This article analyses recent data on **industrial production** in the **European Union (EU)**, as well as in some EFTA and candidate countries, based on results of **industrial production (Prodcom) statistics**. Cyprus, Malta and Luxembourg are exempt from collecting Prodcom data and therefore not available. Data presented in this article are collected under the **industrial production** regulation and cover the activities under sections B and C (Mining and quarrying and Manufacturing) of the **NACE Rev. 2** classification.

**Overview**

In 2017, the value of sold production covered by the sectors mining and quarrying and manufacturing amounted to EUR 5 180 billion. Figure 1 presents the evolution of EU-28’s value of sold production from 2008 to 2017. After the economic crisis in 2008, the value generated by EU production was reduced dramatically in 2009, with a sharp decrease of almost 18%. However, there was a turn-around between 2009 and 2011 when the value of sold production increased by more than 15% and remained stable in the following three years. The results of 2017 show the consolidation of the growth in production, after the full recovery and surpassing the 2008 level. This upwards trend of the EU’s industrial production was mainly due to the manufacturing of motor vehicles, trailers & semi-trailers, other transport equipment and machinery & equipment.
Industrial production by country

Figure 2 shows the share of the EU-28’s value of sold production, by individual EU Member States in 2017. Over three-quarters of the EU-28’s value of sold production (78 %) was generated by six EU Member States. Germany recorded the highest value of EUR 1 160 billion, equivalent to 28 % of the EU-28 total, followed by Italy (16 %), France (12 %), the United Kingdom (9 %), Spain (8 %) and Poland (5 %). The other 22 EU Member States contributed with smaller shares (up to 3 %).
Looking more in detail to the manufacturing sectors, Slovakia stood out with the manufacturing of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers and of other transport equipment which represented 43 % of the country's total value of sold production in 2017. It was closely followed by the Czech Republic (33 %) and Hungary (29 %).

Over 43 % of Greece's value of sold production was generated by the manufacturing of food, beverages and tobacco activities. The Netherlands was close to this share with 36 %, followed by Belgium, Bulgaria, Spain, Lithuania and Latvia with shares between 28 and 30 %. On the contrary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia are the least specialized countries in food manufacturing, with the lowest share in sold production of 9 % respectively 6 %.

**Industrial production by sector**

The analysis that follows refers to the division breakdown (first 2-digit level) of the Statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community (NACE). In some cases the results are presented as a group of divisions (i.e. Food, beverages and tobacco (Divisions 10, 11 and 12 of NACE Rev.2)).
Figure 3 shows the share of the manufacturing activities in the EU-28’s value of sold production for 2008 and 2017 respectively. The EU-28’s value of sold production is concentrated in fourteen groups of activities; six of these groups account for almost three-quarters of the total for both reference years. The sectors manufacture of food, beverages & tobacco products, manufacture of basic & fabricated metals and manufacture of transport equipment accounted together for 48 % of the value of the sold production in 2017. The share of most of the other manufacturing activities in the EU-28’s value of sold production remained stable from 2008 to 2017.

Looking into the smaller contributing domains, the manufacture of pharmaceuticals, medicinal chemical and botanical products has the highest increase in 2017, of 35 % compared with 2008 value of sold production and, on the other side, the manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products is down by 12 %.

**Value of sold production by group of manufacturing activity, EU-28, 2008 and 2017**

(% share of total sold production)

Figure 3: Value of sold production by group of manufacturing activity, EU-28, 2008 and 2017 (% share of total sold production)Source: Eurostat DS_066341

**The five largest manufacturing activities**

The analysis refers to the top five manufacturing activities presented at division breakdown (first 2-digit level) of the Statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community (NACE).
Figure 4: Evolution of the value of sold production for the top 5 manufacturing activities, EU-28, 2008–2017 (2015=100)

Source: Eurostat DS_066341

Figure 4 shows the evolution of the value of sold production for the five largest manufacturing activities in the EU-28, over the period 2008 - 2017. Between 2008 and 2017, the manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers was the most volatile activity among the top five manufacturing activities. In terms of reported value of the sold production, this activity increased the most compared with 2008 (with 23 %), with a peak of almost EUR 150 billion in 2016, followed by a slight decrease of 2 % in 2017. The Manufacture of food products increased by EUR 106 billion (17 %) over this period, an important impact having the 2017 growth of almost 5 % compared with 2016. In 2017 all these five main manufacturing activities surpassed the levels of 2008 sold production value.

