ΤΩΝ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΩΝ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΩΝ
STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
OFFICE STATISTIQUE DES COMMUNAUTÉS EUROPÉENNES
ISTITUTO STATISTICO DELLE COMUNITÀ EUROPEE
BUREAU VOOR DE STATISTIEK DER EUROPESE GEMEENSCHAPPEN
SERVIÇO DE ESTATÍSTICA DAS COMUNIDADES EUROPEIAS

L-2920 Luxembourg — Tél. 43 01-1 — Télex COMEUR LU 3423
B-1049 Bruxelles, rue de la Loi 200 — Tél. 299 11 11

Las publicaciones de Eurostat están clasificadas por temas y por series. La clasificación se encuentra al final de la obra. Para mayor información sobre las publicaciones, rogamos se pongan en contacto con Eurostat.
Para los pedidos, diríjanse a las oficinas de venta cuyas direcciones figuran en la página interior de la contracubierta.

Eurostats publikationer er klassificeret efter emne og serie. En oversigt herover findes bag i hæftet. Yderligere oplysninger om publikationerne kan fås ved henvendelse til Eurostat.
Bestilling kan afgives til de salgssteder, der er anført på omslagets side 3.

Die Veröffentlichungen von Eurostat sind nach Themenkreisen und Reihen gegliedert. Die Gliederung ist hinten in jedem Band aufgeführt. Genauere Auskünfte über die Veröffentlichungen erteilt Eurostat.
Ihre Bestellungen richten Sie bitte an die Verkaufsbüros, deren Anschriften jeweils auf der dritten Umschlagseite der Veröffentlichungen zu finden sind.

Οι εκδόσεις της Eurostat ταξινομούνται κατά θέμα και κατά σειρά. Η ακριβής ταξινόμηση αναφέρεται στο τέλος κάθε έκδοσης. Για λεπτομερέστερες πληροφορίες σχετικά με τις εκδόσεις, μπορείτε να απευθύνεσθε στην Eurostat.
Για τις παραγγελίες μπορείτε να απευθύνεσθε στα γραφεία πώλησης, των οποίων οι διευθύνσεις αναγράφονται στη σελίδα 3 του εξωφύλλου.

Eurostat's publications are classified according to themes and series. This classification is indicated at the end of the publication. For more detailed information on publications, contact Eurostat.
Orders are obtainable from the sales offices mentioned on the inside back cover.

Les publications d'Eurostat sont classées par thème et par série. Cette classification est précisée à la fin de l'ouvrage. Pour des informations plus détaillées sur les publications, contactez Eurostat.
Pour les commandes, adressez-vous aux bureaux de vente dont les adresses sont indiquées à la page 3 de la couverture.

Le pubblicazioni dell'Eurostat sono classificate per tema e per serie. Tale classificazione è precisata alla fine dell'opera. Per informazioni più dettagliate sulle pubblicazioni rivolgersi all'Eurostat.
Per eventuali ordinazioni rivolgersi a uno degli uffici di vendita i cui indirizzi figurano nella 3ª pagina della copertina.

De publikaties van Eurostat zijn ingedeeld naar onderwerp en serie. Deze indeling is achter in het boek opgenomen. Voor nadere informatie over de publikaties kunt u sich wenden tot Eurostat.
Gelieve bestellingen op te geven bij de verkoopbureaus, waarvan de adressen op bladzijde 3 van de omslag zijn vermeld.

As publicações do Eurostat estão classificadas por tema e por série. Esta classificação está indicada no fim da obra. Para mais informações sobre as publicacões é favor contactar Eurostat.
Encomendas: serviços de venda cujos endereços estão indicados na contracapa.

ISSUE 5/99

Monthly Panorama of European Business

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

eurostat

4

THEME 4

Industry, Trade and Services

Manuscript completed in May 1999

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)

Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 1999

Printed in Luxembourg

PRINTED ON WHITE CHLORINE-FREE PAPER

Editorial

This fifth edition of the Monthly Panorama of European Business for 1999 shows some changes in content when compared with the first four editions of this year. We have reviewed the presentation of the publication and this has resulted in several changes, which we hope will make the publication both easier to read and more useful in terms of the information provided to the user. Most of the changes that you will find relate to the presentation of the data. We would welcome any feedback from readers regarding either these changes or suggestions for further improvements that we may consider during our next review of the publication.

This edition focuses on the telecommunications industry, which is covered by NACE Rev. 1 32 (in terms of the manufacture of telecommunication equipment) and NACE Rev. 1 64 in terms of telecommunication services. The latter is an activity that until recently has been dominated by national, public monopoly suppliers. This is also the case for the other activity covered within NACE Rev. 1 64, that of postal activities. Nevertheless, some liberalisation of markets has led to limited competition, especially in areas such as courier activities and mobile telecommunication services. This process may be expected to continue in the future at a more rapid pace (as may technological advances within the industry).

As regards the production of telecommunication equipment, electronic components and television and radio equipment (NACE Rev. 1 32), the activity is one where European producers face high levels of international competition. This is clear when looking at the foreign trade performance of the EU for this activity, where the EU has reported a substantial trade deficit during the last decade. European manufacturers have faced strong competition, not only from Japan and the USA, but also from the emerging economies of south-east Asia.

Pedro Díaz Muñoz,
Luxembourg

C o n t e n t s

The Monthly Panorama of European Business has the objective of furnishing readers with an instrument which will allow them to follow the evolution of short-term trends and also show the structure and activity of European business. 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.

This publication is a project of Eurostat unit D3.
The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual authors alone and do not necessarily reflect the position of the European Commission.

Next issue:
Machinery and equipment
Electrical machinery and apparatus

Editor-in-chief:
Mr. Berthold Feldmann,
Eurostat,
Statistical Office of the European Communities,
Bâtiment Joseph Bech,
E2/808,
L-2721 Luxembourg
tel: (352) 4301 34401
fax: (352) 4301 34359
e-mail:
berthold.feldmann@eurostat.cec.be

Production, desktop publishing and CD-ROM:
INFORMA sàrl
Laurence Bastin, Iain Christopher, Sabine Joham, Andrew Redpath

Data processing:
Giuseppe Di Giacomo, Rania Govotsou, Giuseppe Panbianco, Raffaella Turci, Christoph Walkner

Enquiries regarding the purchase of data should be directed to:
Eurostat Data-Shop
4, rue Alphonse Weicker
L-2721 Luxembourg
tel: (352) 43 35 22 51
fax: (352) 43 35 22 221
e-mail: dslux@eurostat.datashop.lu

Data extracted on 10-05-99

1. Industrial commentary

1. Industrial commentary

Industrial producer prices fall for the eleventh successive month in the EU

The latest data available showed that the European economy was experiencing a slowdown in the first quarter of 1999. Looking at the main indicators of economic activity for industry within the EU, we can note that production was on a downward trend, producer prices were falling and capacity utilisation was also reduced. The indicators for the euro-zone[1] followed closely those for the European Union as a whole, with negative rates of change. Where the latest data was available for a few countries for new orders, they reported either no change or a declining trend (see page 14).

Industrial production

Production within the European Union fell by 0.7% in February 1999 (when comparing an average of the last three months data with data from the previous three months). The euro-zone also reported a reduction in activity (using the same growth rate) equal to 0.7%. Hence, for the fifth successive month, both EU-15 and EUR-11 recorded a decline in production volumes. However, looking at year on year growth rates we find that the EU-15 index of production rose by 0.1% (comparing data for the last three months with the same three months of a year before).

Turning attention to the latest growth rates for the Member States we find that there were negative trends in six countries. The European figure is clearly influenced by the performance of the main economies and latest data showed a decline in output in Germany (-0.8% to February 1999), Italy (-0.9% to February 1999) and the United Kingdom (-0.3% to February 1999). France however recorded a positive evolution for production, with output rising by 0.1% in February 1999. This was by no means the most rapid growth rate recorded within the Member States. Taking the latest month of data available for each country the four fastest growing economies in Europe were: Ireland (2.8% to January 1999), Finland (1.4% to February 1999), Greece (1.1% to February 1999) and Spain (0.5% to February 1999).

(1) Belgium, Germany, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Finland make up the EUR-11 aggregate, otherwise known as the euro-zone.

Enquiries regarding the purchase of data should be directed to:

Eurostat Data-Shop
4, rue Alphonse Weicker
L-2721 Luxembourg
tel: (352) 43 35 22 51
fax: (352) 43 35 22 221
e-mail: dslux@eurostat.datashop.lu

Capital goods continue to record positive growth within the European Union

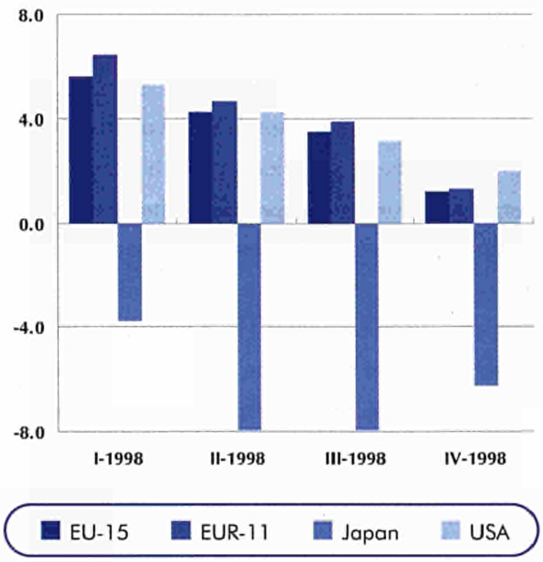


Figure 1.1

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

Source: eurostat

International developments in the Triad showed that industrial production continued to decline in Japan for the eighteenth consecutive month. Japanese output fell by 0.8% in the three month period to February 1999. The American industrial economy continued to record positive gains (although not at the same magnitude as the USA economy as a whole). Indeed, since the summer of 1998 (when growth rates of around one per cent were being recorded) the rate of growth of industrial production within the USA has slowed somewhat. The latest figure reported growth of 0.3% in February 1999.

Main industrial groupings

There has been a marked difference in the evolution of the four main industrial groupings that make up the European industrial economy. Consumer non-durables have shown almost no growth since 1995, with the latest index of industrial production for February 1999 standing at 103.0 (1995=100). This industrial grouping has shown little variation in output over the last three years with a very smooth trend in the evolution of production, rising at a very slow pace. Intermediate goods and consumer durables have displayed somewhat faster growth over the same period, with output expanding by between 7% and 9% during the period 1995 to mid-1998. Since the late summer of 1998 both of these industrial groupings have displayed a decline in activity, with latest figures showing a reduction of 0.8% for intermediate goods and 0.7% for consumer durables. The capital goods industry is the least affected by the slowdown in industrial activity within Europe. This industrial grouping has expanded by almost 15% when taking 1995 data as a base year. After having recorded little or no growth in the second half of 1998, the latest figures showed that capital goods were once again recording positive rates of growth (up by 0.2% in February 1999).

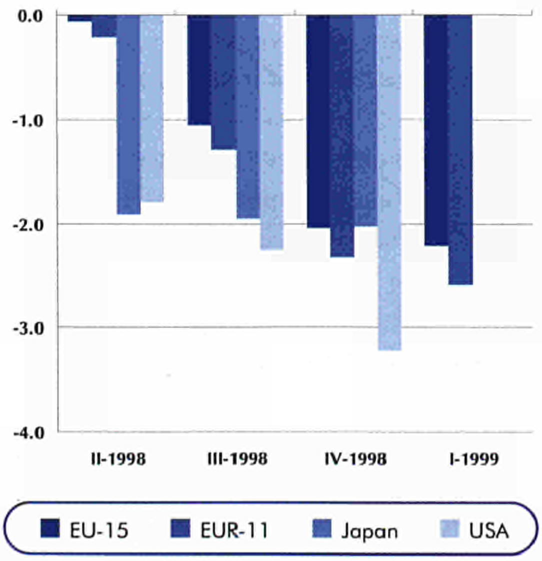


Figure 1.2

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

Source: eurostat

Industrial production compared to a year before

If we turn attention to look at the evolution of output over a one year period (using the data for the last three months compared to the same three months of a year before) we find somewhat different results. For the EU as a whole, industrial production was up by only 0.1% in February 1999 on a year earlier, in nine of the Member States output remained above the corresponding figure from a year before. In some cases the expansion reported was still very high with double-digit growth in Ireland (up by 13.9% in January 1999). There was however some evidence of a slowdown in the growth rates for the main industrial economies of the European Union, with the latest growth rates (comparing to the same three months of a year before) as follows: France (1.4%, February 1999), Germany (-0.1%, February 1999), Italy (-3.0%, February 1999) and the United Kingdom (-0.1%, again February 1999).

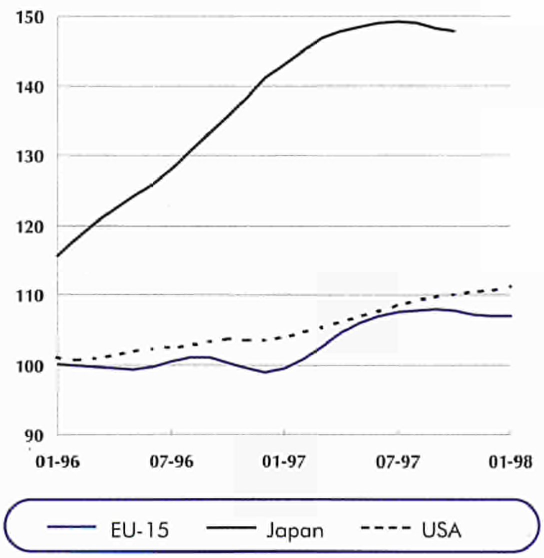
Producer prices decline by 2.0% in March 1999

Looking at the main industrial groupings we find confirmation of the performance of the capital goods industry. In February 1999, the capital goods industry reported growth of 3.1% within the European Union (the corresponding growth rate for the euro-zone was 2.3%, again to February 1999). The other industrial groupings recorded the following growth rates for February 1999 for EU-15 (with EUR-11 data for February 1999 in brackets): intermediate goods -1.1% (-0.8%), consumer durables 1.3% (1.3%) and consumer non-durables -0.5% (0.2%).

The highest growth rates for each of the main industrial groupings looking at data by Member State showed wide variations, often with high growth rates in one or two Member States. The growth rates for consumer non-durables displayed far less deviation between the Member States with the lowest growth recorded in Austria (-8.8% in December 1998) and the highest in France (2.9% in February 1999). For the other industrial groupings the extremes between the highest and lowest growth rate were of the magnitude of 20 to 30 percentage points. The highest growth rates for each industrial grouping were as follows: intermediate goods (Greece and Ireland both above 10%); capital goods (Finland and Ireland both above 20%); consumer durables (Luxembourg above 10%) and consumer non-durables (France at just 2.9%).

Figure 1.3

New orders index (1995 = 100)



Source: eurostat

Table 1.1

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

	EU-15	EUR-11	Japan	USA
03-98	6.6	7.1	-5.2	5.5
04-98	3.2	3.6	-6.3	3.9
05-98	6.1	7.0	-9.3	5.3
06-98	3.5	3.6	-8.3	3.5
07-98	3.8	4.2	-8.8	3.3
08-98	4.0	4.2	-8.3	3.7
09-98	2.8	3.3	-6.8	2.5
10-98	2.1	2.4	-7.0	2.6
11-98	1.9	2.1	-5.9	1.7
12-98	-0.5	-0.8	-5.9	1.6
01-99	1.2	1.6	-6.3	1.9
02-99	-0.3	-0.2	-4.7	2.2

Source: eurostat

Producer price growth

European industrial producer prices continued to decline in the first quarter of 1999. The producer price index fell by 2.0% in March 1999 when compared to the same month of a year before. The figure for the euro-zone also for March 1999 was -2.3%. Producer price changes in the euro-zone have consistently been at rates inferior to those of the European Union for the last twelve months.

Intermediate goods are largely responsible for the decline in producer prices within Europe. In March 1999, intermediate goods recorded a decline of 4.1%, the fifth consecutive month that a decline of at least 4% had been recorded. Price changes for consumer non-durables were almost non-existent (-0.1% in December 1998). In the capital goods and consumer durables groupings there was moderate expansion in prices (up by 0.2% and 0.3% respectively in March 1999). Indeed, looking at the evolution of producer prices within the European Union we see almost no change in prices from the start of 1997 onwards for capital goods and consumer goods (both durable and non-durable).

Producer prices also continued to follow a negative trend in both Japan and the United States. Japanese producer prices recorded a negative trend from April 1998 onwards, with a fairly consistent reduction equal to about 2% in the months since. The latest figure for February 1999 continued this trend with a reduction of 2.1%. In the United States price changes have fluctuated somewhat more, with negative rates of change being recorded in the United States since April 1997. The latest figure showed a decline in producer prices of 2.0% in February 1999.

Within the Member States most countries followed the general evolution seen for the European Union, with negative rates of change being recorded from the first or second quarter of 1998 onwards. These negative rates of change quickened in the majority of countries up until the end of 1998, after which they have shown some signs of stabilising. This was not the case in Greece, Luxembourg (where positive rates of change were consistently recorded), Ireland or the United Kingdom (where moderate rates of change both slightly positive and negative were recorded). The largest decline in producer prices amongst the Member State was observed in Portugal (-6.4%, February 1999) and the highest rate of increase was seen in Greece (1.8%, December 1998). Data for total industry reported a decline in producer prices for all four of the largest European industrial economies (data for March 1999): France (-2.6%), Germany (-2.3%), Italy (-1.8%) and the United Kingdom (-0.2%).

2. Latest outlook: industry

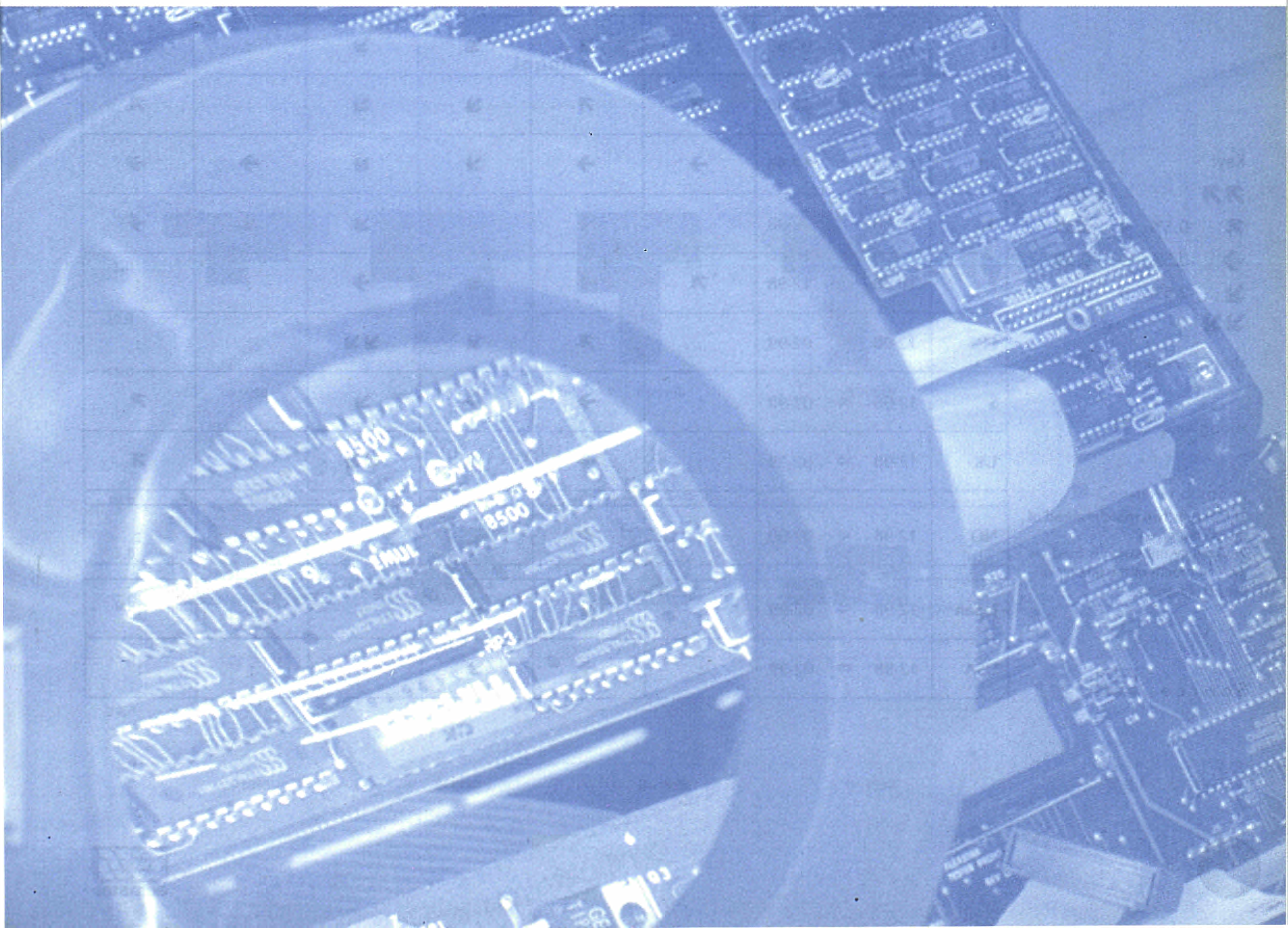


Table 2.1

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	Retail trade
EU-15	12-98 ⇨ 02-99	:	↘	↘	↘	:	:
EUR-11	12-98 ⇨ 02-99	:	↘	↘	:	:	:
B	10-98 ⇨ 12-98	:	→	:	↘	:	↘
DK	12-98 ⇨ 02-99	:	↘	→	↘↘	:	↗
D	12-98 ⇨ 02-99	:	↘	↘	↘	↘↘	→
EL	12-98 ⇨ 02-99	:	↗	:	↘	:	:
E	12-98 ⇨ 02-99	:	↗	:	→	:	→
F	12-98 ⇨ 02-99	:	→	↘	→	:	:
IRL	11-98 ⇨ 01-99	:	↗↗	↘	↘↘	:	:
I	12-98 ⇨ 02-99	:	↘	↘	↘	:	:
L	10-98 ⇨ 12-98	↗	↗	↘	↘	:	↗
NL	10-98 ⇨ 12-98	→	→	↘	↘	→	→
A	10-98 ⇨ 12-98	:	→	:	↘	↘	→
P	10-98 ⇨ 12-98	↗	→	↘	→	:	:
FIN	12-98 ⇨ 02-99	:	↗	↘	↘↘	:	:
S	12-98 ⇨ 02-99	:	→	→	↘	:	↗
UK	12-98 ⇨ 02-99	:	→	↗	↘↘	:	↗
NO	12-98 ⇨ 02-99	:	→	:	:	:	:
Japan	12-98 ⇨ 02-99	:	↘	→	:	:	:
USA	12-98 ⇨ 02-99	:	→	↘	:	:	:

Key:
- ↗↗ >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.

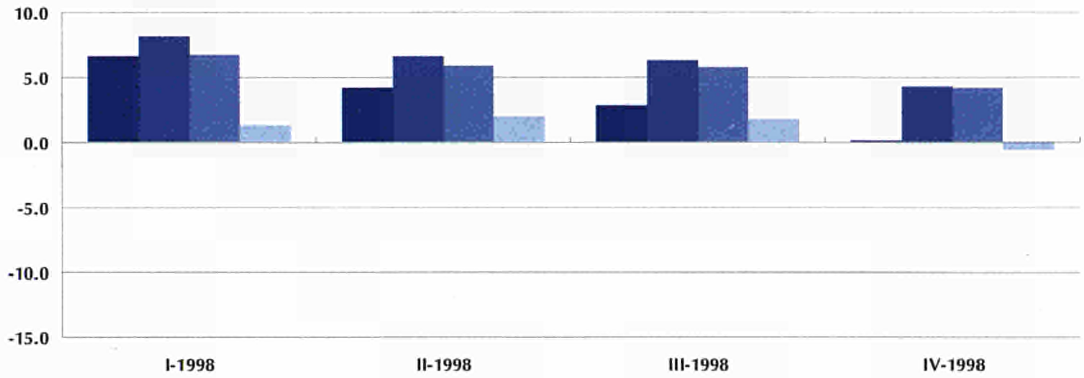
Source: eurostat

Latest outlook: industry

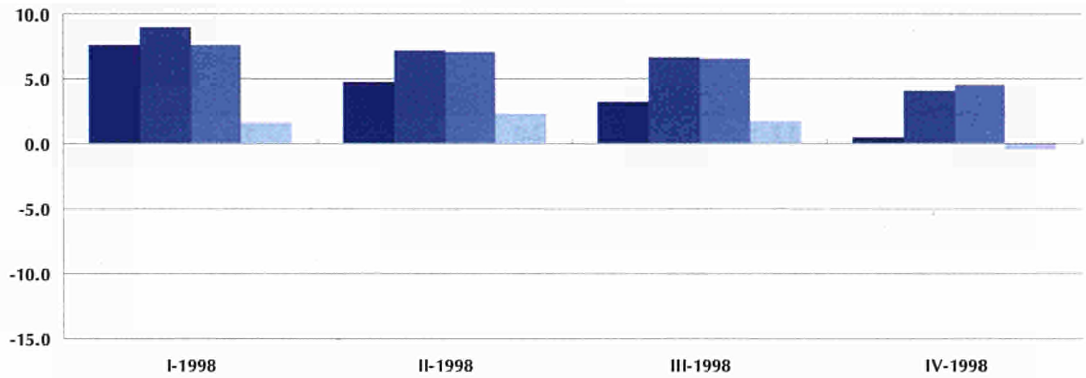
Figure 2.1

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

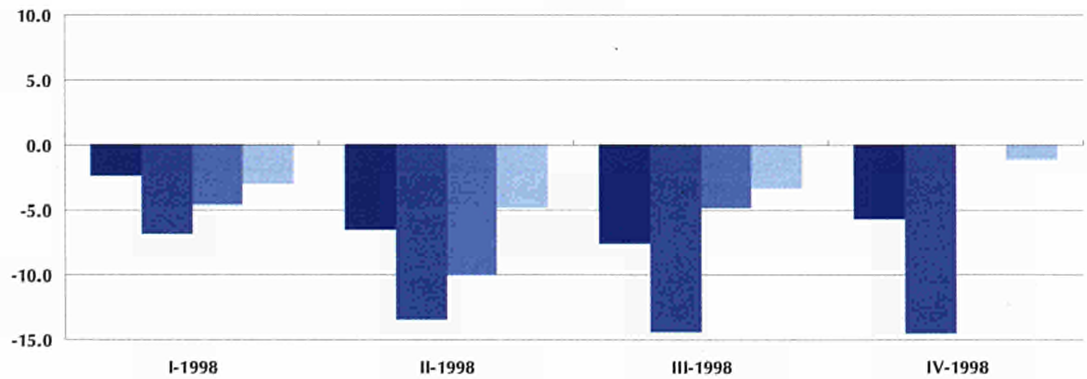
EU-15



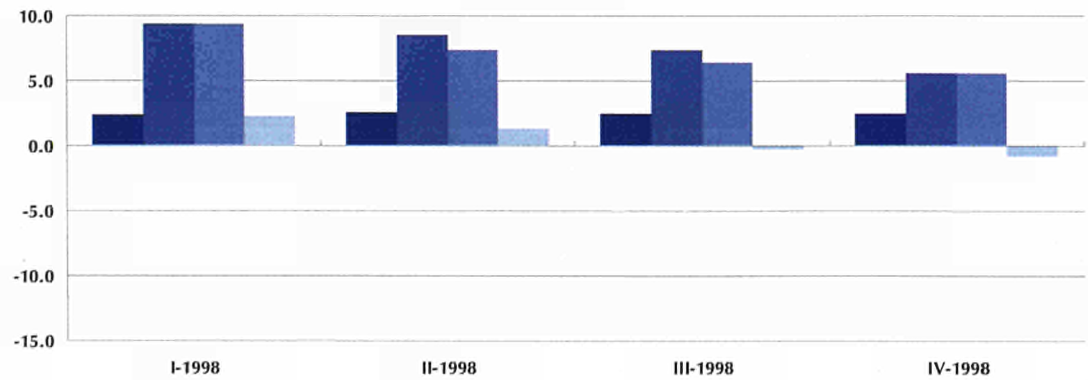
EUR-11



Japan



USA



Intermediate goods

Capital goods

Consumer durables

Consumer non-durables

Source: eurostat

Table 2.2

Industrial production: indices (1995 = 100)

	1996	1997	1998	09-98	10-98	11-98	12-98	01-99	02-99
EU-15	100.5	104.5	108.3	108.5	108.8	108.5	107.2	108.0	107.6
EUR-11	100.4	104.7	108.9	109.4	109.3	109.1	108.2	108.5	108.2
B	100.8	105.6	109.1	107.9	109.8	110.8	107.1	:	:
DK	101.6	107.0	109.3	109.1	111.9	111.5	108.0	111.2	110.7
D	100.6	104.2	108.9	109.4	110.0	109.7	108.1	108.0	107.3
EL	101.0	102.7	111.3	111.2	112.9	113.1	113.7	114.0	113.8
E	99.0	105.9	111.5	111.8	111.2	112.9	112.9	113.5	112.4
F	99.9	103.9	108.7	109.2	109.8	109.9	108.6	108.7	108.1
IRL	108.0	124.5	144.0	149.7	152.6	146.7	152.4	154.0	:
I	98.1	101.8	102.9	103.2	103.0	103.1	100.1	102.3	101.1
L	99.6	106.3	111.0	111.9	114.3	113.3	108.1	:	:
NL	102.7	104.7	105.9	105.4	107.1	108.1	103.8	:	:
A	100.6	106.7	109.3	109.2	111.8	110.0	108.2	:	:
P	105.6	108.5	114.0	113.8	116.4	114.1	112.8	:	:
FIN	103.8	113.2	121.8	122.0	122.6	123.4	122.5	127.1	126.5
S	101.7	108.9	113.4	113.9	114.6	115.2	113.6	111.3	113.3
UK	101.2	102.4	103.5	102.5	102.5	102.5	101.7	101.3	101.3
NO	105.4	109.0	108.3	110.3	107.3	106.8	106.2	108.0	107.4
Japan	102.0	105.9	99.0	99.8	98.6	96.6	97.6	98.2	97.6
USA	104.4	110.7	114.8	115.2	115.7	115.5	115.7	115.7	115.8

Source: eurostat

Table 2.3

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

	1996	1997	1998	09-98	10-98	11-98	12-98	01-99	02-99
Total industry									
EU-15	100.5	104.5	108.3	108.5	108.8	108.5	107.2	108.0	107.6
Japan	102.0	105.9	99.0	99.8	98.6	96.6	97.6	98.2	97.6
USA	104.4	110.7	114.8	115.2	115.7	115.5	115.7	115.7	115.8
Intermediate goods									
EU-15	100.0	104.9	108.4	108.3	108.4	108.4	106.5	107.6	107.1
Japan	100.0	104.5	98.6	98.2	98.6	97.1	98.2	99.7	99.0
USA	102.5	106.6	109.1	109.4	110.1	110.4	110.9	111.2	111.2
Capital goods									
EU-15	101.7	106.3	113.0	112.7	114.7	113.9	112.5	114.8	113.8
Japan	106.4	109.8	96.5	99.0	92.1	89.4	90.6	88.2	89.9
USA	106.8	116.6	125.5	127.3	128.4	127.6	126.5	126.3	126.6
Consumer durables									
EU-15	100.6	103.7	109.5	110.6	112.5	110.6	107.7	108.9	109.5
Japan	102.6	111.0	105.5	106.3	110.1	103.8	105.7	107.4	107.9
USA	108.2	118.6	127.0	128.7	129.9	129.9	130.0	130.3	130.9
Consumer non-durables									
EU-15	100.0	102.2	103.2	103.0	103.2	103.3	102.5	103.4	103.0
Japan	100.1	101.0	97.9	97.9	98.7	98.8	99.8	98.9	96.3
USA	100.8	103.9	104.5	103.2	103.5	104.2	104.3	104.1	104.0

Source: eurostat

Latest outlook: industry

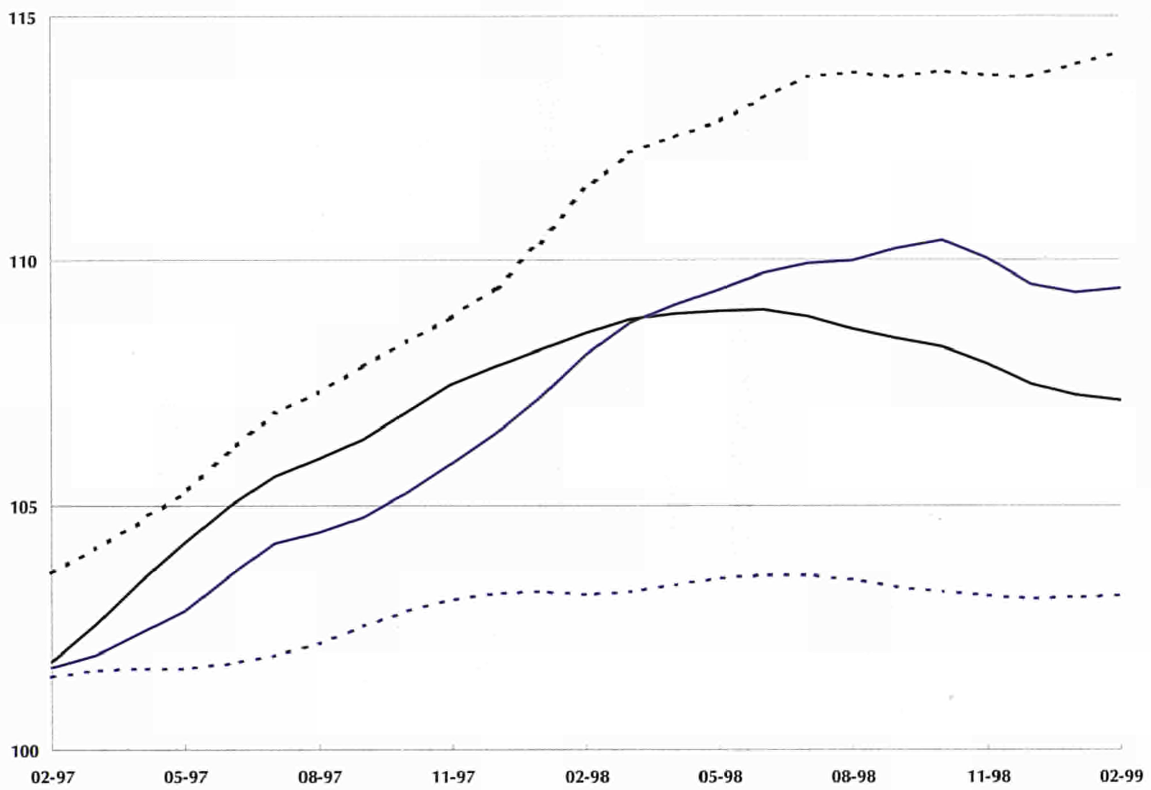


Figure 2.2

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

Source: eurostat

Table 2.4

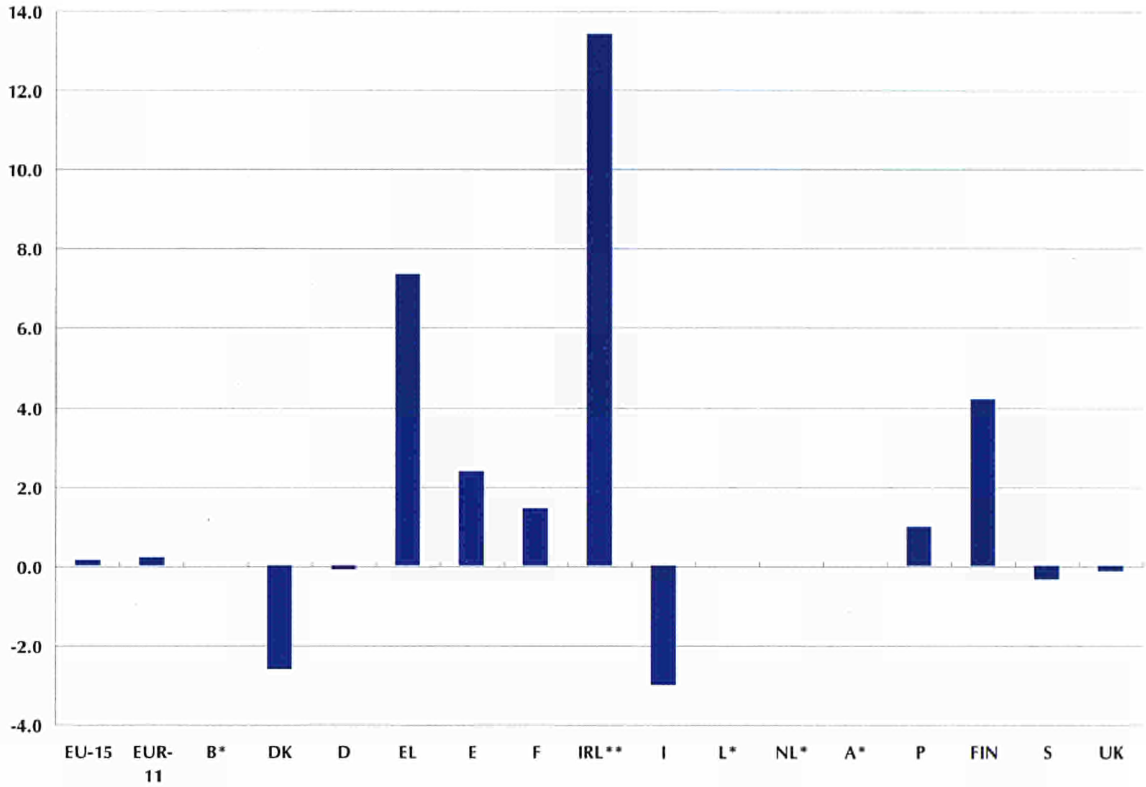
Industrial production for the main industrial groupings: growth rate, three months compared to the previous three months (%)

	Latest 3 months available			Total industry	Intermediate goods	Capital goods	Consumer durables	Consumer non-durables
EU-15	12-98	⇨	02-99	-0.7	-0.8	0.2	-0.7	-0.1
EUR-11	12-98	⇨	02-99	-0.7	-0.5	0.0	-0.7	0.1
B	10-98	⇨	12-98	-0.2	0.1	-0.5	-0.2	0.0
DK	12-98	⇨	02-99	-1.1	-1.8	-1.2	-2.2	0.6
D	12-98	⇨	02-99	-0.8	-1.3	-1.0	-0.8	0.6
EL	12-98	⇨	02-99	1.1	0.5	0.5	-0.6	0.3
E	12-98	⇨	02-99	0.5	0.5	1.1	0.2	0.0
F	12-98	⇨	02-99	0.1	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.6
IRL	11-98	⇨	01-99	2.8	4.0	4.2	:	0.4
I	12-98	⇨	02-99	-0.9	-1.0	-1.2	:	:
L	10-98	⇨	12-98	0.6	1.4	0.1	4.8	0.4
NL	10-98	⇨	12-98	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.6	-0.5
A	10-98	⇨	12-98	0.4	:	0.4	-5.0	-1.1
P	10-98	⇨	12-98	0.0	-1.2	0.0	-2.6	0.2
FIN	12-98	⇨	02-99	1.4	-0.4	5.6	-2.3	-0.9
S	12-98	⇨	02-99	0.0	-1.1	0.3	1.2	0.7
UK	12-98	⇨	02-99	-0.3	-1.1	1.8	0.1	-1.8
NO	12-98	⇨	02-99	0.0	-0.5	1.0	-0.3	-0.1
Japan	12-98	⇨	02-99	-0.8	0.3	-3.3	-0.2	-0.2
USA	12-98	⇨	02-99	0.3	1.4	-0.2	1.2	0.3

Source: eurostat

Figure 2.3

Industrial production for total industry: growth rate, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year, 12-98 to 02-99 (%)



