

Box 3

Release of harmonised statistics for main industrial groupings in short-term statistics

In implementing the EU Council Regulation concerning short-term statistics, Eurostat, in co-operation with the Member States, has started to apply new and harmonised definitions of the main industrial groupings for the publication of industrial short-term statistics¹. The main industrial groupings refer to a breakdown of the industry sector (excluding construction) into the “intermediate goods industry”, “capital goods industry”, “durable” as well as “non-durable consumer goods industry”, and “energy”. There is a long practice of regularly publishing sub-aggregates for the industrial sector according to the end use of the products. However, since the composition of these sub-aggregates differed across countries, the results were not fully comparable, which had implications also for the respective aggregates for the euro area, calculated by Eurostat from national data. Eurostat is, however, now able to compile harmonised euro area-wide sub-aggregates calculated from more detailed information on economic activities according to the NACE Rev.1 classification. Eurostat will implement the harmonised definition for all short-term industrial indicators. The new breakdown is also used in the “Euro area statistics” section of this Monthly Bulletin in Tables 4.2 and 5.2, starting from this issue.

An important change in the classification of sub-aggregates is that energy activities are now excluded from the intermediate goods industry and reported separately. In the index for industrial production (excluding construction) it accounts for a weight of 12.1%; as a result of this change the intermediate goods industry accounts for 36.1% of the total and remains the component with the greatest weight. Important activities such as the manufacture of cars and computers are now completely allocated to the capital goods industry. Previously, some countries split these items between capital and the durable consumer goods sectors. This explains the significant increase in the weight of the capital goods industry and the smaller weight for the durable consumer goods industry. The revised shares of the capital goods and durable consumer goods industry are 25.2% and 4.4% respectively. The revised share of non-durable consumer goods industry is 22.2%.

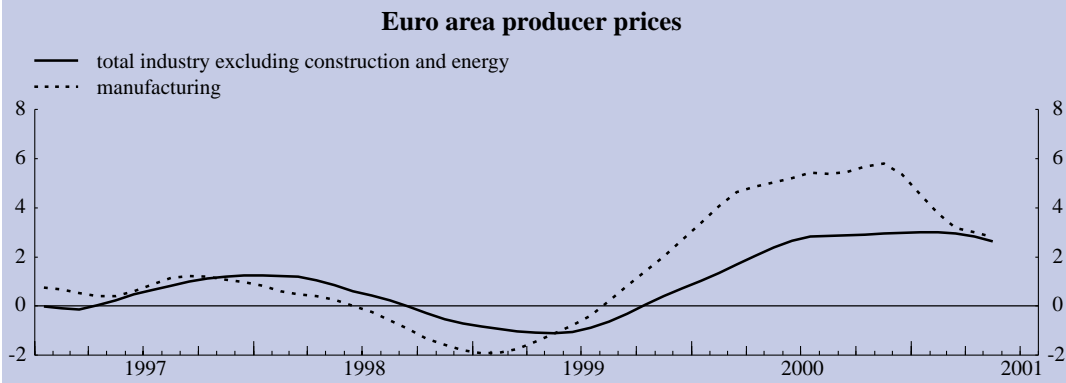
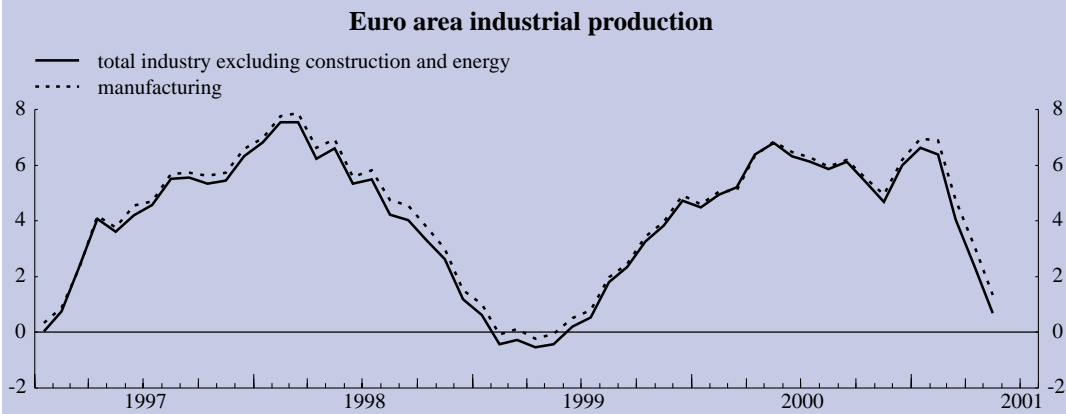
It should be noted that the coverage of “industry excluding construction and energy” – which corresponds to the total of the intermediate, capital and consumer goods industry – differs somewhat from the coverage of the conventional definition of manufacturing. One difference is that whereas the manufacture of coke, refined petroleum products and nuclear fuel is part of “manufacturing”, it is now included under “energy” and thus is not part of “industry excluding construction and energy”. Moreover, the “mining and quarrying of non-energy producing materials” is now included in “intermediate goods” and thus comes under “industry excluding construction and energy”, whereas it is not included in “manufacturing”. Reflecting the widespread use of the term “manufacturing” in economic discussion and analysis, in the future the ECB Monthly Bulletin will report

¹ See also Commission Regulation (EC) No. 586/2001 of 26 March 2001.

data for both total industry excluding construction and energy, and the conventional manufacturing sector. While the differences between these two series are generally limited as regards the respective industrial production indices, they may be quite pronounced for the respective producer price indices (see the charts below). In particular, the strong increase in energy prices since early 1999 has led to higher output price increases in manufacturing (which includes the manufacture of coke and petroleum) than in industry excluding construction and all energy activities. Moreover, the recent increases in intermediate goods prices are now much smaller, following the exclusion of energy.

Euro area industrial production and producer prices

(annual percentage changes in three-month moving average)



Sources: Eurostat and ECB calculations.