

Seasonally adjusted industrial turnover recorded during the fourth quarter of 2020 increased by 0.1 per cent over the previous quarter. When compared to the corresponding period of 2019, working-day adjusted industrial turnover decreased by 3.5 per cent.

Short-term Industrial Indicators: Q4/2020

Cut-off date:
9 February 2021

Quarterly comparison

During the fourth quarter of 2020, seasonally adjusted industrial turnover increased by 0.1 per cent over the previous quarter. Increases were recorded in intermediate goods (5.1 per cent), consumer goods (3.3 per cent) and capital goods (0.3 per cent). Energy decreased by 8.0 per cent (Table 1).

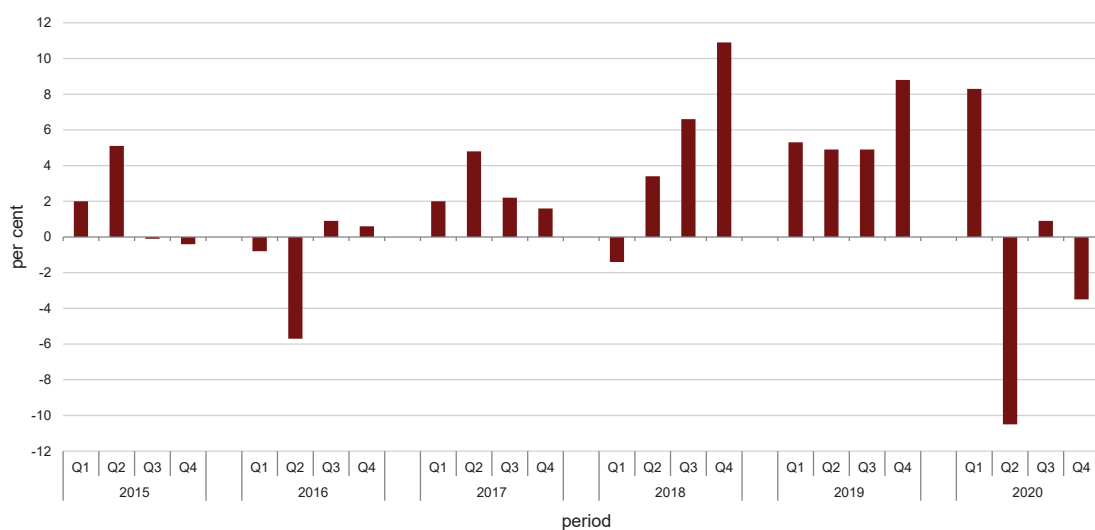
Seasonally adjusted industrial employment increased by 0.4 per cent (Table 3). During this period, seasonally adjusted industrial hours worked increased by 2.7 per cent (Table 5) and seasonally adjusted industrial gross wages and salaries rose by 4.8 per cent (Table 7).

Annual comparison

When compared to the corresponding quarter of 2019, working-day adjusted industrial turnover decreased by 3.5 per cent. Decreases were registered in capital goods (8.3 per cent), consumer goods (6.4 per cent) and energy (3.0 per cent). An increase was registered in intermediate goods (2.4 per cent) (Table 2).

A decrease of 1.9 per cent was recorded in the year-on-year unadjusted industrial employment (Table 4). Working-day adjusted industrial hours worked decreased by 6.7 per cent (Table 6) and working-day adjusted industrial gross wages and salaries went down by 1.6 per cent (Table 8) ■

Chart 1. Annual industrial turnover working-day adjusted variation
(% change in comparison with corresponding quarter in previous year)



Statistics in this News Release should be interpreted in the context of the COVID-19 situation.

