Statistics on production of manufactured goods (PRODCOM)

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1. Summary of the PRODCOM regulation

1.1 Introduction

PRODCOM data are detailed production data at 8 digit level. Only information on this level can be found in the PRODCOM data

The PRODCOM regulation is to be found in the Official Journal No L374/1, which stipulates that “the production surveyed shall be only that production actually carried out on its territory”. This means that the production of subsidiary undertakings which takes place outside the enterprise’s territory is not included in the survey.

1.2 What data are to be collected?

The following information is requested for each heading:

- the physical volume of production sold during the survey period
- the value of production sold during the survey period

In certain circumstances this information can be supplemented by:

- the physical volume of actual production during the survey period, including any which is used by the enterprise in the manufacture of other products.
- for years prior to 2005, the value and/or physical volume of actual production during the survey intended for sale in a later period.

In undertaking the PRODCOM survey, there are three conditions to be met:

- in each reporting country at least 90% of production in each (four digit) class of NACE must be recorded
- any enterprise of 20 or more employees in each NACE class should be covered
- if a Member State’s production in each NACE class represents less than 1% of the Community total, then data for the headings in that class does not need to be collected. In this case production should be reported as zero

1.3 Which countries report PRODCOM data?

In addition to the Member States, the EFTA countries (Norway and Iceland) are bound by the PRODCOM regulation and conduct PRODCOM surveys and transmit the data to Eurostat. National data for all non-Member State countries are published individually but not included in EU totals.

1.4 When are data to be collected

- The PRODCOM survey is primarily an annual survey. Between 2003 and 2005, some steel products were reported in PRODCOM monthly by volume.
- the Member States can choose to run their survey monthly, quarterly or annually as long as the data are supplied to Eurostat as annual data
- the first year for the survey was 1993, with 1992 national data which are as close as possible to the PRODCOM List to be sent at a later date. As data for early years are not considered reliable, only data from 1995 onwards are now published.

1.5 How are data to be collected?

- Member States use a survey questionnaire which conforms to the requirements of the regulation. They may also use other sources of information to supplement the survey.
- enterprises are asked to give true and complete information within the stipulated deadlines

1.6 Transmission of results

After data have been collected, the Member States send them to Eurostat within 6 months of the end of the reference year for annual data. Data which under national law are confidential are also transmitted to Eurostat, and handled under the rules of the Statistical Law.

2. Description of PRODCOM

2.1 Background to PRODCOM

PRODCOM is the title of the EU production statistics for mining, quarrying and manufacturing, (with the exception of military products and some energy products) that is sections B to C of NACE Rev. 2. The title comes from the French “PRODuction COMmunautaire” (Community Production).

The basis of the survey is Council Regulation (EEC) No 3924/91 on the establishment of a Community survey of industrial production (PRODCOM Regulation), which states that production is to be recorded according to the product headings of the PRODCOM list. This was needed as in the original EU treaties there had been no mention of a register for production statistics. A Commission Regulation published in 2004 assists the Member States in interpreting the Council Regulation.

The evolution of PRODCOM dates back to 1985 when there were the first meetings of the working party on "Production Statistics", whose objective was to harmonise the various ways industrial production statistics were collected in the Member States.

Although in most countries statistics were collected on production, these covered the national situation, and national nomenclatures were used and different survey methods applied.

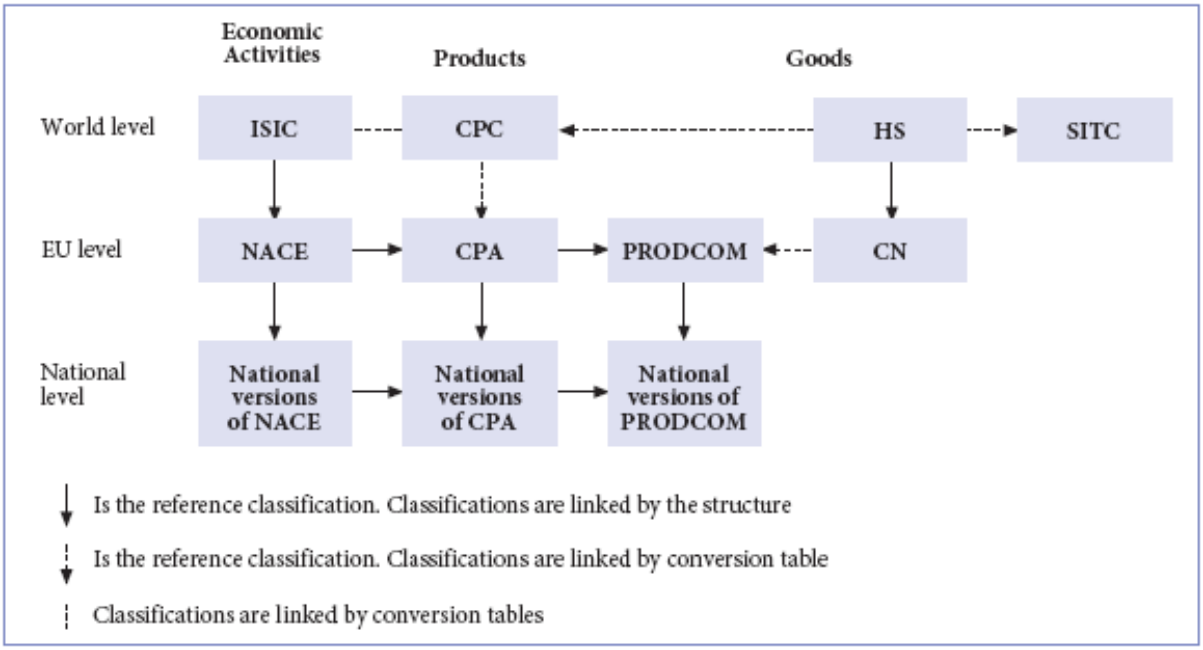
The basis of PRODCOM is to enable these national statistics to be compared and where possible aggregated to give a picture of the developments of an industry or product in the European context. This aim became more urgent with the creation of the single market in 1992, and with rapid changes occurring in Europe, the statistical system had to adapt to these changes.