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	12-98	⇨	02-99	0.1	-1.1	3.1	1.3	-0.5
EUR-11	12-98	⇨	02-99	0.2	-0.8	2.3	1.3	0.2
B	10-98	⇨	12-98	1.1	1.8	3.3	0.5	-3.8
DK	12-98	⇨	02-99	-2.6	-4.3	-3.0	-3.3	-0.4
D	12-98	⇨	02-99	-0.1	-2.1	2.1	2.5	1.0
EL	12-98	⇨	02-99	7.4	10.8	8.3	-4.0	0.3
E	12-98	⇨	02-99	2.4	2.9	3.7	1.0	0.5
F	12-98	⇨	02-99	1.4	0.0	5.0	3.8	2.9
IRL	11-98	⇨	01-99	13.9	13.7	21.0	:	1.8
I	12-98	⇨	02-99	-3.0	-2.8	-5.1	-1.6	-0.4
L	10-98	⇨	12-98	0.6	-1.7	7.2	18.5	0.8
NL	10-98	⇨	12-98	0.1	0.2	0.9	1.8	-0.9
A	10-98	⇨	12-98	-1.9	:	-2.1	-3.5	-8.8
P	12-98	⇨	02-99	1.0	:	:	:	0.4
FIN	12-98	⇨	02-99	4.2	-3.3	20.8	-5.2	-3.8
S	12-98	⇨	02-99	-0.3	-5.0	4.3	8.4	0.4
UK	12-98	⇨	02-99	-0.1	-2.0	8.6	-0.5	-4.2
NO	12-98	⇨	02-99	-2.2	-0.6	5.2	-3.0	-1.2
Japan	12-98	⇨	02-99	-5.6	-4.2	-14.3	-1.1	-0.7
USA	12-98	⇨	02-99	1.9	3.4	4.0	5.4	-1.0

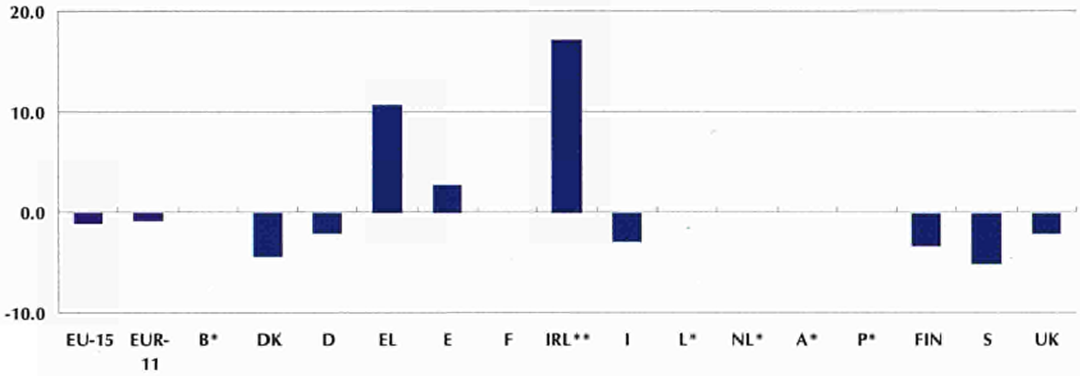
Source: eurostat

Latest outlook: industry

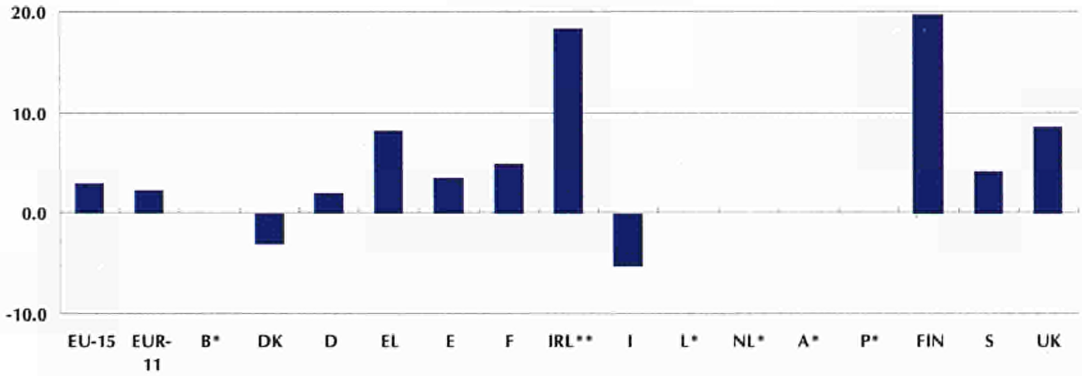
Figure 2.4

Industrial production for the main industrial groupings: growth rate, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year, 12-98 to 02-99 (%)

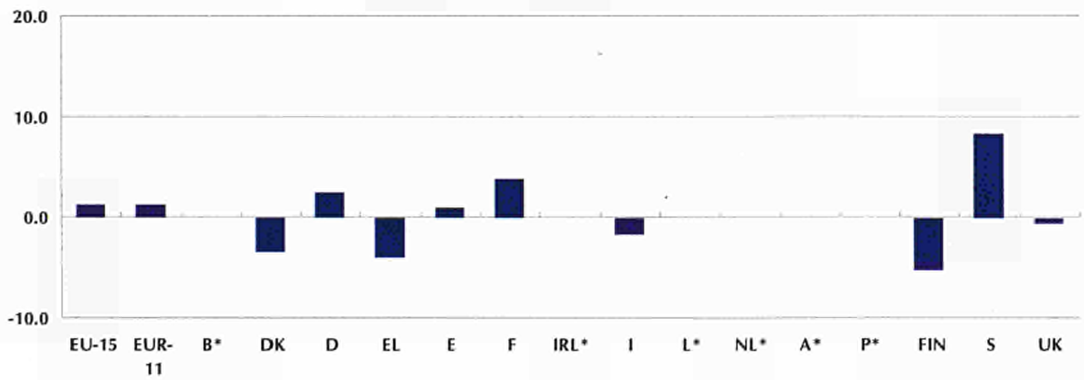
Intermediate goods



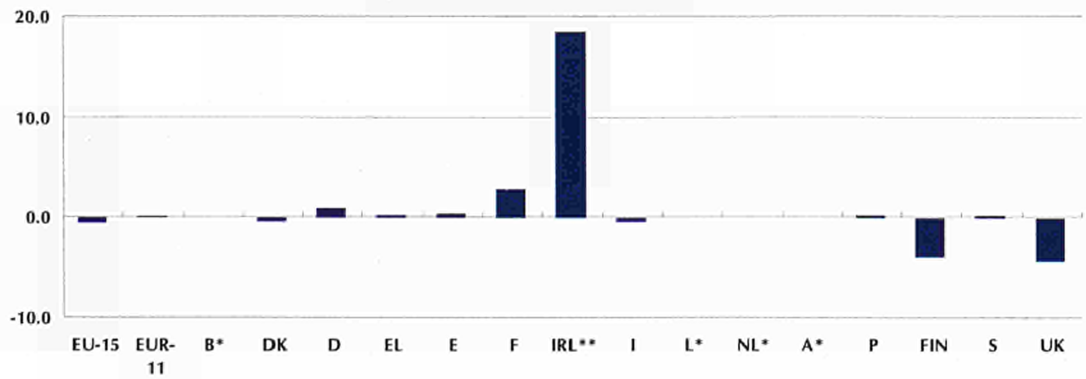
Capital goods



Consumer durables goods



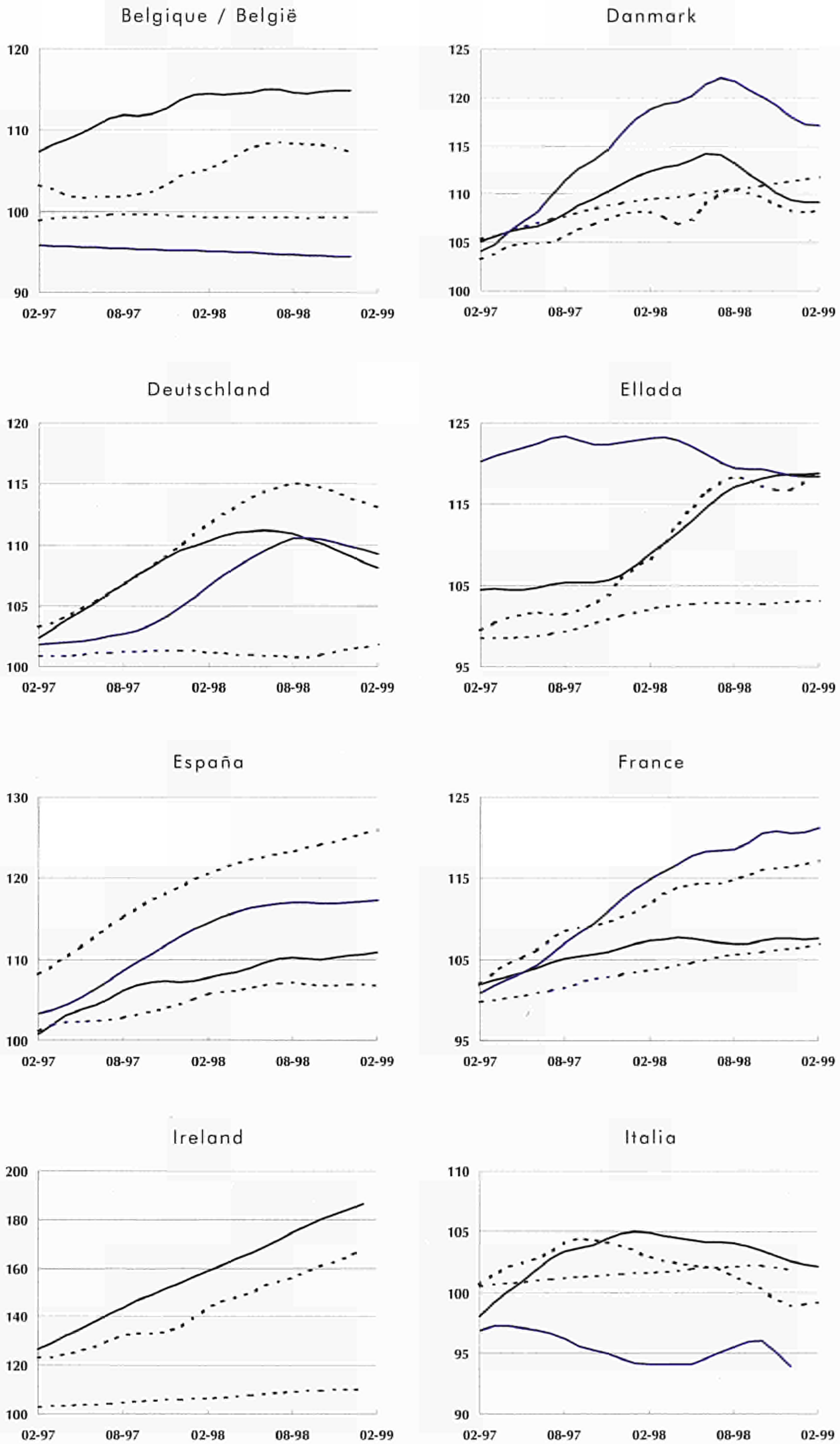
Consumer non-durables goods



Source: eurostat

Figure 2.5

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



Intermediate goods

Capital goods

Consumer durables

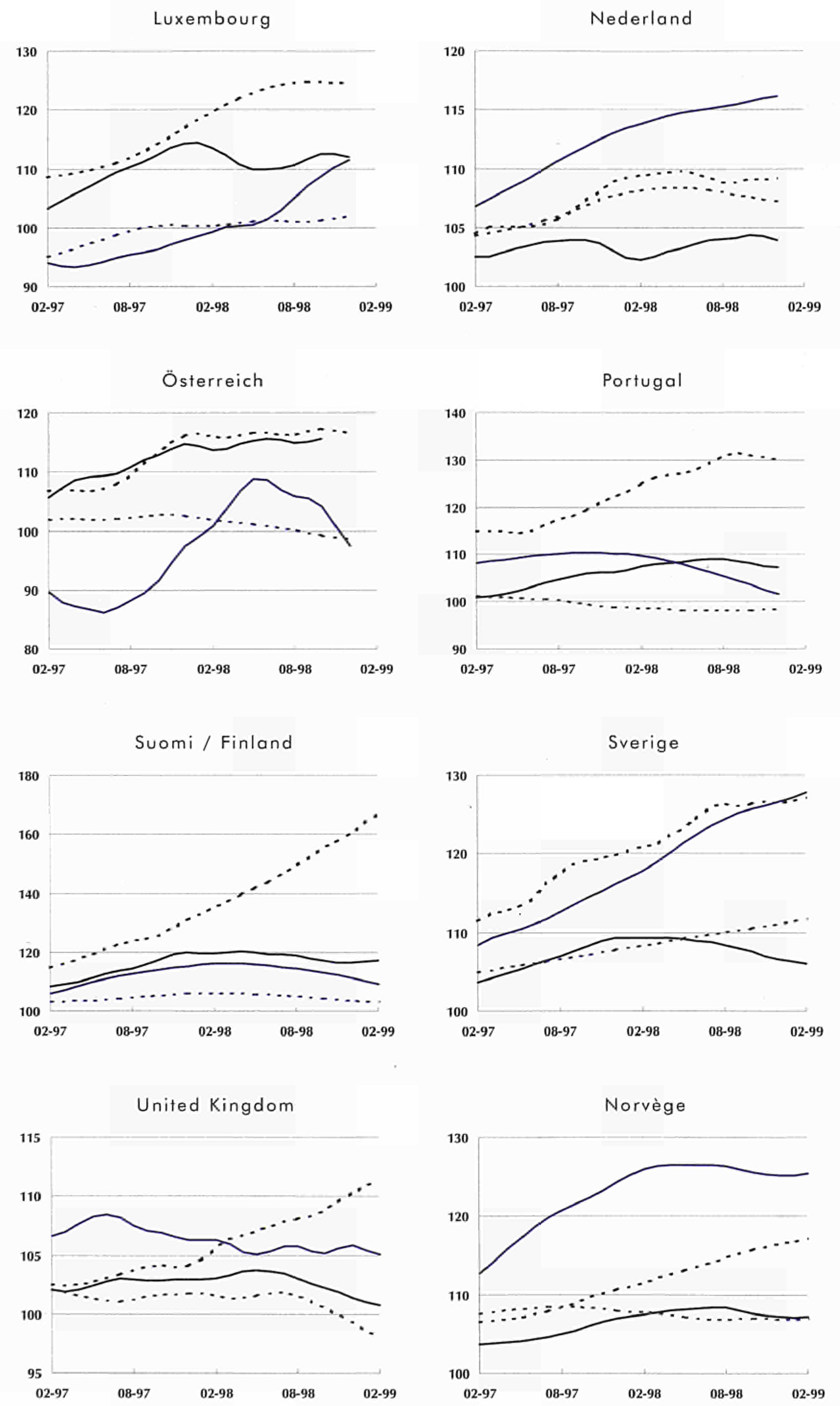
Consumer non-durables

Source: eurostat

Latest outlook: industry

Figure 2.5

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



Intermediate goods

Capital goods

Consumer durables

Consumer non-durables

Source: eurostat

Further information - production index

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 is base year 1995. The indices are adjusted to take account of the varying number of working days in the month.

If the National Statistical Office does the seasonal adjustment, these series are used. This is currently the case for Belgium, Denmark, Greece, France, Italy, Finland, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Norway (although not necessarily for all variables). If no seasonally adjusted series are supplied, Eurostat perform the seasonal adjustment with TRAMO / SEATS, a method developed by Professor Maravall and V. Gomez. Otherwise, Eurostat calculates the trend cycle (except for Germany) seasonally adjusted series, where additionally the irregular fluctuations have been excluded (using the program TRAMO / SEATS).

Full methodological notes may be found on page 101.

Latest outlook: industry

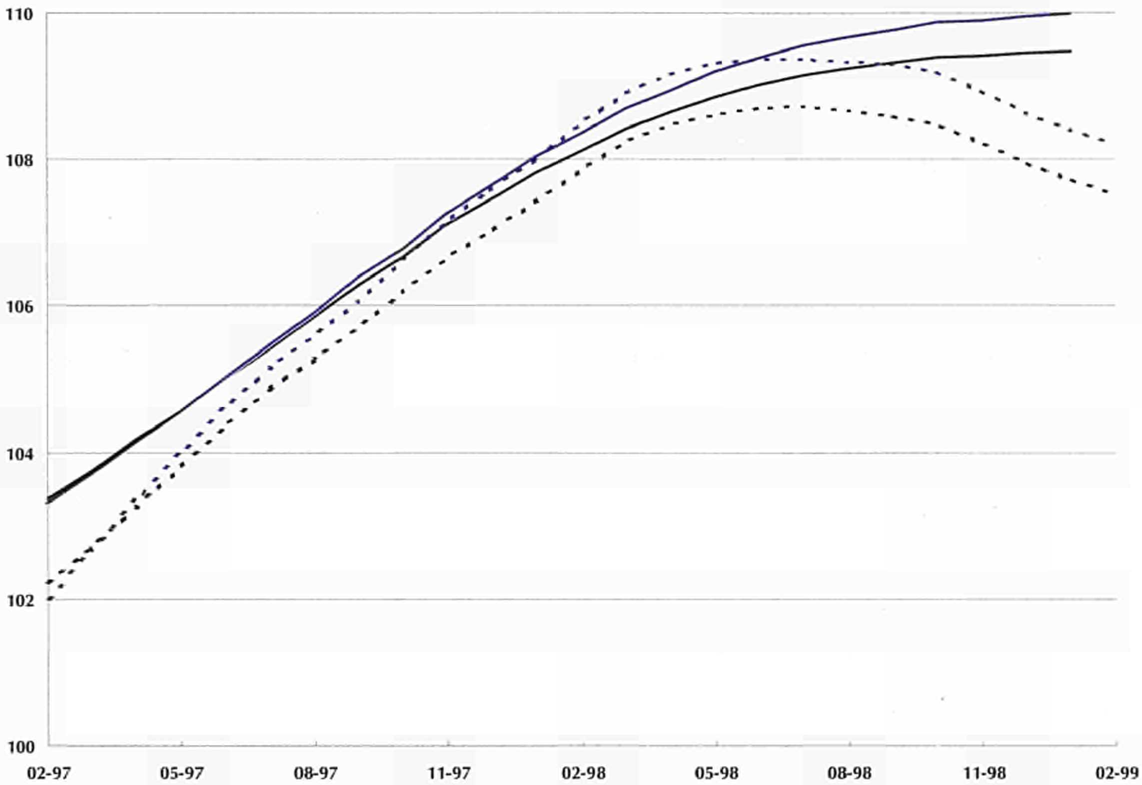


Figure 2.6

Expected output index for industry (1995 = 100)

EU-15: production index

EU-15: expected output index

EUR-11: production index

EUR-11: expected output index

Source: eurostat

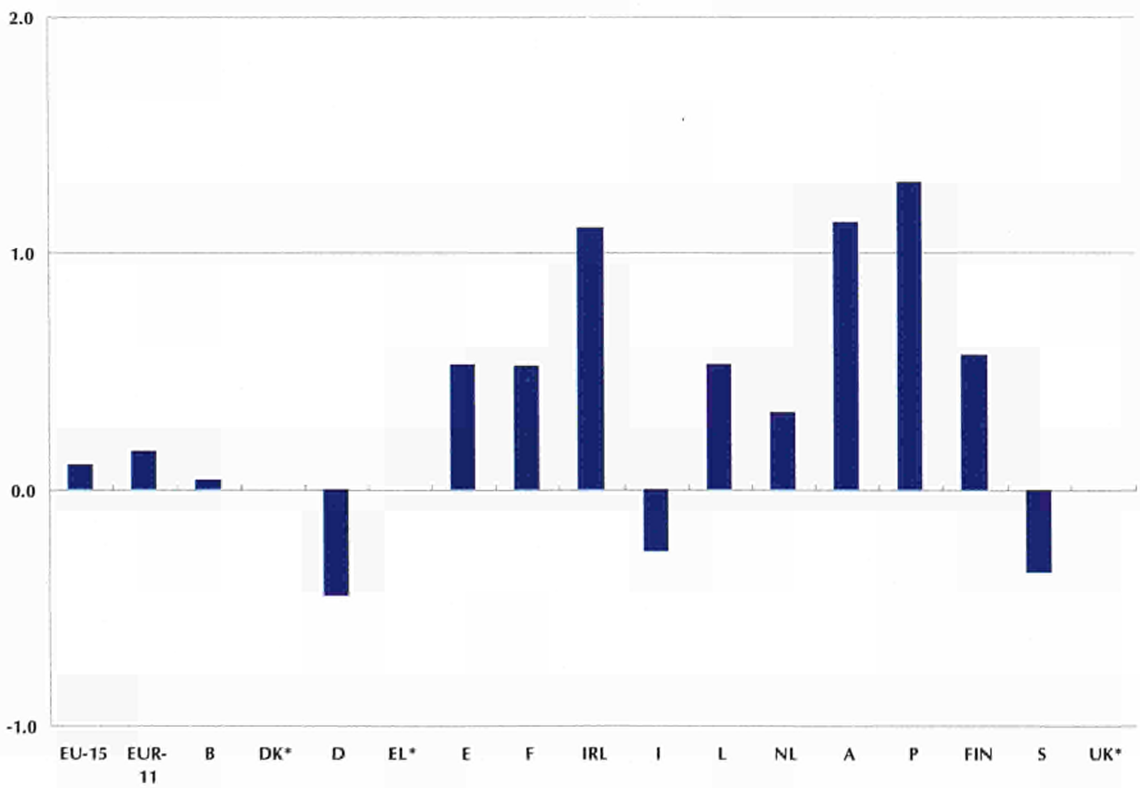


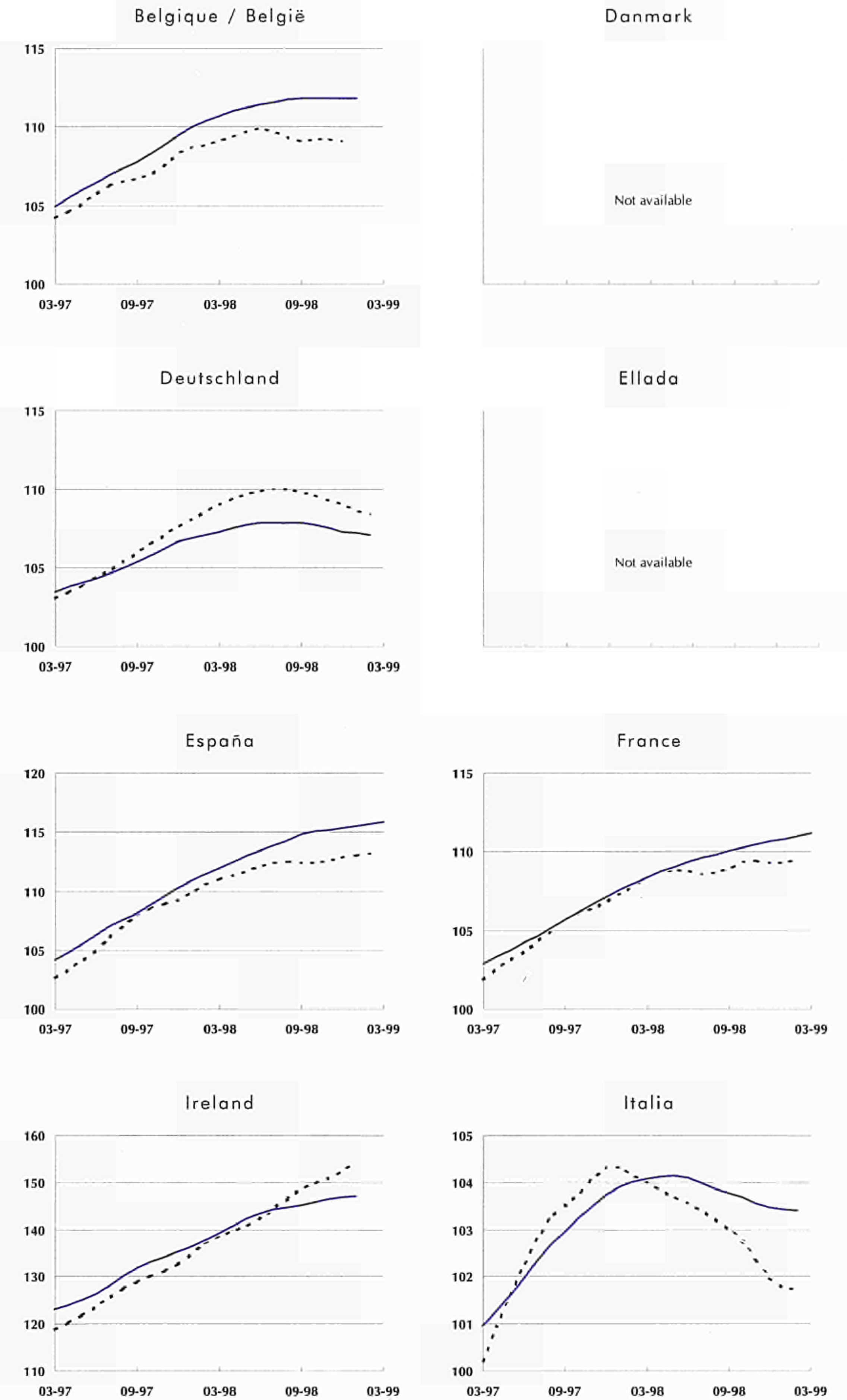
Figure 2.7

Expected output index for industry, three months compared to the previous three months, 11-98 to 01-99 (%)

Source: eurostat

Figure 2.8

Expected output index for industry (1995 = 100)



Production index -----

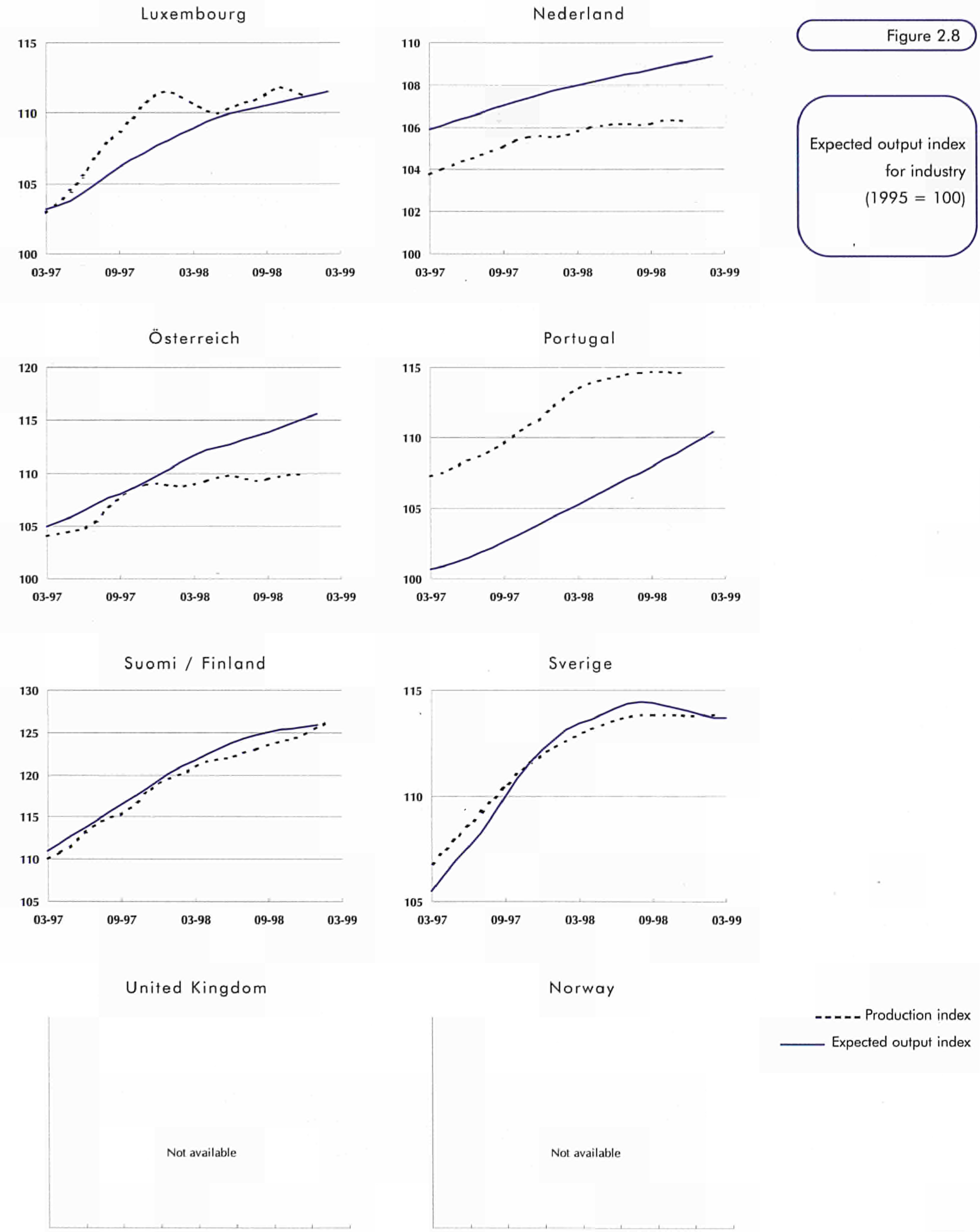
Expected output index ——

Source: eurostat

Latest outlook: industry

Figure 2.8

Expected output index for industry (1995 = 100)



Source: eurostat

Further information - expected output index

The Expected Output Index (EOI) links several aspects of information from qualitative business opinion surveys conducted by DG II (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.

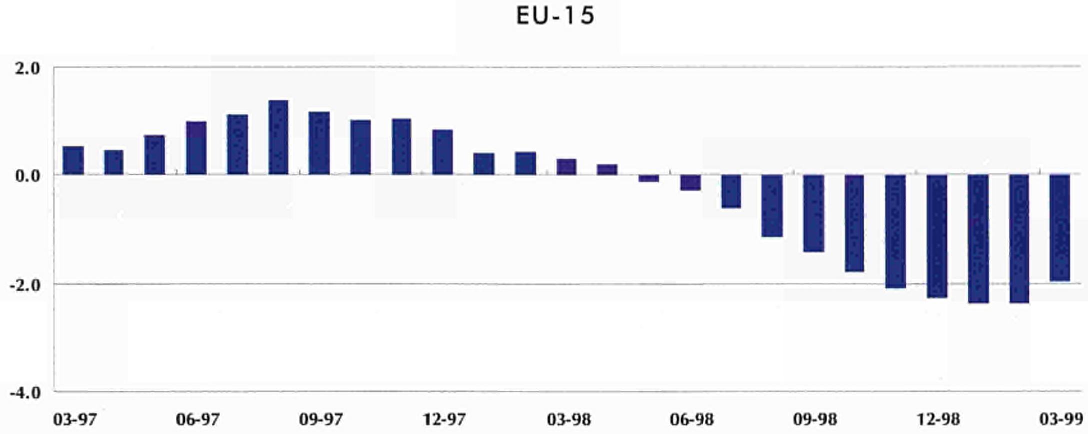
Details of the estimation method can be found in a more thorough article that was published in Special Edition 5/97 of the Monthly Panorama of the European Industry.

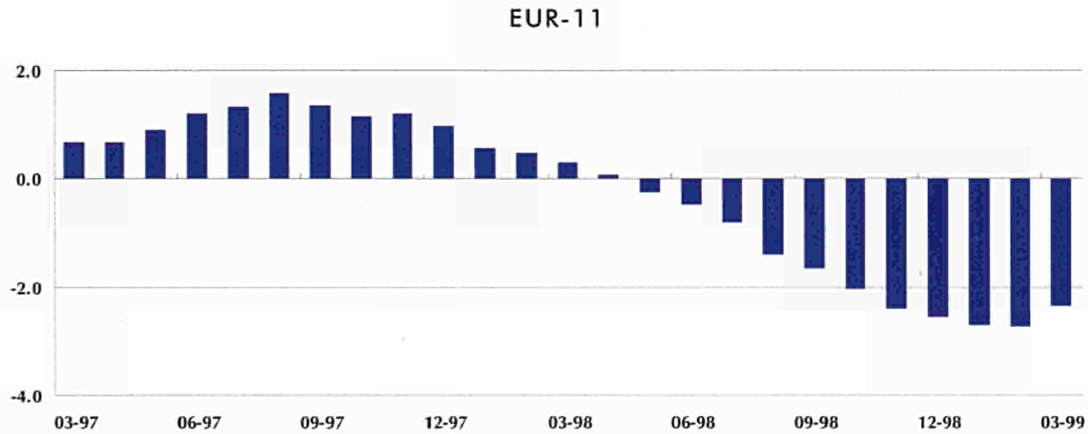
Full methodological notes may be found on page 101.

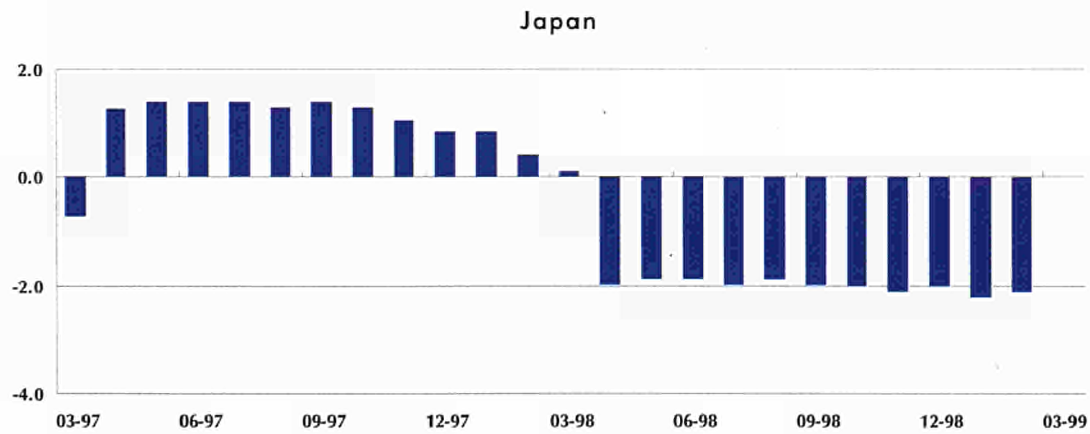
Latest outlook: industry

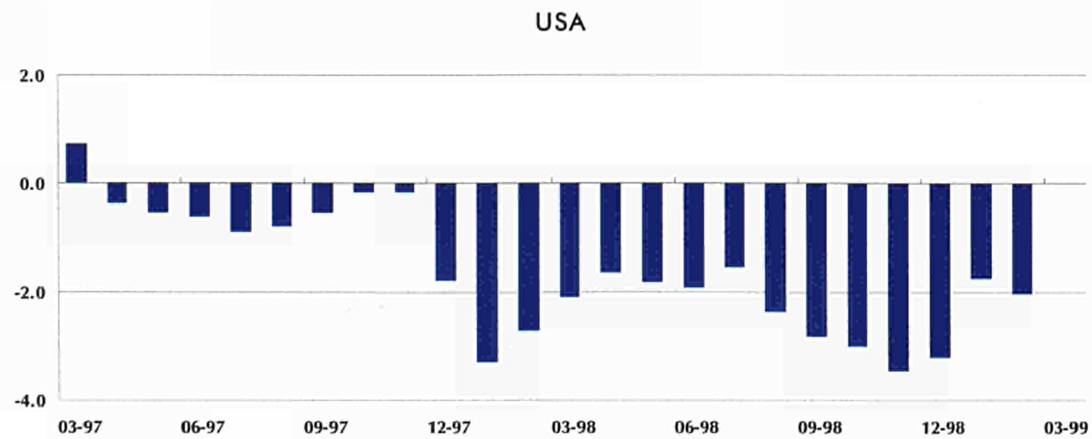
Figure 2.9

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





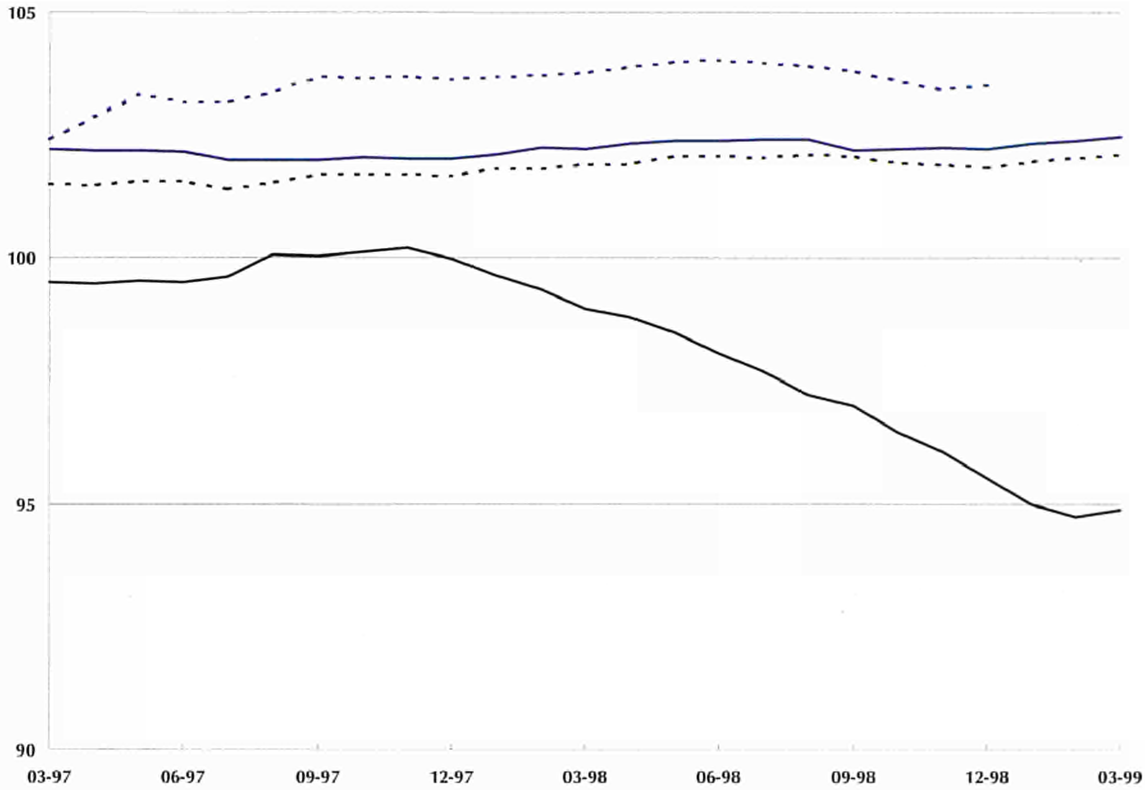




Source: eurostat

Figure 2.10

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



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

Source: eurostat

Table 2.6

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

	1996	1997	1998	10-98	11-98	12-98	01-99	02-99	03-99
Total industry									
EU-15	100.5	101.4	100.7	99.9	99.8	99.5	99.3	99.2	99.3
Japan	98.2	98.9	97.6	97.0	96.8	96.8	96.5	96.3	:
USA	102.3	102.3	99.7	99.4	99.0	98.3	98.7	98.1	:
Intermediate goods									
EU-15	99.1	99.8	97.8	96.4	96.1	95.5	95.0	94.7	94.9
Japan	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
USA	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Capital goods									
EU-15	101.3	101.6	102.0	101.9	101.9	101.9	102.0	102.0	102.1
Japan	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
USA	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Consumer durables									
EU-15	101.9	102.1	102.3	102.2	102.3	102.2	102.3	102.4	102.5
Japan	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
USA	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Consumer non-durables									
EU-15	102.0	103.1	103.8	103.6	103.5	103.5	:	:	:
Japan	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
USA	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Source: eurostat