Table 1. Industrial turnover by main industrial grouping
(Seasonally adjusted; 2015=100)

Main industrial grouping	2019	2020				% change compared with previous quarter				
						2019	2020			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Intermediate goods	106.6	115.8	103.3	103.9	109.2	-5.2	8.6	-10.8	0.6	5.1
Energy	111.1	114.7	106.1	117.2	107.8	-6.3	3.3	-7.5	10.4	-8.0
Capital goods	121.7	120.0	78.1	111.2	111.5	10.9	-1.4	-35.0	42.5	0.3
Consumer goods	133.1	113.5	110.5	119.7	123.7	22.7	-14.7	-2.6	8.3	3.3
Durable consumer goods	169.1	118.6	76.3	116.5	114.2	30.8	-29.9	-35.6	52.6	-2.0
Non-durable consumer goods	130.8	113.3	112.1	120.7	124.7	21.6	-13.3	-1.1	7.7	3.3
Total industry	118.7	116.4	99.1	114.4	114.5	4.9	-2.0	-14.8	15.5	0.1

Table 2. Industrial turnover by main industrial grouping
(Working-day adjusted; 2015=100)

Main industrial grouping	2019	2020				% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
						2019	2020			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Intermediate goods	108.9	114.2	103.8	102.6	111.6	-5.8	5.0	-9.0	-7.6	2.4
Energy	108.1	108.7	97.8	136.0	104.8	-1.4	1.0	-11.8	-1.0	-3.0
Capital goods	126.3	124.6	83.6	95.9	115.8	12.7	8.8	-34.8	0.8	-8.3
Consumer goods	141.9	107.6	105.8	122.7	132.8	27.2	15.6	4.2	11.2	-6.4
Durable consumer goods	174.3	105.9	80.7	118.8	117.6	47.1	1.4	-37.2	-9.8	-32.5
Non-durable consumer goods	139.5	107.7	107.6	123.0	133.9	25.7	16.8	8.1	13.0	-4.0
Total industry	122.8	113.0	100.1	112.7	118.4	8.8	8.3	-10.5	0.9	-3.5

Table 3. Industrial employment by main industrial grouping
(Seasonally adjusted; 2015=100)

Main industrial grouping	2019	2020				% change compared with previous quarter				
						2019	2020			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Intermediate goods	103.0	103.3	100.3	98.9	99.1	-0.3	0.3	-2.9	-1.4	0.2
Energy	133.8	134.4	131.8	138.6	135.3	-0.6	0.4	-2.0	5.1	-2.3
Capital goods	98.2	100.0	97.6	98.9	98.8	1.4	1.9	-2.4	1.3	-0.1
Consumer goods	91.4	90.5	88.5	88.2	89.1	-1.3	-0.9	-2.2	-0.4	1.0
Durable consumer goods	86.8	87.2	80.0	80.1	82.1	1.5	0.5	-8.3	0.1	2.5
Non-durable consumer goods	92.2	91.2	90.1	89.6	90.3	-1.5	-1.1	-1.2	-0.6	0.7
Total industry	98.5	98.6	96.2	96.1	96.5	-0.2	0.1	-2.4	-0.1	0.4

Table 4. Industrial employment by main industrial grouping
(Unadjusted; 2015=100)

Main industrial grouping	2019	2020				% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
						2019	2020			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Intermediate goods	103.0	103.3	100.0	99.3	99.1	0.2	-0.5	-3.7	-4.3	-3.8
Energy	133.8	134.4	131.8	138.6	135.3	-0.8	3.4	2.4	2.8	1.1
Capital goods	98.2	99.5	97.5	99.5	98.8	-0.3	2.1	-0.3	2.1	0.6
Consumer goods	91.2	90.6	88.2	88.6	88.9	-2.9	-3.3	-5.2	-4.9	-2.5
Durable consumer goods	86.8	87.2	80.0	80.1	82.1	-3.6	-0.6	-8.1	-6.3	-5.4
Non-durable consumer goods	92.0	91.2	89.7	90.1	90.2	-2.8	-3.7	-4.7	-4.7	-2.0
Total industry	98.3	98.5	95.9	96.6	96.4	-1.2	-0.8	-3.2	-2.7	-1.9

Table 5. Industrial hours worked by main industrial grouping
(Seasonally adjusted; 2015=100)