2.2 The PRODCOM classification

Before data collection could begin, it was necessary to draw up a common list of products to be covered. Drawing up the PRODCOM list was a unique opportunity for Eurostat, the NSIs and the European Trade Associations (FEBIs) to work together to produce a classification that would work on the micro, national and European level. The two principal aims were to measure production and to enable a calculation of apparent consumption by linking production statistics to foreign trade statistics. The link between the two, production statistics and external trade data refers to Europroms.

As PRODCOM statistics have to be comparable with external trade statistics, which are based on the Combined Nomenclature (CN), there had to be a close relationship between the two nomenclatures. Furthermore, the basic building blocks for PRODCOM are NACE (Rev. 2, as from 2008) and the CPA (Classification of products by activity), therefore the PRODCOM list had to be developed in close association with these nomenclatures.

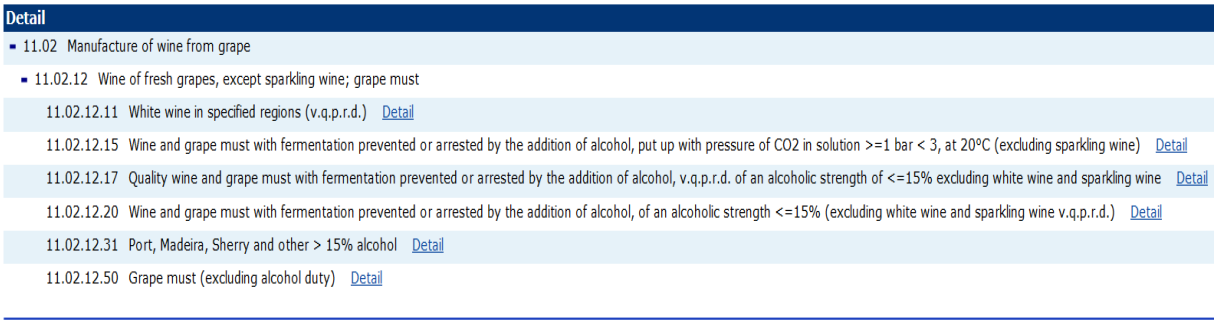
To understand how the different nomenclatures fit together, and their links to world-wide nomenclatures it is useful to consider the diagram below which gives an overview of the revised system of integrated statistical classifications. This diagram shows the clear links between the PRODCOM list and the CN, which then links up to the HS at a world-wide level.



PRODCOM headings are directly derived from the 2 nomenclatures to its left on the diagram – NACE and the CPA. The 8-digit PRODCOM code takes its first 4 digits from NACE and digits 5 and 6 from the CPA, thus enabling a consistent link to these two classifications.

However, it was felt by the PRODCOM committee that there were instances where the CN classification gave too much detail in how it broke down products within a specific category, but equally instances when it did not give enough detail to meet the needs of the likely end users of PRODCOM data such as the European federations and other professional associations.

The box below gives an example of how one industrial sector can be broken down into different headings.



Source: PRODCOM list, 2016

As a result of these discussions it was decided to base the PRODCOM list on the CN but with some modifications. The result was a list of 5765 headings which was published in November 1993 in all nine official languages of the Union. Now they are available in all EU languages. Each year some changes are made to the list to improve it. These can range from a new break-down of the codes used for products, an improvement to the translation of a heading for a languages or a restructuring of some headings as a result of changes in an industry.