Latest outlook: industry

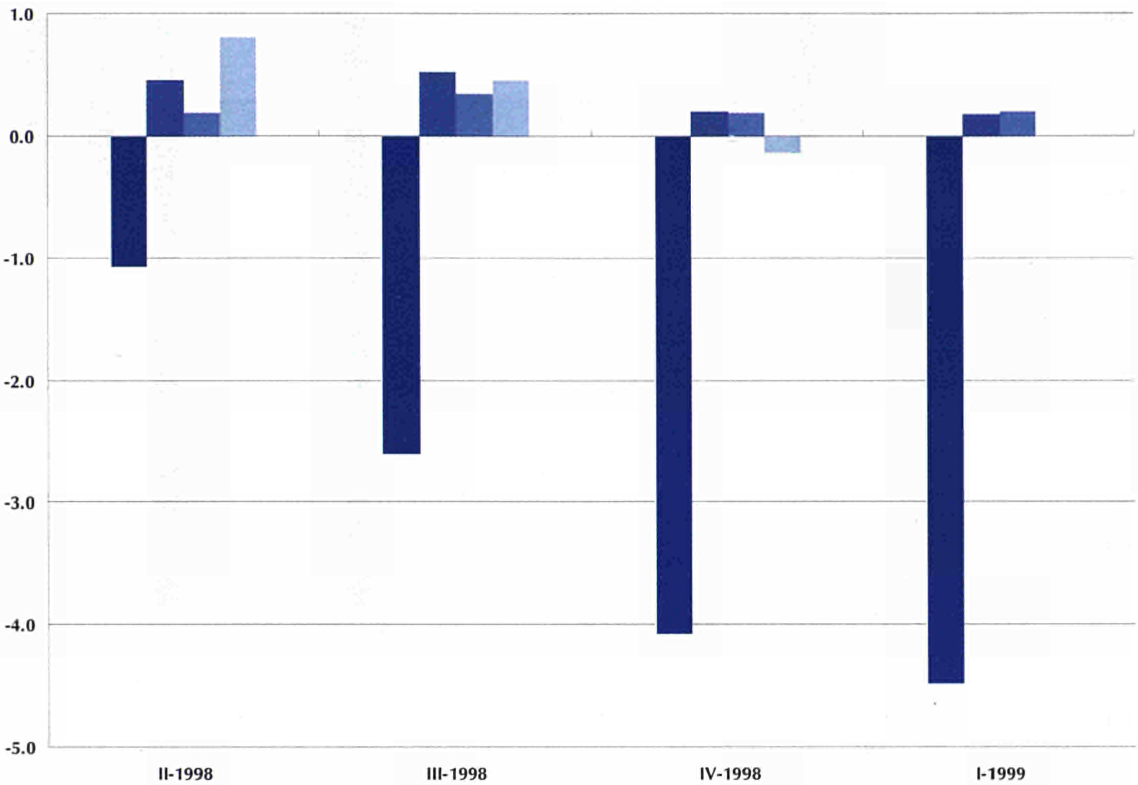


Figure 2.11

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	03-99	-2.0	-4.1	0.2	0.3	:
EUR-11	03-99	-2.3	-4.3	0.0	0.1	:
B	11-98	-3.5	-4.6	-0.1	:	:
DK	02-99	-0.5	-0.9	3.3	2.5	-2.0
D	03-99	-2.3	-4.3	0.6	0.5	-1.2
EL	12-98	1.8	-1.0	9.0	4.2	4.0
E	01-99	-1.8	-4.8	0.3	1.4	0.6
F	03-99	-2.6	-4.9	-2.4	-1.5	:
IRL	01-99	-0.6	:	:	:	1.3
I	03-99	-1.8	-4.2	0.9	0.6	0.3
L	12-98	0.3	-6.4	0.7	-3.1	-0.6
NL	02-99	-3.9	-4.7	0.9	0.5	-3.1
A		:	:	:	:	:
P	02-99	-6.4	-9.1	:	0.9	-0.1
FIN	03-99	-4.0	:	-0.6	4.1	-0.8
S	03-99	-1.8	-5.1	0.7	1.4	-0.3
UK	03-99	-0.2	-3.4	0.4	0.4	0.8
NO		:	:	:	:	:
Japan	02-99	-2.1	:	:	:	:
USA	02-99	-2.0	:	:	:	:

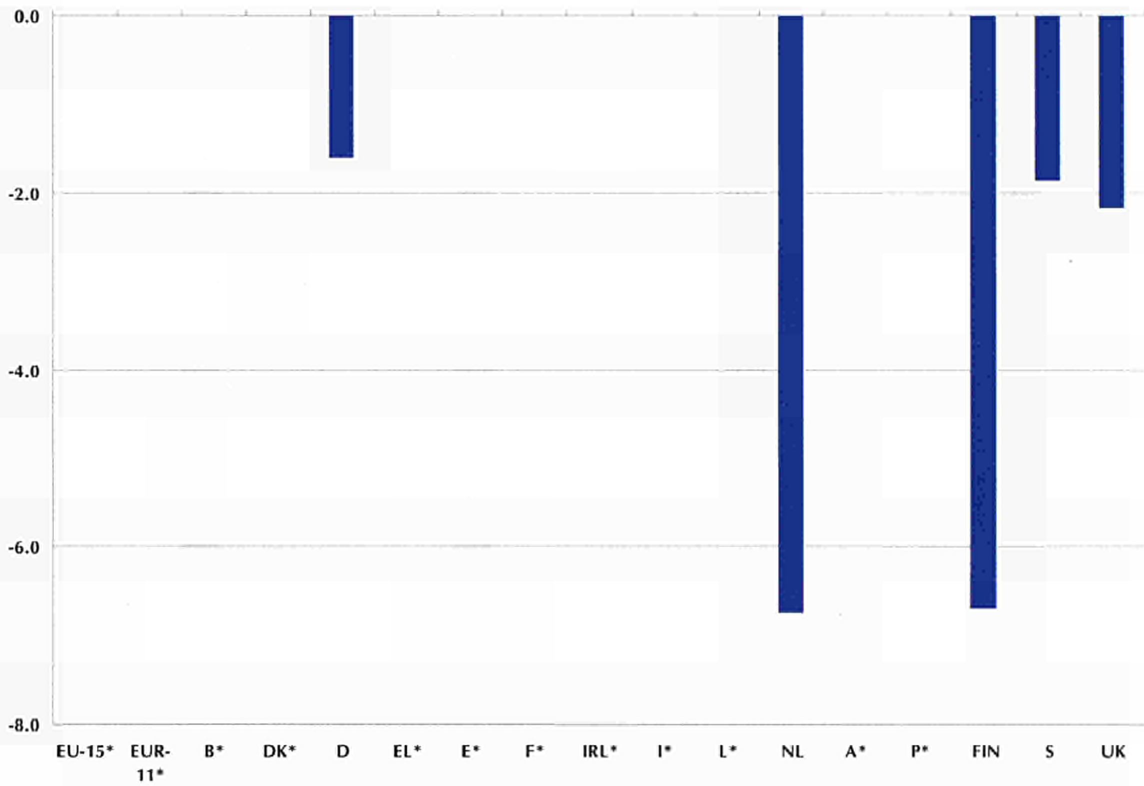
Table 2.7

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

Source: eurostat

Figure 2.12

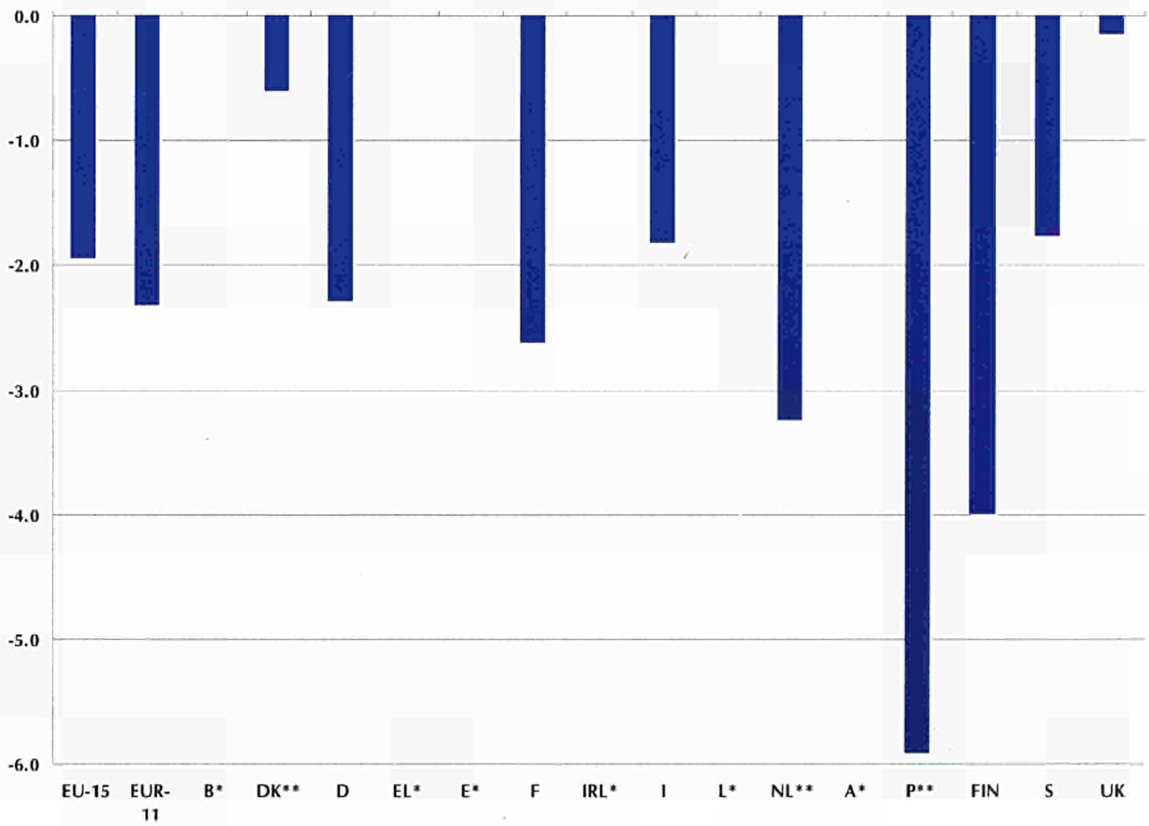
Export prices for manufacturing industry: growth rate, year on year, 01-99 (%)



Source: eurostat

Figure 2.13

Domestic producer price index: growth rate, year on year, 03-99 (%)



Source: eurostat

Latest outlook: industry

Table 2.8

Export prices indices for manufacturing industry (1995 = 100)

	1996	1997	1998	10-98	11-98	12-98	01-99	02-99	03-99
EU-15	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
EUR-11	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
B	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
DK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
D	100.2	101.7	101.8	101.2	101.1	100.9	100.7	100.7	:
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
F	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IRL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
L	96.2	97.6	99.3	98.2	97.1	95.0	:	:	:
NL	101.0	104.5	101.2	98.6	98.2	97.7	97.3	97.1	:
A	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
P	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	100.3	99.0	98.0	96.2	94.4	93.9	93.4	93.1	93.2
S	95.0	95.7	95.3	95.1	94.9	94.9	94.5	92.7	92.8
UK	99.5	94.2	91.0	90.0	90.0	90.0	90.0	90.0	:
NO	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Japon	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
USA	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Source: eurostat

Table 2.9

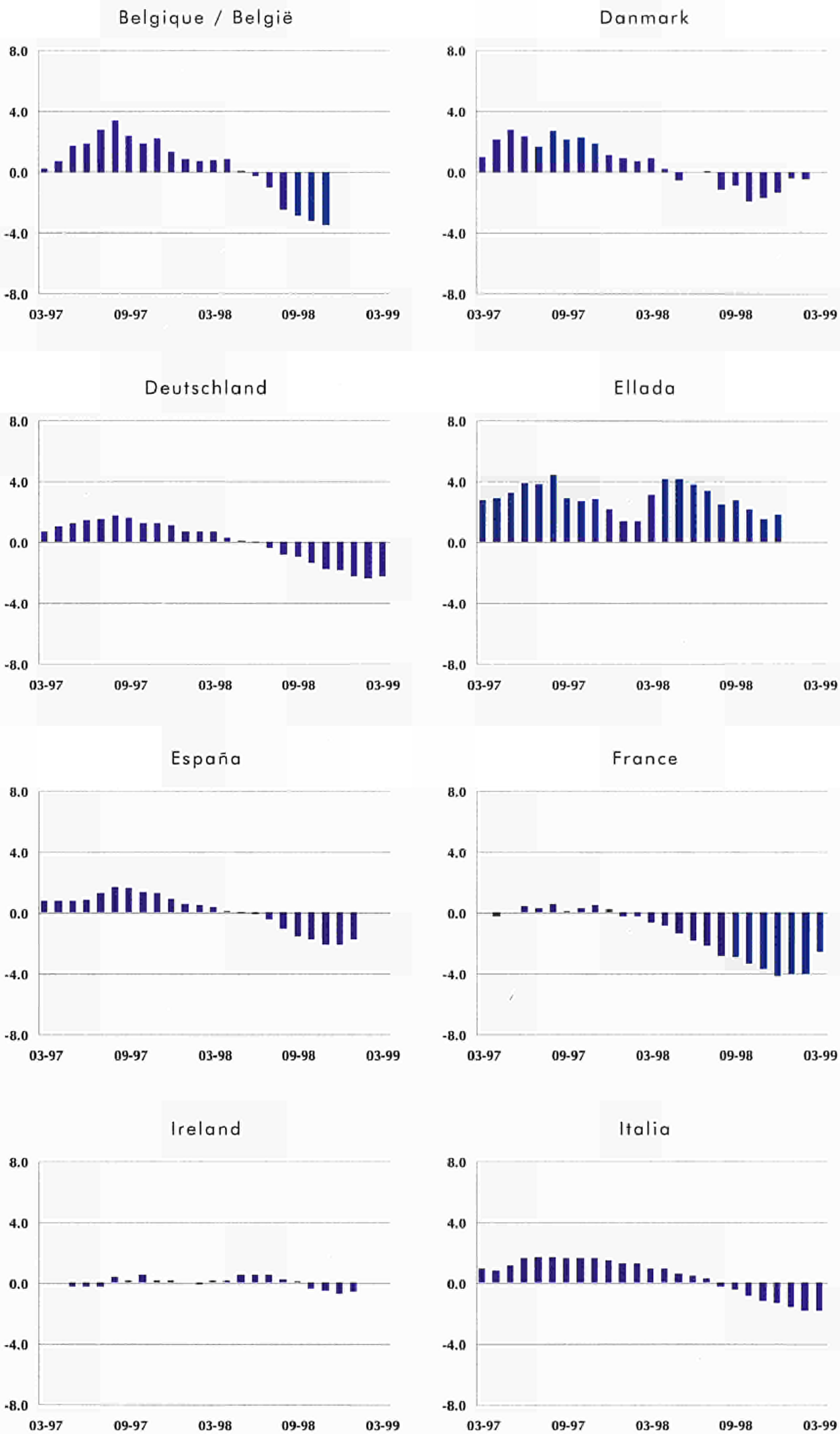
Domestic producer price index (1995 = 100)

	1996	1997	1998	10-98	11-98	12-98	01-99	02-99	03-99
EU-15	100.5	101.4	100.7	99.9	99.8	99.5	99.3	99.2	99.3
EUR-11	100.4	101.4	100.6	99.8	99.5	99.1	98.8	98.7	98.9
B	100.6	102.3	:	100.0	99.5	:	:	:	:
DK	101.5	103.3	102.9	102.2	102.0	101.9	102.3	102.2	:
D	98.8	99.9	99.5	98.9	98.5	98.3	97.8	97.7	97.7
EL	107.4	111.0	114.0	115.0	114.4	114.1	:	:	:
E	101.7	102.7	102.0	101.4	101.2	100.9	100.9	:	:
F	100.5	100.7	98.6	97.5	97.2	96.4	96.4	96.3	97.2
IRL	101.8	101.9	101.9	101.5	101.3	101.3	101.3	:	:
I	101.9	103.2	103.3	102.8	102.6	102.4	102.2	102.0	101.9
L	99.6	101.4	103.4	103.1	102.5	102.6	:	:	:
NL	101.8	104.5	103.1	101.7	101.5	101.3	100.7	100.6	:
A	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
P	103.8	106.1	102.2	101.2	99.8	99.2	97.0	97.0	:
FIN	99.1	100.4	99.0	97.8	97.0	96.5	96.0	95.8	96.0
S	100.6	101.7	101.3	100.5	100.1	100.2	100.2	99.7	99.8
UK	100.6	100.3	100.2	99.5	100.4	100.9	100.8	100.5	100.4
NO	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Japon	98.2	98.9	97.6	97.0	96.8	96.8	96.5	96.3	:
USA	102.3	102.3	99.7	99.4	99.0	98.3	98.7	98.1	:

Source: eurostat

Figure 2.14

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



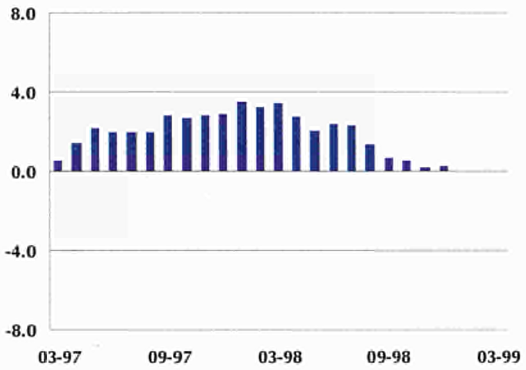
Source: eurostat

Latest outlook: industry

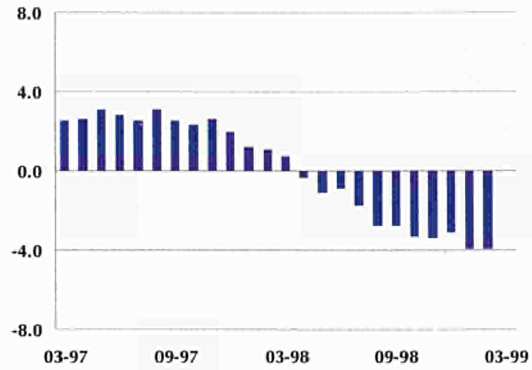
Figure 2.14

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

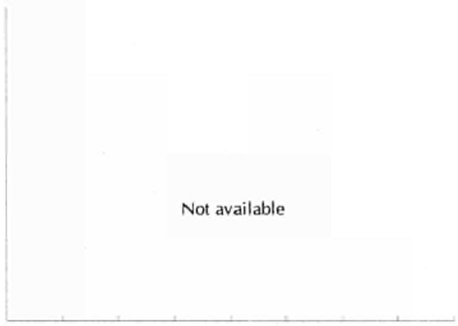
Luxembourg



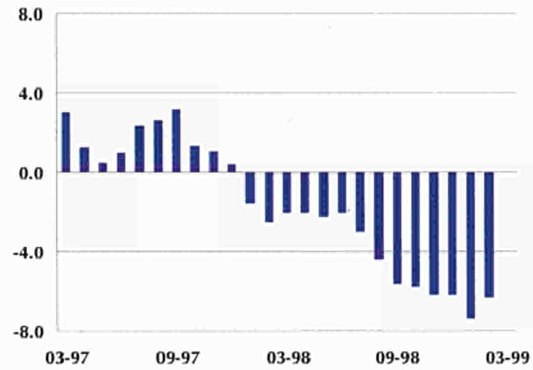
Nederland



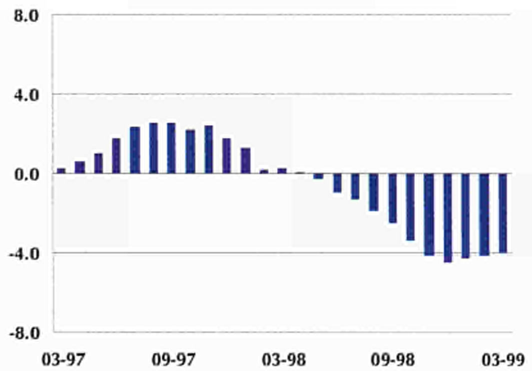
Österreich



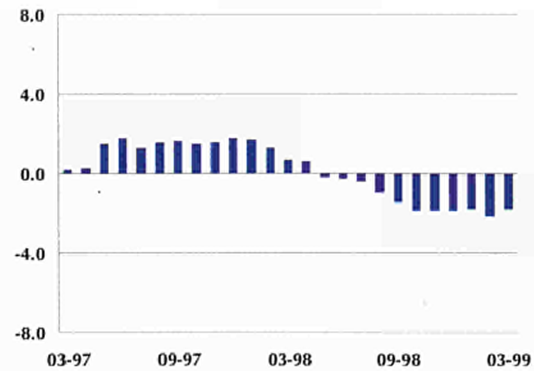
Portugal



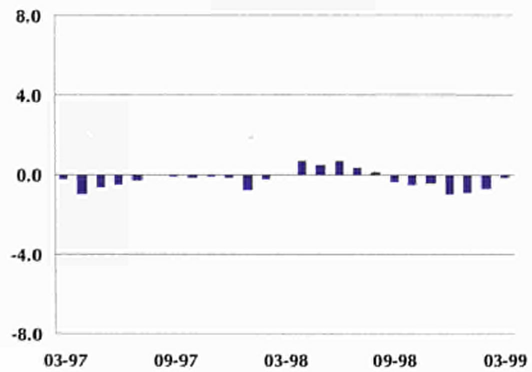
Suomi / Finland



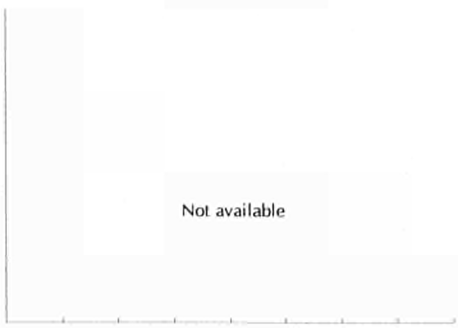
Sverige



United Kingdom



Norway



Source: eurostat

Further information - price indices

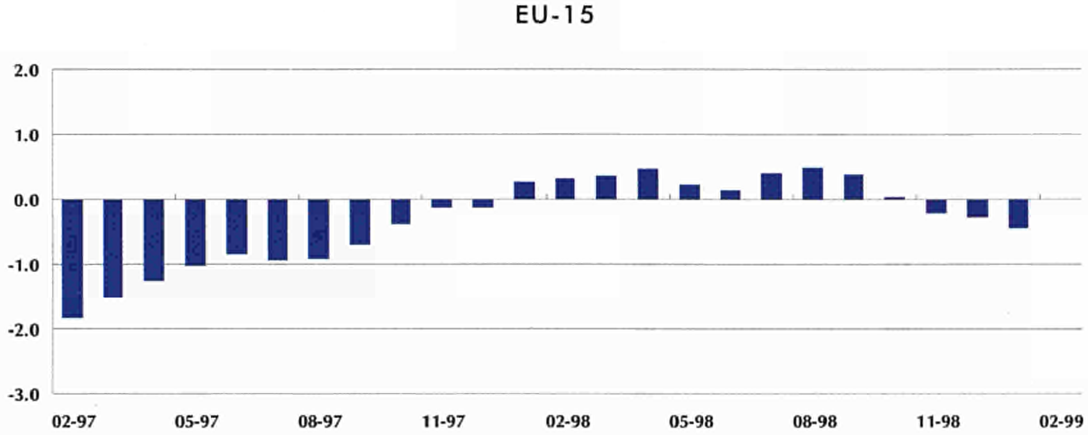
The index of producer prices shows the changes in the ex-works selling prices of all products sold on domestic markets of the various countries, excluding VAT and other taxes. The EU indices refer to overall weighted price changes. There are not yet indices for Austria. No seasonal adjustment is carried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

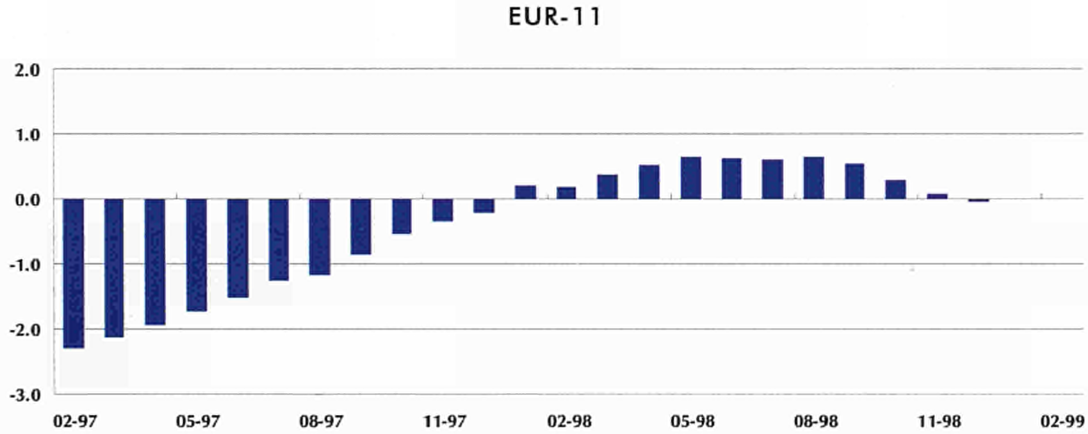
Full methodological notes may be found on page 101.

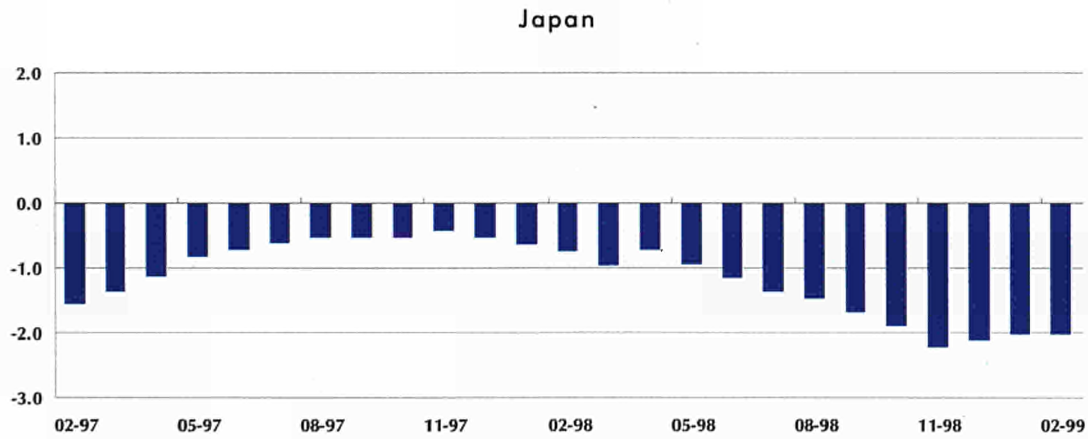
Latest outlook: industry

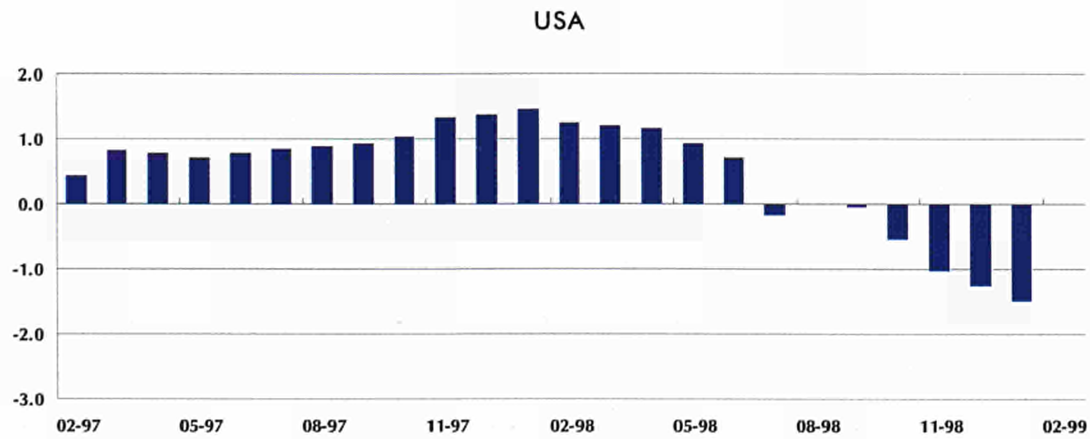
Figure 2.15

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





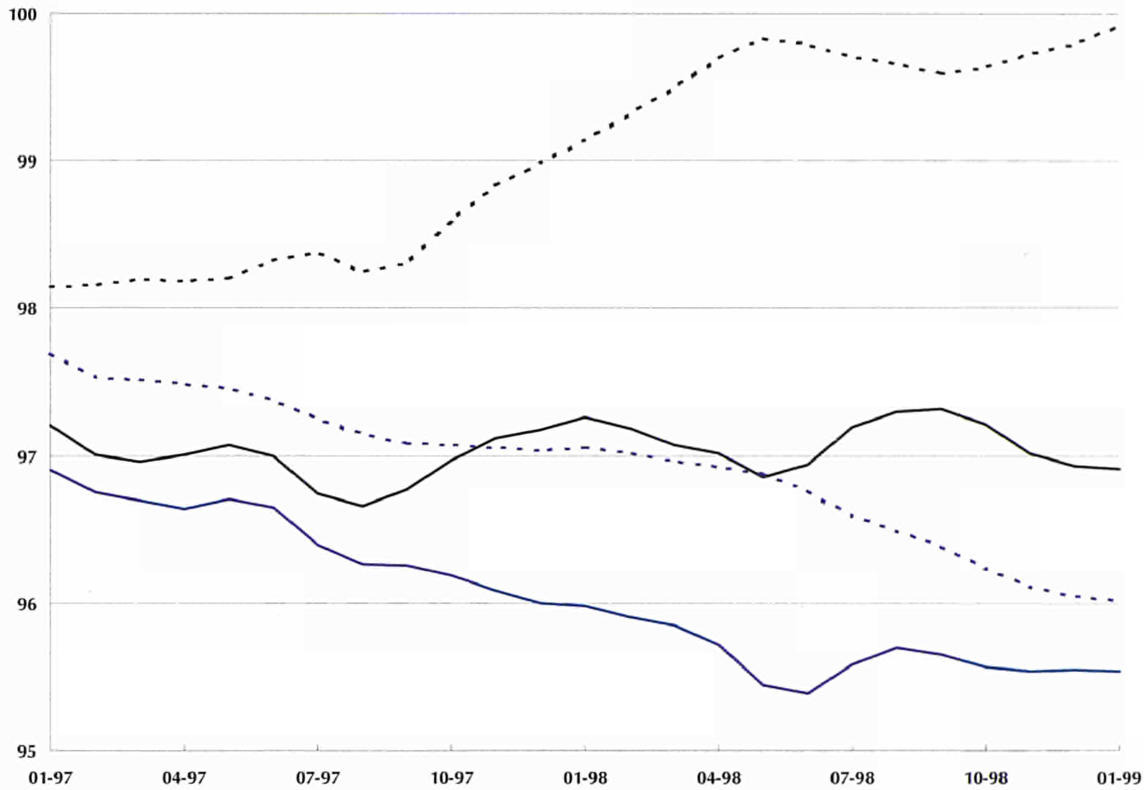




Source: eurostat

Figure 2.16

EU-15 employment index for the main industrial groupings (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 (%)

	Latest 3 months available			Total industry	Intermediate goods	Capital goods	Consumer durables	Consumer non-durables
EU-15	11-98	⇨	01-99	-0.3	-0.3	0.2	-0.1	-0.3
EUR-11	11-98	⇨	01-99	:	:	0.3	0.0	:
B	12-98	⇨	02-99	-2.3	:	:	-1.5	-0.4
DK	10-98	⇨	12-98	-0.4	:	-2.2	-0.8	0.8
D	12-98	⇨	02-99	0.0	-0.2	0.3	-0.8	0.2
EL	04-98	⇨	06-98	0.0	0.4	5.4	-1.0	-0.8
E	10-98	⇨	12-98	0.5	:	2.0	2.3	-1.3
F	10-98	⇨	12-98	0.0	:	:	:	:
IRL	04-98	⇨	06-98	1.0	0.1	2.3	:	0.7
I	11-98	⇨	01-99	-1.5	-1.3	-1.3	-0.2	-0.2
L	10-98	⇨	12-98	-0.1	-0.6	0.8	0.5	0.3
NL	10-98	⇨	12-98	-0.1	-0.1	0.2	-0.9	0.1
A	11-98	⇨	01-99	-0.7	:	-1.0	-0.8	-1.3
P	12-98	⇨	02-99	-0.7	-0.6	-1.3	-0.9	-1.2
FIN	01-99	⇨	03-99	-0.3	:	:	:	:
S	10-98	⇨	12-98	0.0	:	:	:	:
UK	12-98	⇨	02-99	-1.2	-0.9	-1.3	-1.3	-0.9
NO		⇨		:	:	:	:	:
Japan	12-98	⇨	02-99	-0.5	:	:	:	:
USA	11-98	⇨	01-99	-0.7	:	:	:	:

Source: eurostat

Latest outlook: industry

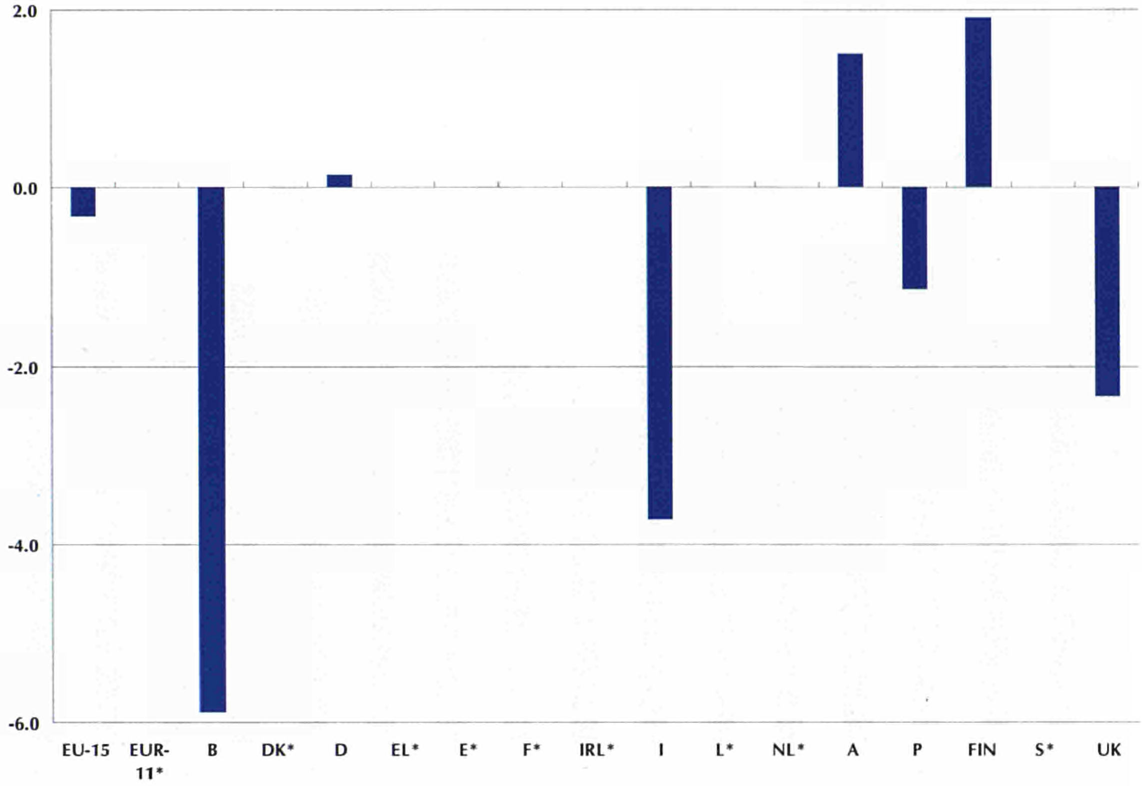


Figure 2.17

Employment index: growth rate, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year, 11-98 to 01-99 (%)

Source: eurostat

Table 2.11

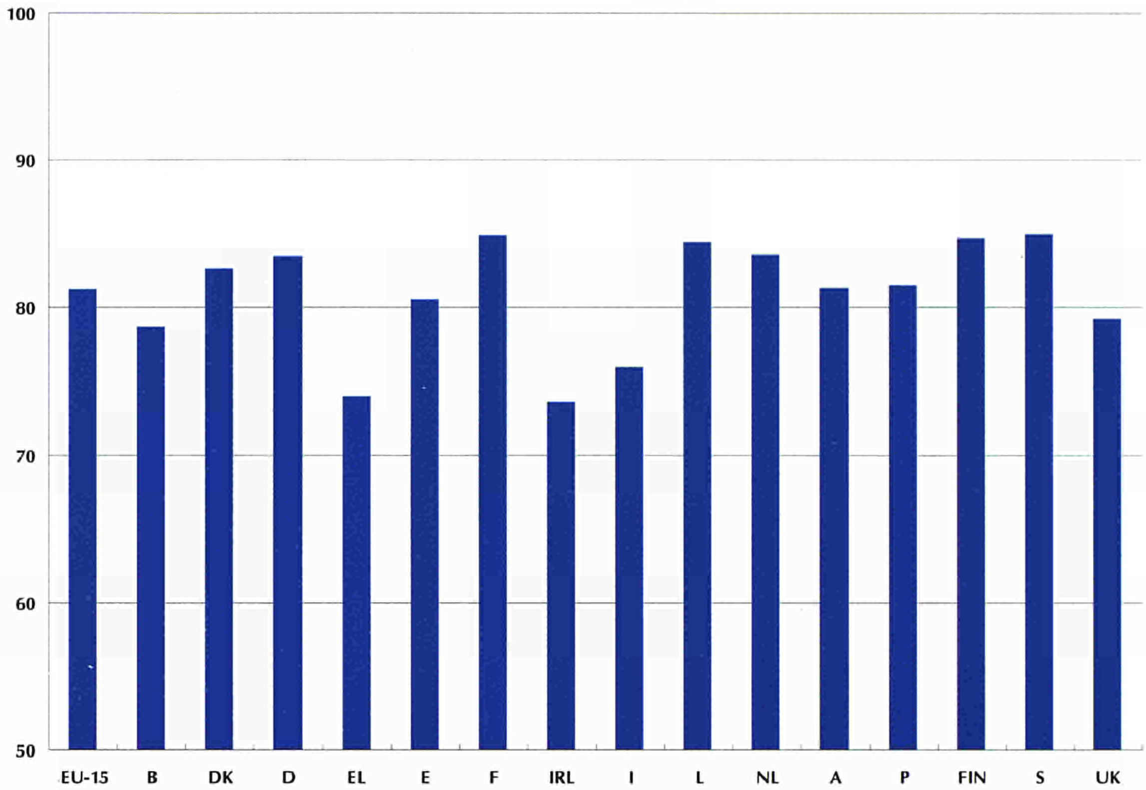
Employment index for the main industrial groupings: growth rate, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year (%)

	Latest 3 months available			Total industry	Intermediate goods	Capital goods	Consumer durables	Consumer non-durables
EU-15	11-98	⇨	01-99	-0.3	-0.3	0.8	-0.5	-1.1
EUR-11	11-98	⇨	01-99	:	:	1.3	-0.2	:
B	12-98	⇨	02-99	-6.8	:	:	-0.3	-1.0
DK	10-98	⇨	12-98	2.6	7.4	1.3	4.0	-0.9
D	12-98	⇨	02-99	0.2	0.1	1.6	-2.4	-0.6
EL	04-98	⇨	06-98	-0.5	-0.8	3.1	1.0	-1.6
E	10-98	⇨	12-98	3.5	:	7.3	3.0	-0.5
F	10-98	⇨	12-98	0.3	:	:	:	:
IRL	04-98	⇨	06-98	3.6	2.3	6.2	:	1.5
I	11-98	⇨	01-99	-3.7	-3.5	-4.8	-0.7	-0.7
L	10-98	⇨	12-98	0.9	-1.1	7.4	5.9	-0.5
NL	10-98	⇨	12-98	0.9	0.2	2.2	-0.4	1.1
A	11-98	⇨	01-99	1.5	:	2.8	-0.6	1.3
P	12-98	⇨	02-99	-1.5	-1.2	0.3	1.2	-2.7
FIN	01-99	⇨	03-99	0.4	:	:	:	:
S	10-98	⇨	12-98	1.8	:	:	:	:
UK	12-98	⇨	02-99	-2.8	-2.8	-2.8	-2.4	-2.9
NO		⇨		:	:	:	:	:
Japan	12-98	⇨	02-99	-2.1	:	:	:	:
USA	11-98	⇨	01-99	-1.3	:	:	:	:

Source: eurostat

Figure 2.18

Capacity utilisation rates: 01-99 (%)



Source: DG II, Business Survey

Table 2.12

Capacity utilisation rates (%)

	Growth rate: latest month, t / t-12 (%)	04-98	07-98	10-98	01-99
EU-15	-2.2	83.3	83.8	82.8	81.3
B	-3.9	82.6	83.5	82.5	78.7
DK	-3.2	83.9	86.8	85.4	82.7
D	-1.4	85.3	86.1	85.6	83.5
EL	-1.3	77.0	76.0	75.0	74.0
E	1.5	80.0	81.1	80.9	80.6
F	1.1	85.2	85.6	84.8	84.9
IRL	-3.9	77.5	74.8	77.4	73.6
I	-3.8	78.2	79.5	76.6	76.0
L	-3.5	87.9	87.7	87.2	84.5
NL	-1.5	85.6	85.5	84.8	83.6
A	-2.0	83.3	84.7	83.5	81.4
P	1.2	82.6	81.0	81.3	81.5
FIN	-4.8	88.0	89.8	87.3	84.7
S	-2.3	86.0	87.0	86.0	85.0
UK	-6.4	84.1	83.0	82.2	79.3