Analysing based on constant prices, in 2017, the manufacture of basic fabricated metals decreased by 2 % and the manufacture of machinery and equipment by 4 % compared to 2008. Food manufacturing is up by 6 % and the manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers by 14 % over the same period.

Results for some examples of products or group of products sold

The results are detailed at four-digit level of the Statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community (NACE).

Production of motor vehicles accounted for two thirds of EU-28’s value of sold production of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers

Figure 5 further analyses the share of the value of sold production for the Manufacturing of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers (Division 29 of NACE Rev.2) in 2017.
The overall value of sold production generated by the Manufacturing of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers in 2017 was of EUR 712 billion; this value represents 14 % of the total EU-28’s value of sold production. In 2017, the value of sold production for this manufacturing sector rose by 23 % compared with 2008, and with 2 % compared with 2015, but is 1.6 % less than the year 2016 when it reached its peak. In 2017, approximately EUR 456 billion, representing almost two thirds of the sold production value, referred the manufacturing of motor vehicles (64 %). The manufacturing of other parts and accessories, bodies (coachwork), electrical and electronic equipment for motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers accounted for the rest of the sold production in this activity, representing 36 %.

On average, one kilogram of fresh bread produced in EU-28 was sold for 1.5 Euro

Figure 6 presents the value of production sold for 1 kilogram of fresh bread, in the EU-28 over the period 2008 - 2017 and in each country for 2017.
The economic crises in 2008 brought slightly down the sold production of fresh bread across the EU-28; the quantity fell by 2% in 2009 compared to 2008, while the value fell by 5% in the same time. However, the value of production sold started to increase again from 2009 onwards, reaching a 10% increase over the period 2008-2017, while the quantity increased by only 1%.

The average value of production sold for one kilogram of fresh bread increased by 9% until 2017. Its peak was reached in 2016, when arrived at EUR 1.53 for 1 kilogram of fresh bread. Afterwards this value fell slightly in 2017 by 2% to EUR 1.50 per kg.

In 2017, Finland was the country where one kilogram of fresh bread produced was sold at the highest price, over EUR 2.5. In Italy, Sweden, Austria and Germany this quantity was sold at between EUR 2 and 2.35. Rather low prices, of under EUR 1 per kg, were observed in Latvia, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Lithuania, Hungary and Romania. Bulgaria is the country with the lowest value of production sold, with under 50 cents/kg.

**EU-28’s production of wind turbines is at its lowest**

Figure 7 provides an overview of the number of wind turbines produced in the EU-28, during the period 2008-2017. In 2008, 60 thousand wind turbines were produced, with a total value of sold production of EUR 11 billion. This was the highest number of wind turbines produced in the EU-28 during the period 2008-2017.
The manufacturing of this product decreased by almost 70% in 2009, increased slightly in 2010 and continued to decrease by 77% until 2012. A partial recovery of the production of wind turbines was observed during 2014 and 2015, but in 2017 hit the lowest point recorded in these last 10 years. Despite this drop of the produced quantity, the sold production value remained quite constant over the last four years, with a total of EUR 9.5 billion in 2017.

Figure 7: Wind turbines produced in EU-28, 2008-2017 (thousand pieces)

A quarter of the quantity of paints and varnishes produced across EU-28 is made in Germany

Figure 8 analyses the production of paints and varnishes in the EU Member States in 2017. The EU produced 3.7 billion kilograms of paints and varnishes in 2017, with a value of sold production of EUR 6.9 Billion. Germany’s production of paints and varnishes accounted for a quarter of the quantity produced at the EU level; this production was over 915 Million kilograms; France and the United Kingdom followed. These three EU Member States remained in the lead of the manufacturing of these products, followed by Italy, Spain and Poland to complete the top 6 of EU producers. These six countries together count for over three quarters of the total production within the EU.
A look into the EU’s production of home wooden furniture

Figure 9 shows the number of pieces of wooden furniture of a kind used in the bedroom, in the dining room and in the living room, by the type of use, produced in the EU-28 during 2017. In total, almost 140 million pieces of wooden furniture for bedroom, dining and living room were produced in 2017 counting for more than EUR 12.6 billion. Italy is leading in the production of such furniture, with a value of sold production of over EUR 3.3 billion which counts for over one quarter of the total EU. It is followed by Germany (EUR 2 billion), Poland (EUR 1.9 billion), Romania (EUR 1 billion), the United Kingdom and France (EUR 0.7 billion each). These Member States account for three-quarters of the total EU production of wooden furniture used in the bedroom, in the dining room and in the living room.