Over the years the List has been added to in various ways to satisfy the demands of various users. The List has become increasingly complex, and little attention was paid to the feasibility of collecting data on all the required headings. A process of consultation was therefore conducted in 2004 with a view to simplifying the List and thus improving its quality. These were applied to the 2005 List, with further simplifications being applied in subsequent years. The PRODCOM list was updated each year by the PRODCOM Expert Group until 2017 reference year.

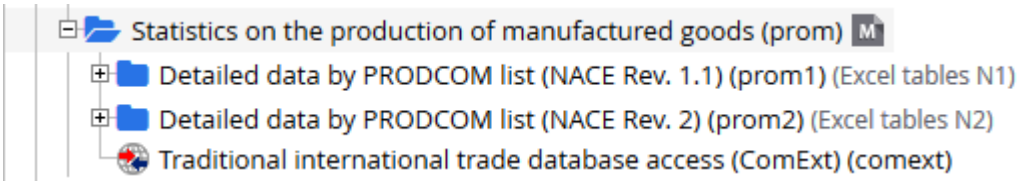
Currently there are almost 3900 products available in the PRODCOM list and it was agreed by the PRODCOM Working Group of November 2016 to keep the list stable and update it only with the frequency required by the technological changes in the industries and as driven by the related nomenclatures (i.e. the PRODCOM list will be updated if the NACE and the HS/CN classification are updated).

3. Publication of PRODCOM data

3.1 Statistics on the production of manufactured goods (prom): General introduction

Statistics on the production of manufactured goods (prom) is the name given to published PRODCOM data on Eurostat's website.

Available on database at the link: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/prodcom/data/database



Available on Excel files - format (one file per year)

- (Excel tables N1) (for NACE Rev 1.1) http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/prodcom/data/excel-files-nace-rev.1.1
- (Excel tables N2) (for NACE Rev.2) http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/prodcom/data/excel-files-nace-rev.2

Available on Comext's database at the link: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/newxtweb/
Nace Rev 1.1

- Sold production, exports and imports for steel by PRODCOM list (NACE Rev. 1.1) - monthly data (DS-008573) ,
- Sold production, exports and imports (DS-045339),
- Total production (DS-045337)

Nace Rev. 2

- Sold production, exports and imports (DS-056120)
- Total production (DS-056121)

The PRODCOM data in Comext is transferred to the Eurostat's website where it is available to all users free of charge.

3.2 Data on production: Prodcom

3.2.1 Products and nomenclatures covered

These comprise:

(a) Manufactured products and some industrial services;
(b) About 3900 products for all these sectors, listed in a specific nomenclature and common to all countries of the European Union;
(c) Certain specific activities, such as subcontracting.

Products are classified according to the Prodcom List:

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/nomenclatures/index.cfm?TargetUrl=LST_NOM&StrLanguageCode=EN&IntFamilyCode=

3.2.2 Available variables

PRODCOM headings are classified according to the combination of production types used that are reported for the product. The possible production types are:

- **Sold production**: the production sold outside the enterprise during the reference period.
- **Total production**: both the production sold and the production retained for reuse by the enterprise as input to the manufacture of other products. Since products that are not sold cannot easily be valued, only the volume of Total Production can be reported for these products.

These production types are used in four combinations, depending on the type of product:

S = Production sold is reported by value and volume. In some cases no volume unit is defined for a heading. In these cases only the value is reported

T = Production sold is reported by value and volume, and total production is reported by volume.

V = Total production is reported by volume. Sold production is not reported.

I = Type **I** headings are industrial services. Only the value is reported, and this corresponds to the fee paid to the enterprise providing the service.

3.2.3 Periodicity

PRODCOM data is primarily reported on an annual basis. From 2003 to 2005, production by volume of 88 steel products was reported monthly.

3.2.4 Availability of data

There are two reasons why expected data might not be found in PRODCOM:

- The data is confidential. If only a small number of enterprises produce a product in the reporting country, there is a risk that information regarding an individual enterprise might be revealed. If the enterprise does not agree to this the reporting country declares the production figures confidential. They are transmitted to Eurostat but not published.
- However if several countries declare their production for a heading to be confidential, an EU total can be published because the data for an individual country cannot be inferred. A Confidentiality Charter agreed with the Member States defines the conditions under which totals containing confidential data may be published.
- The data is missing. There are a number of reasons why data might be missing: the reporting country does not survey the heading; the reporting country has reason to doubt the accuracy of the data and suppresses it; or the reporting country uses the wrong volume unit or the wrong production type, which means that the data is not comparable with other countries and is suppressed by Eurostat.
- If data is missing for one or more Member States, an estimate is made. The estimate itself is not published, but it is included in the corresponding EU total, which is then marked as estimated.