Main industrial grouping	2019	2020				% change compared with previous quarter				
						2019	2020			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Intermediate goods	103.4	103.8	91.6	91.8	99.3	-1.1	0.4	-11.7	0.3	8.1
Energy	133.0	136.5	131.4	132.7	134.1	1.3	2.7	-3.7	1.0	1.0
Capital goods	101.6	100.3	87.9	90.0	89.9	1.4	-1.3	-12.4	2.5	-0.1
Consumer goods	96.7	93.8	89.8	90.4	89.3	-1.4	-3.0	-4.2	0.6	-1.2
Durable consumer goods	90.8	90.8	82.2	82.9	83.8	0.6	0.0	-9.4	0.8	1.1
Non-durable consumer goods	97.6	94.5	90.5	91.3	90.2	-1.2	-3.2	-4.2	0.9	-1.2
Total industry	102.4	101.0	91.1	93.1	95.6	0.2	-1.4	-9.8	2.2	2.7

Table 6. Industrial hours worked by main industrial grouping
(Working-day adjusted; 2015=100)

Main industrial grouping	2019	2020				% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
						2019	2020			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Intermediate goods	102.3	103.7	93.3	91.4	98.2	2.8	-0.5	-12.7	-12.2	-4.0
Energy	132.9	135.6	131.1	134.0	134.0	2.1	4.6	2.4	1.1	0.9
Capital goods	102.4	99.9	87.7	90.0	90.7	1.1	-0.4	-12.7	-10.1	-11.5
Consumer goods	97.6	92.4	88.4	92.1	90.4	-1.1	-3.0	-9.4	-7.6	-7.4
Durable consumer goods	90.8	90.8	82.2	82.9	83.8	-1.6	-0.6	-10.7	-8.1	-7.7
Non-durable consumer goods	98.4	92.8	89.2	93.3	91.2	-1.0	-3.1	-9.2	-7.4	-7.4
Total industry	101.8	100.3	92.0	93.3	95.1	0.8	-0.5	-10.6	-8.9	-6.7

Table 7. Industrial gross wages and salaries by main industrial grouping
(Seasonally adjusted; 2015=100)

Main industrial grouping	2019	2020				% change compared with previous quarter				
						2019	2020			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Intermediate goods	120.1	120.9	115.1	109.0	120.0	-1.2	0.6	-4.7	-5.3	10.1
Energy	255.6	229.8	233.4	222.3	264.3	19.5	-10.1	1.5	-4.7	18.9
Capital goods	121.1	119.6	103.5	119.1	116.3	4.2	-1.2	-13.5	15.1	-2.4
Consumer goods	107.5	107.5	99.0	102.4	104.4	1.8	0.0	-7.9	3.4	2.0
Durable consumer goods	94.0	100.9	84.5	91.8	92.9	0.4	7.3	-16.3	8.7	1.3
Non-durable consumer goods	108.6	108.3	99.9	103.2	105.3	2.0	-0.3	-7.8	3.3	2.0
Total industry	122.9	121.5	112.8	115.5	121.0	2.8	-1.2	-7.1	2.4	4.8

Table 8. Industrial gross wages and salaries by main industrial grouping
(Working-day adjusted; 2015=100)

Main industrial grouping	2019	2020				% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
						2019	2020			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Intermediate goods	120.0	120.5	115.7	108.9	119.9	2.9	3.0	-4.2	-10.4	-0.1
Energy	255.6	229.8	233.4	222.3	264.3	32.0	11.2	13.8	3.9	3.4
Capital goods	121.1	119.6	103.5	119.1	116.3	8.3	5.6	-9.5	2.5	-3.9
Consumer goods	107.1	107.6	98.7	102.9	103.9	3.3	2.0	-5.0	-2.9	-2.9
Durable consumer goods	94.0	100.9	84.5	91.8	92.9	-4.2	4.3	-10.2	-1.9	-1.2
Non-durable consumer goods	108.2	108.2	99.9	103.9	104.9	3.9	1.8	-4.6	-3.0	-3.1
Total industry	122.9	121.5	112.8	115.5	121.0	7.1	4.1	-4.0	-3.3	-1.6