Ireland is the most specialized EU Member States for the production of wooden furniture for the bedroom with 91 % of the sold quantity, followed by France (87 %), the United Kingdom (85 %) and Hungary (81 %) while, on the other side, Poland’s 80 % of sold quantity of wooden furniture was for use in the dining room and in the living room. Overall, the EU produced both types of products at equal level; at Member State level, balanced production can be observed in Belgium, Croatia and Portugal.
Figure 9: Wooden furniture of a kind used in the bedroom and in the dining & living room, EU-28, 2017; % Source: Eurostat DS_066341

Source data for tables and graphs

- Industrial production: tables and figures

Data sources

The Prodcom list is linked to the activity classification NACE and to the classification of products by activity (CPA): the first four digits of each Prodcom code refer to a NACE class, the fifth and sixth digits relate to a CPA sub-category, and the seventh and eighth digits are specific to the Prodcom list. Most headings correspond to one or more codes from the combined nomenclature (CN), a classification used for statistics on international trade in goods; some headings (mostly industrial services) do not correspond to a CN heading at all. The relationship with CN makes it possible to calculate apparent consumption by linking production statistics to international trade statistics.

The production surveyed covers only the production actually carried out on the territory of the reporting country. This means that the production of subsidiaries which takes place outside an enterprise’s territory is not included in the survey results for that country. As a general principle, when a production process takes as an input a material that does not match the description of the product, and produces as an output something that does, then production of the product should be recorded. If the processing of a product does not change the heading under which it is listed, it should not be recorded, since this would result in double-counting. This means that the link to turnover data is tenuous, since some activities do not result in new products and should not be recorded in Prodcom statistics.

At the time of writing (September 2018), Prodcom data are available for the EU Member States, Iceland, Norway, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina; Eurostat produces aggregates for the EU-28. According to the terms of the Prodcom Regulation, Cyprus, Luxembourg and Malta have derogations not to provide Prodcom data to Eurostat because of their size; as such there is no data for these three Member States in the database.

Data are available during the year following the reference year, with the first release of information usually taking place in July. As more complete and revised data become available, updates are released on a monthly
Data in Excel files

- NACE Rev. 2 Prodcom data available in Excel files
- NACE Rev. 1.1 Prodcom data available in Excel files

Context

The development of Prodcom dates back to 1985 when Eurostat organised a series of meetings on production statistics, whose objective was to harmonise the various ways industrial production statistics were collected in the EU Member States. Although statistics were collected on products in most countries, there was a varied selection of classifications in use reflecting national situations and a range of different survey methods were applied.

The Prodcom Regulation is designed 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 the statistical system had to adapt.

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 national statistical authorities and the European trade associations to work together to produce a classification that would be understood by businesses and would be appropriate for national and European statistics. Production statistics are used by the European Commission and national administrations for policymaking and by professional/trade associations and their members. The use of the data in climate change statistics is increasing, as well as in other environmental statistics such as the analysis of material flows or chemicals production and consumption statistics.

Other articles

- Business economy by sector - NACE Rev. 2 (online publication)
- Industrial production statistics introduced - PRODCOM — background article
- Chemicals production and consumption statistics
- Structural business statistics introduced — background article
- Material flow accounts and resource productivity

Database

- Statistics on the production of manufactured goods (prom), see:

  Detailed data by PRODCOM list (NACE Rev. 1.1) (prom1) (Excel tables N1)
  - Sold production, exports and imports by PRODCOM list (NACE Rev. 1.1) - annual data (DS_043408)
  - Total production by PRODCOM list (NACE Rev. 1.1) - annual data (DS_043409)
  - Sold production, exports and imports for steel by PRODCOM list (NACE Rev. 1.1) - monthly data (DS_008573)

  Detailed data by PRODCOM list (NACE Rev. 2) (prom2) (Excel tables N2)
  - Sold production, exports and imports by PRODCOM list (NACE Rev. 2) - annual data (DS_066341)
  - Total production by PRODCOM list (NACE Rev. 2) - annual data (DS_066342)

  Traditional international trade database access (ComExt) (comext)

Dedicated section

- Manufactured goods — Prodcom
Methodology

- Methodology for calculation at constant prices
- Statistics on the production of manufactured goods (ESMS metadata file — prom_esms)
- Eurostat classification server (RAMON) — correspondence between Prodcom 2008 and CPC ver.2

Legislation


View this article online at http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Industrial_production_statistics