3.3. Data on foreign trade

3.3.1 Data available on external trade in PRODCOM

PRODCOM is not designed as a tool to distribute the external trade statistics of the Member States of the EU. Complete and detailed statistics for foreign trade are available in Comext, and the data used in PRODCOM are extracted from this base.

PRODCOM contains only the data on foreign trade corresponding to production data and necessary for the calculation of markets. Therefore only trade relating to sold production is included, and not that relating to total production.

Although production data for some non-EU countries are available (EFTA, acceding and candidate countries) foreign trade data for them is not available in PRODCOM.

Due to confidentiality a small part of foreign trade information is not available at the most detailed level (CN code, partner country, value or quantity); this means in practice that at this detailed level the information may not be complete. The complete information is only available on a more aggregated level in the Comext database.

In some sectors, PRODCOM is more detailed than the CN. This is necessary in cases where the CN code links to more than one CPA code, since a PRODCOM code is linked to a single CPA code – the first 6 digits of the Prodcom code are the corresponding CPA code. Consequently, in such cases no external trade data are available corresponding to individual PRODCOM headings. However, to allow PRODCOM data to be compared with trade data, aggregated PRODCOM headings have been introduced for the sectors concerned. (These codes always have a "Z" in the seventh position.)

PRODCOM headings which refer to industrial services and to intermediate products are not reflected by a CN code either. For these codes it is not possible to calculate market figures (see item 3.4.1. 'Some remarks concerning the calculation of apparent consumption).

3.3.2 How production and foreign trade data are matched.

There are several aspects to the matching of production and foreign trade data in PRODCOM:

The products:
In most cases the PRODCOM code corresponds to 1 or more CN codes, so the data for all corresponding CN headings is aggregated to get the import and export figures for the PRODCOM code.
If the PRODCOM product does not have an equivalent product in the trade figures (for instance industrial services) no trade data is displayed alongside the production data. Similarly if the PRODCOM product is a breakdown of a CN code it is not possible to compare with the CN and no trade data is displayed.

The reporting countries:
Normally there is a simple match between Foreign Trade and PRODCOM countries. However up to 1998 Belgium and Luxembourg made a joint Foreign Trade declaration, whereas in PRODCOM their data was reported separately from the beginning. As it is not possible to distinguish trade from the two countries up to that time, it is all attributed to Belgium when trade data is shown alongside production data.
For EU totals the trade for all EU Member States is aggregated.

The volume unit:
Foreign Trade is reported by weight and for some products also by another unit (the supplementary unit). Production data is reported by a unit that is kg for some products and a different unit for other products.

- If the production data is in kg the trade in tonnes divided by 1000 is displayed.
- If the production data has another unit and it is the same as the foreign trade supplementary unit, the trade data from the supplementary unit is displayed.
- If the production data has a unit that is neither kg nor the same as the foreign trade supplementary unit, the trade data is not displayed.

The foreign trade partner countries:
When comparing production with trade figures we want to consider all the trade passing the external borders of the territory in question. For individual Member States this means all external trade, i.e. the sum of the trade with all Intra-EU and all Extra-EU partners. However for EU totals we are only interested in trade leaving and entering the EU as a whole, so the sum of trade with all Extra-EU partners is displayed.

Production type:
The only production type which can be usefully compared with trade data is Sold Production. If the production data is for Total Production it is not appropriate to compare it with trade data since some of it refers to production that does not leave the enterprise that produced it. Therefore Europroms only displays trade data where the production type is Sold Production.

3.4 Apparent consumption

An estimation of consumption, known as apparent consumption, can be made by calculating production + imports - exports. However the results are often unreliable (sometimes producing a negative figure) and this method cannot be recommended.

3.4.1 Some remarks concerning the calculation of apparent consumption

(i) Some PRODCOM headings cover a range of products, which means that the composition of production can in some cases differ from that of trade. Obviously, such heterogeneity complicates the integration of production and trade data.

(ii) The coverage of production statistics is not necessarily in line with that of trade statistics. The thresholds above which businesses are represented in these statistics can be different.

(iii) The data presented here relate to a given year and there are temporal delays between the various operations taken into account: production, sale, export. Storage explains a part of these delays which are reduced or even disappear when the data are considered over several years.

(iv) Where external trade nomenclatures permit, the trade in used and second-hand goods is excluded from the calculation of markets figures. However, in some cases, used goods cannot be distinguished from new ones. In particular the export of used machines (often somewhat renovated) to Third World countries can skew the apparent market.

(v) The Combined Nomenclature has in many areas separate subheadings related to civil aircraft. Classification of goods (which is subject to conditions laid down in Community provisions) is only relevant in relation to the rate of duty. In a number of cases the import and export under these subheadings is not taken into account for the calculation of market data, because they lack the level of detail to be assigned to a single Prodcom heading.