Methodological notes

1. This news release comprises a number of business cycle indicators showing the quarterly evolution of the market of goods and services in the industrial sector. It records the evolution of turnover, employment, wages and salaries, and hours worked over long periods of time. The objective of these indicators is to measure the market activity in the industrial sector. These indicators are compiled as a "five-year chain-linked index". The current base and reference years are 2015. The results are compiled and published according to the statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community, NACE Rev. 2.
2. The data is collected by means of a monthly questionnaire which is sent to a representative sample of enterprises categorised within the industrial sector. The data is then grossed up to represent the entire industrial population.
3. For the scope of the index calculation, NACE divisions 09, 12, 15, 19, 24 and NACE groups 27.5 and 30.9 are excluded because of their negligible activity.
4. The calendar and seasonal adjustments for this release are done directly on quarterly indices. These indices cannot be compared directly to the indices published by Eurostat, since quarterly adjusted European aggregates are calculated from monthly adjusted series, which are provided by the Member States.
5. Calendar adjustment is a statistical method for removing the calendar effect from an economic time series. The calendar effect is the variation caused by the changing number of particular weekdays or holidays in different months or other time periods (quarters, years). The number of working days for a given quarter may depend on the timing of certain public holidays, the possible overlap of certain public holidays and non-working days and the occurrence of a leap year. This method is used to compare the data with that of the same quarter of the previous year.
6. Working day adjustment is the part of calendar adjustment which focuses on the changing number of working days (Monday to Friday) in the various months/quarters and their effect on statistical indicators for these months/quarters.
7. Seasonal adjustment removes variations which include effects due to quarter lengths, holidays and particular events such as Christmas. Statistically, seasonal adjustment takes place after a time series has already been cleared of calendar effects by way of working-day adjustment. This method is used to compare data with that of the previous quarter.
8. The objective of Main Industrial Groupings (MIGs) is to provide an activity breakdown of industry (NACE Rev. 2 Sections B, C, D and E). These regroup all the activities between Sections B to E and cover economic activities of companies in the quarrying, manufacturing, water and energy sectors. There are four MIGs, namely intermediate goods, energy, capital goods and consumer goods, of which the consumer goods grouping is further broken down into durable consumer goods and non-durable consumer goods.
9. **Definitions:**
 - **Turnover:** Includes total sales and other income presented in current prices and is expressed net of VAT.
 - **Wages and salaries:** Covers wages and salaries including bonuses, weekly allowances (cost of living allowances), overtime and national social security contributions by employees. It does not include employers' social security charges.
 - **Employment:** Covers all persons employed, regardless of whether they are part-time or full-time, and includes paid employees, working proprietors and unpaid family workers. Employment is not working-day adjusted since the number of employees does not depend on the factors that make up the working-day effect.
 - **Hours worked:** Covers total amount of hours actually worked; regular working hours and hours worked during overtime, during nights, Sundays or Public holidays. Hours worked but not paid are also considered.

A distribution of the aggregation weights by variable and main industrial grouping is presented in the following table:

Main industrial grouping	Turnover	Employment	Wages and salaries	Hours worked
Intermediate goods	35.8	31.9	31.4	33.8
Energy	13.7	4.3	5.6	4.8
Capital goods	17.3	22.0	24.6	22.2
Consumer goods	33.2	41.8	38.4	39.2
Durable consumer goods	2.3	6.4	2.9	4.4
Non-durable consumer goods	30.9	35.4	35.5	34.8
Total industry	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

10. The calculation of growth rates from the indices table may slightly differ from the growth rates published due to rounding.
11. The data contained in this release should be considered as provisional and thereby subject to revision. Each release may include revisions of the past quarterly data in respect of a rolling two-year period.
12. As from January 2018, the index has been re-referenced from 2010 = 100 to 2015 = 100. Hence, news releases published before January 2018 cannot be directly compared with those published afterwards.

13. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:
Statistical Concepts: <https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/concepts.aspx>
Metadata: <https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/reports.aspx?id=13>
Classifications: <https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/classificationdetails.aspx?id=NACE%20Rev.%20202>
14. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.
15. A detailed news release calendar is available on: https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx