

In March 2021, the seasonally adjusted index of industrial production increased by 2.0 per cent over the previous month. When compared to March 2020, the working-day adjusted index of industrial production decreased by 2.9 per cent.

## Index of Industrial Production: March 2021

Cut-off date:  
30 April 2021

### Monthly comparison

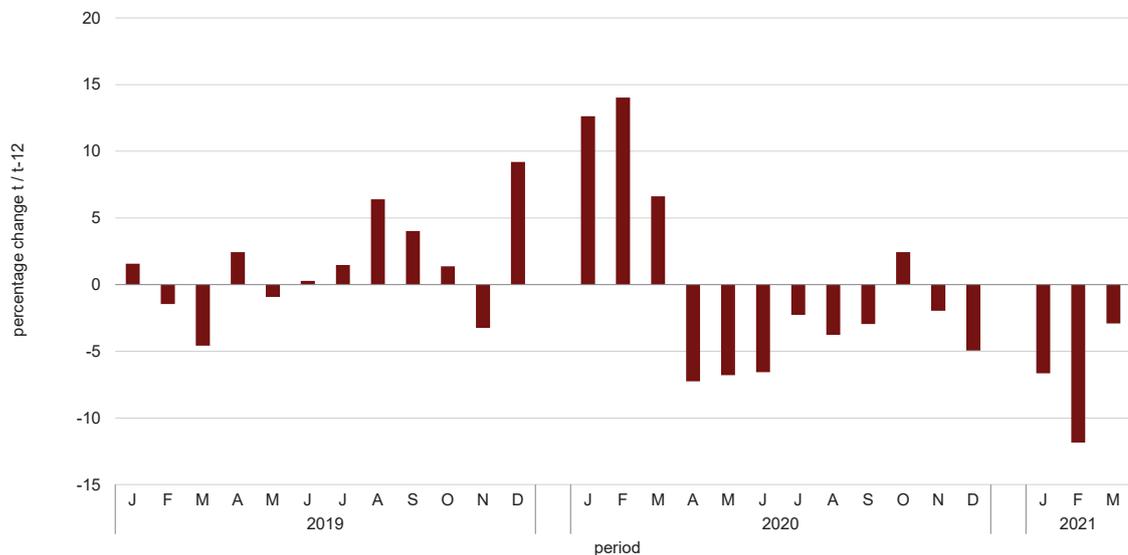
In March 2021, the seasonally adjusted index of industrial production increased by 2.0 per cent over February 2021. Increases were registered in the production of capital goods (3.9 per cent), energy (2.2 per cent) and intermediate goods (1.1 per cent). On the other hand, the production of consumer goods decreased by 0.3 per cent (Table 2).

### Annual comparison

When compared to March 2020, the working-day adjusted index of industrial production decreased by 2.9 per cent. This decline is the result of production decreases in energy (11.2 per cent), intermediate goods (3.2 per cent) and consumer goods (1.0 per cent). Oppositely, the production of capital goods went up by 1.0 per cent (Table 4) ■

**Chart 1. Annual working-day adjusted variation**

(% change over corresponding month of the previous year)



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

**Table 1. Industrial production indices by period and main industrial grouping**  
(seasonally adjusted; 2015=100)

Main industrial grouping	Mar 20	Apr 20	May 20	Jun 20	Jul 20	Aug 20	Sep 20	Oct 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21
Intermediate goods	104.8	98.4	95.6	94.2	94.8	96.4	99.0	103.9	103.1	102.9	98.9	98.6	99.7
Energy	150.5	139.2	139.8	139.6	134.8	132.7	132.7	126.6	114.5	123.6	125.0	131.7	134.6
Capital goods	98.9	83.4	81.9	88.2	97.7	102.8	97.4	98.6	101.6	102.0	98.1	96.4	100.2
Consumer goods	96.1	89.9	95.0	93.6	97.7	98.7	98.0	103.3	98.5	99.2	105.0	96.2	95.9
of which:													
Durable consumer goods	91.9	86.8	85.5	92.1	88.4	93.9	87.3	86.5	91.6	89.4	88.1	88.1	88.6
Non-durable consumer goods	96.4	90.3	95.6	93.8	98.2	98.9	98.6	104.3	98.9	99.2	106.3	96.7	96.4
<b>Total production</b>	<b>104.4</b>	<b>97.0</b>	<b>98.6</b>	<b>98.3</b>	<b>102.1</b>	<b>104.1</b>	<b>102.5</b>	<b>106.1</b>	<b>103.2</b>	<b>103.2</b>	<b>103.7</b>	<b>99.4</b>	<b>101.4</b>

**Table 2. Monthly variation by period and main industrial grouping**  
(seasonally adjusted)

Main industrial grouping	Mar 20	Apr 20	May 20	Jun 20	Jul 20	Aug 20	Sep 20	Oct 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21
Intermediate goods	-1.5	-6.1	-2.8	-1.5	0.6	1.7	2.7	4.9	-0.8	-0.2	-3.9	-0.3	1.1
Energy	-9.9	-7.5	0.4	-0.1	-3.4	-1.6	0.0	-4.6	-9.6	7.9	1.1	5.4	2.2
Capital goods	-10.6	-15.7	-1.8	7.7	10.8	5.2	-5.3	1.2	3.0	0.4	-3.8	-1.7	3.9
Consumer goods	-5.5	-6.5	5.7	-1.5	4.4	1.0	-0.7	5.4	-4.6	0.7	5.8	-8.4	-0.3
of which:													
Durable consumer goods	-3.2	-5.5	-1.5	7.7	-4.0	6.2	-7.0	-0.9	5.9	-2.4	-1.5	0.0	0.6
Non-durable consumer goods	-5.7	-6.3	5.9	-1.9	4.7	0.7	-0.3	5.8	-5.2	0.3	7.2	-9.0	-0.3
<b>Total production</b>	<b>-7.2</b>	<b>-7.1</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>-2.7</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>-4.1</b>	<b>2.0</b>

Notes:

1. Table 2 shows percentage change compared to the previous month.
2. The calculation of growth rates from the indices table may differ slightly from the published growth rates, due to rounding.

**Table 3. Industrial production indices by period and main industrial grouping**  
(working-day adjusted; 2015=100)

Main industrial grouping	Mar 19	Mar 20	Apr 20	May 20	Jun 20	Jul 20	Aug 20	Sep 20	Oct 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21
Intermediate goods	109.8	117.5	96.6	96.4	96.2	93.9	81.6	103.4	113.3	106.3	92.0	95.3	96.7	113.7
Energy	119.5	139.6	125.0	132.3	142.9	160.2	164.3	143.3	128.5	98.2	116.8	121.7	117.4	123.9
Capital goods	110.7	103.2	84.4	79.1	89.6	95.7	96.0	98.9	102.8	105.1	97.2	100.4	94.0	104.2
Consumer goods	83.7	92.8	86.9	100.0	94.1	105.4	98.3	105.1	114.9	107.0	79.1	101.3	88.9	91.9
of which:														
Durable consumer goods	97.8	93.6	87.0	85.6	91.9	90.4	85.9	87.7	88.8	95.2	83.6	89.6	88.2	90.3
Non-durable consumer goods	82.9	92.8	86.9	100.8	94.3	106.3	99.0	106.1	116.4	107.6	78.9	102.0	89.0	92.0
<b>Total production</b>	<b>99.8</b>	<b>106.4</b>	<b>93.3</b>	<b>98.9</b>	<b>99.7</b>	<b>107.6</b>	<b>102.3</b>	<b>108.2</b>	<b>113.7</b>	<b>105.3</b>	<b>90.3</b>	<b>102.4</b>	<b>95.3</b>	<b>103.3</b>