(vi) The value of exports cannot always be compared directly with that of sold production. The latter is based on the ex-work selling price, whereas exports are evaluated at the time the goods cross the border. In addition, imported goods can be exported again with a different value, either without being modified or after industrial processing (e.g.

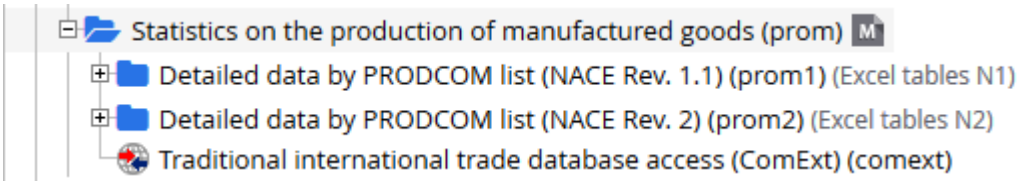
textile finishing or surface treatment) which is not linked to external trade in Europroms.

(vii) A Commission Regulation ((EEC) No 518/79) allows a simplified declaration procedure for the export of complete industrial plants. On the basis of this Regulation part of the complete industrial plant is classified in Chapter 98 of the CN, which is not taken into account in the market calculation.

(viii) The production of subcontracting cannot be linked directly to external trade. Products manufactured by subcontracting activities (e.g. NACE Rev.1 27.5 and 28.4) are classified in the CN independently of their origin.

3.5 How to access the data in PRODCOM

The data can be found in the database on Eurostat's website in *Industry, Trade and Services*. Clicking on the '+' next to *'Statistics on the production of manufactured goods (prom)*' and clicking on the icon gives a choice of the tables: *Detailed data by PRODCOM list (NACE Rev. 1.1 (prom1)* and *Detailed data by PRODCOM list (NACE Rev. 2 (prom2) (see picture below).*



The data in these tables refer to:

- Sold production, exports and imports by PRODCOM list - annual data
- Total production by PRODCOM list - annual data
- Sold production, exports and imports for steel by PRODCOM list - monthly data (only for (NACE Rev. 1.1 available in (prom1)

The following dimensions are used in the two tables:

Declarant

The list of reporting countries includes the Member States, EFTA countries and acceding and other candidate countries. Data for all the potential candidate countries are available as well. The codes 1110, 1111, 1112, and 2028 can be selected to obtain EU 15, EU 25, EU 27 and EU 28 totals respectively.

PRCCODE

The list includes all codes that are valid in at least one year. If a code is selected that is not valid for the year selected, no data will be shown for that code.

Period

The annual data offers the periods 199552 onwards, where 52 is the Comext convention for annual data.

Measurement unit (available only for table Sold production, exports and imports ***for steel*** by PRODCOM list)

- **VALUE**: the value of production is displayed in Euros.
- **UNIT A**: the volume of production is displayed in the first or only volume unit specified for the heading

- **UNIT B**: For a small number of headings, two volume units are specified. Unit B displays the second. For the majority of headings that do not have a second volume unit, 'not applicable' ('-') would be displayed if this is selected.

Indicators

See paragraph 3.7 below for more information on rounding.

1.The following indicators are used for ***Sold production, exports and imports by PRODCOM list - annual data (NACE Rev.1.1):***

- EXP_ QUANTITY: this field gives the volume of exports derived from the External Trade statistics.
- EXP_VALUE: this field gives the value of exports in Euro, derived from the External Trade statistics.
- IMP_ QUANTITY: this field gives the volume of imports derived from the External Trade statistics.
- IMP_VALUE: this field gives the value of imports in Euro, derived from the External Trade statistics.
- PROD_QUANTITY_BASE: for EU totals, this gives the rounding base used if PROD_QUANTITY is rounded or contains a rounded element. PROD_QUANTITY should be interpreted as lying between PROD_QUANTITY - PROD_QUANTITY_BASE and PROD_QUANTITY + PROD_QUANTITY_BASE. When no rounding is applied, PROD_QUANTITY_BASE is set to zero.
- PROD_QUANTITY_FLAG: this field indicates the availability of the volume data. Possible values are blank (data is available), ':' data is not available, ':C' data is confidential, ':R' the data has been rounded using the rounding base given in PROD_QUANTITY_BASE, '-' not applicable. Additional flags are used to indicate that a total has been constructed: e.g. EU27-EU02(R) indicates that the EU25 total has been constructed from the EU 27 minus the rounded sum of Bulgaria and Romania. The information in the flag is also given as footnotes.
- PROD_QUANTITY: this field gives the volume of production in the unit indicated in UNIT.
- PROD_VALUE_BASE: for EU totals, this gives the rounding base used if PROD_VALUE is rounded or contains a rounded element. PROD_VALUE should be interpreted as lying between PROD_VALUE - PROD_VALUE_BASE and PROD_VALUE + PROD_VALUE_BASE. When no rounding is applied, PROD_VALUE_BASE is set to zero.
- PROD_VALUE_FLAG: this field indicates the availability of the volume data. Possible values are blank (data is available), ':' data is not available ':C' data is confidential, ':R' the data has been rounded using the rounding base given in PROD_VALUE_BASE, '-' not applicable. Additional flags are used to indicate that a total has been constructed: e.g. EU27-EU02(R) indicates that the EU25 total has been constructed from the EU 27 minus the rounded sum of Bulgaria and Romania. The information in the flag is also given as footnotes.
- PROD_VALUE_EUR: this field gives the value of production in Euro.
- UNIT: This field indicates the unit in which the volume data is expressed. The volumes of production, imports and exports are all expressed in the unit shown.

The indicators IMPORTS and EXPORTS are always blank for countries that are not EU Member States.
If data for a country/period have not been loaded, all the indicators are blank.

Footnotes
Items for the PRODUCTION indicator may be highlighted in yellow. These items have a numbered footnote which is given at the bottom of the page.

2.The following indicators are used ***for Sold production, exports and imports by PRODCOM list - annual data (NACE Rev.2):***

- EXPQNT: This field gives the volume of exports derived from the External Trade statistics.
- EXPVAL: This field gives the value of exports in Euro, derived from the External Trade statistics.
- IMPQNT: This field gives the volume of imports derived from the External Trade statistics.
- IMPVAL: This field gives the value of imports in Euro, derived from the External Trade statistics.
- PQNTBASE: for EU totals, this gives the rounding base used if PROD_QUANTITY is rounded or contains a rounded element. PROD_QUANTITY should be interpreted as lying between PROD_QUANTITY - PROD_QUANTITY_BASE and PROD_QUANTITY + PROD_QUANTITY_BASE. When no rounding is applied, PROD_QUANTITY_BASE is set to zero.
- PQNTFLAG: This field indicates the availability of the volume data. Possible values are blank (data is available), ':' data is not available ':C' data is confidential, ':R' the data has been rounded using the rounding base given in PROD_QUANTITY_BASE, '-' not applicable. Additional flags are used to indicate that a total has been constructed: e.g. EU27-EU02(R) indicates that the EU25 total has been constructed from the EU 27 minus the rounded sum of Bulgaria and Romania.
  The information in the flag is also given as footnotes.
- PRODQNT: This field gives the volume of production in the unit indicated in UNIT.
- PVALBASE: For EU totals, this gives the rounding base used if PROD_VALUE is rounded or contains a rounded element. PROD_VALUE should be interpreted as lying between PROD_VALUE - PROD_VALUE_BASE and PROD_VALUE + PROD_VALUE_BASE. When no rounding is applied, PROD_VALUE_BASE is set to zero.
- PVALFLAG: This field indicates the availability of the volume data. Possible values are blank (data is available), ':' data is not available, ':C' data is confidential, ':R' the data has been rounded using the rounding base given in PROD_VALUE_BASE, '-' not applicable. Additional flags are used to indicate that a total has been constructed: e.g. EU27-EU02(R) indicates that the EU25 total has been constructed from the EU 27 minus the rounded sum of Bulgaria and Romania.
  The information in the flag is also given as footnotes.
- PRODVAL: This field gives the value of production in Euro.
- QNTUNIT: This field indicates the unit in which the volume data is expressed. The volumes of production, imports and exports are all expressed in the unit shown.

3.The following indicators are used for ***Total production by PRODCOM list - annual data*** (NACE Rev 1.1)

- PROD_QUANTITY_BASE: For EU totals, this gives the rounding base used if PROD_QUANTITY is rounded or contains a rounded element. PROD_QUANTITY should be interpreted as lying between PROD_QUANTITY - PROD_QUANTITY_BASE and PROD_QUANTITY + PROD_QUANTITY_BASE. When no rounding is applied, PROD_QUANTITY_BASE is set to zero.
- PROD_QUANTITY_FLAG: This field indicates the availability of the volume data. Possible values are blank (data is available), ':' data is not available, :C' data is confidential, ':R' the data has been rounded using the rounding base given in PROD_QUANTITY_BASE, '-' not applicable. Additional flags are used to indicate that a total has been constructed: e.g. EU27-EU02(R) indicates that the EU25 total has been constructed from the EU 27 minus the rounded sum of Bulgaria and Romania.
  The information in the flag is also given as footnotes

- PROD_QUANTITY: This field gives the volume of production in the unit indicated in UNIT.
- UNIT: This field indicates the unit in which the volume data is expressed. The volumes of production, imports and exports are all expressed in the unit shown.