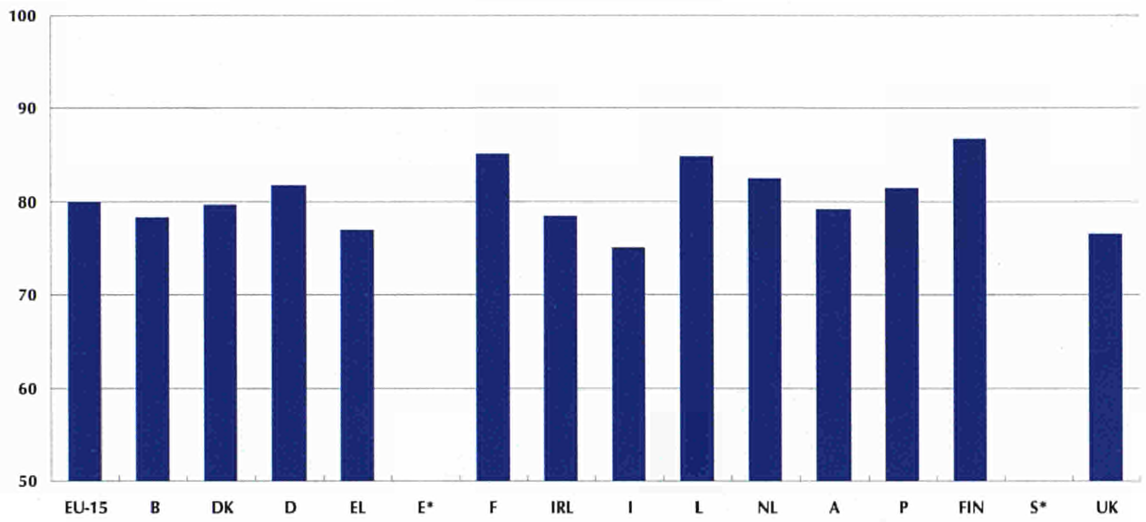
Source: DG II, Business Survey

Latest outlook: industry

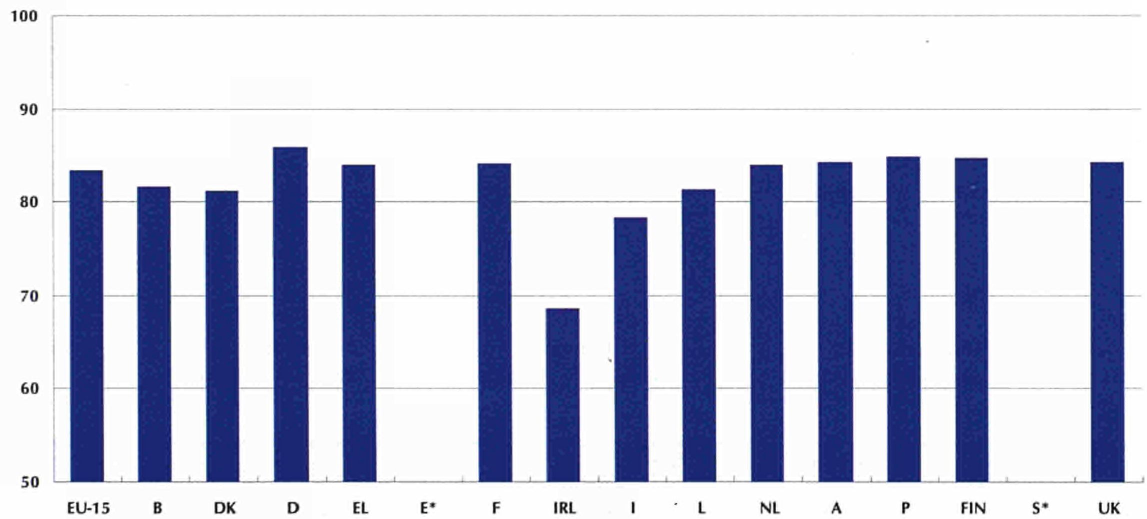
Figure 2.19

Capacity utilisation rates for the main industrial groupings, 01-99 (%)

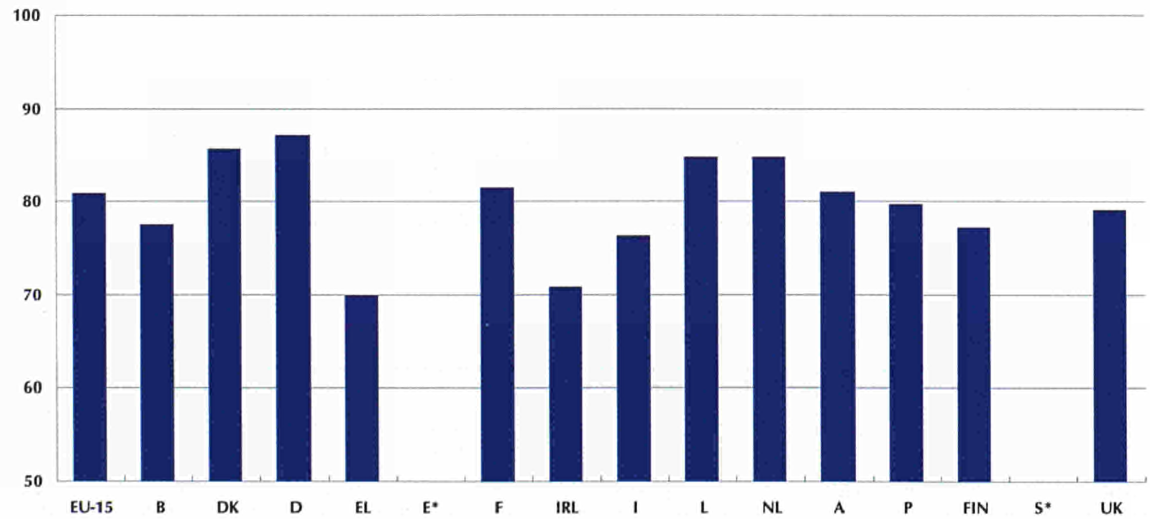
Intermediate goods



Capital goods



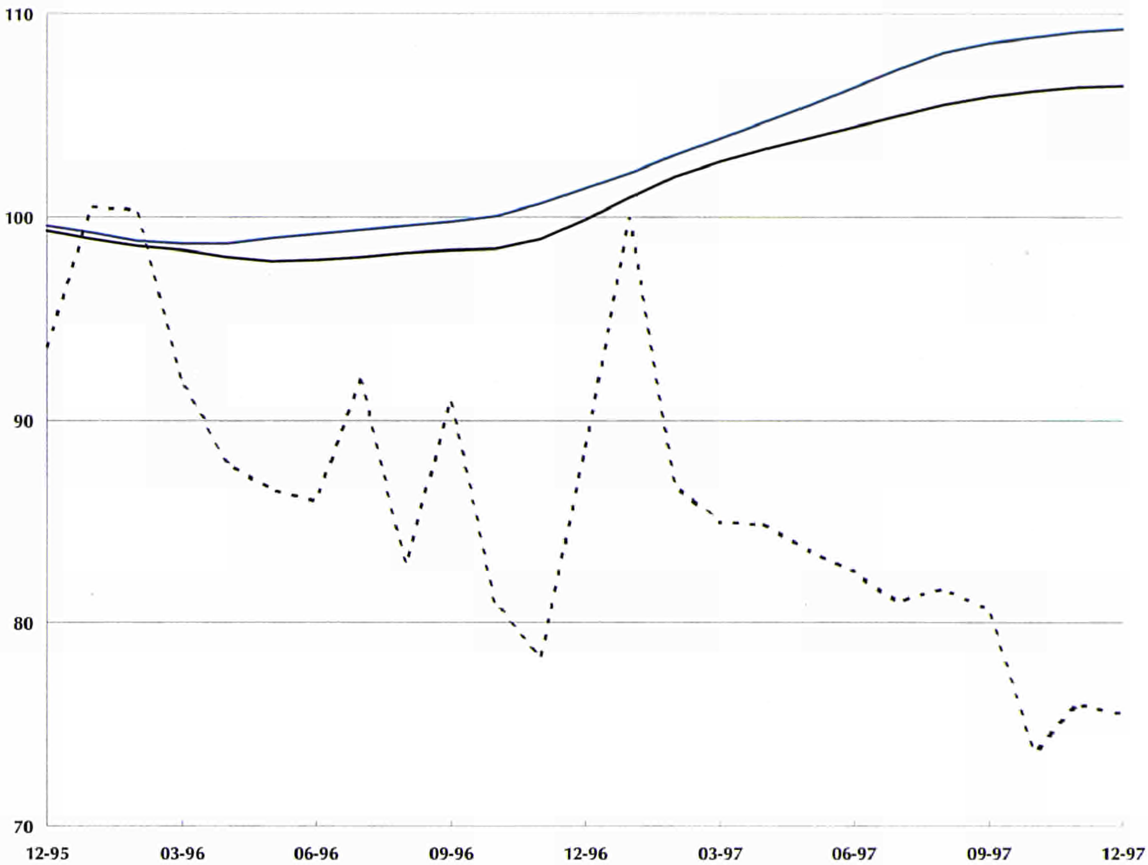
Consumer goods



Source: DG II, Business Survey

Figure 2.20

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



Export value index
Import value index
Terms of trade

Source: eurostat

Table 2.13

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

	Latest 3 months available			Exports Value	Exports Volume	Imports Value	Imports Volume	Terms of trade
EU-15	10-97	⇨	12-97	0.8	0.2	1.0	-2.4	-7.5
B/L	09-97	⇨	11-97	-3.7	0.6	-2.4	-3.3	-0.5
DK	10-97	⇨	12-97	1.4	2.7	0.5	0.0	-9.0
D	10-97	⇨	12-97	0.9	0.0	0.9	-4.2	-3.1
EL	10-97	⇨	12-97	-2.4	-2.6	0.6	-16.3	-11.8
E	10-97	⇨	12-97	0.6	2.5	3.2	1.9	-7.8
F	10-97	⇨	12-97	0.8	1.9	1.4	-0.2	-4.9
IRL	08-97	⇨	10-97	7.1	5.6	4.1	3.0	1.5
I	10-97	⇨	12-97	1.4	-0.1	1.9	-14.3	-2.6
NL	10-97	⇨	12-97	-0.6	1.2	0.5	-1.9	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	-1.9	4.7	-1.8	-2.5	-14.1

Source: eurostat

Latest outlook: industry

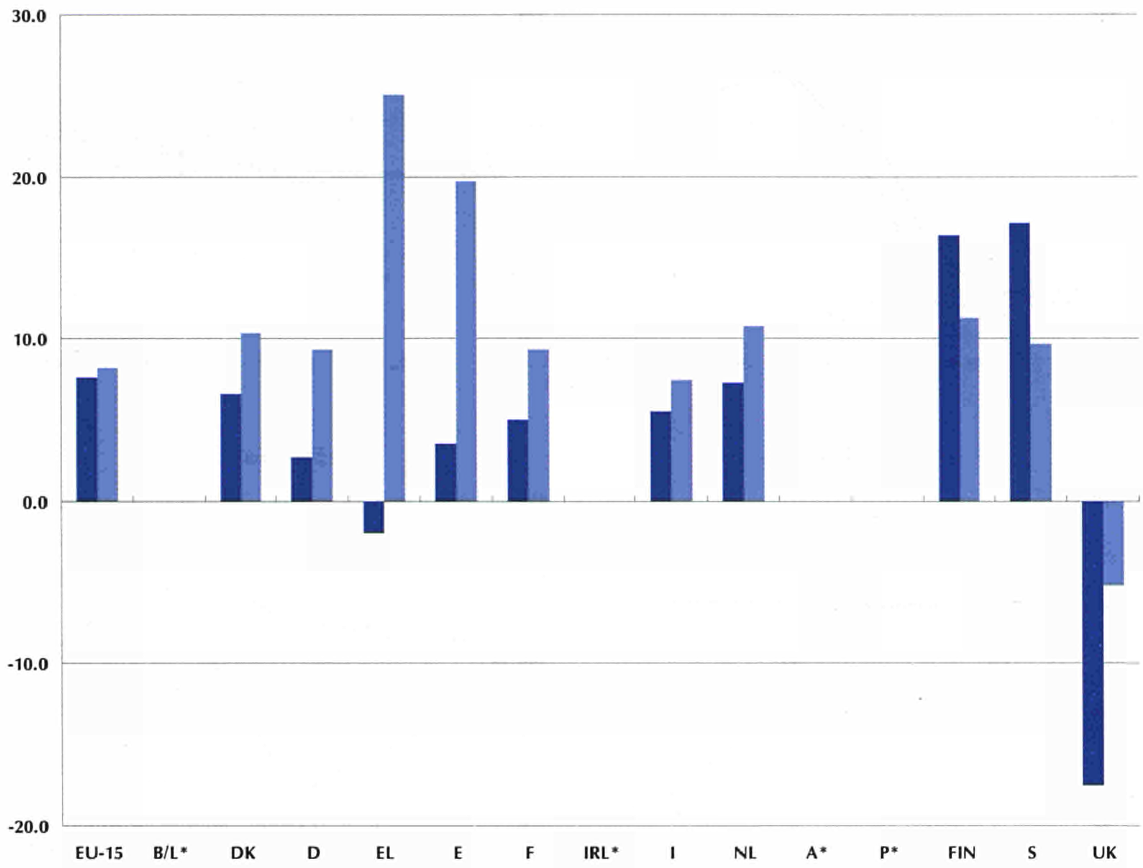


Figure 2.21

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 (%)

Source: eurostat

Table 2.14

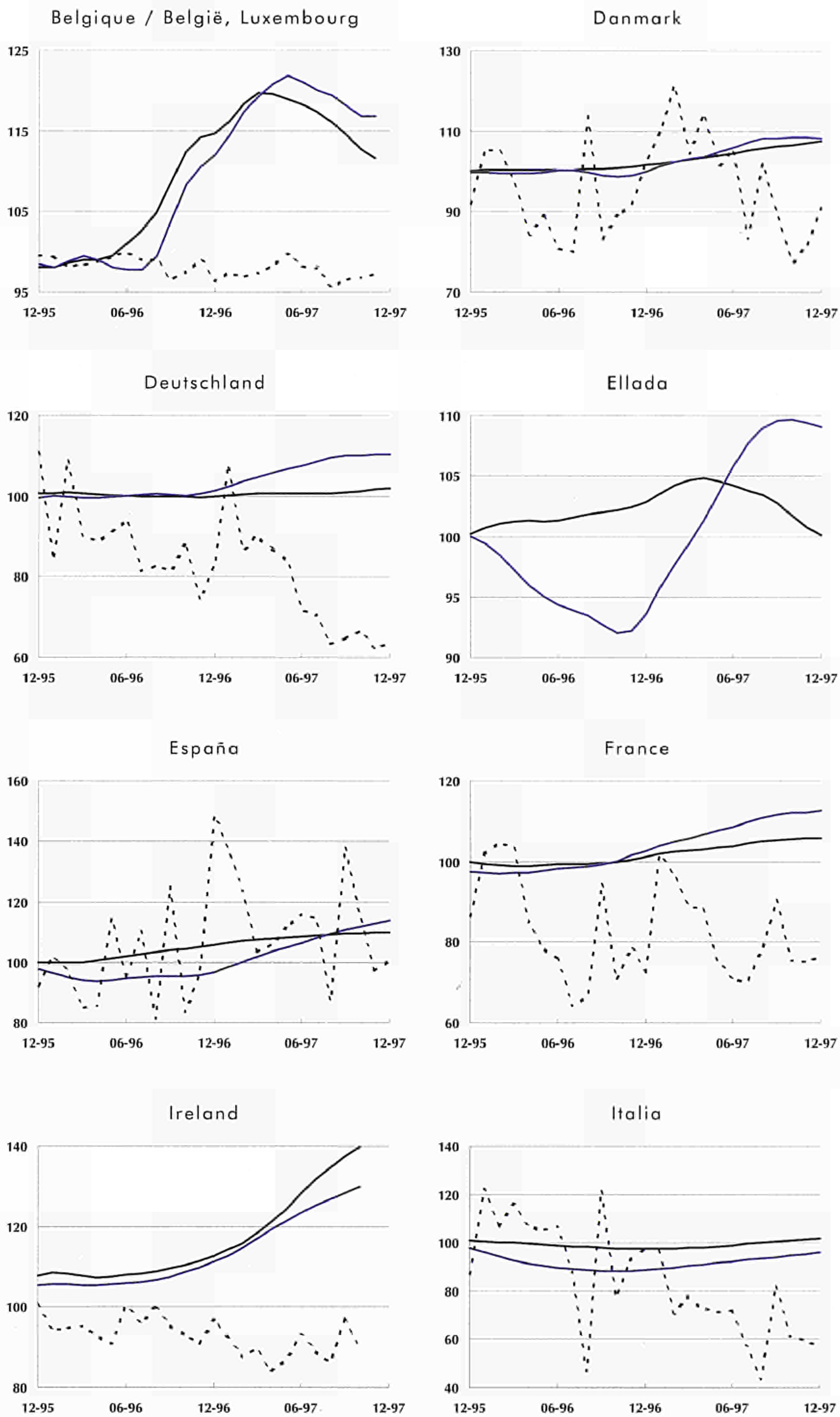
Foreign trade indices (value indices are in ECU terms): three months compared to the same three months of the previous year (%)

	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

Source: eurostat

Figure 2.22

Foreign trade indices in ECU terms (1995 = 100)



Export value index

Import value index

Terms of trade

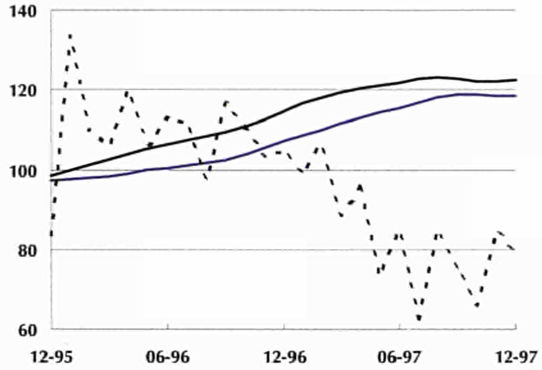
Source: eurostat

Latest outlook: industry

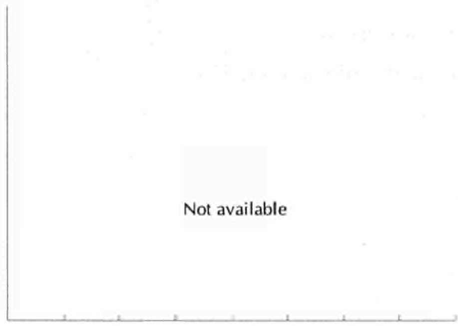
Figure 2.22

Foreign trade indices in ECU terms (1995 = 100)

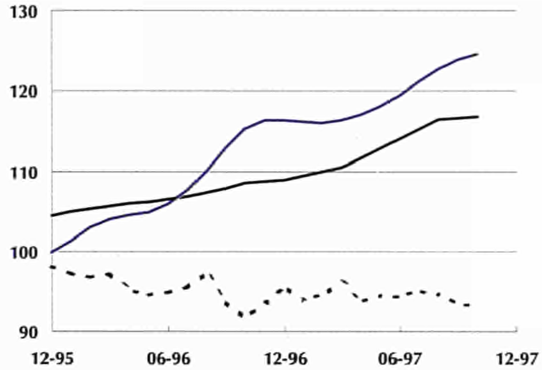
Nederland



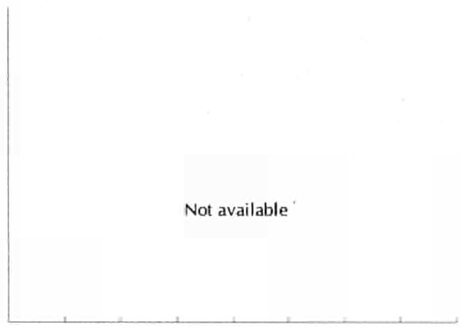
Österreich



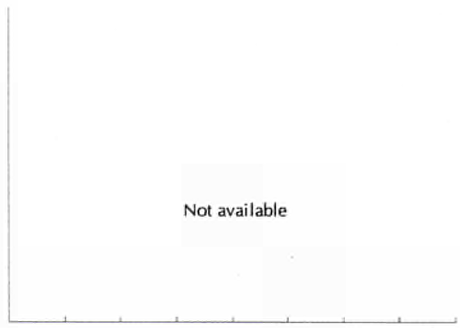
Portugal



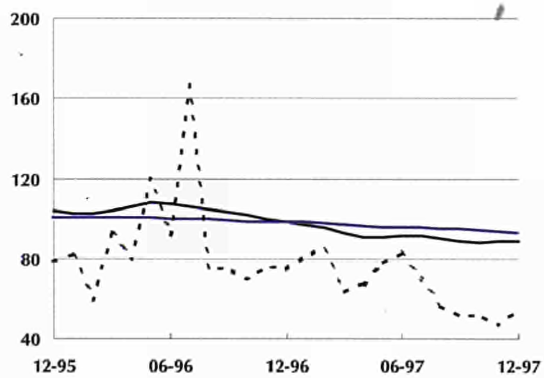
Suomi / Finland



Sverige



United Kingdom



Export value index

Import value index

Terms of trade

Source: eurostat

Further information - employment 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 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 101.

3. Latest outlook: construction

3. Latest outlook: construction

Construction activity

Output within the EU fell by 1.9% during the final quarter of 1998 (when compared to the final quarter of 1997). The corresponding growth rate for the euro-zone[1] was -2.2%. This was the fifth consecutive month that the euro-zone has reported output declining at a rate that is below the corresponding rate of the European Union.

Turning to the latest growth rates for the individual Member States we find that there were positive growth rates reported by only three of the Member States: Spain (10.1%), Finland (7.1%) and Austria (1.6%). Data for France and Germany showed that there was a decline in activity within the construction sector (-2.0% and -5.3% in February 1999).

Civil engineering and building

Output from the civil engineering activity rose by 10.1% in Spain and by 2.8% in Finland in the last quarter of 1998. These were the only two countries to report positive rates of growth for this particular activity. Fresher data was available for France and Germany where a reduction in activity of 0.6% and 6.3% was recorded in February 1999.

Within the activity of building, France and Germany both reported low rates of growth, with declines of 5.7% and 5.0%. There were three Member States with positive rates of growth: they were Austria, Finland and Spain (with increases of 4.0%, 8.5% and 11.1% in the final quarter of 1998 respectively).

Output prices for new residential buildings

EU output prices for new residential buildings rose by 1.4% in the final quarter of 1998 compared to the final quarter of 1997. The figure for the euro-zone was more than one percentage point lower than the corresponding EU figure. This could be explained by looking at the highest rates of growth for output prices, which were recorded in Greece and the United Kingdom (up by 5.7% and 6.4% in the final quarter of 1998 compared again to the final quarter of 1997). Indeed, of the countries for which data was available to the end of 1998, only one reported a decline in output prices. Germany saw a decline of 0.1% for the final quarter of 1998 (latest data for Germany showed there was no change in the first quarter of 1999).

(1) Belgium, Germany, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Finland make up the EUR-11 aggregate, otherwise known as the euro-zone.

Enquiries regarding the purchase of data should be directed to:

Eurostat Data-Shop
4, rue Alphonse Weicker
L-2721 Luxembourg
tel: (352) 43 35 22 51
fax: (352) 43 35 22 221
e-mail: dslux@eurostat.datashop.lu

Latest outlook: construction

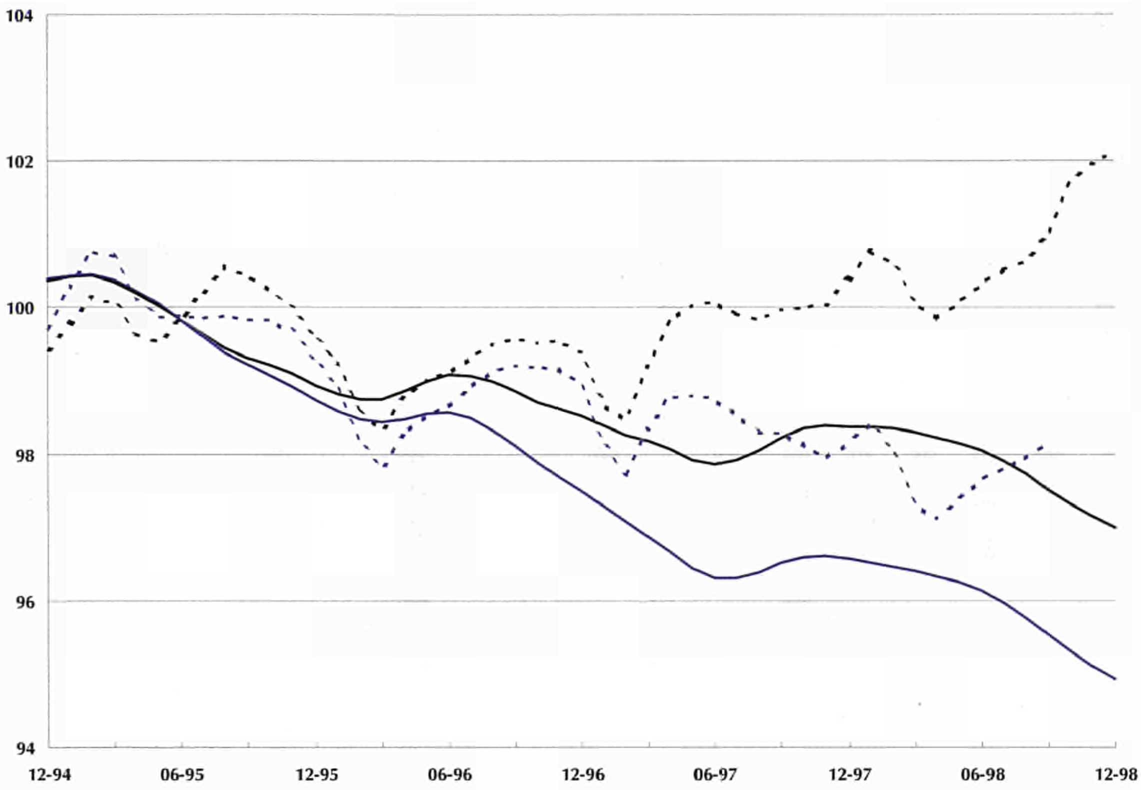


Figure 3.1

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

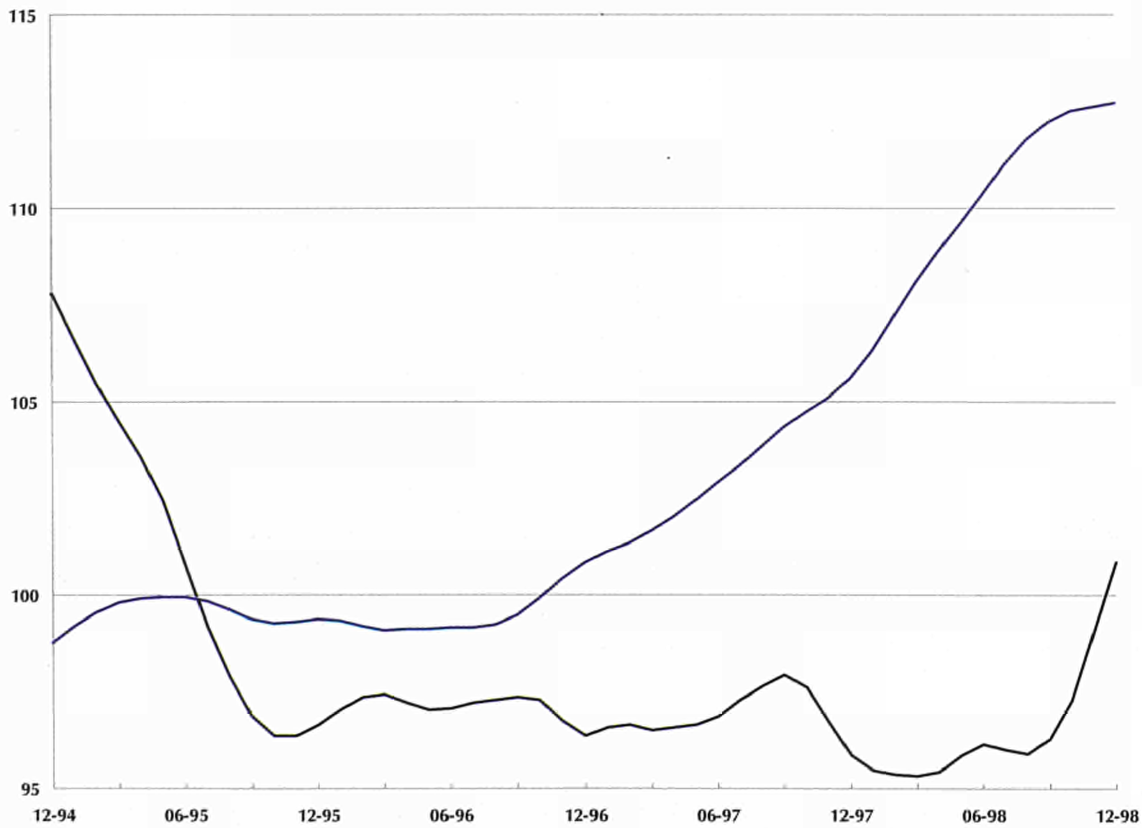


Figure 3.2

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

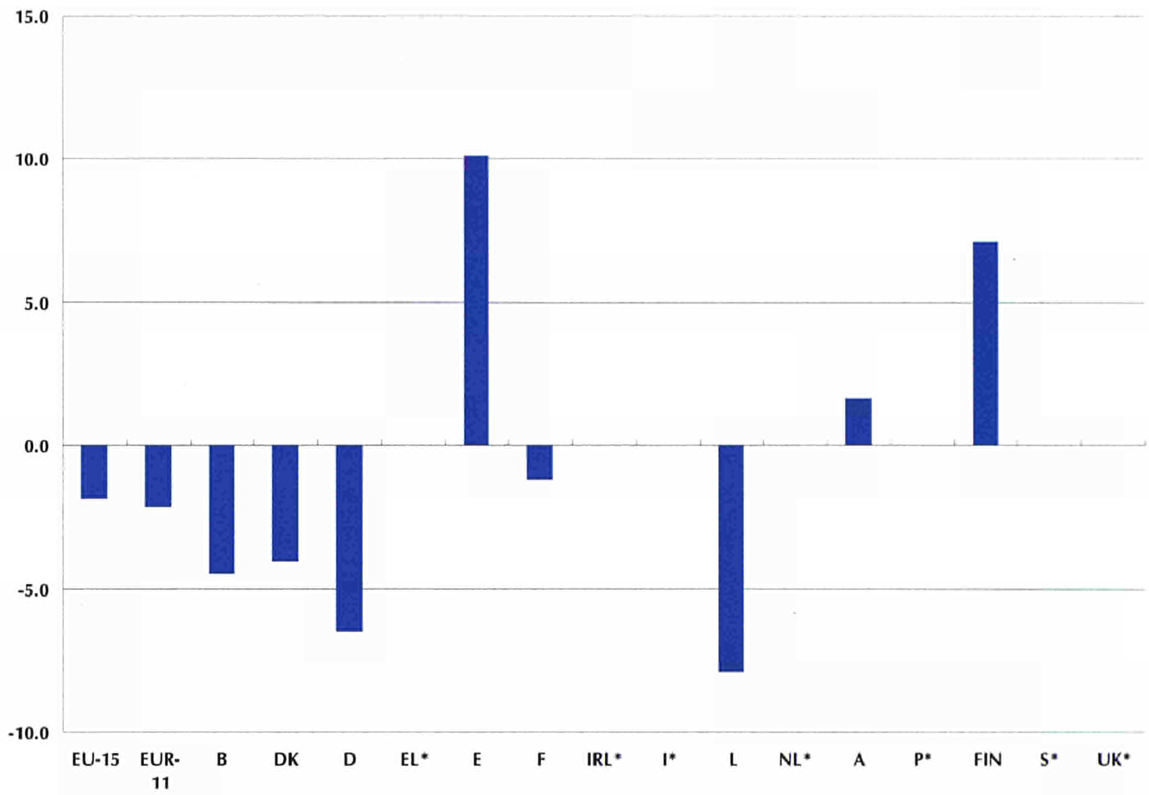
Residential

Non-residential

Source: eurostat

Figure 3.3

Production index for construction: growth rate, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year, 10-98 to 12-98 (%)



Source: eurostat

Table 3.1

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

	Latest 3 months available			Building t / t-1	Building t / t-4	Latest 3 months available			Civil engineering t / t-1	Civil engineering t / t-4
EU-15	04-98	⇨	06-98	-1.5	-1.8	10-98	⇨	12-98	-0.6	-0.5
EUR-11	10-98	⇨	12-98	-0.2	-3.2	10-98	⇨	12-98	-0.5	-0.1
B		⇨		:	:		⇨		:	:
DK	11-98	⇨	01-99	-5.5	-5.2	11-98	⇨	01-99	2.5	-0.4
D	12-98	⇨	02-99	-1.7	-5.0	12-98	⇨	02-99	-1.1	-6.3
EL		⇨		:	:		⇨		:	:
E	10-98	⇨	12-98	1.7	11.1	10-98	⇨	12-98	-1.2	10.1
F	12-98	⇨	02-99	-0.9	-5.7	12-98	⇨	02-99	-0.1	-0.6
IRL		⇨		:	:		⇨		:	:
I	10-98	⇨	12-98	0.0	-15.5	04-98	⇨	06-98	-4.8	6.0
L	10-98	⇨	12-98	-2.8	-6.3	10-98	⇨	12-98	-5.1	-9.4
NL	01-98	⇨	03-98	8.3	15.8		⇨		:	:
A	10-98	⇨	12-98	1.7	4.0	10-98	⇨	12-98	-4.5	-8.5
P		⇨		:	:		⇨		:	:
FIN	10-98	⇨	12-98	1.5	8.5	10-98	⇨	12-98	-0.5	2.8
S		⇨		:	:		⇨		:	:
UK	04-98	⇨	06-98	-2.7	1.7	04-98	⇨	06-98	-10.6	-12.6
NO	10-98	⇨	12-98	-3.5	:	10-98	⇨	12-98	6.1	:

Source: eurostat

Latest outlook: construction

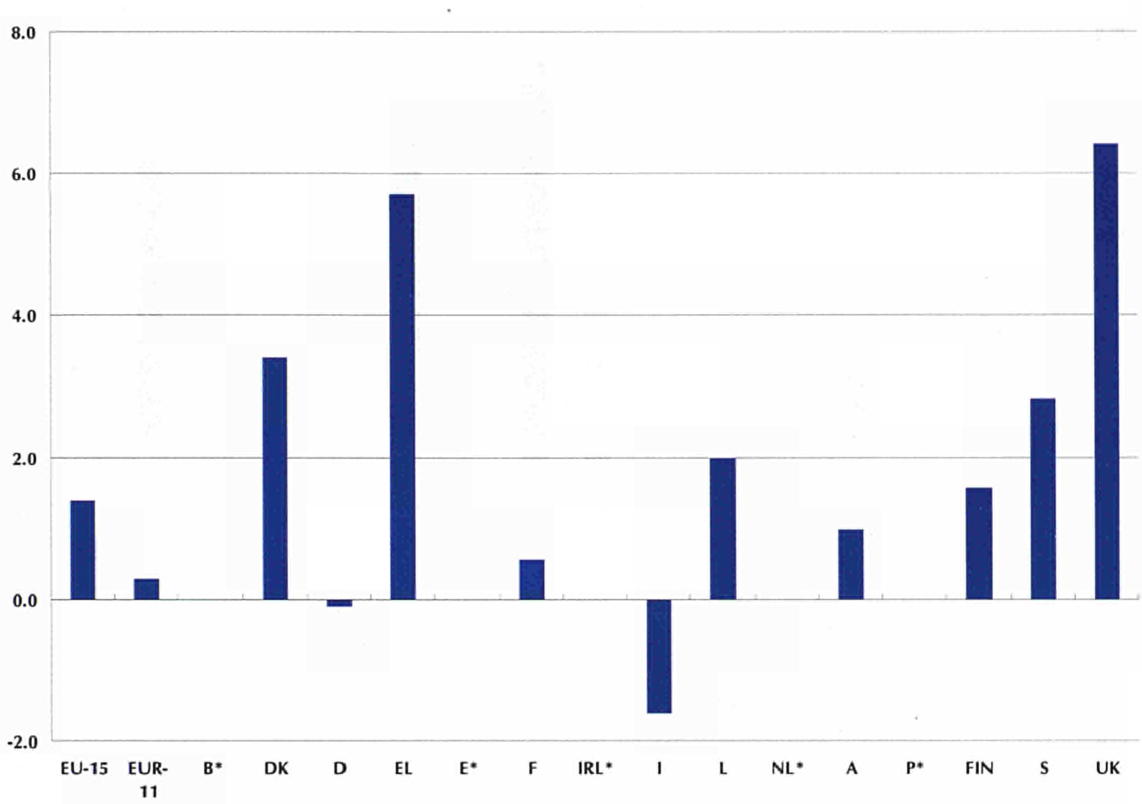


Figure 3.4

Output prices for new residential buildings: growth rate, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year, 10-98 to 12-98 (%)

Source: eurostat

Table 3.2

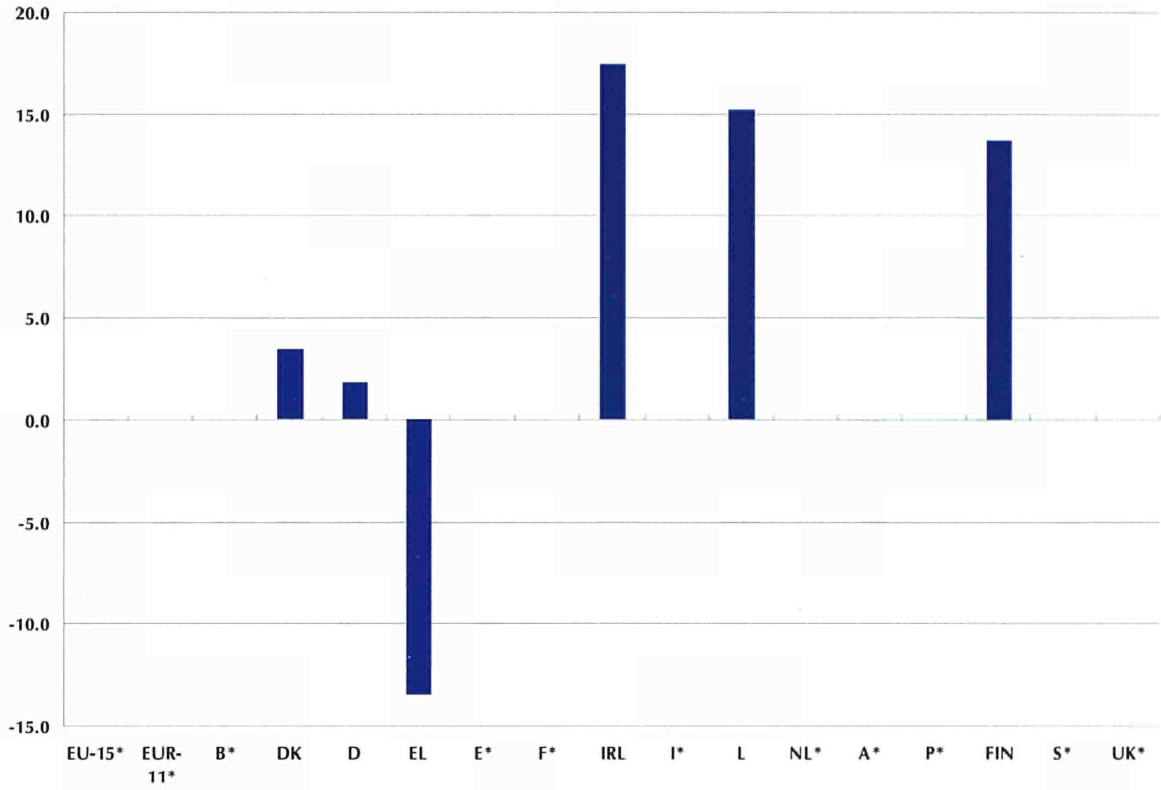
Output prices for new residential buildings: indices (1995 = 100)

	II-1997	III-1997	IV-1997	I-1998	II-1998	III-1998	IV-1998	I-1999
EU-15	103.3	104.5	104.7	104.2	104.8	105.7	106.2	:
EUR-11	102.4	103.0	103.1	102.4	102.8	103.0	103.4	:
B	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
DK	105.6	106.4	107.1	107.8	107.8	109.3	110.7	111.5
D	99.1	99.1	98.7	98.3	99.0	98.9	98.6	98.3
EL	110.7	111.9	113.2	115.8	117.2	119.2	119.6	:
E	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
F	104.2	104.8	104.9	104.0	104.0	103.9	105.5	:
IRL	104.5	105.6	106.7	107.5	108.3	109.7	:	:
I	103.5	105.0	105.3	102.1	102.6	103.2	103.6	:
L	102.1	102.7	102.7	103.9	103.9	104.7	104.7	:
NL	105.5	106.3	108.0	108.0	108.9	:	:	:
A	102.8	103.1	103.1	103.7	104.0	104.1	104.1	:
P	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	102.5	103.7	103.7	103.9	104.6	105.1	105.3	105.6
S	105.5	106.3	106.9	107.2	108.6	109.5	109.9	:
UK	106.0	107.0	109.0	110.0	112.0	114.0	116.0	:
NO	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Source: eurostat

Figure 3.5

Building permits - useful floor area: growth rate, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year, 10-98 to 12-98 (%)



Source: eurostat

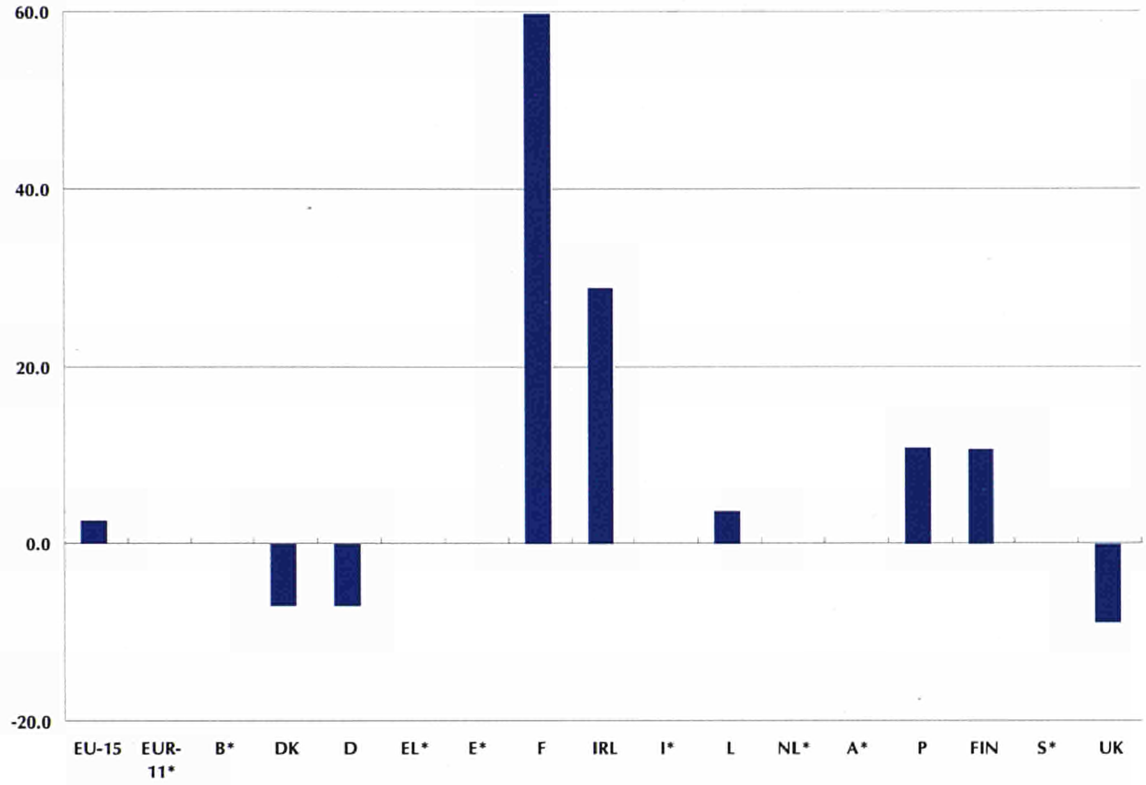
Table 3.3

Building permits - useful floor area: actual values and indices

	Latest 3 months available			Residential '000m²	1995=100	Latest 3 months available			Non-residential '000m²	1995=100
EU-15		⇨		:	:	11-98	⇨	01-99	:	102.5
EUR-11		⇨		:	:	10-98	⇨	12-98	:	112.5
B	09-98	⇨	11-98	1,912	86.6	09-98	⇨	11-98	2,078	130.1
DK	11-98	⇨	01-99	466	121.8	11-98	⇨	01-99	1,037	97.9
D	11-98	⇨	01-99	11,156	80.9	11-98	⇨	01-99	9,816	91.1
EL	06-98	⇨	08-98	4,428	209.2	06-98	⇨	08-98	1,539	157.9
E	09-98	⇨	11-98	16,156	143.6	09-98	⇨	11-98	3,663	179.5
F		⇨		:	:	01-99	⇨	03-99	9,207	102.7
IRL	10-98	⇨	12-98	1,547	164.4	10-98	⇨	12-98	830	127.6
I	07-98	⇨	09-98	2,334	62.0	07-98	⇨	09-98	4,003	68.8
L	10-98	⇨	12-98	:	105.6	10-98	⇨	12-98	:	110.9
NL	08-98	⇨	10-98	3,965	100.4	08-98	⇨	10-98	6,087	172.1
A		⇨		:	:		⇨		:	:
P		⇨		:	:		⇨		:	:
FIN	12-98	⇨	02-99	555	122.0	12-98	⇨	02-99	605	116.3
S	12-98	⇨	02-99	261	:	12-98	⇨	02-99	565	:
UK		⇨		:	:		⇨		:	:
NO	12-98	⇨	02-99	660	84.1	12-98	⇨	02-99	776	77.8

Source: eurostat

Figure 3.6



Building permits - no. of dwellings: growth rate, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year, 10-98 to 12-98 (%)

Source: eurostat

Table 3.4

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		:	12-98	:	:	117.5
EUR-11		:	11-98	:	:	94.9
B	1997	50,847	11-98	2,637	:	70.4
DK	1998	16,349	01-99	800	:	83.1
D	1998	477,707	01-99	31,749	:	59.6
EL	1997	89,553	08-98	3,854	:	65.3
E	1997	304,763	11-98	36,645	:	155.6
F	1998	377,658	03-99	25,609	:	99.7
IRL	1998	47,389	12-98	:	:	153.9
I	1997	145,435	09-98	405	:	2.8
L	1998	3,215	12-98	466	:	209.0
NL	1997	101,501	10-98	8,319	:	101.4
A		:		:	:	:
P	1998	107,221	02-99	8,520	:	132.9
FIN	1998	32,404	02-99	2,400	:	152.9
S	1998	11,887	02-99	356	:	:
UK	1998	177,800	02-99	15,400	:	110.2
NO	1998	22,017	02-99	1,215	:	67.8

Source: eurostat

4. Latest outlook: services

4. Latest outlook: services

New vehicle registrations

New vehicle registrations increased by 5.6% in the EU during the three months to March 1999 (compared to the first quarter of 1998). This rate of growth was in line with that observed for February 1999 (when the same growth rate was equal to 5.7%). There was an upward trend in the latest data for all Member States, except Italy and Ireland. In the former new vehicle registrations displayed a declining trend from May 1998 onwards. This decline quickened during the final quarter of 1998 (to -17.6%), but the latest data available for March 1999 showed some signs of a recovery, -1.1%.

The roads of Greece witnessed the highest increase in the number of new vehicle registrations in early 1999. Latest data for January 1999 reported an increase of 35.7% (compared to a year before). Luxembourg and Portugal reported the next highest rates of growth (up by 24.3% and 24.0% in March and January 1999 respectively). Positive rates were also recorded in the Netherlands (21.7%), Belgium (15.8%), Spain (14.3%), France (13.1%), Sweden (11.1%) and Finland (10.0%). The Danish figure showed a remarkable slowdown from growth of 29.3% in third quarter of 1998.

Retail trade

In the three months to January 1999 retail sales' volumes increased by 2.9% within the EU (when compared to the same period of a year before). The corresponding rate of growth for the euro-zone[1] was 2.5% (although data was only available up until December 1998). The latest figures for the euro-zone aggregate indicated a slight slowdown in the rate of growth.

German retail sales reported growth rates below the European average (with no change in February 1999), despite a slight recovery during late 1998, when German retail sales volumes were expanding at a moderate rate. A moderate rate of growth was also seen in the United Kingdom, where retail trade sales' volumes rose by 1.9% during the first quarter of 1999. There were higher rates of growth recorded in France, Italy and Spain, all above the European average. In France the rate of growth slowed somewhat, although remaining above the EU average. Data for the final

(1) Belgium, Germany, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Finland make up the EUR-11 aggregate, otherwise known as the euro-zone.

Enquiries regarding the purchase of data should be directed to:

Eurostat Data-Shop
4, rue Alphonse Weicker
L-2721 Luxembourg
tel: (352) 43 35 22 51
fax: (352) 43 35 22 221
e-mail: dslux@eurostat.datashop.lu

quarter of 1998 reported an expansion in sales' volumes of some 4.7%. In Italy the index of retail sales was quickening, up by 3.4% in February 1999. The Spanish rate of growth was almost halved between November 1998 and February 1999, when the increase in the volume of retail sales was equal to 3.4%.

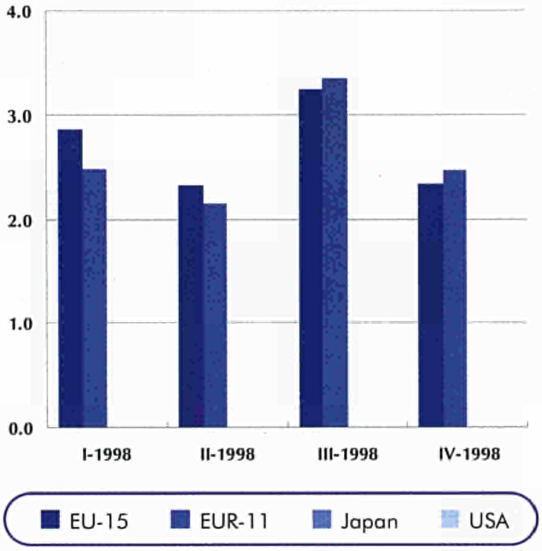
Within the smaller Member States the Netherlands, Austria and Denmark saw retail sales volumes growing at a slower pace than the European aggregate. In the Netherlands there has been a significant decrease in the rate of growth since May 1998, with the latest growth rate showing an increase of only 0.9% (February 1999). Such a low rate had not been observed during the last two years. In December 1998, Austrian sales' volumes grew by only 0.9%, the lowest rate of growth that had been registered since mid-1997. In Denmark the index of sales' volumes was starting to quicken, rising by 2.0% in February 1999.

In most of the Member States the retail sales of textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods were expanding at a slower pace than the retail sales of food, beverages and tobacco or household equipment. In France, growth of 2.5% was recorded for textiles, clothing, footwear and leather (December 1998). French retail sales' volumes for this activity saw their growth rate reduced by 4.4 percentage points during the month of December.

In Italy sales of household equipment reported positive rates of change for the first time in six months (up by 1.9% in January 1999). The growth rate for Italian retail sale of textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods continued to show a fluctuating trend, up by 3.1% in January 1999, after a change of -0.1% in December 1998.

Figure 4.1

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

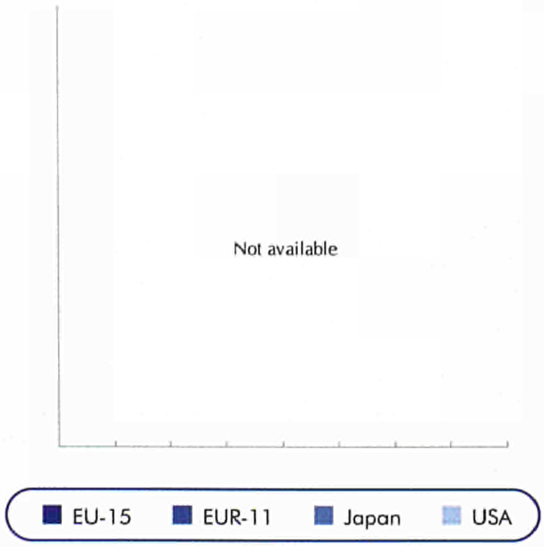


Source: eurostat

In the United Kingdom total sales increased by 1.9% during the first quarter of 1999. This figure was higher than the increase observed for food, beverages and tobacco (up by only 1.0%). However, the main engine of sales growth within the United Kingdom was the retail sale of household equipment, where an increase of 7.4% was registered (again for March 1999).

Figure 4.2

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



Source: eurostat

Table 4.1

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

	1996	1997	1998	10-98	11-98	12-98	01-99	02-99	03-99
EU-15	101.0	102.8	105.6	108.0	112.0	136.1	99.9	:	:
EUR-11	100.6	101.7	104.4	107.5	110.2	133.7	:	:	:
B	107.9	110.8	116.7	116.6	113.7	131.4	:	:	:
DK	101.3	103.3	105.5	105.5	105.4	135.7	101.9	94.6	:
D	98.9	97.1	97.3	99.6	105.8	120.4	90.6	86.4	:
EL	101.2	102.4	104.1	103.2	107.3	145.4	102.5	:	:
E	98.3	100.4	106.4	108.5	105.1	134.3	109.0	99.5	:
F	101.2	104.2	108.8	113.2	115.4	134.6	:	:	:
IRL	106.7	114.9	125.1	121.7	126.2	154.9	131.0	:	:
I	100.7	101.9	103.0	107.4	110.4	148.2	95.3	:	:
L	98.6	105.5	108.0	112.2	113.2	113.2	:	:	:
NL	103.0	107.1	111.3	115.2	113.2	130.2	101.4	95.2	:
A	101.3	102.6	105.0	107.5	114.8	137.1	:	:	:
P	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	104.1	108.3	113.9	111.1	114.4	150.6	101.3	:	:
S	100.8	103.0	106.7	106.9	107.7	141.8	99.6	95.6	:
UK	103.3	108.5	111.9	111.3	123.2	147.1	105.7	105.2	107.3
NO	102.7	106.3	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Japan	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
USA	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Source: eurostat

Table 4.2

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

	1996	1997	1998	10-98	11-98	12-98	01-99	02-99	03-99
EU-15	101.0	102.8	105.6	106.1	107.2	106.6	107.5	:	:
EUR-11	100.6	101.7	104.4	104.9	106.4	104.7	:	:	:
B	107.9	110.8	116.7	117.6	117.3	114.8	:	:	:
DK	101.3	103.3	105.5	107.4	107.1	107.5	106.7	107.8	:
D	98.9	97.1	97.3	95.5	98.5	94.7	99.8	96.9	:
EL	101.2	102.4	104.1	104.0	105.4	106.6	107.2	:	:
E	98.3	100.4	106.4	107.8	108.1	107.5	107.5	107.9	:
F	101.2	104.2	108.8	110.8	115.5	108.1	109.0	:	:
IRL	106.7	114.9	125.1	125.0	129.5	127.6	133.4	:	:
I	100.7	101.9	103.0	103.8	105.0	104.3	107.0	:	:
L	98.6	105.5	108.0	109.4	109.8	110.6	:	:	:
NL	103.0	107.1	111.3	112.3	112.5	111.9	110.2	111.2	:
A	101.3	102.6	105.0	104.0	106.8	104.5	:	:	:
P	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	104.1	108.3	113.9	113.5	116.9	117.6	115.7	:	:
S	100.8	103.0	106.7	107.8	107.9	108.0	109.8	110.0	:
UK	103.3	108.5	111.9	111.8	112.9	111.8	113.3	113.0	113.5
NO	102.7	106.3	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Japan	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
USA	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Source: eurostat

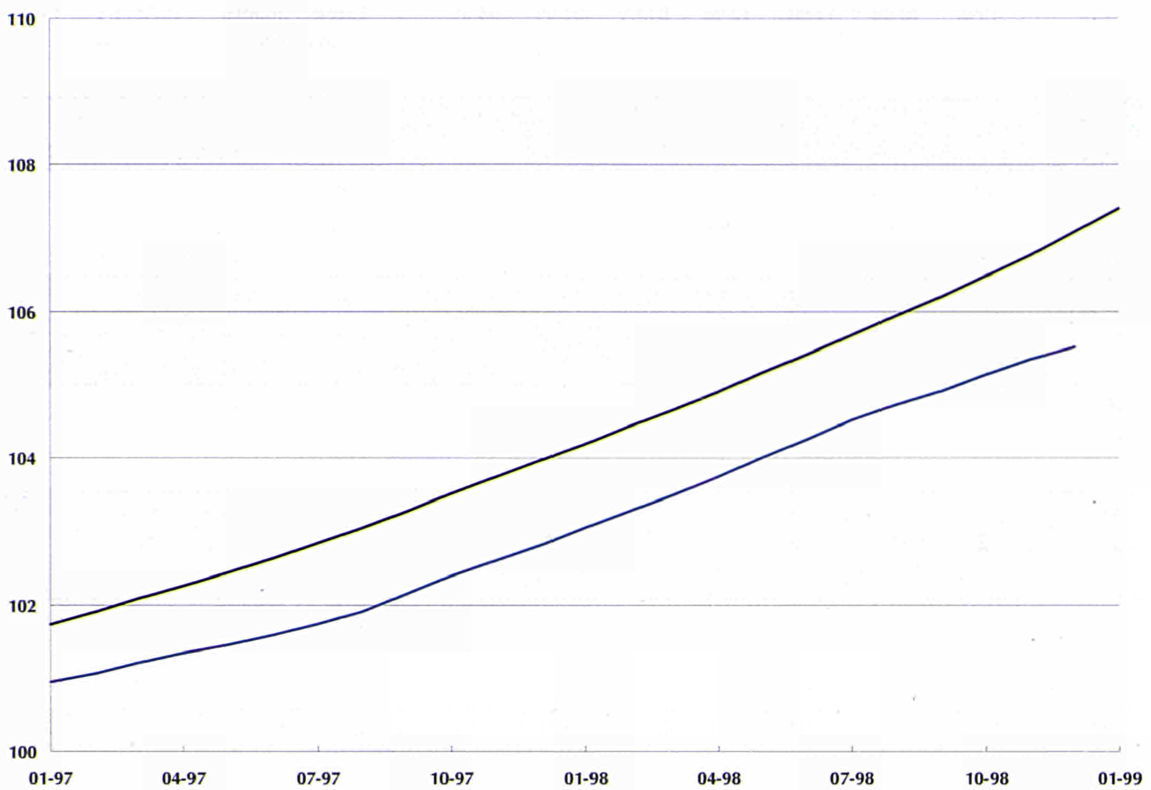


Figure 4.3

Volume of retail sales (1995 = 100)

Source: eurostat

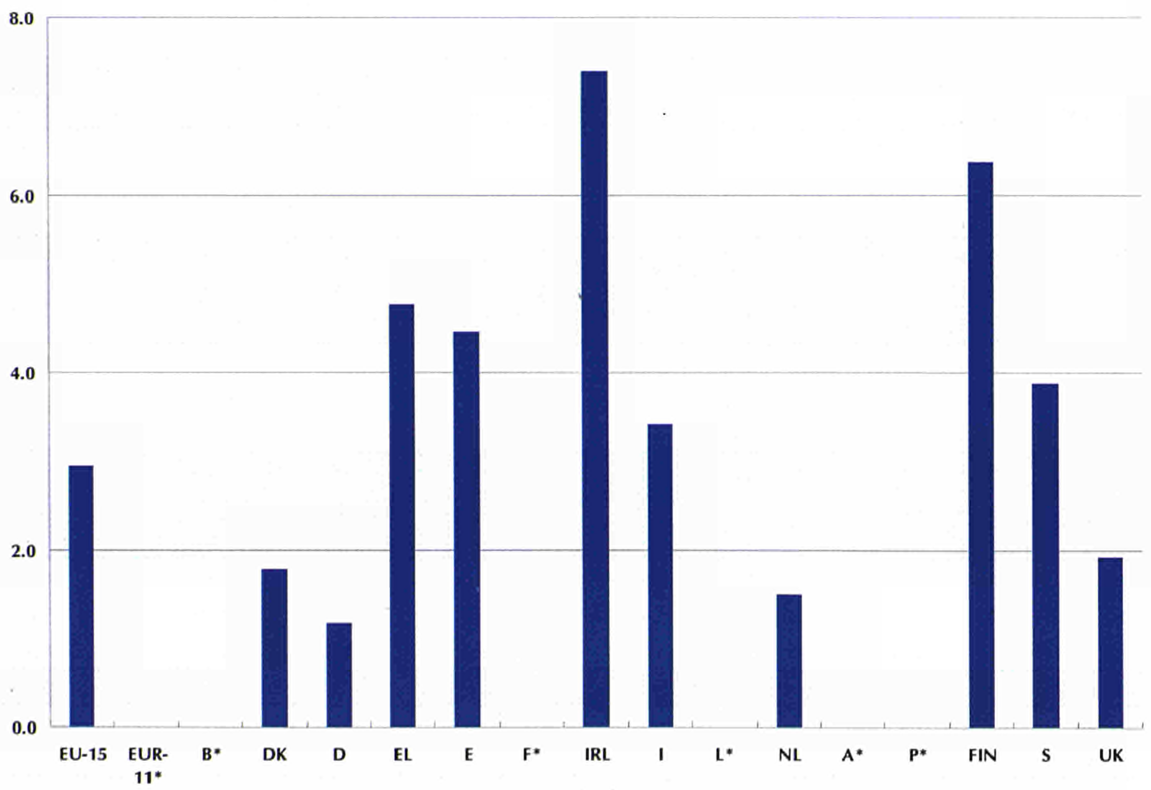


Figure 4.4

Volume of retail sales: growth rate, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year, 11-98 to 01-99 (%)

Source: eurostat

Table 4.3

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

	1998	10-98	11-98	12-98	01-99	02-99	03-99	Latest 3 months available			t / t-1 (%)	t / t-4 (%)
EU-15	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	01-98	⇨	03-98	0.3	:
EUR-11	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	01-98	⇨	03-98	0.2	:
B	114.1	115.8	111.7	132.1	:	:	:	10-98	⇨	12-98	0.6	0.6
DK	101.6	99.6	102.2	118.7	92.8	97.6	:	12-98	⇨	02-99	0.2	0.9
D	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	05-98	⇨	07-98	-0.1	-0.5
EL	104.9	106.6	106.7	138.4	100.9	:	:	11-98	⇨	01-99	1.5	2.9
E	101.4	101.4	100.6	128.1	94.2	94.7	:	12-98	⇨	02-99	1.0	4.9
F	108.1	112.3	116.8	132.7	:	:	:	10-98	⇨	12-98	0.8	4.9
IRL	111.5	111.2	112.5	134.8	105.1	:	:	11-98	⇨	01-99	:	4.1
I	107.2	111.7	108.7	155.3	106.0	:	:	11-98	⇨	01-99	1.2	3.6
L	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		⇨		:	:
NL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	02-98	⇨	04-98	-0.3	:
A	99.1	98.5	99.0	113.7	:	:	:	10-98	⇨	12-98	-0.6	-1.3
P	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		⇨		:	:
FIN	107.3	103.5	102.2	129.2	96.1	:	:	11-98	⇨	01-99	1.3	6.6
S	101.5	97.1	98.9	122.9	93.8	90.3	:	12-98	⇨	02-99	0.1	0.4
UK	108.9	107.1	112.0	122.0	103.1	107.0	109.6	01-99	⇨	03-99	0.4	1.0
NO	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	10-97	⇨	12-97	0.0	-0.9
Japan	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		⇨		:	:
USA	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		⇨		:	:

Source: eurostat

Table 4.4

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

	1998	10-98	11-98	12-98	01-99	02-99	03-99	Latest 3 months available			t / t-1 (%)	t / t-4 (%)
EU-15	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	05-98	⇨	07-98	0.4	2.7
EUR-11	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	05-98	⇨	07-98	0.1	3.2
B	132.4	140.9	117.6	149.5	:	:	:	10-98	⇨	12-98	-1.3	0.6
DK	107.6	120.2	107.3	158.4	120.5	79.4	:	12-98	⇨	02-99	1.1	1.9
D	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	05-98	⇨	07-98	-1.2	-1.5
EL	97.5	87.6	95.9	143.7	104.2	:	:	11-98	⇨	01-99	0.7	6.6
E	101.1	110.2	101.1	128.4	125.4	84.1	:	12-98	⇨	02-99	-1.6	-2.4
F	109.0	118.9	107.5	139.9	:	:	:	10-98	⇨	12-98	0.8	2.5
IRL	144.0	132.0	153.1	272.5	153.5	:	:	11-98	⇨	01-99	:	13.5
I	100.4	107.9	124.0	153.6	90.8	:	:	11-98	⇨	01-99	0.7	3.1
L	105.8	107.3	108.9	99.3	:	:	:	10-98	⇨	12-98	-3.2	0.1
NL	109.1	125.6	103.0	131.4	104.5	73.1	:	12-98	⇨	02-99	0.6	2.9
A	104.0	115.8	121.9	145.7	:	:	:	10-98	⇨	12-98	-0.3	-2.8
P	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		⇨		:	:
FIN	111.7	113.7	125.3	144.6	109.9	:	:	11-98	⇨	01-99	0.4	5.0
S	103.7	115.5	101.1	147.5	94.1	77.7	:	12-98	⇨	02-99	0.9	3.1
UK	112.5	114.5	131.9	177.8	100.1	90.1	96.0	01-99	⇨	03-99	0.7	1.9
NO	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	10-97	⇨	12-97	0.8	4.8
Japan	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		⇨		:	:
USA	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		⇨		:	:

Source: eurostat

Latest outlook: services

Table 4.5

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

	1998	10-98	11-98	12-98	01-99	02-99	03-99	Latest 3 months available			t / t-1 (%)	t / t-4 (%)
EU-15	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	05-98	⇨	07-98	1.3	4.4
EUR-11	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	05-98	⇨	07-98	0.3	4.2
B	100.3	102.1	101.9	122.2	:	:	:	10-98	⇨	12-98	-0.4	2.1
DK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		⇨		:	:
D	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	05-98	⇨	07-98	0.1	0.3
EL	113.7	111.2	118.9	157.4	100.8	:	:	11-98	⇨	01-99	-3.5	-4.5
E	114.2	114.1	119.3	137.3	110.5	113.9	:	12-98	⇨	02-99	1.5	6.0
F	112.9	116.9	117.8	149.5	:	:	:	10-98	⇨	12-98	1.2	4.9
IRL	130.6	132.9	155.3	198.3	131.1	:	:	11-98	⇨	01-99	:	12.2
I	98.0	102.7	112.9	129.7	84.8	:	:	11-98	⇨	01-99	1.4	1.9
L	122.0	126.9	120.9	122.7	:	:	:	10-98	⇨	12-98	1.6	4.4
NL	121.7	130.0	130.5	151.0	113.8	108.3	:	12-98	⇨	02-99	1.3	6.4
A	104.0	111.3	124.8	150.0	:	:	:	10-98	⇨	12-98	0.3	-0.6
P	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		⇨		:	:
FIN	125.9	129.7	130.1	160.4	96.9	:	:	11-98	⇨	01-99	0.2	5.5
S	114.9	124.0	127.6	175.5	115.7	104.2	:	12-98	⇨	02-99	4.5	13.9
UK	125.1	128.2	138.3	168.8	137.8	127.2	122.9	01-99	⇨	03-99	3.1	7.4
NO	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	10-97	⇨	12-97	1.6	6.1
Japan	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		⇨		:	:
USA	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		⇨		:	:

Source: eurostat

Table 4.6

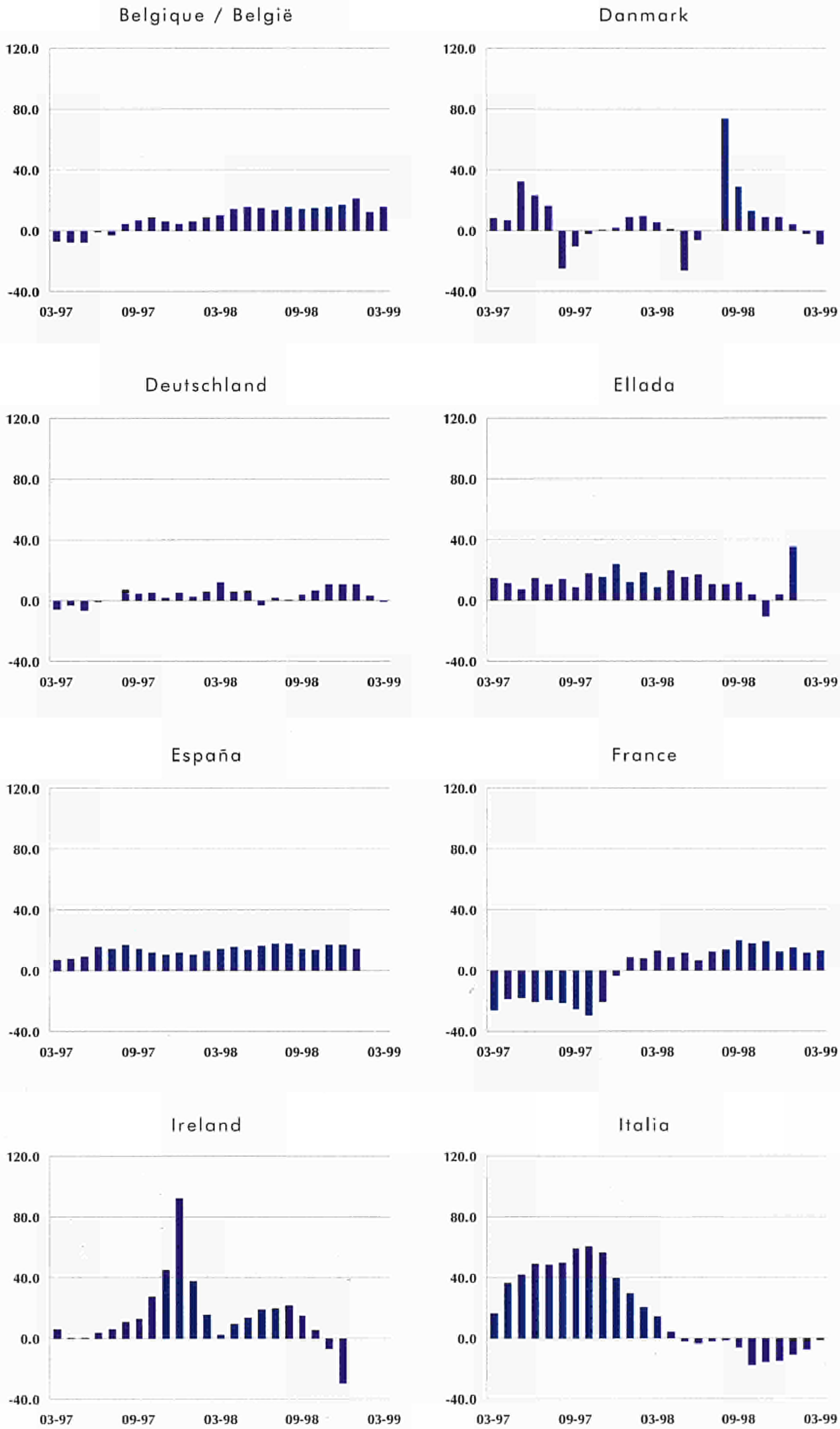
First registration of private and commercial cars: units and latest growth rates (thousands)

	1998	10-98	11-98	12-98	01-99	02-99	03-99	Latest 3 months available			t / t-1 (%)	t / t-4 (%)
EU-15	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	01-99	⇨	03-99	2.8	:
EUR-11	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		⇨		:	:
B	:	40	32	22	60	46	56	01-99	⇨	03-99	1.6	15.8
DK	:	12	12	12	10	12	16	01-99	⇨	03-99	-4.9	-8.8
D	:	327	297	291	273	269	430	01-99	⇨	03-99	0.1	-0.5
EL	:	13	8	18	31	:	:	11-98	⇨	01-99	9.0	35.7
E	:	111	103	120	82	:	:	11-98	⇨	01-99	2.0	14.3
F	:	174	179	170	157	158	206	01-99	⇨	03-99	1.0	13.1
IRL	:	7	5	2	:	:	:	10-98	⇨	12-98	6.4	-29.6
I	:	176	173	115	235	226	248	01-99	⇨	03-99	2.5	-1.1
L	:	3	2	2	3	4	5	01-99	⇨	03-99	4.2	24.3
NL	:	48	41	13	:	:	:	10-98	⇨	12-98	-1.6	21.7
A	:	25	21	13	:	:	:	10-98	⇨	12-98	0.1	22.3
P	:	30	34	37	31	:	:	11-98	⇨	01-99	5.0	24.0
FIN	:	10	9	8	15	10	13	01-99	⇨	03-99	0.9	10.0
S	:	27	25	25	20	23	31	01-99	⇨	03-99	4.0	11.1
UK	:	166	165	108	:	:	:	10-98	⇨	12-98	0.5	4.2
NO	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	10-97	⇨	12-97	4.6	3.2
Japan	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		⇨		:	:
USA	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		⇨		:	:

Source: eurostat

Figure 4.5

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

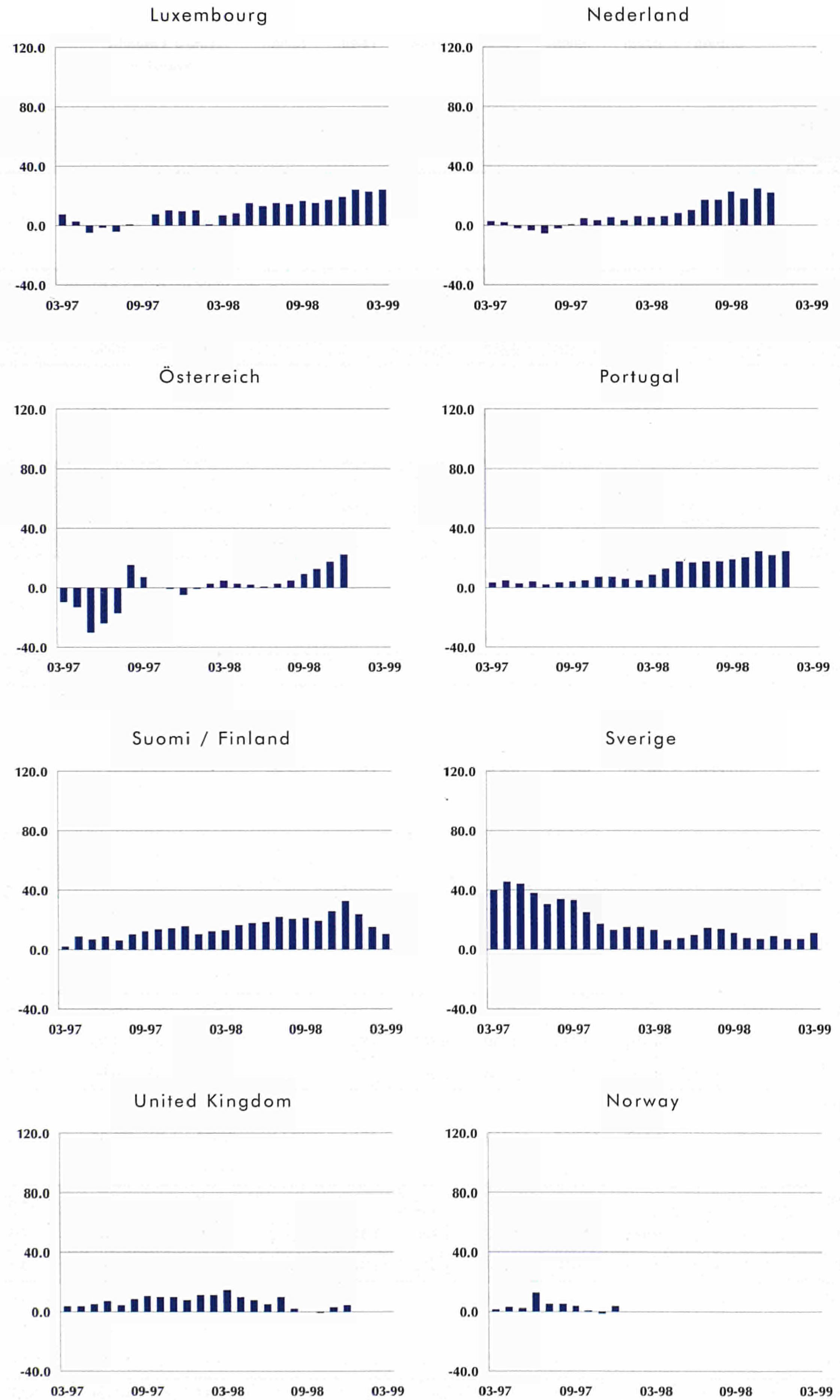


Source: eurostat

Latest outlook: services

Figure 4.5

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



Source: eurostat

Table 4.7

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

	1998	07-98	08-98	09-98	10-98	11-98	12-98	Latest 3 months available			t / t-4 (%)
EU-15	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		⇨		:
EUR-11	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		⇨		:
B	:	441	465	303	:	:	:	07-98	⇨	09-98	-1.8
DK	:	444	457	451	417	:	:	08-98	⇨	10-98	-21.4
D	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	10-97	⇨	12-97	-0.6
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	10-97	⇨	12-97	21.1
E	:	7,869	10,228	7,394	5,402	3,998	:	09-98	⇨	11-98	9.8
F	:	10,228	12,050	9,657	7,970	:	:	08-98	⇨	10-98	2.9
IRL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		⇨		:
I	:	19,602	27,377	12,360	:	:	:	07-98	⇨	09-98	3.3
L	:	7	8	:	:	:	:	06-98	⇨	08-98	-8.3
NL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	10-97	⇨	12-97	13.7
A	:	1,810	2,186	1,531	1,110	800	:	09-98	⇨	11-98	4.6
P	8,857	1,010	1,474	932	600	492	509	10-98	⇨	12-98	0.3
FIN	9,066	990	816	769	759	720	567	10-98	⇨	12-98	3.3
S	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	10-97	⇨	12-97	4.5
UK	:	8,740	11,600	8,900	7,700	:	:	08-98	⇨	10-98	-16.6
NO	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	12-97	⇨	02-98	6.2

Source: eurostat

Table 4.8

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

	1998	07-98	08-98	09-98	10-98	11-98	12-98	Latest 3 months available			t / t-4 (%)
EU-15	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		⇨		:
EUR-11	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		⇨		:
B	:	871	793	890	:	:	:	07-98	⇨	09-98	-4.8
DK	:	879	646	385	317	:	:	08-98	⇨	10-98	-0.8
D	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	10-97	⇨	12-97	2.6
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	04-98	⇨	06-98	5.8
E	:	14,484	15,440	13,840	10,837	4,903	:	09-98	⇨	11-98	7.9
F	:	8,364	9,295	7,158	5,661	:	:	08-98	⇨	10-98	7.1
IRL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		⇨		:
I	:	11,203	10,287	11,398	:	:	:	07-98	⇨	09-98	2.5
L	:	115	116	:	:	:	:	06-98	⇨	08-98	4.4
NL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	10-97	⇨	12-97	18.8
A	:	5,848	7,938	4,957	2,708	1,153	:	09-98	⇨	11-98	1.3
P	22,830	2,725	3,037	2,728	1,972	1,174	944	10-98	⇨	12-98	3.1
FIN	3,141	430	406	263	181	200	214	10-98	⇨	12-98	-3.0
S	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	10-97	⇨	12-97	7.2
UK	:	12,660	15,870	8,760	7,900	4,370	:	09-98	⇨	11-98	1.6
NO	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	12-97	⇨	02-98	-2.7

Source: eurostat

Table 4.9

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

	1998	07-98	08-98	09-98	10-98	11-98	12-98	Latest 3 months available			t / t-4 (%)
EU-15	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		⇨		:
EUR-11	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		⇨		:
B	:	2,417	1,562	451	:	:	:	07-98	⇨	09-98	-12.6
DK	:	3,578	1,460	704	330	:	:	08-98	⇨	10-98	4.1
D	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	10-97	⇨	12-97	-12.3
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	10-97	⇨	12-97	-78.0
E	:	2,953	5,762	1,092	269	:	:	08-98	⇨	10-98	9.8
F	:	22,930	31,233	2,585	:	:	:	07-98	⇨	09-98	0.5
IRL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		⇨		:
I	:	12,941	21,357	3,832	:	:	:	07-98	⇨	09-98	3.0
L	:	26	16	:	:	:	:	06-98	⇨	08-98	22.0
NL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	10-97	⇨	12-97	-4.8
A	:	1,265	1,357	630	423	315	:	09-98	⇨	11-98	1.9
P	5,276	1,255	1,852	575	180	114	78	10-98	⇨	12-98	-3.3
FIN	1,768	718	248	69	34	25	34	10-98	⇨	12-98	-6.7
S	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	10-97	⇨	12-97	-16.5
UK	:	17,300	24,470	6,750	5,260	:	:	08-98	⇨	10-98	-5.0
NO	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		⇨		:

Source: eurostat

Table 4.10

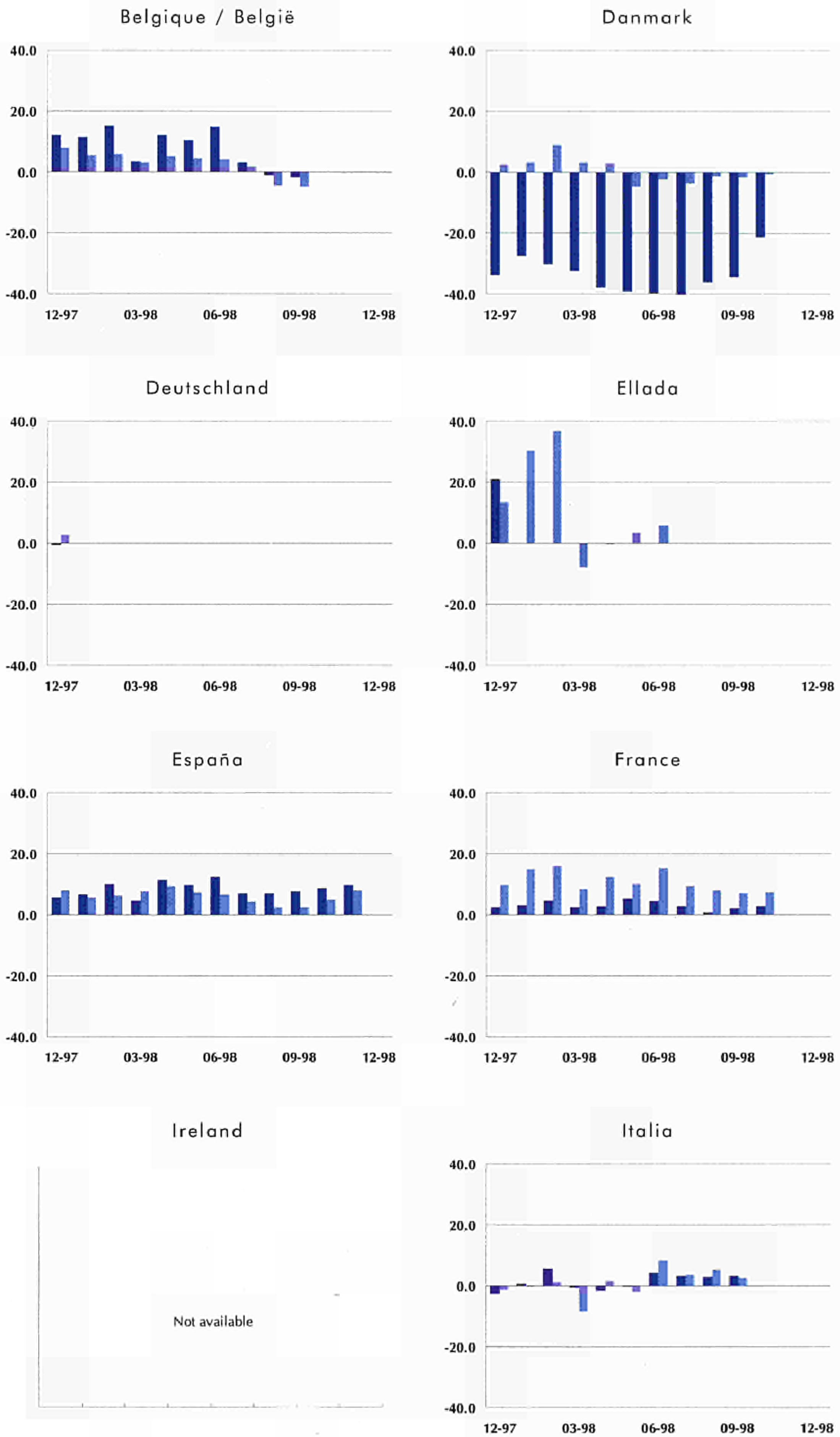
Guest flows in other collective accommodation establishments, non-residents in the country: units and latest growth rates (thousands)

	1997	07-98	08-98	09-98	10-98	11-98	12-98	Latest 3 months available			t / t-4 (%)
EU-15	155,702	:	:	:	:	:	:		⇨		:
EUR-11	109,529	:	:	:	:	:	:		⇨		:
B	5,495	1,050	866	230	:	:	:	07-98	⇨	09-98	-12.1
DK	6,414	1,886	1,848	279	166	:	:	08-98	⇨	10-98	-4.7
D	7,672	:	:	:	:	:	:	10-97	⇨	12-97	-5.9
EL	676	:	:	:	:	:	:	04-98	⇨	06-98	12.9
E	7,767	2,420	3,238	650	321	:	:	08-98	⇨	10-98	27.2
F	31,972	12,587	12,898	2,316	:	:	:	07-98	⇨	09-98	4.6
IRL	4,200	:	:	:	:	:	:		⇨		:
I	32,868	8,648	9,518	4,474	:	:	:	07-98	⇨	09-98	3.7
L	1,249	354	369	:	:	:	:	06-98	⇨	08-98	-8.1
NL	9,608	:	:	:	:	:	:	10-97	⇨	12-97	12.9
A	6,606	1,874	2,305	609	283	77	:	09-98	⇨	11-98	23.0
P	1,615	462	565	188	55	38	26	10-98	⇨	12-98	-1.7
FIN	475	125	83	13	5	6	11	10-98	⇨	12-98	-2.6
S	814	:	:	:	:	:	:	10-97	⇨	12-97	-19.3
UK	38,270	5,500	6,850	2,840	1,720	2,170	:	09-98	⇨	11-98	0.3
NO	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		⇨		:

Source: eurostat

Figure 4.6

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



Residents

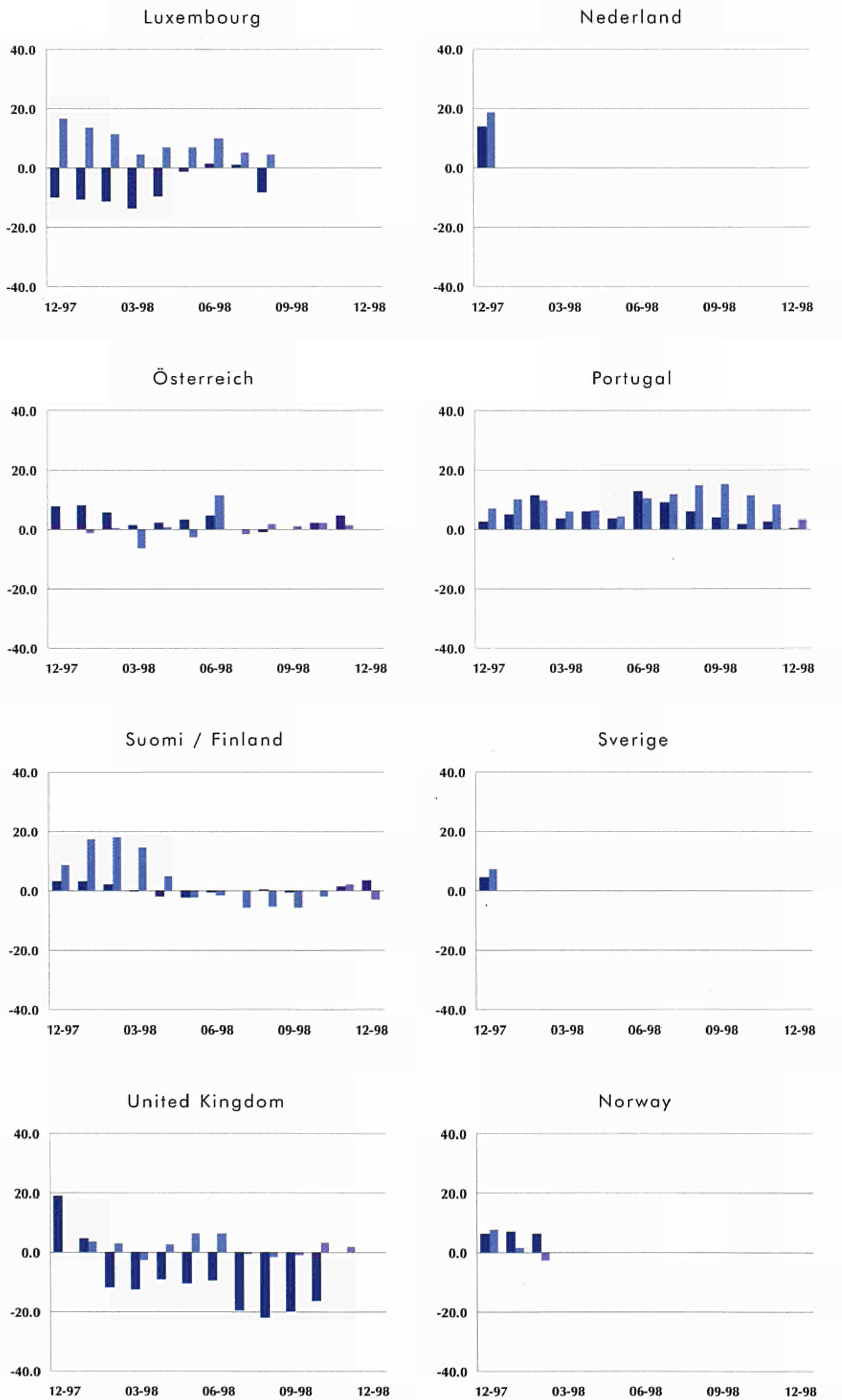
Non-residents

Source: eurostat

Latest outlook: services

Figure 4.6

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

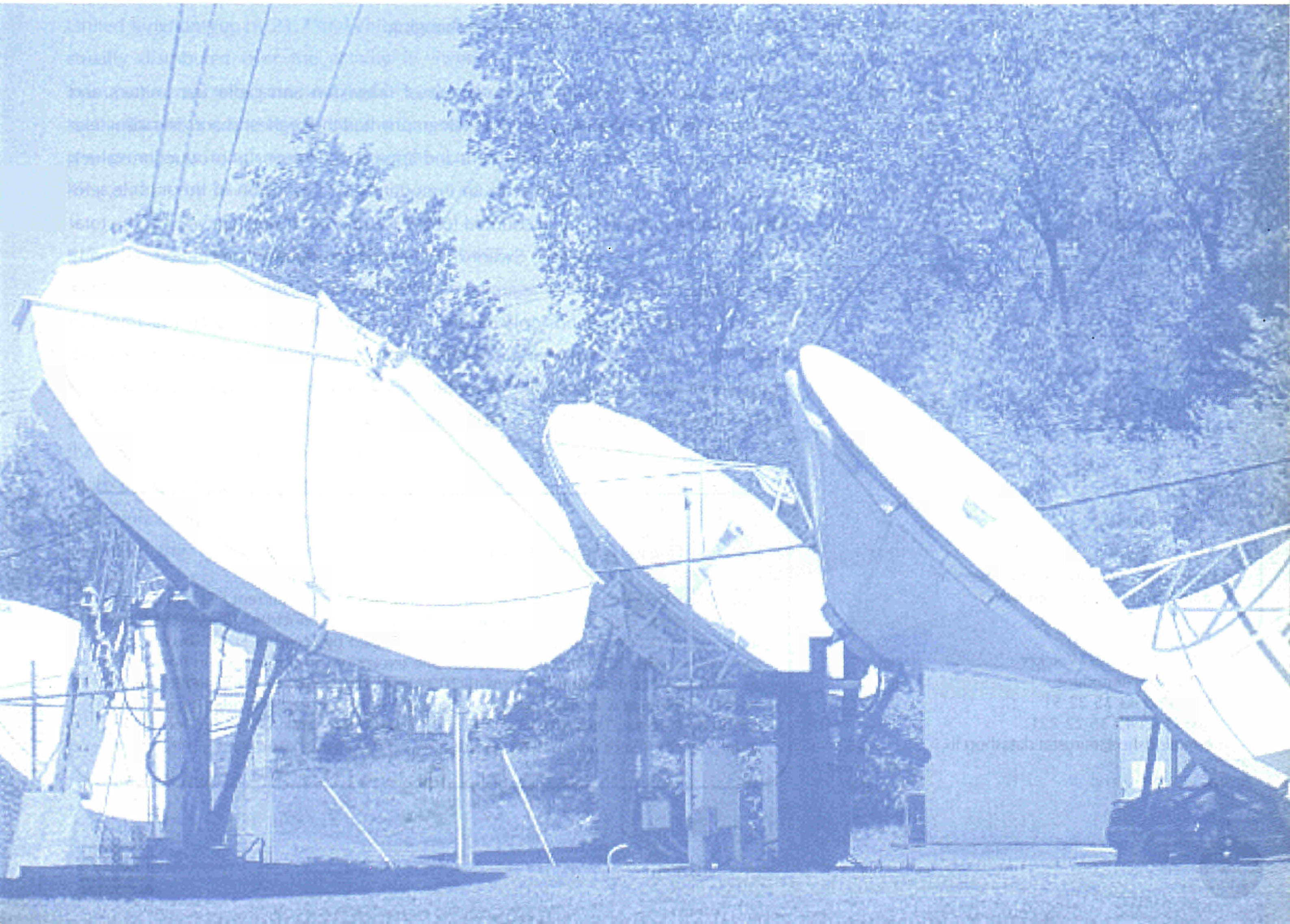


Residents

Non-residents

Source: eurostat

5. Radio, television and communication equipment and apparatus



5. Radio, television and communication equipment and apparatus

Description of the NACE Rev. 1 Groups in Division 32:

32.1: manufacture of electronic valves and tubes and other electronic components;
32.2: manufacture of television and radio transmitters and apparatus for line telephony and line telegraphy;
32.3: manufacture of television and radio receivers, sound or video recording or reproducing apparatus and associated goods.

Structure of the industry

In the manufacture of radio, television and communication equipment and apparatus (NACE Rev. 1 32) the following activities are covered: electronic components (NACE Rev. 1 32.1), equipment and apparatus for telecommunications (NACE Rev. 1 32.2) as well as television and radio sets, sound and video recording apparatus (NACE Rev. 1 32.3).

Manufacturers of radio, television and communication equipment and apparatus often have strong links or integration with the activity of the manufacturers of computers. On the one hand the former deliver products needed in the manufacture of computers, on the other hand progress in the field of the so-called "new media" require compatibility between products. One may cite the examples of digital television, mobile telecommunications or automotive electronics, where the cross-over in technologies is rising. Hence, the industry described in the analysis that follows is one that is very dynamic and rapidly changing.

In most Member States the manufacture of television and radio transmitters and apparatus for line telephony and line telegraphy had the highest shares in radio, television and communication equipment and apparatus (in terms of production value). In Sweden and Finland (both with an important global position in the mobile telephone market), the activity accounted for 93.1% and 88.9% respectively of the total for NACE Rev. 1 32. Indeed, Swedish and Finish producers contributed relatively high shares of the European aggregate, 13.1% and 5.7% respectively. At the other extreme, in the Netherlands only 11.5% (figures for 1997) of the total was found in NACE Rev. 1 32.2. In Germany and the United Kingdom, the two largest producing countries of radio, television and communication equipment within Europe, the corresponding shares were 45.3% and 40.9%.

Further information

For industrial activities the 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). 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.

Enquiries regarding the purchase of data should be directed to:

Eurostat Data-Shop
4, rue Alphonse Weicker
L-2721 Luxembourg
tel: (352) 43 35 22 51
fax: (352) 43 35 22 221
e-mail: dslux@eurostat.datashop.lu

Radio, television and communication equipment and apparatus: NACE Rev. 1 Division 32

The manufacture of electronic valves and tubes and other electronic components is the basic raw material used by the whole of the electronics industry. Its technological progress has been only possible because of the continued advances in performance and miniaturisation of semiconductors and interconnection devices. The market for semiconductors has faced almost continual falling prices and improved quality in recent years, mainly due to dramatic oversupply. European industry has at times been confronted by artificially low prices, especially from manufacturers in the Far East. However, at the end of 1997 anti-dumping agreements were signed with both South Korea and Japan.

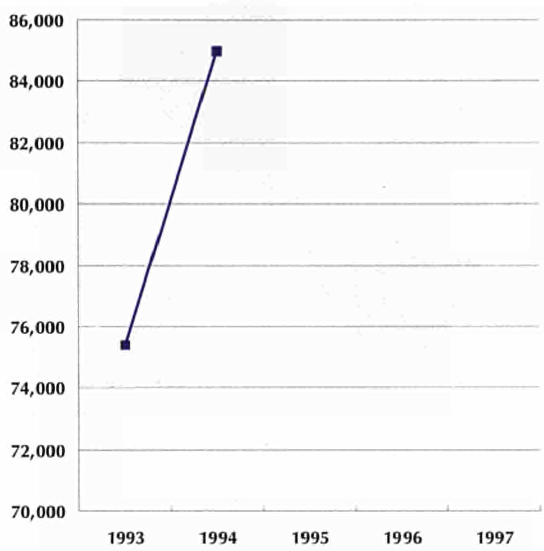


Figure 5.1

EU-15 production in constant prices (million ECU)

Source: eurostat

Year on year changes

In 1997 the production value of radio, television and communication equipment and apparatus increased by 4.7% in EU-15 (at current prices). Within the Member States the highest increases were observed in Sweden (up by 22.8%) and in the United Kingdom (up by 21.7%). Whilst growth was equally distributed over the activity in Sweden, manufacture of television and radio transmitters and apparatus for line telephony and line telegraphy grew at a much faster pace in the United Kingdom (up by 34.8%).

Ireland reported growth for the whole of NACE Rev. 1 32 equal to 18.1%, whilst in Germany production was slightly falling, down by 0.5%. A sharp decrease was reported by France (down by 12.8%). European manufacturers faced strong global competition, especially from supplies originating from the USA and south-east Asia. Indeed, there was a sharp increase of 28.2% in the production value of electronic components in Ireland. Furthermore, this sector of the Irish economy also reported high growth rates for investment in product development and production technology.

In comparison, the annual growth reported by American manufacturers showed considerable growth in 1997. An annual increase of 52.8% was recorded for NACE Rev. 1 32. Production value grew by 13.5% per annum during the period 1990 to 1997, whilst in Japan growth of 2.0% per annum was recorded (between 1990 and 1996). The high growth rate in the USA was largely attributable to the performance of the electronic valves and tubes and other electronic components industry (up by 75.5% in 1997 alone). In Japan the corresponding figure for this industry fell by 7.9% during the same period.

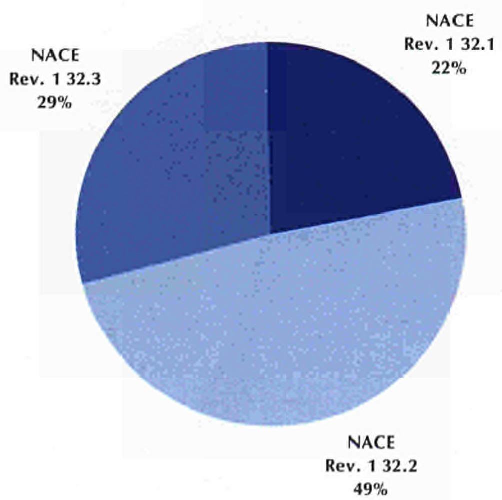


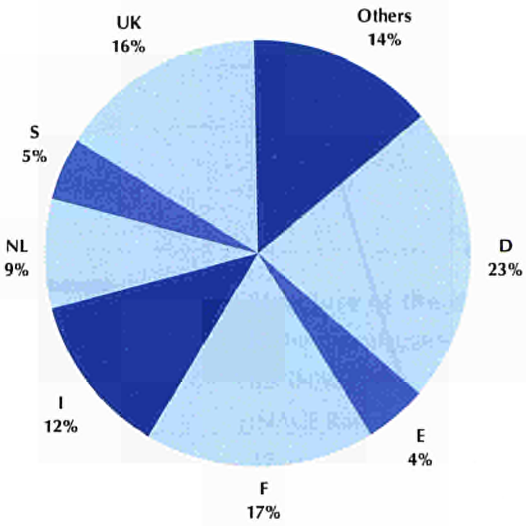
Figure 5.2

EU-15 share of production by industrial group, 1994

Source: eurostat

Figure 5.3

Share of EU-15 value-added at factor cost, 1994



Source: eurostat

Trends in employment

In all reporting Member States the share of persons employed in the employment of total industry was lower than the respective shares of production value (with the exception of Italy). The difference was highest in Sweden and Finland, where the share of production value exceeds the share of persons employed by 34.9% and 34.6% respectively. In 1997 both countries reported an increase of employment in the manufacture of radio, television and communication equipment and apparatus, rising by 12.0% in Finland and by as much as 24.8% in Sweden. The Swedish figure followed growth of 39.3% in 1996. Indeed, between 1990 and 1997 the Nordic countries registered the highest increases in employment: Sweden up on average by 16.5% per annum and Finland by 11.4%. During the same period Ireland also reported considerable gains in the level of employment, increasing on average by 6.6% per annum. However, in 1997 Irish the employment level was reduced by 3.9%.

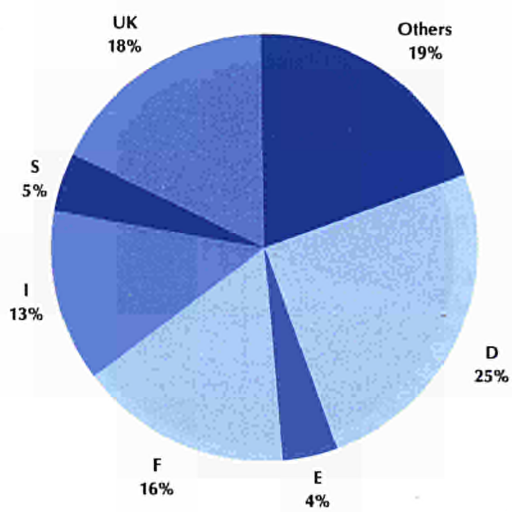
There were declines in employment registered in France (down by 11.3%) and in Germany (down by 7.6%) in 1997. Indeed, German producers reduced the number of persons employed throughout the nineties, resulting in an average decline of 6.5% per annum between 1990 and 1997. In Spain there was a significant shift in employment in 1997 from the manufacture of electronic components (down by 30.7%) to the manufacture of television and radio receivers (up by 26.7%).

Foreign trade performance

The EU is very dependent on imports within this particular industry with a large negative trade deficit being recorded. Nevertheless, since 1991 exports have been increasing at a faster rate than imports, reducing the trade deficit by two-thirds. Within the Triad, only Japan could record a positive trade balance for this industry. The Japanese surplus grew by 12.0% in 1997. The trade deficit recorded in the USA has been reduced at a rapid rate since 1995. This trend continued in 1997, when a reduction of 16.8% (compared to the 1996 figure) was recorded.

Figure 5.4

Share of EU-15 number of persons employed, 1994

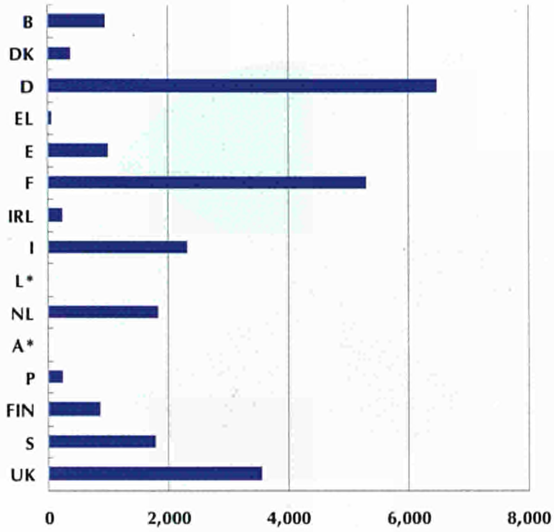


Source: eurostat

The reduction of the negative balance in EU-15 was attributable to a turnaround in the trade performance of several Member States from 1996. France, the Netherlands and Ireland all recorded surpluses during this year and in 1997 they were joined by Germany. Sweden and Finland both reported structural surpluses, which showed signs of continuing to expand. In Finland the export ratio increased by 5.2 percentage points to 73.4% in 1997. Nevertheless, the high amount of good exported did not mean that Finish producers were supplying the whole of their domestic market. Rather, the import penetration ratio gained 4.1 percentage points to stand at 58.7% (also in 1997). Between 1990 and 1997, Swedish foreign trade figures have fallen for both exports and imports. However, imports have been reduced at a faster pace, with the share of imports in apparent consumption down by 26.0 percentage points to 50.9%. During the same period, the share of exports in production decreased to 68.3% (down by 12.3 percentage points) as Swedish manufacturers started to supply a higher proportion of domestic demand. There is a very high level of trade in this particular activity, for example, in the United Kingdom and Germany both export ratios and import penetration ratios record rates above 90%.

Figure 5.5

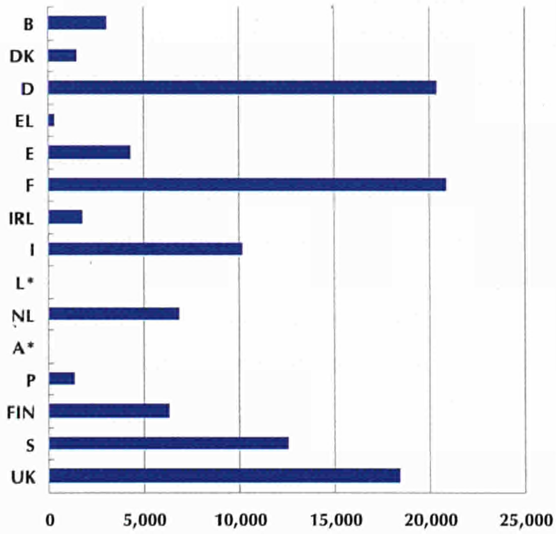
Labour costs, 1997 (million ECU)



Source: eurostat

Figure 5.6

Production in constant prices, 1997 (million ECU)



Source: eurostat

Latest production trends

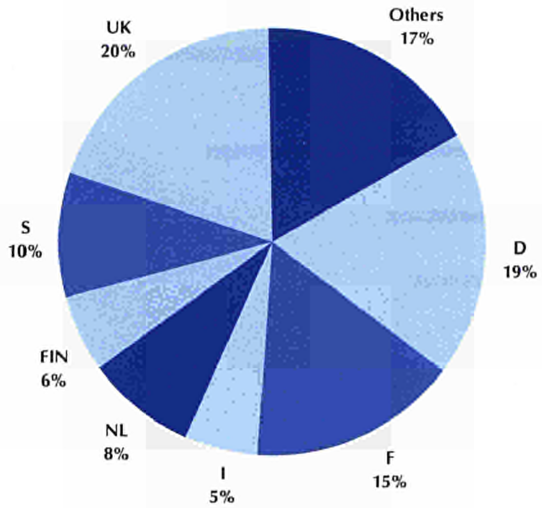
In the first two months of 1999 the production index of the manufacture of radio, television and communication equipment and apparatus continued to grow within the EU. This trend of growth has now been evident since the early part of 1998. In the three months to February 1999 production went up by 2.7% (compared to the three months before). In EUR-11[1] growth was somewhat lower and slowed down to 1.4% in February 1999.

Looking in more detail at the evolution of the production index within the EU, we see that the growth rate of television and radio transmitters and apparatus for line telephony and line telegraphy was much higher at 7.5% (even though this was at a lower rate than late 1998). The production index for electronic valves and tubes and other electronic components increased by 5.2%, with continual improvement from September 1998 onwards (when the production was declining by 1.7%). In the manufacture of television and radio receivers, sound or video recording or reproducing apparatus and associated goods EU production slowed to record growth of only 0.4% (data for December 1998).

(1) Belgium, Germany, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Finland make up the EUR-11 aggregate, otherwise known as the euro-zone.

Figure 5.7

Share of European exports to the rest of the world, 1998



Source: eurostat

The EU-15 index of television and radio transmitters and apparatus for line telephony and line telegraphy showed falling producer prices but at a slower pace than the NACE Rev. 1 32 aggregate (down by 2.4%, for March 1999), whilst producer prices of electronic components fell by 6.4% (September 1998).

In Sweden there was a dramatic change in producer prices from August 1998 onwards. The rate of change increased by 7.8 percentage points to -1.1% in February 1999 (although data for March 1999 showed a decline of 2.6%). In Germany there were rates of change below -4% since the spring of 1998, with the latest data reporting a reduction of 4.7% (December 1998). Falling producer prices were registered in all three NACE Rev. 1 Groups, with prices down by 2.7% in March 1999 for the manufacture of television and radio transmitters. German producer prices for television and radio receivers fell at a faster pace, down by 3.9% in March 1999.

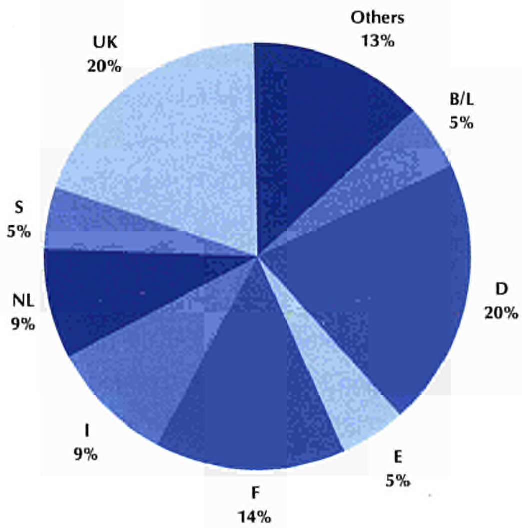
In the manufacture of radio, television and communication equipment there were rising producer prices in Italy (0.8%, March 1999), Denmark (2.1%, February 1999) and Greece (2.4%, December 1998).

Producer price index

In December 1998 the producer price index for radio, television and communication equipment and apparatus fell faster in the European Union than for EUR-11 (down by 3.2% and 2.8% respectively, compared to the same month of the year before). Whilst in EU-15 the change of the index slowed down somewhat (by 0.5 percentage points since August 1998), in the euro-zone the decrease in producer prices has quickened since the early part of 1998.

Figure 5.8

Share of European imports from the rest of the world, 1998



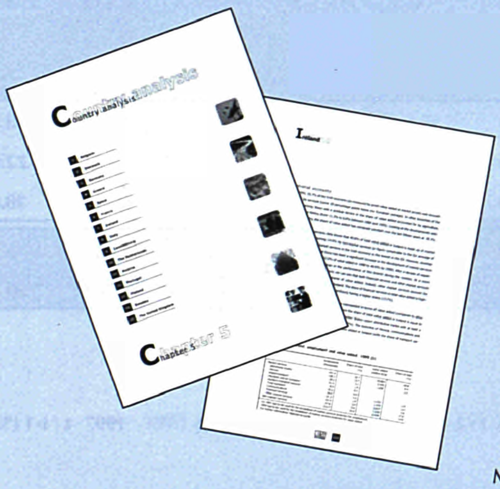
Source: eurostat

SERVICES IN EUROPE 98

There are more than four million enterprises in the area of distributive trades. German enterprises generate on average three times more turnover than their European counterparts. Financial services account for some 3% of total employment in the EU. In Luxembourg this rises to 8.8%, but in Portugal the sector employs only 1.8%.

Small family businesses predominate in transport services, especially in southern Member States. In Greece and Spain there are, on average, only 3.6 and 3.7 employees per enterprise.

Some six million people work in hotels and restaurants, 94% of which have between 0-9 employees. In Belgium, for each person employed in an hotel there are six employed in a restaurant or bar - well above the European average.



The publication says that services now account for 65% of the wealth created in the EU and have transformed the working environment.

In the foreword, Eurostat Director-General Yves Franchet says: "One of the major success stories of the services economy is the considerable number of new jobs that have been created. Women have taken many of these jobs and many posts offer employment opportunities to those members of society who choose or need to work part-time". "Such a flexible system contrasts with the constraints of shift work that are still found in many industrial enterprises. It would appear that these trends will continue: with even leaner, more specialised workforces on the productive-side of the economy and more jobs and value-added in the services economy".

Mr Franchet said of the electronic publication, with its thematic, sectoral and country analyses of the EU service sector that it is "representative of an evolving dissemination policy within Eurostat, as it is one of the first examples of what I hope will be a succession of electronic information tools that combine a variety of different sources of data and information in a seamless manner".

"It is hoped that this comprehensive survey of the state of European services is of interest to a broad spectrum of users and that it marks the start of a more extensive coverage of services by official statistics".

The data come in a new publication "Services in Europe", also available on CD-ROM. It gives an overview of employment, value-added and household consumption, and an in-depth look at the industries that make up the European services economy. This is the first major review of the service sector from Eurostat.

Services in Europe, 200 pages or CD-ROM, available through Eurostat Data Shops and European Commission sales agents. The CD-ROM contains more data, a glossary, information on the data sources and other general information (not included in the paper publication).

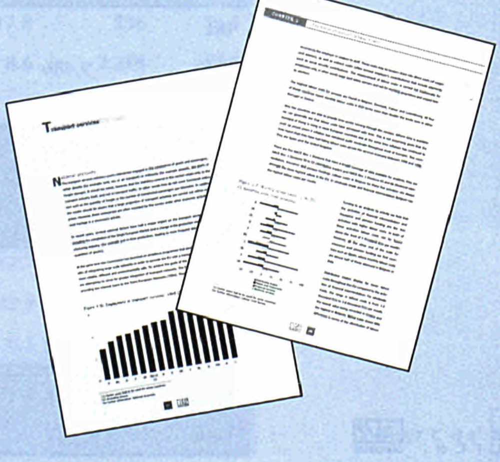


Table 5.1

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	**28,721**	**:**	**30,868**	**7.5**	:	:	:	:	:	:
EUR-11	**22,955**	**:**	**23,915**	**4.2**	:	:	:	:	:	:
B	:	:	:	:	1,211	:	1,169	-3.5	**1,179**	**0.9**
DK	377	0.3	430	13.8	419	-2.4	472	12.6	**473**	**0.1**
D	7,060	-3.5	7,076	0.2	7,206	1.8	6,647	-7.8	**6,869**	**3.3**
EL	100	14.6	82	-17.6	66	-20.3	**60**	**-7.9**	**64**	**6.4**
E	1,338	-0.7	1,361	1.7	1,223	-10.1	1,387	13.4	**1,352**	**-2.6**
F	5,028	1.8	5,285	5.1	5,973	13.0	6,171	3.3	**6,608**	**7.1**
IRL	264	43.1	294	11.2	375	27.6	482	28.4	**549**	**13.9**
I	3,821	-8.4	3,778	-1.1	3,534	-6.5	**4,120**	**16.6**	**4,794**	**16.3**
L	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
NL	2,574	7.3	2,666	3.6	2,656	-0.4	2,349	-11.6	**2,439**	**3.8**
A	1,045	2.2	1,225	17.2	:	:	:	:	:	:
P	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	657	29.1	935	42.4	1,493	59.6	1,670	11.9	**1,885**	**12.9**
S	1,231	10.2	1,426	15.9	1,806	26.7	2,264	25.3	**2,781**	**22.8**
UK	4,058	4.1	5,015	23.6	5,620	12.1	5,521	-1.8	**6,514**	**18.0**
Japan	60,045	22.1	69,499	15.7	77,840	12.0	71,541	-8.1	**66,881**	**-6.5**
USA	63,161	18.1	72,144	14.2	85,785	18.9	94,624	10.3	**149,805**	**58.3**

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	**75,391**	**:**	**85,011**	**12.8**	:	:	:	:	:	:
EUR-11	**60,142**	**:**	**65,478**	**8.9**	:	:	:	:	:	:
B	**2,209**	**4.8**	**2,405**	**8.9**	3,234	34.5	3,018	-6.7	**3,044**	**0.9**
DK	919	5.4	989	7.7	1,145	15.7	1,399	22.2	**1,416**	**1.2**
D	18,671	3.7	19,380	3.8	21,386	10.3	20,602	-3.7	**20,379**	**-1.1**
EL	431	12.3	328	-24.0	285	-13.2	**262**	**-7.9**	**279**	**6.4**
E	3,328	-1.9	3,416	2.6	3,809	11.5	4,417	16.0	**4,304**	**-2.6**
F	14,063	5.4	15,610	11.0	18,345	17.5	21,237	15.8	**20,837**	**-1.9**
IRL	:	:	1,262	:	1,579	25.2	1,551	-1.8	**1,766**	**13.9**
I	9,486	-10.8	9,913	4.5	9,878	-0.3	**10,543**	**6.7**	**10,167**	**-3.6**
L	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
NL	5,709	-0.3	5,842	2.3	6,582	12.7	6,582	0.0	**6,805**	**3.4**
A	2,951	-0.4	3,750	27.1	:	:	:	:	:	:
P	**1,246**	**-3.5**	**1,370**	**9.9**	**1,526**	**11.4**	**1,187**	**-22.2**	1,308	10.2
FIN	1,716	44.3	2,792	62.7	4,529	62.2	5,190	14.6	**6,303**	**21.5**
S	3,465	9.5	4,875	40.7	7,493	53.7	10,588	41.3	**12,514**	**18.2**
UK	10,434	4.7	13,341	27.9	**15,217**	**14.1**	15,505	1.9	**18,438**	**18.9**
Japan	185,378	20.4	204,650	10.4	219,631	7.3	204,904	-6.7	**188,708**	**-7.9**
USA	110,216	19.9	121,475	10.2	138,652	14.1	155,199	11.9	**237,141**	**52.8**

Source: eurostat

Radio, television and communication equipment and apparatus: NACE Rev. 1 Division 32

Table 5.3

Number of persons employed (units)

	1993	t / t-1 (%)	1994	t / t-1 (%)	1995	t / t-1 (%)	1996	t / t-1 (%)	1997	t / t-1 (%)
EU-15	670,404	:	671,642	0.2	:	:	:	:	:	:
EUR-11	523,357	:	510,776	-2.4	:	:	:	:	:	:
B	12,780	-4.0	12,155	-4.9	18,899	55.5	18,137	-4.0	18,542	2.2
DK	8,535	-4.7	8,722	2.2	9,983	14.5	10,371	3.9	10,935	5.4
D	185,118	-8.1	167,554	-9.5	165,682	-1.1	150,317	-9.3	136,883	-8.9
EL	2,383	-6.9	2,374	-0.4	2,388	0.6	2,379	-0.4	2,282	-4.1
E	30,342	-5.0	29,411	-3.1	28,683	-2.5	30,268	5.5	37,339	23.4
F	103,058	-5.1	106,606	3.4	117,186	9.9	129,044	10.1	128,536	-0.4
IRL	6,097	17.3	7,188	17.9	7,697	7.1	8,277	7.5	8,996	8.7
I	86,076	-2.6	88,239	2.5	82,984	-6.0	81,454	-1.8	68,221	-16.2
L	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
NL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
A	23,050	-6.3	24,114	4.6	:	:	:	:	:	:
P	15,638	-3.0	16,240	3.8	14,875	-8.4	13,682	-8.0	13,428	-1.9
FIN	12,326	10.2	15,438	25.2	22,446	45.4	24,880	10.8	27,041	8.7
S	28,460	5.9	30,362	6.7	36,746	21.0	38,026	3.5	45,661	20.1
UK	107,669	-3.3	119,408	10.9	126,290	5.8	121,580	-3.7	120,042	-1.3
Japan	886,736	-5.3	868,972	-2.0	868,749	0.0	844,534	-2.8	831,782	-1.5
USA	732,800	-1.2	744,375	1.6	792,600	6.5	813,000	2.6	823,820	1.3

Source: eurostat

Table 5.4

Labour costs (million ECU)

	1993	t / t-1 (%)	1994	t / t-1 (%)	1995	t / t-1 (%)	1996	t / t-1 (%)	1997	t / t-1 (%)
EU-15	21,872	:	22,714	3.8	:	:	:	:	:	:
EUR-11	18,400	:	18,619	1.2	:	:	:	:	:	:
B	:	:	:	:	902	:	875	-3.0	945	8.0
DK	250	-1.0	264	5.8	327	23.8	365	11.8	379	3.7
D	7,145	1.1	6,938	-2.9	7,388	6.5	7,012	-5.1	6,454	-8.0
EL	44	3.4	44	-1.0	47	7.6	52	10.3	52	-0.7
E	866	-9.0	812	-6.2	784	-3.5	830	5.9	992	19.5
F	3,898	1.3	4,139	6.2	4,777	15.4	5,413	13.3	5,294	-2.2
IRL	:	:	156	:	173	10.8	204	17.8	236	15.4
I	2,653	-12.6	2,664	0.4	2,471	-7.2	2,683	8.6	2,289	-14.7
L	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
NL	1,748	4.1	1,741	-0.4	1,879	7.9	1,786	-4.9	1,816	1.7
A	815	4.3	894	9.6	:	:	:	:	:	:
P	246	-4.5	249	1.0	248	-0.2	228	-7.9	221	-3.3
FIN	298	3.0	432	45.0	690	59.8	792	14.7	853	7.7
S	856	-7.8	979	14.4	1,208	23.4	1,496	23.9	1,768	18.2
UK	2,323	-1.2	2,808	20.9	2,874	2.3	3,049	6.1	3,539	16.1
Japan	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
USA	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Source: eurostat

Table 5.5

Extra-EU-15 exports (million ECU)

	1994	t / t-1 (%)	1995	t / t-1 (%)	1996	t / t-1 (%)	1997	t / t-1 (%)	1998	t / t-1 (%)
EU-15	24,086	30.3	29,386	22.0	35,592	21.1	43,892	23.3	45,265	3.1
B/L	932	35.0	872	-6.5	761	-12.7	1,072	40.9	1,248	16.4
DK	344	25.2	380	10.4	409	7.8	523	27.7	484	-7.3
D	5,778	24.6	6,688	15.8	7,359	10.0	9,011	22.4	8,576	-4.8
EL	9	36.0	16	81.3	27	74.5	51	86.1	74	46.7
E	795	31.6	891	12.1	896	0.5	1,012	13.0	1,124	11.1
F	3,215	16.4	4,075	26.7	4,643	13.9	5,979	28.8	7,262	21.5
IRL	607	90.7	1,087	79.0	1,318	21.3	2,125	61.2	2,551	20.1
I	1,724	20.0	2,060	19.5	2,179	5.8	2,118	-2.8	2,230	5.3
NL	2,738	18.3	3,352	22.4	4,432	32.2	6,555	47.9	5,648	-13.8
A	567	35.7	412	-27.4	596	44.7	877	47.2	965	10.1
P	59	41.9	119	102.7	257	116.4	227	-11.6	196	-13.6
FIN	847	70.6	1,297	53.1	1,810	39.6	2,359	30.3	2,844	20.6
S	2,604	67.3	3,426	31.6	4,698	37.2	6,023	28.2	5,079	-15.7
UK	3,868	32.3	4,714	21.9	6,208	31.7	5,962	-4.0	6,981	17.1

Source: eurostat

Table 5.6

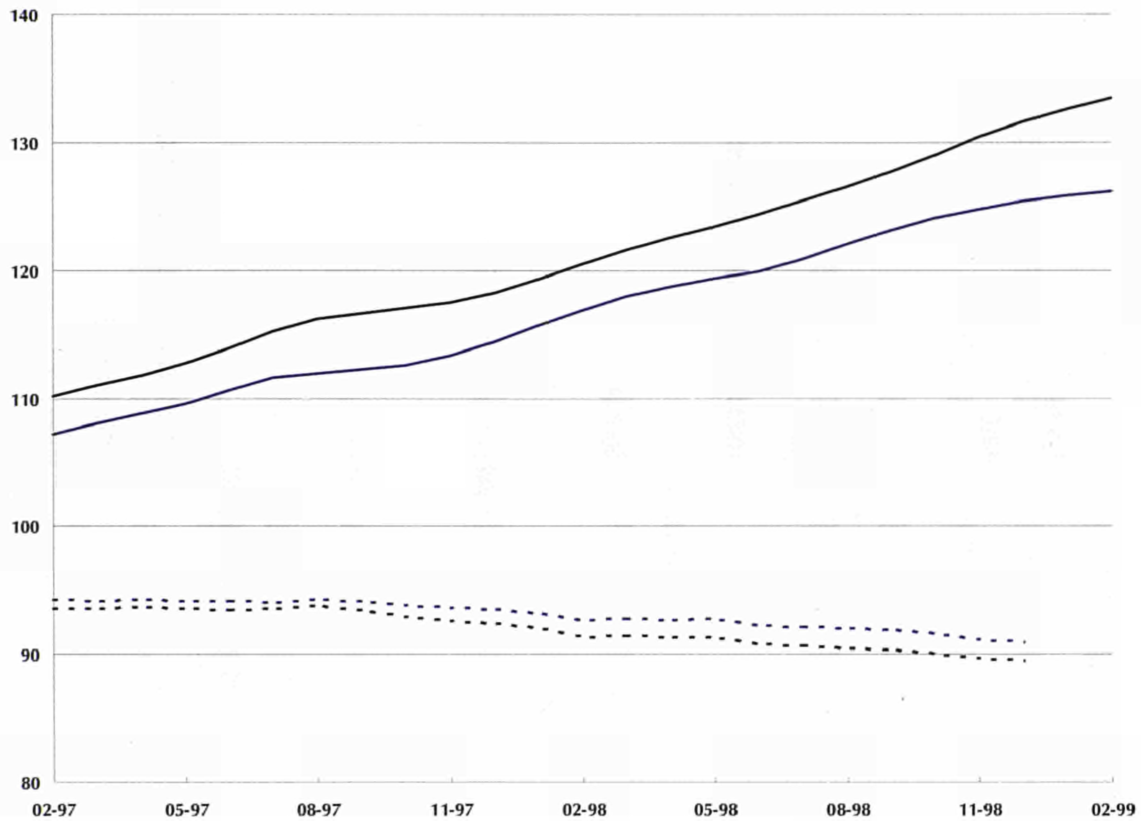
Extra EU-15 imports (million ECU)

	1994	t / t-1 (%)	1995	t / t-1 (%)	1996	t / t-1 (%)	1997	t / t-1 (%)	1998	t / t-1 (%)
EU-15	32,937	:	36,631	11.2	40,287	10.0	44,897	11.4	48,596	8.2
B/L	1,024	-20.2	1,163	13.6	1,262	8.5	1,489	18.0	1,615	8.5
DK	348	13.6	380	9.3	406	6.8	525	29.3	545	3.9
D	8,623	11.2	9,262	7.4	9,087	-1.9	9,770	7.5	11,080	13.4
EL	106	-32.5	96	-9.6	120	25.6	149	24.0	168	12.3
E	977	12.9	1,027	5.1	1,073	4.4	1,252	16.7	1,541	23.1
F	3,394	7.0	4,074	20.0	4,405	8.1	5,587	26.8	6,668	19.4
IRL	789	39.9	1,123	42.2	1,106	-1.5	1,286	16.3	2,104	63.6
I	2,251	11.0	2,276	1.1	2,065	-9.3	2,252	9.1	2,338	3.8
NL	2,933	25.9	3,626	23.6	5,148	42.0	6,942	34.8	6,518	-6.1
A	1,198	20.4	500	-58.2	645	28.9	895	38.7	982	9.8
P	291	27.7	503	72.5	418	-16.8	389	-6.9	401	3.0
FIN	943	:	822	-12.8	742	-9.7	858	15.6	990	15.4
S	1,428	27.8	1,395	-2.3	1,325	-5.0	1,750	32.1	1,577	-9.9
UK	8,632	32.7	10,385	20.3	12,485	20.2	11,753	-5.9	12,068	2.7

Source: eurostat

Radio, television and communication equipment and apparatus: NACE Rev. 1 Division 32

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

Table 5.7

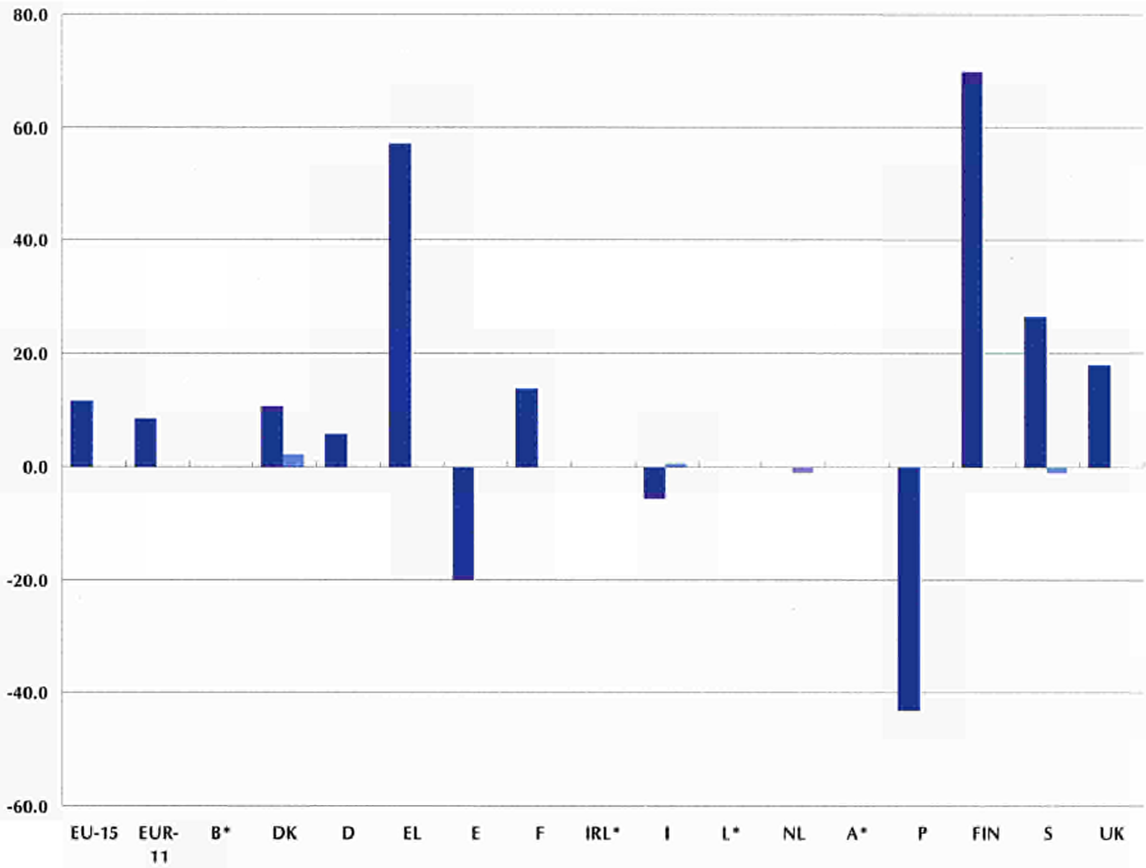
Production and producer price indices: growth rates (%)

	Latest 3 months available			Production index t / t-1	Production index t / t-4	Latest month available	Producer price index t / t-3	Producer price index t / t-12
EU-15	12-98	⇨	02-99	2.7	11.7	12-98	-0.9	-3.2
EUR-11	12-98	⇨	02-99	1.4	8.5	12-98	-1.1	-2.8
B		⇨		:	:		:	:
DK	12-98	⇨	02-99	2.6	10.7	02-99	0.0	2.1
D	12-98	⇨	02-99	1.2	5.9	12-98	-1.1	-4.7
EL	12-98	⇨	02-99	11.4	57.2	12-98	0.0	2.4
E	12-98	⇨	02-99	-6.1	-20.0	01-99	-1.1	-2.0
F	12-98	⇨	02-99	3.3	13.9		:	:
IRL		⇨		:	:		:	:
I	12-98	⇨	02-99	:	-5.7	03-99	-0.1	0.8
L		⇨		:	:		:	:
NL	10-98	⇨	12-98	-0.3	-2.3	02-99	0.0	-1.0
A	10-98	⇨	12-98	0.6	0.4		:	:
P	12-98	⇨	02-99	:	-43.2		:	:
FIN	12-98	⇨	02-99	14.1	70.0		:	:
S	12-98	⇨	02-99	7.1	26.7	03-99	-1.7	-2.6
UK	12-98	⇨	02-99	5.7	18.1	09-98	-2.1	-8.2
NO	12-98	⇨	02-99	3.8	17.9		:	:
Japan		⇨		:	:		:	:
USA		⇨		:	:		:	:

Source: eurostat

Figure 5.10

Production and producer price indices: growth rate, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year, 12-98 to 02-99 (%)



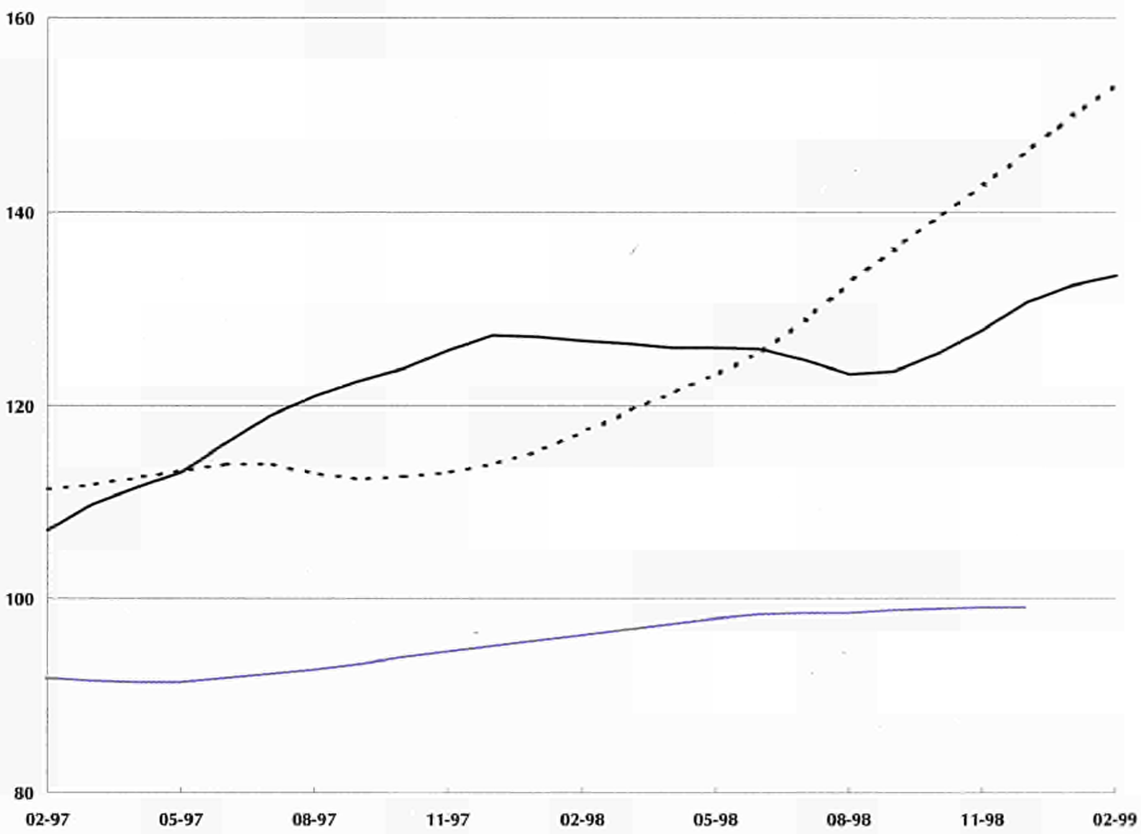
Production

Producer price index

Source: eurostat

Figure 5.11

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



Electronic valves and tubes and other electronic components

TV and radio transmitters, apparatus for line telephony and line telegraphy

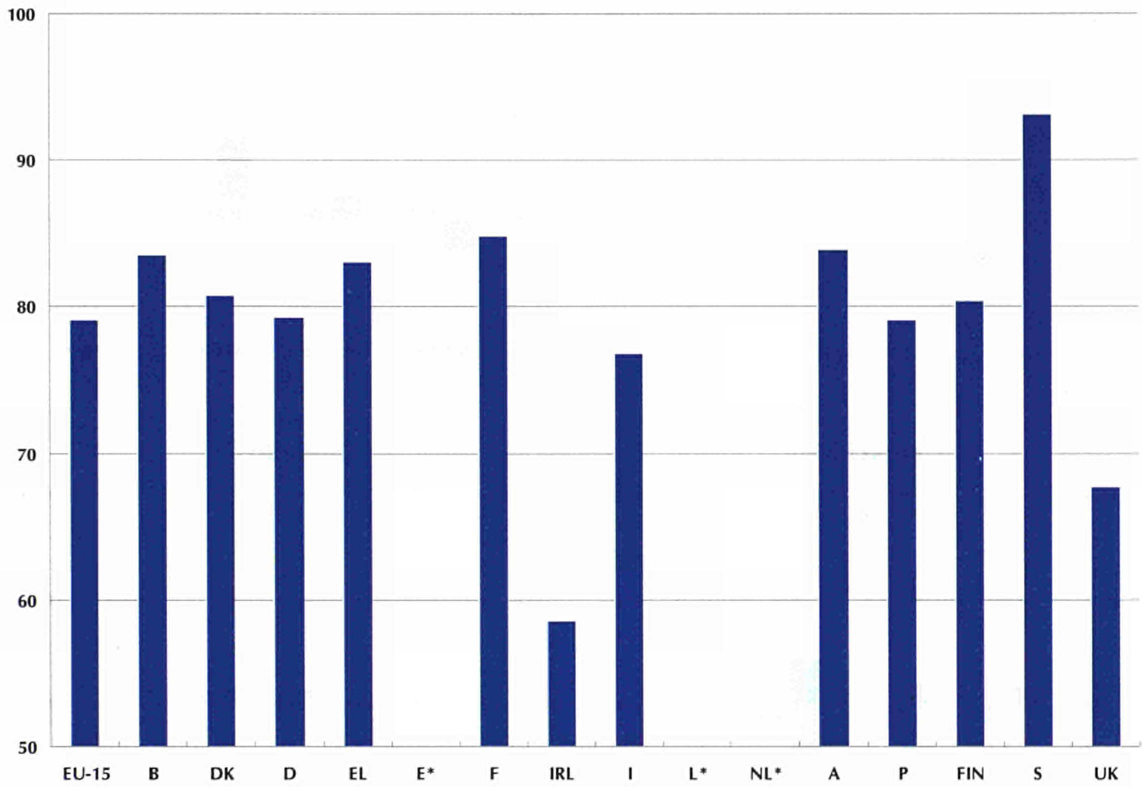
TV and radio receivers, sound or video recording or reproducing apparatus and associated goods

Source: eurostat

Radio, television and communication equipment and apparatus: NACE Rev. 1 Division 32

Figure 5.12

Capacity utilisation rates, 01-99 (%)



Source: DG II, Business Survey

Table 5.8

Capacity utilisation rates (%)

	Growth rate: latest month, t / t-12 (%)	04-98	07-98	10-98	01-99
EU-15	-3.5	81.0	82.9	80.3	79.0
B	-0.1	86.0	85.7	85.4	83.4
DK	-4.8	82.2	81.9	78.2	80.7
D	-2.2	78.7	77.7	75.0	79.2
EL	2.5	83.0	84.0	70.0	83.0
E	4.7	74.8	75.1	81.7	:
F	-3.3	90.3	91.9	87.8	84.7
IRL	-22.7	69.6	77.3	61.3	58.5
I	-8.9	79.1	88.9	81.0	76.7
L	:	:	:	:	:
NL	:	:	:	:	:
A	-2.7	82.5	85.3	86.8	83.8
P	-3.9	84.5	92.2	84.1	79.0
FIN	-5.5	82.0	87.5	84.8	80.3
S	2.2	81.0	87.0	91.0	93.0
UK	-20.0	79.9	78.6	77.1	67.6

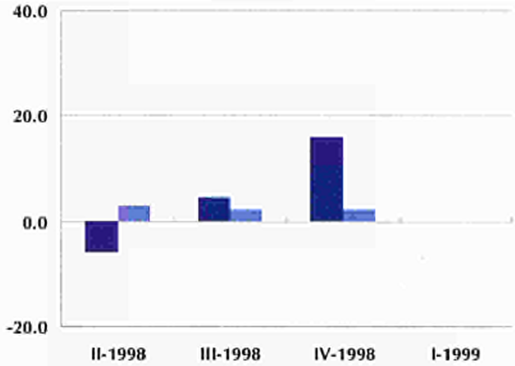
Source: DG II, Business Survey

Figure 5.13

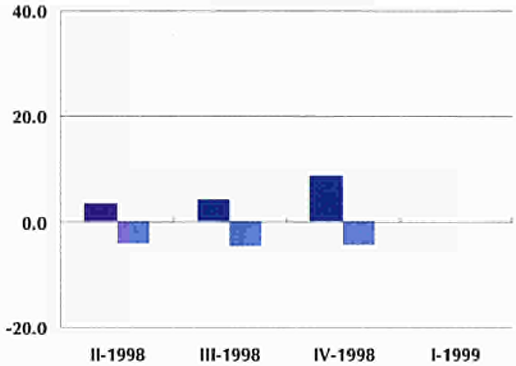
Production and producer price indices: growth rate, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year (%)

Belgique / België

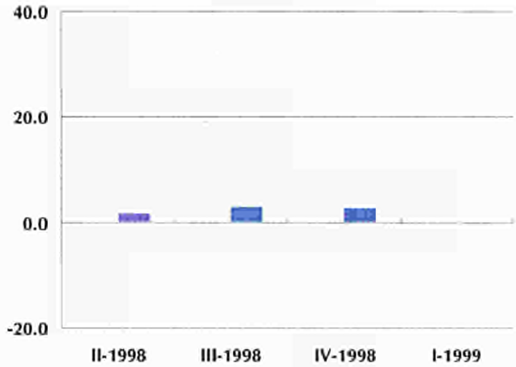
Danmark



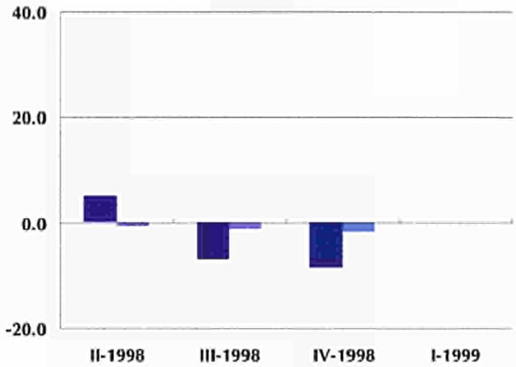
Deutschland



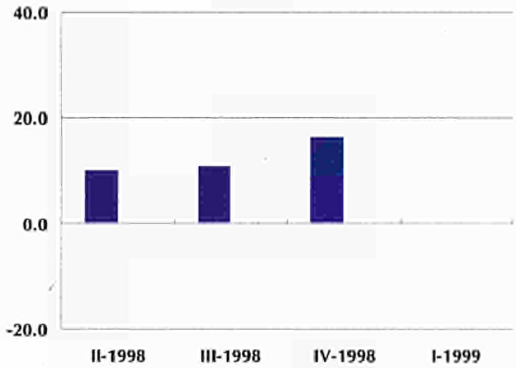
Ellada



España

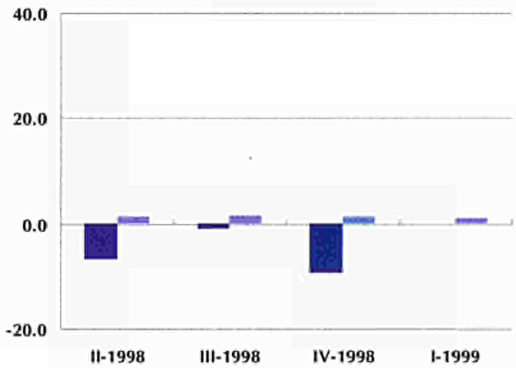


France



Ireland

Italia



Production index

Producer price index

Source: eurostat

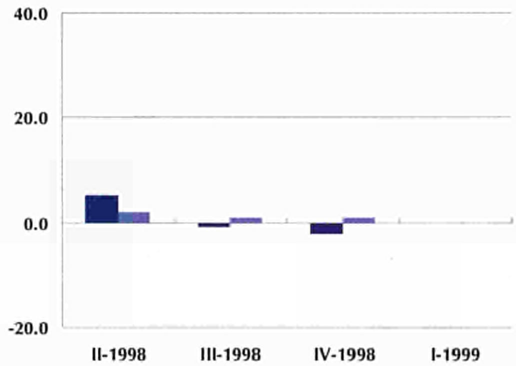
Radio, television and communication equipment and apparatus: NACE Rev. 1 Division 32

Figure 5.13

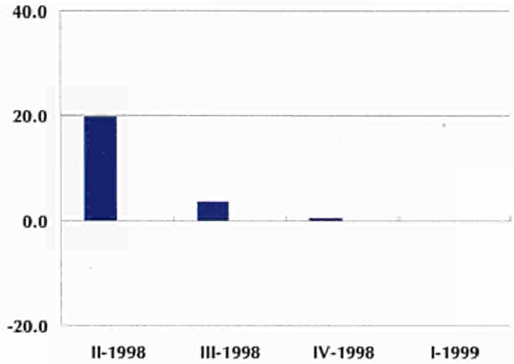
Production and producer price indices: growth rate, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year (%)

Luxembourg

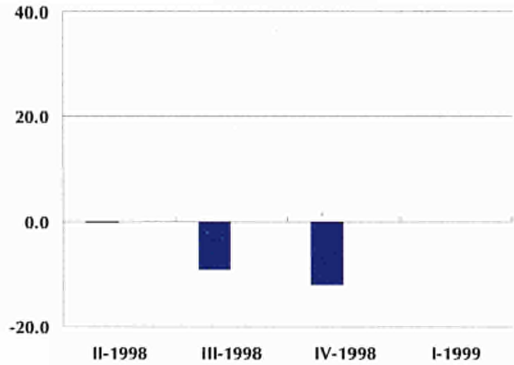
Nederland



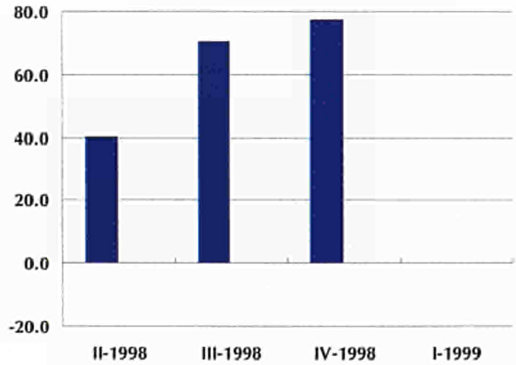
Österreich



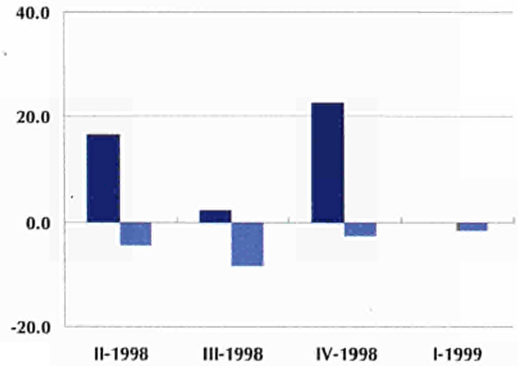
Portugal



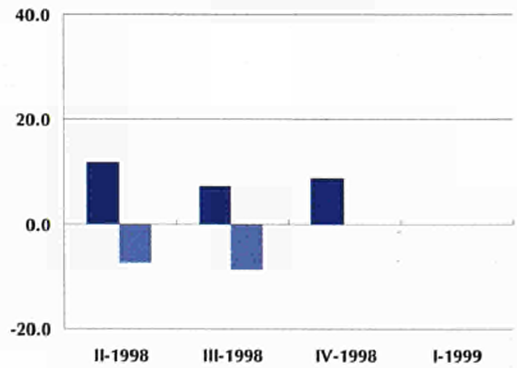
Suomi / Finland



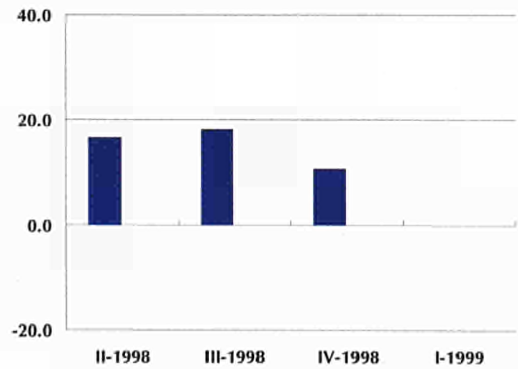
Sverige



United Kingdom



Norway



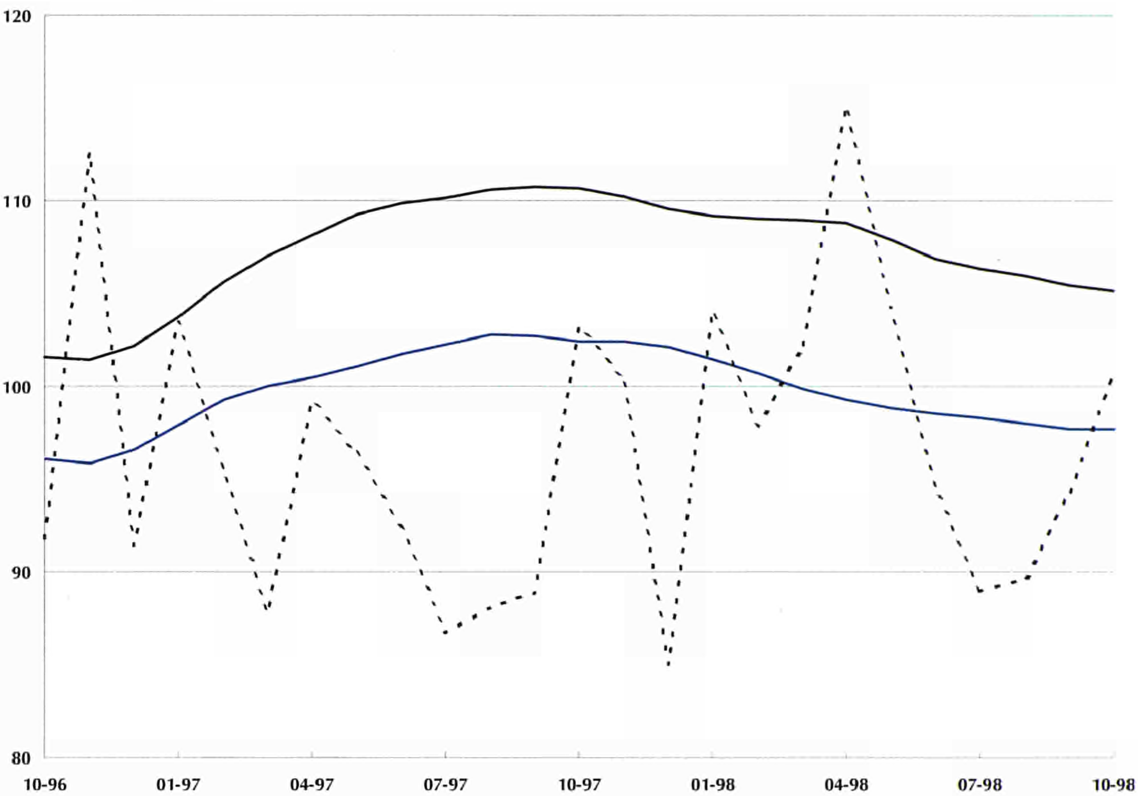
Production index

Producer price index

Source: eurostat

Figure 5.14

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



Source: eurostat

Table 5.9

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

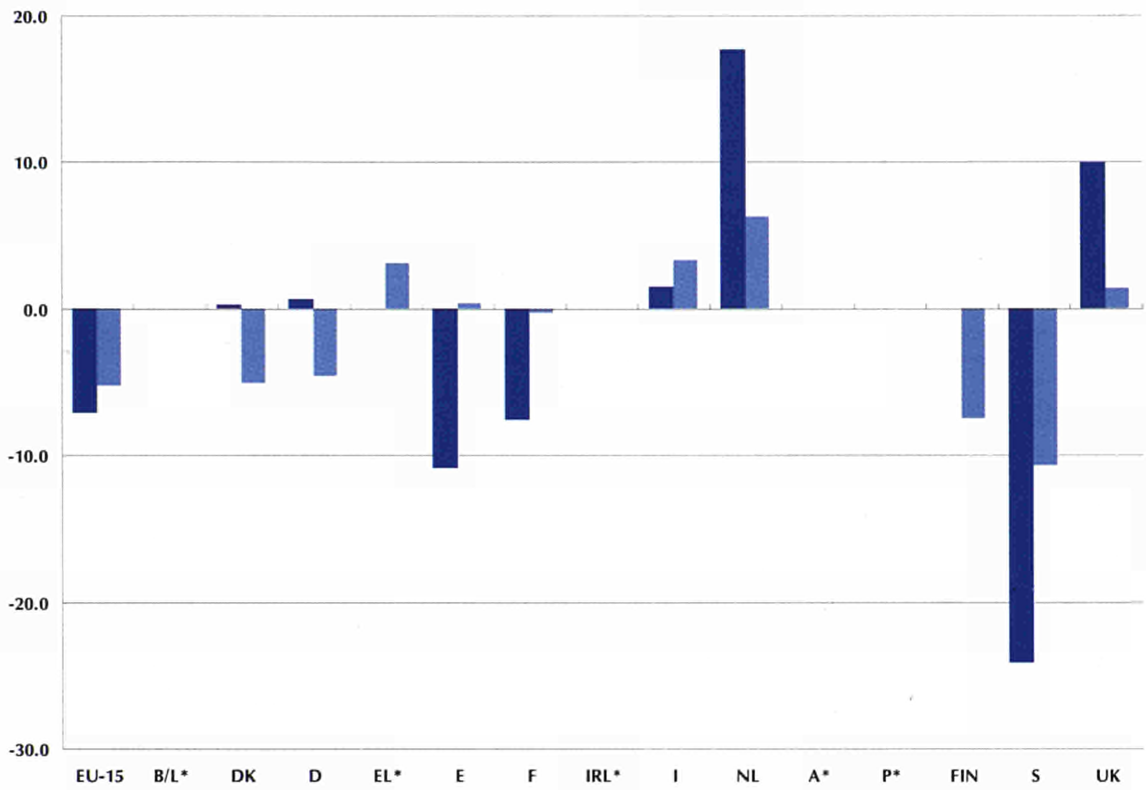
	Latest 3 months available			Exports Value	Exports Volume	Imports Value	Imports Volume	Terms of trade
EU-15	08-98	⇨	10-98	-1.4	3.0	-0.8	0.7	-1.2
B / L	09-97	⇨	11-97	-8.7	-10.3	-0.5	-3.4	5.9
DK	08-98	⇨	10-98	1.8	5.6	-3.7	4.1	28.0
D	09-98	⇨	11-98	-0.6	2.2	-2.6	-3.3	4.6
EL	08-98	⇨	10-98	:	:	-2.8	-7.3	:
E	09-98	⇨	11-98	-3.4	2.7	0.5	2.8	-26.9
F	09-98	⇨	11-98	-2.8	6.3	-1.0	0.5	7.8
IRL	08-97	⇨	10-97	15.9	13.7	4.1	24.3	13.0
I	09-98	⇨	11-98	2.3	-0.5	-0.2	0.2	19.0
NL	09-98	⇨	11-98	2.4	-15.6	-1.3	2.6	44.4
A		⇨		:	:	:	:	:
P	08-97	⇨	10-97	-0.8	-0.7	5.7	5.0	3.0
FIN		⇨		:	:	:	:	:
S		⇨		:	:	:	:	:
UK	09-98	⇨	11-98	4.1	-2.4	0.7	0.7	10.7

Source: eurostat

eurostat

Radio, television and communication equipment and apparatus: NACE Rev. 1 Division 32

Figure 5.15



Foreign trade indices in ECU terms: growth rate, three months compared to the same three months of the previous year, 08-98 to 10-98 (%)

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 (%)

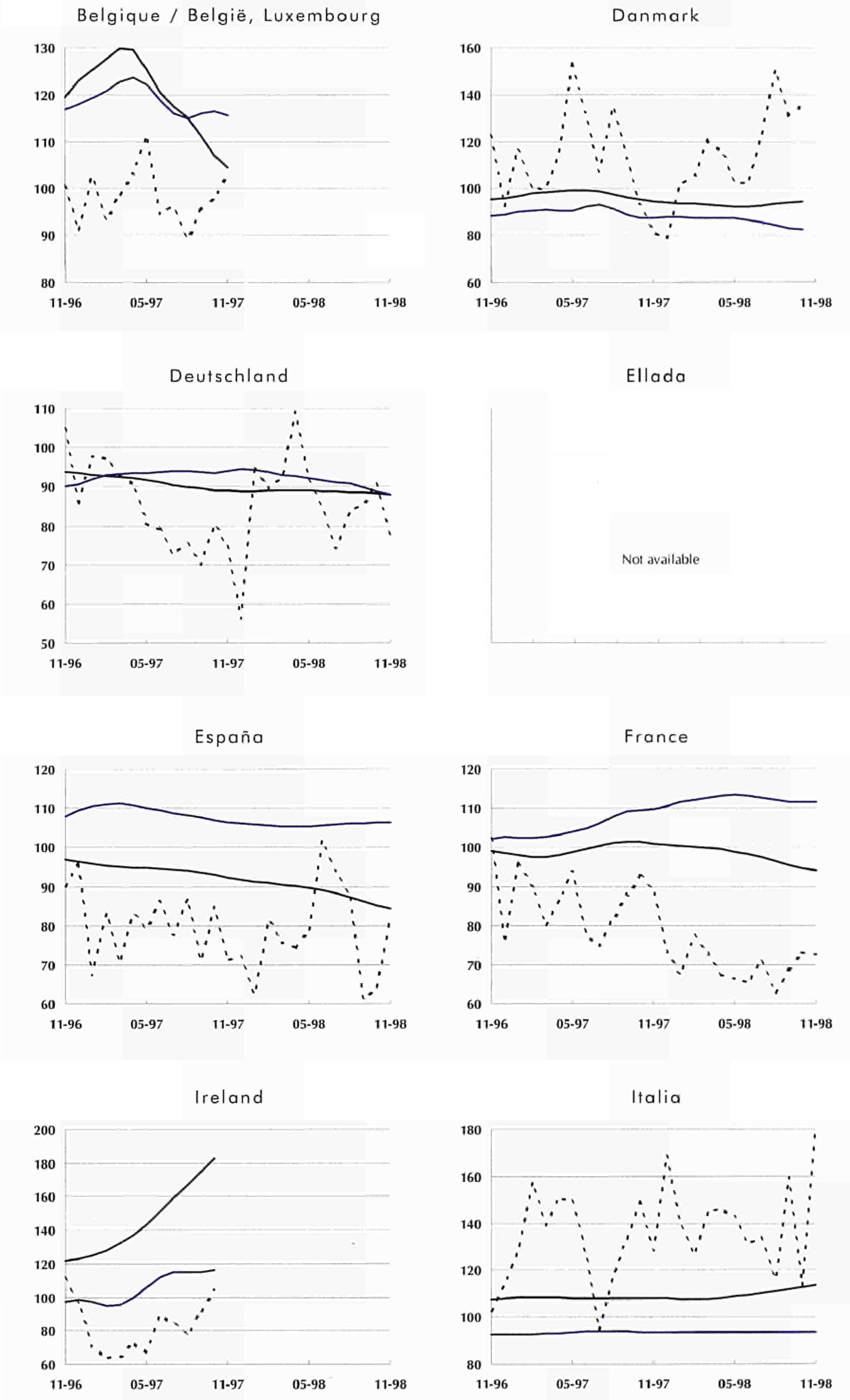
	Latest 3 months available			Exports Value	Exports Volume	Imports Value	Imports Volume	Terms of trade
EU-15	08-98	⇨	10-98	-7.2	5.0	-5.3	8.7	1.5
B / L	09-97	⇨	11-97	-11.1	-13.4	3.9	-0.9	-1.8
DK	08-98	⇨	10-98	0.2	-6.2	-5.1	10.9	22.5
D	09-98	⇨	11-98	-0.2	0.7	-4.5	8.2	12.7
EL	08-98	⇨	10-98	:	:	3.0	18.6	:
E	09-98	⇨	11-98	-8.7	18.0	0.1	17.3	-8.8
F	09-98	⇨	11-98	-7.3	26.0	-1.5	6.5	-20.4
IRL	08-97	⇨	10-97	53.5	82.5	22.8	50.4	2.6
I	09-98	⇨	11-98	5.9	-2.7	-0.1	-0.2	10.3
NL	09-98	⇨	11-98	13.8	-33.7	0.8	-4.7	70.1
A		⇨		:	:	:	:	:
P	08-97	⇨	10-97	-5.3	-0.9	27.6	30.5	-3.4
FIN	09-98	⇨	11-98	1.7	34.7	-5.9	18.9	:
S	08-98	⇨	10-98	-24.2	24.5	-10.7	6.7	:
UK	09-98	⇨	11-98	11.8	-0.4	2.9	1.8	10.7

Source: eurostat

Radio, television and communication equipment and apparatus: NACE Rev. 1 Division 32

Figure 5.16

Foreign trade indices in ECU terms (1995 = 100)



Export value index

Import value index

Terms of trade

Source: eurostat

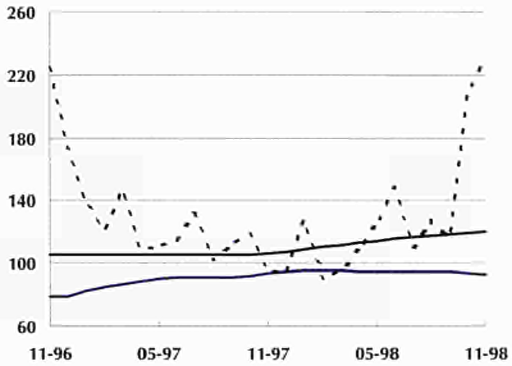
eurostat

Radio, television and communication equipment and apparatus: NACE Rev. 1 Division 32

Figure 5.16

Foreign trade indices in ECU terms (1995 = 100)

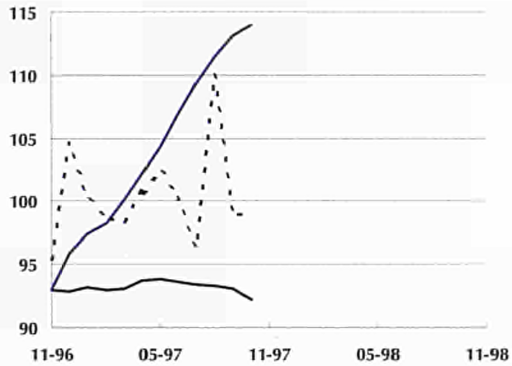
Nederland



Österreich

Not available

Portugal



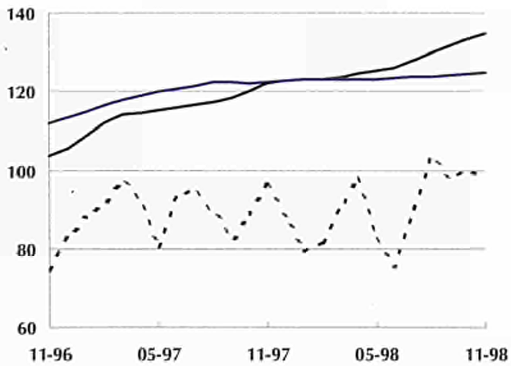
Suomi / Finland

Not available

Sverige

Not available

United Kingdom



Export value index

Import value index

Terms of trade

Source: eurostat

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 101.