**Table 4. Annual variation by period and main industrial grouping**  
(working-day adjusted)

Main industrial grouping	Mar 19	Mar 20	Apr 20	May 20	Jun 20	Jul 20	Aug 20	Sep 20	Oct 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21
Intermediate goods	-3.0	7.0	-8.4	-13.1	-7.3	-9.5	-10.5	-3.5	5.4	1.0	7.2	-7.4	-11.6	-3.2
Energy	18.0	16.8	3.4	-0.5	-3.8	1.6	-3.5	1.8	-7.6	-18.2	-15.2	-29.0	-23.1	-11.2
Capital goods	-1.0	-6.8	-19.9	-24.7	-18.8	-6.7	-0.9	-7.7	-6.3	0.2	-7.4	-13.8	-13.1	1.0
Consumer goods	-14.0	10.9	-3.7	3.4	-0.3	1.7	-1.9	-2.4	8.9	0.8	-4.6	9.0	-5.8	-1.0
of which:														
Durable consumer goods	2.0	-4.3	-11.3	-12.9	-2.9	-10.4	-3.4	-12.3	-9.9	-2.7	-11.2	-6.7	-7.3	-3.5
Non-durable consumer goods	-15.0	11.9	-3.1	4.3	0.0	2.4	-1.8	-1.9	9.8	1.0	-4.0	10.0	-5.6	-0.9
<b>Total production</b>	<b>-5.0</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>-7.3</b>	<b>-6.8</b>	<b>-6.6</b>	<b>-2.3</b>	<b>-3.8</b>	<b>-3.0</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>-2.0</b>	<b>-4.9</b>	<b>-6.7</b>	<b>-11.8</b>	<b>-2.9</b>

Notes:

1. Table 4 shows percentage change compared to the corresponding month of the previous year.
2. The calculation of growth rates from the indices table may differ slightly from the published growth rates, due to rounding.

## Methodological Notes

1. The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is regarded as one of the most important measures of economic activity. Developments in the industrial production index describe the economic cycles of industry. For short-term statistics, this index is the reference indicator for economic development and is used in particular to identify changes in trends at an early stage. The index of industrial production has been compiled since January 2000 and monitors the changes in the production of leading products from a sample of industrial enterprises. Such enterprises cover over 95 per cent of the total industrial production.
2. A Laspeyres-type index is used for calculating the index of industrial production, with 2015 as the base year.
3. The number of surveyed enterprises is approximately 200. The activities covered by the index are calculated as follows: 60 per cent are calculated using the physical quantities method, 20 per cent are calculated using the deflated turnover approach, while the remaining 20 per cent are computed using the hours worked method.
4. The index numbers in this release are working-day and seasonally adjusted. These statistical methods aid interpretation of data by removing regularly recurring variations from a time series and are used as follows:
  - a. Working-day adjustment is a statistical method which is used to remove the calendar effect from an economic time series. The calendar effect is the variation caused by the changing number of working days in different months. The number of working days for a given month may depend on the timing of certain public holidays, the possible overlap between public holidays and non-working days, and the occurrence of a leap year. This method is used to compare data with the corresponding month of the preceding year.
  - b. Seasonal adjustment removes variation effects which are caused by the number of days in a month, holidays and particular events such as Christmas. Statistically, seasonal adjustment takes place after a time series has already been cleared of calendar effects by means of working-day adjustment. Seasonal adjustment is used to compare data with the preceding month.
  - c. In seasonal and working-day adjustments, the direct approach is used. The direct approach means that each time series is individually adjusted.
5. The NSO has adopted methodologies and guidelines which are recommended by both Eurostat and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
6. The objective of the Main Industrial Groupings (MIGs) is to provide an activity breakdown of industry (NACE Rev. 2 sections B, C, D and E). There are five MIGs which regroup all activities between NACE sections B to E, covering the economic activities of companies in quarrying, manufacturing and energy.
7. The Energy production index includes the volume of output produced by statistical business units that are classified under NACE Divisions D35 and E36. The index excludes the electricity supply imported via the Malta-Sicily Interconnector.
8. The 2015 weights for the main industrial groupings are shown in the table below:

Main industrial grouping	Value added (%)
Intermediate goods	22.7
Energy	12.5
Capital goods	20.6
Consumer goods	44.2
Durable consumer goods	2.4
Non-durable consumer goods	41.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>

9. Figures for the past 26 months, inclusive of the reference month, are to be considered as provisional and therefore subject to revision.
10. As from the year 2018, the index has been re-referenced from 2010 = 100 to 2015 = 100. Hence, news releases with reference month January 2018 onwards, cannot be directly compared with those published beforehand.
11. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:

Sources and Methods:

[https://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources\\_and\\_Methods/Unit\\_B2/Short-term\\_Statistics/Pages/Short-term-Statistics.aspx](https://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources_and_Methods/Unit_B2/Short-term_Statistics/Pages/Short-term-Statistics.aspx)

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.%202>

12. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.

13. A detailed news release calendar is available on:

[https://nso.gov.mt/en/News\\_Releases/Release\\_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx](https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx)

**European statistics comparable to data in this News Release are available at:**

[EUROSTAT Website/Homepage/Statistics Database](#)

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