4.The following indicators are used for ***Total production by PRODCOM list - annual data*** (NACE Rev 2)

- PQNTBASE: For EU totals, this gives the rounding base used if PROD_QUANTITY is rounded or contains a rounded element. PROD_QUANTITY should be interpreted as lying between PROD_QUANTITY - PROD_QUANTITY_BASE and PROD_QUANTITY + PROD_QUANTITY_BASE. When no rounding is applied, PROD_QUANTITY_BASE is set to zero.
- PQNTFLAG: This field indicates the availability of the volume data. Possible values are blank (data is available), ':' data is not available, ':C' data is confidential, ':R' the data has been rounded using the rounding base given in PROD_QUANTITY_BASE, '-' not applicable. Additional flags are used to indicate that a total has been constructed: e.g. EU27-EU02(R) indicates that the EU25 total has been constructed from the EU 27 minus the rounded sum of Bulgaria and Romania.
  The information in the flag is also given as footnotes
- PRODQNT: This field gives the volume of production in the unit indicated in UNI
- QNTUNIT: This field indicates the unit in which the volume data is expressed. The volumes of production, imports and exports are all expressed in the unit shown

5.The following indicators are used for ***Sold production, exports and imports for steel by PRODCOM list (NACE Rev. 1.1) - monthly data***

- PTYPE: the production type of the associated production figure. Note that the production types for value and volume for the same heading are not always the same.
- PFLAG: this field indicates the availability of the production data. Possible values are blank (data is available), ':' data is not available, ':C' data is confidential, '-' not applicable. This information is also given as footnotes: see below.
- UNIT: for values 'EUR' is displayed, otherwise it is the volume unit in which the data is expressed. Production, imports, exports and apparent consumption are all expressed in the unit shown.
- PRODUCTION: the value or volume of production, derived from the PRODCOM statistics
- IMPORTS: the value or volume of imports derived from the Foreign Trade statistics.
- EXPORTS: the value or volume of exports derived from the Foreign Trade statistics.

The indicators IMPORTS and EXPORTS are always blank for countries that are not EU Member States.

If data for a country/period have not been loaded, all the indicators are blank.

3.6 Rounding of EU totals:

Confidential EU totals are replaced by rounded figures, so that some information can be provided while maintaining sufficient uncertainty to protect the underlying confidential national data. The rounded figure is accompanied by a value in the "Base" indicator which shows the rounding base used. This means that the total indicated should be interpreted as being in the range R-B to R+B, where R is the rounded total and B is the base.

However it is sometimes necessary to protect confidential data outside the given total; for instance the EU 25 and EU 27 may both be publishable, but publishing them both would allow a user to determine a confidential value for Romania or Bulgaria. In this case the intermediate total is rounded, and then used to calculate one publishable total from the other. In the example above, the "EU 2" would be rounded, and (from 2006 onwards) the EU25 would be calculated by subtracting this rounded amount from the EU 27 total.

The following flags are used to indicate rounding:

All	
R	This total has been rounded to the base given in the BASE indicator
EU 28	
EU27+HR(R)	This total is constructed from the EU27 total shown, plus HR value rounded to the base given in the BASE indicator
EU27(R)+HR	This total is constructed from the rounded EU27 total, plus HR value
EU27(R)+HR(R)	This total is constructed from the rounded EU27 total, plus HR value rounded to the base given in the BASE indicator
EU 27[1]	
EU25+EU02(R)	This total is constructed from the EU25 total shown, plus the sum of the "EU2" countries rounded to the base given in the BASE indicator
EU25(R)+EU02	This total is constructed from the rounded EU25 total shown, plus the sum of the "EU2" countries
EU28(R)-HR	This total is constructed from the rounded EU28 total, minus HR value
EU28-HR(R)	This total is constructed from the EU28 total shown, minus HR value rounded to the base given in the BASE indicator
EU 25[2]	
EU27-EU02(R)	This total is constructed from the EU27 total shown, minus the sum of the "EU2" countries rounded to the base given in the BASE indicator
EU27(R)-EU02	This total is constructed from the rounded EU27 total shown, minus the sum of the "EU2" countries
EU 15	

[1] These constructions are used from 2003 to 2005

[2] These constructions are used from 2006 onwards

EU25-EU10(R)	This total is constructed from the EU25 total shown, minus the sum of the "EU10" countries rounded to the base given in the BASE indicator
EU25(R)-EU10	This total is constructed from the rounded EU25 total shown, minus the sum of the "EU10" countries
EU25(R)-EU10(R)	This total is constructed from the rounded EU25 total shown, minus the sum of the "EU10" countries rounded to the base given in the BASE indicator

Note that when indirect rounding is used, the base refers to the rounding used on the rounded component of the total. So in the case of "EU27-EU02(R)", the base indicated is the base used to round the "EU 2".
In some cases, this can mean that the rounding base is larger than the total shown

4. Some hints about PRODCOM data

4.1 Purpose of PRODCOM

The purpose of PRODCOM is to inform the European business sector (including business associations, business consultants, and firms), the Commission, and the DG's of for example Environment, Enterprises, Industry, Agriculture, Business Negotiation and Competition, on the EU supply of industrial products.

- Industrial products are, according to PRODCOM, products from activities listed in sections C, D and E of NACE (Rev. 1) or sections B and C in the European Community, NACE (Rev. 2).
- PRODCOM monitors – together with trade data – EU supply of industrial products.
- PRODCOM methodology gives priority to EU totals and reflects issues that are relevant to measure market supply, i.e. an up to date product classification, an appropriate statistical unit and a concept of value that is relevant to the market.

4.2 What is PRODCOM?

PRODCOM is a community scheme, based on Regulation of 1991, for producing detailed product output information at the EU level. It involves compilation of EU production data from information provided by Member States plus Norway and Iceland, mainly on an annual basis, for several thousand of selected products (= commodities and services) specified in the PRODCOM List.

- The PRODCOM List includes the codes of the products listed in PRODCOM and their descriptions. It is updated annually.
- PRODCOM products derive from activities listed in sections C, D, and E of the classification of economic activities in the European Community, NACE (Rev. 1) or sections B and C in the European Community, NACE (Rev. 2).
- The products are included in PRODCOM according to their eight-digit code, the PRODCOM List. The first four digits of a PRODCOM code refer to the NACE classification, and the first six digits refer to the CPA classification. The last two digits are created specifically for PRODCOM.
- Most eight-digit PRODCOM codes have a complete reference to the Combined Nomenclature, CN. A complete reference means full comparability between data from PRODCOM and data from foreign trade classified by the Combined Nomenclature.

  Exemptions from this main rule are:

  - PRODCOM codes that are more detailed than CN;
  - PRODCOM codes that cover industrial services (because the CN only includes commodities). Nevertheless, PRODCOM codes on industrial services might have a reference to CN codes. This reference only gives information on the products to which the services apply;

  The consequences of this way of creating PRODCOM codes are:

  - PRODCOM codes do not cross CPA (or NACE) classes. Each PRODCOM code belongs to only one CPA (or NACE) class;

- Trade data can only be provided for PRODCOM codes with a complete reference (clear link) to the CN.

4.3 PRODCOM information

- PRODCOM includes data on national production and EU aggregates since 1995. Data is recorded on an annual basis, and on a monthly basis for steel product between 2003 and 2005.
- Normally, data on the value and quantity of production of each PRODCOM heading is published. Exact information on the data to be reported for each eight-digit PRODCOM code is included in the PRODCOM List. A new List is prepared for each year, to be used to survey production during that year.
- Each PRODCOM code has a 'Description', a 'Volume Physical unit', a 'Production type' and occasionally a 'Reference to Notes', i.e. the 'PRODCOM heading'. Detailed information on these fields is included in the first – 60 – pages of the PRODCOM List.
    - The 'Description' is a short, self-explanatory, stand-alone text
    - The CN reference refers to the CN codes covered by the PRODCOM heading
    - The 'Volume Physical unit' indicates the measurement unit for this heading
    - The 'Production type' indicates the concept of production
    - The 'Reference to Notes' includes reference to any specific information on this heading

- PRODCOM includes three concepts of production:
  - Production sold (S) is the production carried out at some time and which has been sold (invoiced) during the reference period;
  - Total production (T) is the actual production which has been carried out during the reference period, irrespective of whether sold, put into stock or used for further processing.

4.4 The difference between PRODCOM and Europroms

- PRODCOM includes only data on production whereas Europroms includes data on production as well as data on the corresponding foreign trade. Europroms moreover includes calculation of the apparent consumption, i.e. production + imports – exports.
- The difference between PRODCOM and Europroms is furthermore characterised by the fact that not all PRODCOM data is comparable with foreign trade data. As mentioned above, certain PRODCOM codes do not have a clear link to the CN. Those codes are either more detailed than the CN, codes for industrial services or codes for sub-contracting. The database includes a dot, i.e. the statistical sign of 'not applicable', for foreign trade data on those codes. 'Not applicable' means that comparison is without meaning. 'Not applicable' is also put to the foreign trade data on quantity data in case the quantity measurement unit of PRODCOM is different from foreign trade.

4.5 Confidentiality in PRODCOM

- Some national PRODCOM data and EU aggregates are confidential. Confidential data is suppressed and is only available for the PRODCOM staff or researchers or other officials associated with PRODCOM according to the Eurostat Rules of protection of confidential data. EU aggregates are published with rounding applied, in order to protect national confidential data (see paragraph 3.7).