6. Post and telecommunications

6. Post and telecommunications

Description of the NACE Rev. 1 Groups in Division 64:

64.1: post and courier activities;
64.2: telecommunications.

Telecommunications is a services market that is inexorably linked with the process of globalisation, making it possible for countries and enterprises to move closer together. On financial markets stocks and shares of enterprises engaged in telecommunications show high turnover and rising values due to the prominent role of telecoms' service providers. The market of post and telecommunications has lately been characterised by mergers and acquisitions as well as increased competition, as many markets have been liberalised. In spring 1999, Olivetti bid to take-over its considerably larger competitor Telecom Italia, although this was postponed due to an agreed merger between Deutsche Telekom and Telecom Italia (which at the time of writing had yet to be approved by the European competition authorities). British Telecom and AT&T, the largest telecommunications company in the USA, have agreed to take 15% stakes in Japan Telecom, the third largest telecommunications company in Japan.

There are many changes on the post and telecommunications market as many countries privatise their formerly state-owned enterprises and allow additional private suppliers to compete on markets. For a long time post activities were also constrained to a single public monopoly supplier. However, there has been an opening up of markets in this activity too. Indeed, market competition exists in many Member States now for services such as private courier activities, suppliers of mobile phone services and more recently (in some Member States) suppliers of fixed telephone lines that may be used as an alternative to the public network. Deregulation of the latter has also led to competition between several enterprises, as a national fixed line network is difficult to replace (due to the large investment costs). Hence, price commissions and regulators have tended to encourage competition using the same network. In the United Kingdom privatisation was already in force in the eighties when the government decided to open several markets to competition.

Enquiries regarding the purchase of data should be directed to:

Eurostat Data-Shop
4, rue Alphonse Weicker
L-2721 Luxembourg
tel: (352) 43 35 22 51
fax: (352) 43 35 22 221
e-mail: dslux@eurostat.datashop.lu

Further information

For service activities the data covers the whole population of enterprises. Hence, data covers small and medium sized enterprises with any number of employees. For these series it is not at present possible to estimate EU totals, nor to use short-term indicators as a proxy for extending series (nowcasting).

There are two main strategic developments for strengthening a company's market position: some enterprises engage in predatory action by purchasing competitors or searching for strategic partners across several continents. An alternative strategy is to concentrate on a single market, as Spanish Telefonica have done in Latin America.

In some markets technology shifts the market conditions very quickly: for example, suppliers of mobile telephone services are likely to be forced to co-operate on a global network with compatible standards world-wide (following an agreement between Ericsson and Qualcomm in March 1999).

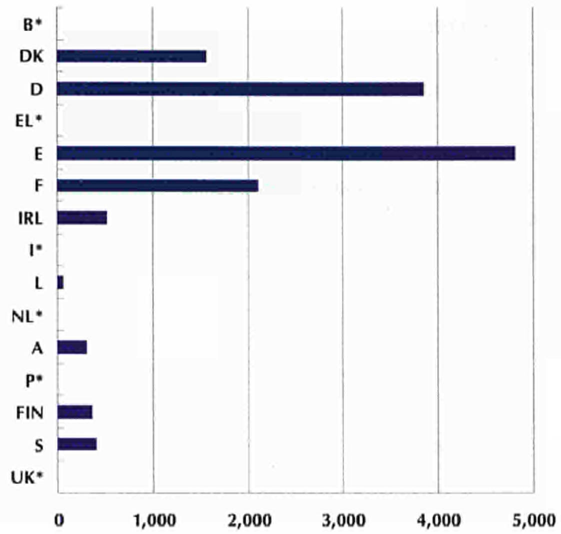
Larger Member States have quickly developed a large supply of private radio and television stations. In some Member States private stations do not have a long history, as for example in Austria, where private radio stations received licences in spring 1998 and private television programmes are still only allowed in a limited area. Austria and Ireland are the only European Member States that have not liberalised television. In 1959 the United Kingdom liberalised the transmission of television programmes to commercial TV (the first European country), followed by Italy in 1980 and Germany in 1984.

European market for post and telecommunications

In post and telecommunications (NACE Rev. 1 64) the following services are covered: post and courier activities (NACE Rev. 1 64.1) as well as telecommunications (NACE Rev. 1 64.2). In all Member States for which data was available telecommunications was responsible for between two-thirds and three-quarters of turnover. The exception was in Germany, where in 1996 telecommunications accounted for 94.8% of total turnover for NACE Rev. 1 64, whilst in France the share was only 65.4%. There was also a high share of post and courier activities registered in Finland (32.7% of total turnover for 1996) and in Sweden (31.1% of total turnover for 1995).

Figure 6.1

Number of enterprises, 1996 (units)



Source: eurostat

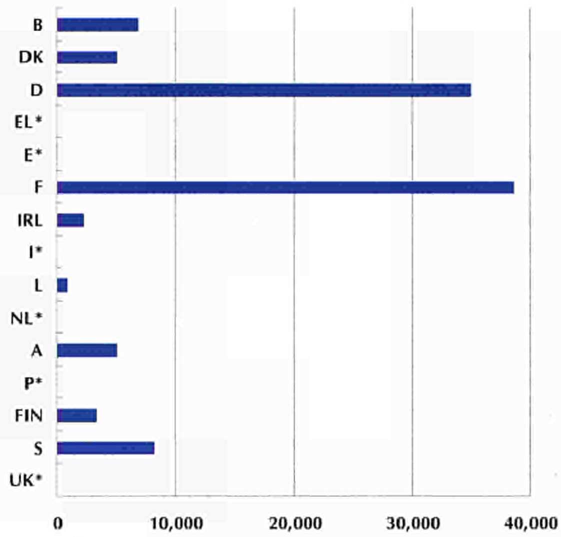
A look at the breakdown of post and courier activities shows a different picture in Germany once again. Most European Member States (for which data was available) registered a high level of national post activities (NACE Rev. 1 64.11) with shares of turnover in post and courier activities between 85% and 94%, whilst in Germany courier activities other than national post activities (NACE Rev. 1 64.12) were responsible for 61.7% of turnover in 1996.

Post and telecommunications is a market still dominated by very large enterprises. The share of the number of employees in the total number of persons employed was extremely high in NACE Rev. 1 64, with shares of 97.9% in Ireland and 99.8% in France. In the United Kingdom with its longer tradition of private enterprises, only 88.4% of the total number of persons employed were employees (data for 1994).

In 1996 the highest density of post and telecommunications enterprises was observed in Denmark (3.0 enterprises per ten thousand inhabitants) whilst in France and Austria there were only 0.4 enterprises per ten thousand inhabitants. In Germany there were 0.5 enterprises per ten thousand inhabitants. Taking also the data for 1995 into consideration there had been an even lower density in

Figure 6.2

Turnover, 1996
(million ECU)



Source: eurostat

Portugal with 0.05 enterprises per ten thousand inhabitants. In 1996, the countries with the highest enterprise density (behind Denmark) were Luxembourg and Ireland, with only half as many enterprises per ten thousand inhabitants as in Denmark: 1.5 enterprises and 1.4 enterprises respectively.

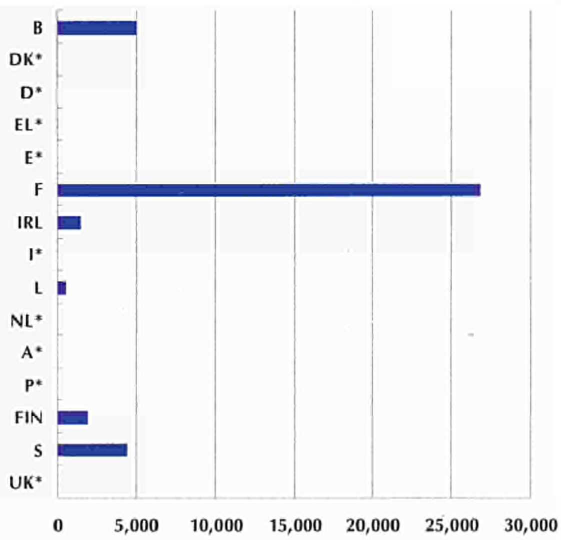
Although the shares in turnover would suggest that there may be more enterprises located within the activity of telecommunications, a varied picture existed across the EU (amongst the countries for which data was available). Whilst in 1996 only a small share NACE Rev. 1 64 enterprises in Germany and Ireland were engaged in telecommunications (5.0% and 5.3% respectively), there were much higher shares in Finland, France and Austria (44.2%, 39.2% and 32.8% of the NACE Rev. 1 64 total respectively).

In all Member States the number of enterprises in post and courier activities was naturally dominated by courier activities other than national post activities. In Germany enterprises in this activity accounted for 86.9% of the total for post and courier activities, whilst in Spain the figure was almost 100% (99.97%, for 1995).

In Luxembourg only 33.8% of all enterprises in post and telecommunications were located in courier activities other than national post activities. This may be due to the small size of the national economy and the reduced opportunities that exist to set-up national courier networks. The same shares in Germany and Spain reported that 82.5% and 79.2% of all enterprises in NACE Rev. 1 64 were accounted for by courier activities other than national post activities.

Figure 6.3

Value added at factor cost, 1996
(million ECU)



Source: eurostat

Employment in post and telecommunications

In 1996 the largest share of the persons employed in post and telecommunications could be found in post and courier activities, more precisely in national postal activities. Amongst the countries for which data is available for 1996, Denmark registered the highest share of persons employed in post and courier activities (68.1%) and 80.1% of these were employed in national post activities. In Italian post and courier activities there was a similar share of 67.7% of the total number of persons employed in NACE Rev. 1 64, but an even higher share working in national post activities (96.6%, figures for 1995). There was a different picture in Ireland where in 1996 a higher level of persons employed was recorded in telecommunications (55.7%).

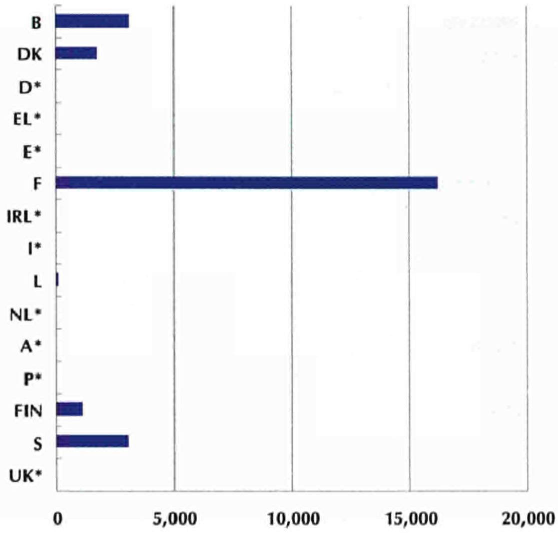


Figure 6.4

Personnel costs, 1996 (million ECU)

Source: eurostat

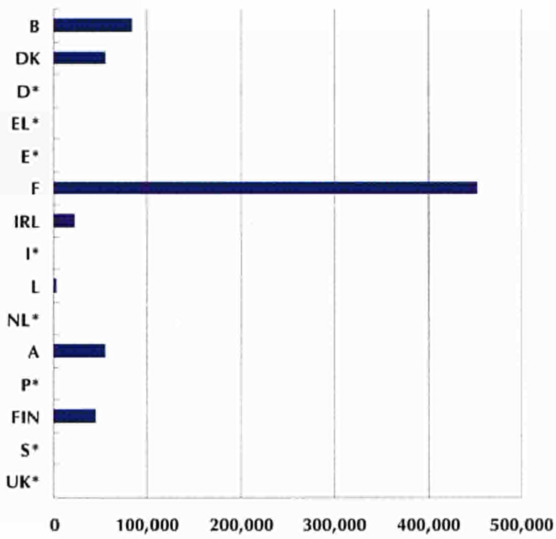
Corresponding to the distribution of enterprises between the two activities at the 3-digit level, the number of persons employed per enterprise was higher in telecommunications than in post and courier services. Only in France was the ratio in post and courier activities higher than in telecommunications (with 225 and 198 persons employed on average per enterprise respectively). A high ratio in telecommunications was reported in both Ireland and Italy (443 and 465 persons employed per enterprise respectively, the latter for 1995).

Personnel costs per employee varied across Member States. Low personnel cost per head could be observed in Portugal (20.5 thousand ECU per head in 1995). However, even lower costs were reported for NACE Rev. 1 64 in the United Kingdom, with 13.4 thousand ECU per head in 1994. In France personnel costs per head were considerably higher (36.0 thousand ECU), followed in descending order by Denmark and Luxembourg (32.2 thousand ECU and 31.4 thousand ECU, all data for 1996).

Personnel costs per head were generally higher in telecommunications than in post and courier services. For example, in France telecommunications' enterprises paid 44.9 thousand ECU per employee, whilst in post and courier activities only 33.1 thousand ECU per head. In Denmark the difference was even higher, with average personnel costs in telecommunications equal to 50.8 thousand ECU, whilst in post and courier activities average personnel costs were equal to only 23.4 thousand ECU. The highest personnel costs per employee were found in the activity of telecommunications in Belgium, where the average employee received some 82.9 thousand ECU (data for 1995).

Figure 6.5

Number of persons employed, 1996 (units)



Source: eurostat

In order to measure the labour productivity of an activity we use wage adjusted labour productivity, which measures the extent that value added covers personnel costs. In all reporting countries for which data was available (at the level of the NACE Rev. 1 Division), value added covered personnel costs. Looking at the data in more detail, we find that Sweden (for national post activities) and Luxembourg (for other courier activities) registered a value added lower than personnel costs (98.0% and 62.4% respectively).

In telecommunications labour productivity was generally higher than in post and courier activities. French and Finish enterprises reported a value added which exceeded personnel costs by almost two and a half times (247.7% and 242.1% respectively, for 1996). In Italy and Spain there were even higher figures recorded for wage adjusted labour productivity (341.1% for 1995 and 296.9% for 1994 respectively). On the other hand, telecommunications enterprises in Belgium registered a comparatively low ratio of 128.3% (in 1995). Within the countries for which data was available for both 3-digit NACE Rev. 1 activities, Belgium was the only country to record lower wage adjusted labour productivity in telecommunications than in courier activities other than national post activities (131.2%).

Investment

In 1996, Danish suppliers of post and telecommunications reinvested the largest share of turnover (28.8%) amongst the countries for which data was available. Investment in Finland and Ireland was equivalent to 19.2% and 18.4% shares of turnover. Portugal registered the lowest ratio of reinvested turnover at 6.3% in 1995.

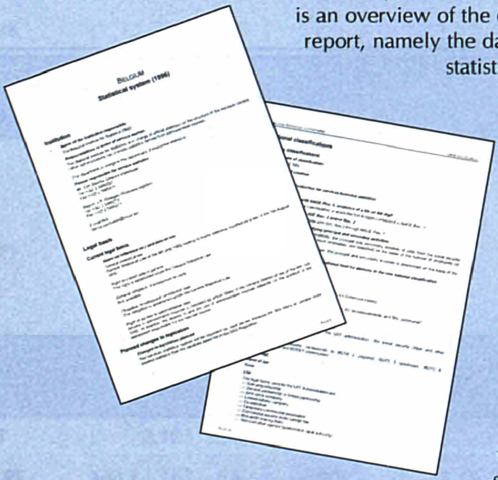
The Danish figure was mainly due to high investment ratio in the activity of telecommunications (investment equal to 38.3% of turnover in 1996). In Finland and the United Kingdom investments have also been lively (27.3% and 27.2%), whilst in France a lower level was observed (15.5%).

In the activity of post and courier services, the share of reinvested turnover was much lower in France and Finland, where there investment accounted for only 2.2% and 2.6% of turnover respectively. In Ireland the figure was twice as high with investment for post and courier activities equal to some 5.2% of turnover. In courier activities other than national post activities there was an even more pronounced trend for lower investments: Sweden (1.2%), Denmark (1.8%) and the United Kingdom (5.0%) all reported very low ratios. The share was somewhat higher in the national post activities of Denmark (4.6%) and Sweden (7.3%).

Other Eurostat products

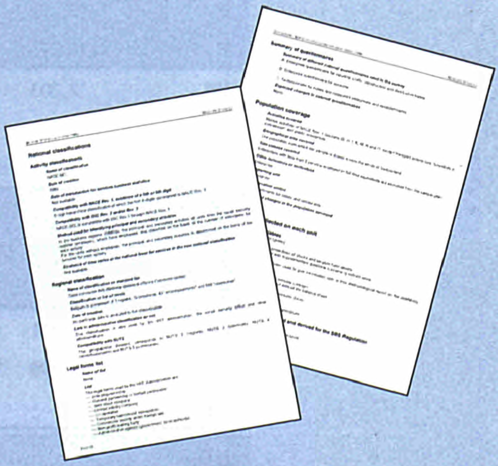
MERCURE SOURCES

This publication aims to document current practice in each of the members of the European Union (EU) and of the European Free Trade Area (EFTA) in the field of structural business statistics in the service sectors. Each country report is structured in the same way. The first part of the report explains the statistical system and the second part provides details on each national data source. There is one report on the statistical system per country and 46 different sources in total for the 17 countries currently available.



Information is provided on the following areas for the statistical system: the institution responsible, the legal framework, classifications, units, the business register and a summary of data sources. This last item is an overview of the data sources used and it serves as an introduction for the second part of each national report, namely the data sources. These sources are classified as surveys or administrative sources. As with the statistical system, the part relating to sources also has a standard structure. Some of the elements are only relevant for statistical surveys and are not relevant for sources based directly on administrative returns. The information provided for each source is: administrative and legal information, summary of the types of questionnaires used, population coverage, lists of information collected on each unit, primary data collection method including information on sample sizes and response rates, methods for the production of results, information on national quality reports and dissemination.

The contents of the CD-ROM can be viewed using most recent web browsers that support frames and JavaScript (e.g. Netscape 3 or later, Internet Explorer 4 or later). Through the browser the user can access a tailor-made interface showing the detailed methodological information. The information can be selected either by reading through the publication screen by screen or by navigating using a hierarchical tree structure made up of the full list of methodological information. The interface also provides the possibility to view the information for two different countries or two different sources from the same country on screen at the same time, which makes comparisons of the information easier to do.



This product is available in two forms, an electronic version on CD-ROM and a paper publication.

The paper publication runs to slightly more than 400 pages structured country by country and then source by source. A full list of the methodological items presented for each statistical system and each source is annexed to the publication.

Table 6.1

Number of enterprises, 1996 (units)

	6400	6410	(%)	6411	(%)	6412	(%)	6420	(%)
EU-15	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
EUR-11	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
B	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
DK	1,565	1,427	91.2	27	1.7	1,400	89.5	138	8.8
D	3,845	3,651	95.0	480	12.5	3,171	82.5	194	5.0
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	4,807	3,808	79.2	1	0.0	3,807	79.2	999	20.8
F	2,109	1,282	60.8	:	:	:	:	:	:
IRL	528	500	94.7	:	:	:	:	:	:
I	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
L	65	:	:	:	:	22	33.8	:	:
NL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
A	302	203	67.2	0	0.0	203	67.2	99	32.8
P	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	369	206	55.8	:	:	:	:	:	:
S	412	174	42.2	8	1.9	166	40.3	238	57.8
UK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Japan	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
USA	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Source: eurostat

Table 6.2

Turnover, 1996 (million ECU)

	6400	6410	(%)	6411	(%)	6412	(%)	6420	(%)
EU-15	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
EUR-11	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
B	6,782	2,081	30.7	:	:	:	:	:	:
DK	5,077	1,413	27.8	1,204	23.7	209	4.1	3,664	72.2
D	34,965	1,818	5.2	696	2.0	1,122	3.2	33,147	94.8
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
F	38,595	13,357	34.6	:	:	:	:	:	:
IRL	2,203	571	25.9	:	:	:	:	:	:
I	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
L	861	:	:	:	:	20	2.4	:	:
NL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
A	5,018	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
P	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	3,241	1,061	32.7	:	:	:	:	:	:
S	8,259	2,639	32.0	2,297	27.8	342	4.1	5,620	68.0
UK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Japan	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
USA	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Source: eurostat

Table 6.3

Value added at factor cost, 1996 (million ECU)

	6400	6410	(%)	6411	(%)	6412	(%)	6420	(%)
EU-15	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
EUR-11	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
B	5,036	1,574	31.2	:	:	:	:	:	:
DK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
D	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
F	26,795	10,099	37.7	:	:	:	:	:	:
IRL	1,481	390	26.3	:	:	:	:	:	:
I	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
L	521	:	:	:	:	3	0.7	:	:
NL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
A	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
P	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	1,924	708	36.8	:	:	:	:	:	:
S	4,394	1,486	33.8	1,296	29.5	190	4.3	2,907	66.2
UK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Japan	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
USA	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Source: eurostat

Table 6.4

Personnel costs, 1996 (million ECU)

	6400	6410	(%)	6411	(%)	6412	(%)	6420	(%)
EU-15	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
EUR-11	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
B	3,101	1,449	46.7	:	:	:	:	:	:
DK	1,763	866	49.1	788	44.7	79	4.5	897	50.9
D	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
F	16,253	9,512	58.5	:	:	:	:	:	:
IRL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
L	144	:	:	:	:	6	3.8	:	:
NL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
A	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
P	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	1,090	587	53.9	:	:	:	:	:	:
S	3,072	1,509	49.1	1,323	43.1	185	6.0	1,563	50.9
UK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Japan	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
USA	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Source: eurostat

Table 6.5

Number of persons employed, 1996 (units)

	6400	6410	(%)	6411	(%)	6412	(%)	6420	(%)
EU-15	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
EUR-11	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
B	82,584	51,435	62.3	:	:	:	:	:	:
DK	55,468	37,782	68.1	30,268	54.6	7,514	13.5	17,686	31.9
D	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
F	451,805	288,267	63.8	:	:	:	:	:	:
IRL	22,283	9,867	44.3	:	:	:	:	:	:
I	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
L	3,570	:	:	:	:	266	7.5	:	:
NL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
A	55,108	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
P	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	45,087	28,598	63.4	:	:	:	:	:	:
S	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Japan	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
USA	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Source: eurostat

Table 6.6

Number of employees, 1996 (units)

	6400	6410	(%)	6411	(%)	6412	(%)	6420	(%)
EU-15	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
EUR-11	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
B	80,545	49,626	61.6	:	:	:	:	:	:
DK	54,726	37,057	67.7	30,266	55.3	6,791	12.4	17,669	32.3
D	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
F	451,091	287,617	63.8	:	:	:	:	:	:
IRL	21,813	9,414	43.2	:	:	:	:	:	:
I	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
L	3,561	:	:	:	:	261	7.3	:	:
NL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
A	54,970	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
P	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	44,940	28,498	63.4	:	:	:	:	:	:
S	80,018	45,356	56.7	39,029	48.8	6,327	7.9	34,662	43.3
UK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Japan	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
USA	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Source: eurostat

Table 6.7

Value added at factor cost per person employed, 1996 (thousand ECU)

	6400	6410	6411	6412	6420
EU-15	:	:	:	:	:
EUR-11	:	:	:	:	:
B	60.98	30.60	:	:	:
DK	:	:	:	:	:
D	:	:	:	:	:
EL	:	:	:	:	:
E	:	:	:	:	:
F	59.31	35.03	:	:	:
IRL	66.46	39.48	:	:	:
I	:	:	:	:	:
L	145.82	:	:	12.93	:
NL	:	:	:	:	:
A	:	:	:	:	:
P	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	42.67	24.75	:	:	:
S	:	:	:	:	:
UK	:	:	:	:	:
Japan	:	:	:	:	:
USA	:	:	:	:	:

Source: eurostat

Table 6.8

Number of persons employed per enterprise, 1996 (units)

	6400	6410	6411	6412	6420
EU-15	:	:	:	:	:
EUR-11	:	:	:	:	:
B	:	:	:	:	:
DK	35.44	26.48	1,121.04	5.37	128.16
D	:	:	:	:	:
EL	:	:	:	:	:
E	:	:	:	:	:
F	214.23	224.86	:	:	:
IRL	42.20	19.73	:	:	:
I	:	:	:	:	:
L	54.92	:	:	12.09	:
NL	:	:	:	:	:
A	182.48	:	:	:	:
P	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	122.19	138.83	:	:	:
S	:	:	:	:	:
UK	:	:	:	:	:
Japan	:	:	:	:	:
USA	:	:	:	:	:

Source: eurostat

Table 6.9

Turnover per enterprise, 1996 (million ECU)

	6400	6410	6411	6412	6420
EU-15	:	:	:	:	:
EUR-11	:	:	:	:	:
B	:	:	:	:	:
DK	3.24	0.99	44.59	0.15	26.55
D	9.09	0.50	1.45	0.35	170.86
EL	:	:	:	:	:
E	:	:	:	:	:
F	18.30	10.42	:	:	:
IRL	4.17	1.14	:	:	:
I	:	:	:	:	:
L	13.25	:	:	0.92	:
NL	:	:	:	:	:
A	16.61	:	:	:	:
P	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	8.78	5.15	:	:	:
S	20.05	15.17	287.10	2.06	23.61
UK	:	:	:	:	:
Japan	:	:	:	:	:
USA	:	:	:	:	:

Source: eurostat

Table 6.10

Share of the number of employees in the total number of persons employed, 1996 (%)

	6400	6410	6411	6412	6420
EU-15	:	:	:	:	:
EUR-11	:	:	:	:	:
B	97.53	96.48	:	:	:
DK	98.66	98.08	99.99	90.38	99.90
D	:	:	:	:	:
EL	:	:	:	:	:
E	:	:	:	:	:
F	99.84	99.77	:	:	:
IRL	97.89	95.41	:	:	:
I	:	:	:	:	:
L	99.75	:	:	98.12	:
NL	:	:	:	:	:
A	99.75	:	:	:	:
P	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	99.67	99.65	:	:	:
S	:	:	:	:	:
UK	:	:	:	:	:
Japan	:	:	:	:	:
USA	:	:	:	:	:

Source: eurostat

MONTHLY PANORAMA OF EUROPEAN BUSINESS - CD-ROM

As well as being available as a paper publication it is also possible to purchase a CD-ROM of the Monthly Panorama of European Business. The CD-ROM is provided with Adobe Acrobat version 3.0 files of the three language versions of the paper publication. These files can be printed or alternatively the user can perform searches for a keyword within them.

The main added value of the electronic publication is that it includes a wide range of short-terms statistics from official national sources. The data are then supplied by the national statistical offices of each Member State to Eurostat. Data are then harmonised so that comparisons can be carried out between the national data. Furthermore, European totals are generated for the EU as a whole (EU-15), as well as for the euro-zone (the eleven countries that have formed Monetary Union). Data are provided for lengthy time-series on a monthly basis (often back as far as 1990). The data are normally updated on a monthly basis on the CD-ROM, although some series are only provided every quarter.

Data are supplied for total industry and for the main industrial groupings, in other words intermediate goods, capital goods, consumer durables and consumer non-durables. Furthermore, the data is supplied each month for all NACE Rev. 1 industrial groupings at the 2-digit level of the Division - using the statistical classification of economic activities nomenclature.

The data is available in easily read text files (*.TXT) that can be read by almost all PC's using either a spreadsheet or a database software package. For users who wish to use a spreadsheet directly, the same data is also provided in MS Excel 5.0 format. Data is provided using a comma separator for decimal points (for mainland European users) and using a point separator for the decimal (for the United Kingdom and Ireland).

For more information on this product please contact a Eurostat Datashop, see below for details.

BELGIQUE/BELGIË
Eurostat Data Shop Bruxelles/Brussel
Chaussée d'Etterbeek 13
Etterbeeksesteenweg 13
B-1049 BRUXELLES/BRUSSEL
Tel: (32-2) 299 66 66
Fax: (32-2) 295 01 25
E-Mail: datashop.brussels@eurostat.cec.be
Member of the MIDAS Net

DANMARK
DANMARKS STATISTIK
Bibliotek og Information
Eurostat Data Shop
Sejrøgade 11
DK-2100 KØBENHAVN Ø
Tel: (45) 39 17 30 30
Fax: (45) 39 17 30 03
E-mail: bib@dst.dk

DEUTSCHLAND
STATISTISCHES BUNDESAMT
Eurostat Data Shop Berlin
Otto-Braun-Straße 70-72
D-10178 BERLIN
Tel: (49-30) 23 24 64 27/28
Fax: (49-30) 23 24 64 30
E-mail: stba-berlin.datashop@t-online.de

ESPAÑA
INE - Eurostat Data Shop
Paseo de la Castellana, 183
Oficina 009
Entrada por Estébanez Calderón
E-28046 MADRID
Tel: (34) 915 83 91 67
Fax: (34) 915 79 71 20
E-mail: datashop.eurostat@ine.es
Member of the MIDAS Net

FRANCE
INSEE Info Service
Eurostat Data Shop
195, rue de Bercy
Tour Gamma A
F-75582 PARIS CEDEX 12
Tel: (33) 1 53 17 88 44
Fax: (33) 1 53 17 88 22
E-mail: datashop@dg75iisa.insee.atlas.fr
Member of the MIDAS Net

ITALIA - Roma
ISTAT - Centro di Informazione
Statistica - Sede di Roma
Eurostat Data Shop
Via Cesare Balbo, 11a
I-00184 ROMA
Tel: (39) 06 46 73 31 05/02
Fax: (39) 06 46 73 31 07/01
E-mail: dipdiff@istat.it
Member of the MIDAS Net

ITALIA - Milano
ISTAT - Centro di Informazione
Statistica - Sede di Milano
Eurostat Data Shop
Piazza della Repubblica, 22
I-20124 MILANO
Tel: (39) 026 59 51 33/134
Fax: (39) 02 65 30 75
Member of the MIDAS Net

LUXEMBOURG
Eurostat Data Shop Luxembourg
BP 453
L - 2014 LUXEMBOURG
4, rue A. Weicker
L-2721 LUXEMBOURG
Tel: (352) 43 35 22 51
Fax: (352) 43 35 22 221
E-mail: dslux@eurostat.datashop.lu

NEDERLAND
STATISTICS NETHERLANDS
Eurostat Data Shop Voorburg
P.O. Box 4000
NL-2270 JM VOORBURG
Tel: (31-70) 337 49 00
Fax: (31-70) 337 59 84
E-mail: datashop@cbs.nl
Member of the MIDAS Net

PORTUGAL
Eurostat Data Shop Lisboa
INE/Serviço de Difusão
Av. António José de Almeida, 2
P-1000 LISBOA
Tel: (351-1) 842 61 00
Fax: (351-1) 842 63 64
E-mail: data.shop@ine.pt

FINLAND/SUOMI
Eurostat Data Shop Tilastokirjasto
Postiosoite: PL 2B
FIN-00022 Tilastokeskus
Käyntiosoite: Työpajakatu 13 B, 2 krs
FIN-Helsinki
Tel: (358-09) 17 34 22 21
Fax: (358-09) 17 34 22 79
E-mail: datashop.tilastokeskus@tilastokeskus.fi
http://www.tilastokeskus.fi/tk/tuotteet.html

SVERIGE
STATISTICS SWEDEN
Information service
Eurostat Data Shop
Karlavägen 100
Box 24 300
S-104 51 STOCKHOLM
Tel: (46-8) 783 48 01
Fax: (46-8) 783 48 99
E-mail: infoservice@scb.se

UNITED KINGDOM
ONS Sales Office
Eurostat Data Shop
OFFICE FOR NATIONAL STATISTICS
1 Drummond Gate
LONDON SW1V 2QQ
United Kingdom
Tel: (44-171) 533 56 76
Fax: (44-171) 533 56 89
E-mail: gloria.ryan@ons.gov.uk
Member of the MIDAS Net

SUISSE
Statistisches Amt des Kantons Zürich
Eurostat Data Shop
Bleicherweg 5
CH-8090 Zürich
Tel: (41) 1 225 12 12
Fax: (41) 1 225 12 99
E-mail: datashop@zh.ch
http://www.zh.ch/statistik
Member of the MIDAS Net

USA
HAVER ANALYTICS
Eurostat Data Shop
60 East 42nd Street
Suite 3310
NEW YORK, NY 10165
Tel: (1-212) 986 93 00
Fax: (1-212) 986 58 57
E-mail: eurodata@haver.com

7. Methodological notes

Activity 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
NACE Rev. 1 Sections
C + D + E,
i.e. mining, manufacturing and energy supply

Intermediate goods industries
NACE Rev. 1 Groups
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
NACE Rev. 1 Groups
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
NACE Rev. 1 Groups
29.7, 32.3, 33.4, 33.5, 35.4, 35.5, 36.1-36.3

Non-durable consumer goods industries
NACE Rev. 1 Groups
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 National Statistical Offices. 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 EOIX which produced using the business surveys carried out on behalf of the Directorate General for Economic Affairs of the Commission (DG II) as a leading indicator;
3) the estimates for the latest years' structural data, which are made by Eurostat;
4) 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 is base year 1995. The indices are adjusted to take account of the varying number of working days in the month.

The Expected Output Index (EOI) links several aspects of information from qualitative business opinion surveys conducted by DG II (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.

The index of producer prices shows the changes in the ex-works selling prices of all products sold on domestic markets of the various countries, excluding VAT and other taxes. 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 construction indicators, please note that the information on prices supplied for Denmark, Italy and Finland refers to input prices for new residential buildings. Data for Ireland and Sweden also provide input prices, which are for one-dwelling buildings only. All other countries provide output prices for new residential buildings. With respect to data on building permits, the figures refer to the number of dwellings for all countries except the United Kingdom, where the data reported is for the number of building starts. Irish data for these series is in the form of quarterly and not monthly series. Danish and Italian data are estimates.

For services short-term indicators the data collection is in its infancy. There are three main areas covered in this publication. The volume of retail sales (or deflated turnover) is defined as the ratio between the indices of sales at current prices (value indices) and the corresponding price indices (deflator of sales) which are the prices of goods sold through retail outlets. For some countries this deflator of sales can only be approximately estimated. The total retail sales' index corresponds to NACE Rev.1 52 excluding repair works (i.e. NACE Rev. 1 52.7). Volume sales' indices are available for the following groupings:
Food, beverages and tobacco (NACE Rev. 1 52.11 + 52.2)
Textiles, clothing, footwear, leather goods (NACE Rev. 1 52.41 to 52.43)
Household equipment and specialised stores (NACE Rev. 1 52.44 to 52.46)

The figures on car registrations refer to the number of the first registrations of private and commercial cars (motorised road vehicles for the transport of passengers with seats for a maximum of 9 persons). Hire vehicles for mixed use are also included (for the transport of goods and/or passengers).

Data on the number of guest flows (tourism data) is provided. The tourism data refers to the occupancy of collective accommodation establishments, both for domestic and inbound tourism (residents and non-residents).

For the indices of imports and exports, external trade data of 9,000 industrial products were grouped according to the industrial NACE Rev. 1 activity to which they belong. This grouping can cause certain inaccuracies in the data, which may reduce the reliability of foreign trade series. The indices for the EU refer only to extra-Union trade, the indices for Member States reflect also intra-Union trade.

EU-15 and EUR-11 aggregates

EU-15 and EUR-11 data is estimated when 60% of the weighted national data is available. Missing data is estimated using ARIMA.

For further details of the methodology employed, please refer to the Eurostat publication "Methodology of Industrial Short-term Statistics" ISBN 92-828-2879-4. Further data on short-term indicators may be obtained by consulting the EBT domain of theme 4 in the Eurostat reference database, for details please contact the Eurostat Datashop network.

Seasonal adjustment

All series, except prices and capacity utilisation, are seasonally adjusted. If the National Statistical Office does the seasonal adjustment, these series are used. This is currently the case for Belgium, Denmark, Greece, France, Italy, Finland, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Norway (although not necessarily for all variables). If no seasonally adjusted series are supplied, Eurostat perform the seasonal adjustment with TRAMO / SEATS, a method developed by Professor Maravall and V. Gomez. Otherwise, Eurostat calculates the trend cycle (except for Germany) 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, where t is the average of a three-month period) - 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, where t is again the average of a three-month period) - 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 the average of a three-month period) - here gross data for prices is used. Estimates are sometimes made to create an 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 (t/t-12 the average of a three-month period) or three months compared to the same three months of the previous year (t/t-4, the average of a three-month period). 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

There are two collections of data that are used for the presentation of data in sections 5 and 6 of the publication, one set of data is used for industrial activities and the other for services' activities. In order to obtain data with a lengthy time-series it is at present not possible to use the SBS Regulation data for enterprises of all size classes.

For industrial activities the 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. Further data on industrial activities may be obtained by consulting the SBS enter I and SBS Plus domains of theme 4 in the Eurostat reference database, for details please contact the Eurostat Datashop network.

For service activities that are often covered in section 6 the data covers the whole population of enterprises. Hence, data covers small and medium sized enterprises too. However, for these series it is not at present possible to estimate EU totals, nor to use short-term indicators as a proxy for extending series (nowcasting). Further data on service activities may be obtained by consulting the SBS enter domain of theme 4 of the Eurostat reference database, for details please contact the Eurostat Datashop network.

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

8 9 17 CA-AM-99-005-EN-C

Price (excluding VAT) in Luxembourg:
Single copy: EUR 17
Subscription: EUR 162

OFFICE FOR OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

L-2985 Luxembourg