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In March 2017, seasonally adjusted industrial production decreased by 0.8 per cent over the previous month. When compared to March 2016, the index of industrial production adjusted for working days went up by 4.4 per cent.

Index of Industrial Production: March 2017

Cut-off date: **Monthly comparison**
28 April 2017

In March 2017, the seasonally adjusted index of industrial production decreased by 0.8 per cent. Decreases were registered in the production of consumer goods (2.0 per cent) and capital goods (0.4 per cent). On the other hand, the production of energy and intermediate goods went up by 2.5 and 0.5 per cent respectively (Table 2).

Annual comparison

When compared to March 2016, the index of industrial production adjusted for working days went up by 4.4 per cent. Increases were registered in the production of consumer goods (6.9 per cent), energy (6.1 per cent) and intermediate goods (4.5 per cent). On the other hand, the production of capital goods went down by 0.4 per cent (Table 4) ■

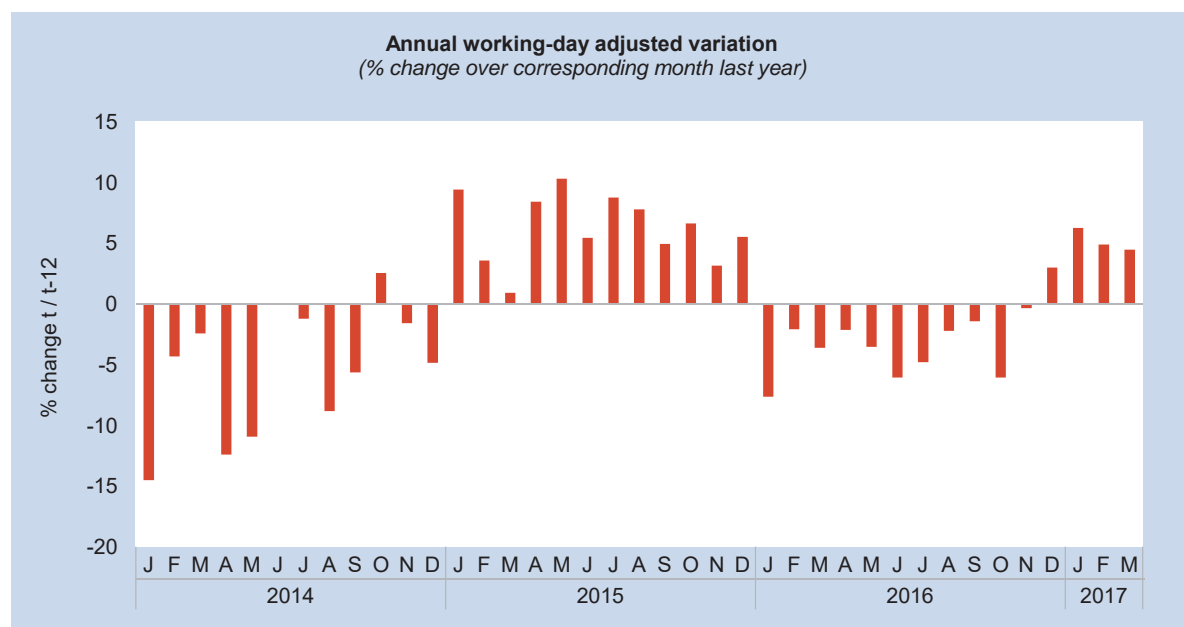


Table 1. Industrial production indices by main industrial grouping and period
(seasonally adjusted; 2010=100)

Main industrial grouping	Mar 16	Apr 16	May 16	Jun 16	Jul 16	Aug 16	Sep 16	Oct 16	Nov 16	Dec 16	Jan 17	Feb 17	Mar 17
Intermediate goods	87.2	81.8	83.6	78.4	83.5	81.0	88.4	86.1	90.5	90.2	91.9	92.9	93.3
Energy	106.4	107.9	107.5	108.3	106.7	105.2	106.8	111.3	110.8	111.1	116.2	110.1	112.8
Capital goods	122.5	112.5	114.8	113.2	118.3	118.8	118.2	115.3	121.2	124.0	125.0	122.2	121.7
Consumer goods	91.4	105.7	100.4	103.3	97.5	103.2	95.5	93.6	94.9	94.6	93.9	99.8	97.8
Durable consumer goods	98.0	92.7	92.0	91.2	91.0	92.2	91.7	93.3	89.1	94.6	91.0	90.9	87.7
Non-durable consumer goods	91.0	106.7	101.3	104.3	97.9	104.3	95.9	93.5	95.6	94.5	94.3	100.6	98.9
Total production	96.0	97.2	97.2	96.7	96.5	97.6	98.5	96.5	98.8	100.6	99.9	101.1	100.3

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

Main industrial grouping	Mar 16	Apr 16	May 16	Jun 16	Jul 16	Aug 16	Sep 16	Oct 16	Nov 16	Dec 16	Jan 17	Feb 17	Mar 17
Intermediate goods	2.3	-6.1	2.2	-6.2	6.4	-2.9	9.1	-2.6	5.0	-0.4	2.0	1.0	0.5
Energy	-1.5	1.4	-0.4	0.7	-1.5	-1.3	1.5	4.3	-0.5	0.3	4.5	-5.3	2.5
Capital goods	1.6	-8.1	2.0	-1.4	4.5	0.5	-0.5	-2.4	5.1	2.3	0.8	-2.2	-0.4
Consumer goods	-3.9	15.6	-4.9	2.9	-5.6	5.8	-7.4	-2.0	1.4	-0.4	-0.7	6.3	-2.0
Durable consumer goods	2.4	-5.4	-0.7	-0.8	-0.2	1.4	-0.6	1.8	-4.5	6.2	-3.8	-0.2	-3.5
Non-durable consumer goods	-4.4	17.3	-5.1	2.9	-6.1	6.5	-8.1	-2.5	2.2	-1.1	-0.2	6.7	-1.7
Total production	-0.5	1.2	0.0	-0.5	-0.2	1.1	0.9	-2.0	2.3	1.8	-0.6	1.2	-0.8

Notes:

1. Table shows % 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 main industrial grouping and period
(working-day adjusted; 2010=100)

Main industrial grouping	Mar 15	Mar 16	Apr 16	May 16	Jun 16	Jul 16	Aug 16	Sep 16	Oct 16	Nov 16	Dec 16	Jan 17	Feb 17	Mar 17
Intermediate goods	94.3	98.6	77.7	82.4	87.3	81.6	70.4	99.3	89.5	89.7	90.0	82.2	86.7	103.0
Energy	99.6	99.1	96.0	101.4	109.1	127.2	126.4	115.7	114.5	101.1	104.0	115.1	96.8	105.2
Capital goods	132.4	138.7	116.6	110.8	119.5	113.1	103.7	126.4	120.8	121.5	110.8	126.0	119.7	138.1
Consumer goods	113.8	98.1	112.7	110.0	109.4	110.7	94.0	92.2	97.2	95.8	72.1	89.1	96.3	104.8
Durable consumer goods	91.9	101.1	92.7	96.5	92.6	94.9	82.6	93.2	96.0	92.2	83.4	91.1	90.4	90.3
Non-durable consumer goods	115.6	98.0	114.5	111.3	110.9	111.9	95.1	92.2	97.2	96.2	71.1	89.0	96.8	106.4
Total production	106.8	102.9	97.8	98.6	102.6	103.7	91.8	102.6	100.5	97.3	88.2	94.9	95.8	107.5

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

Main industrial grouping	Mar 15	Mar 16	Apr 16	May 16	Jun 16	Jul 16	Aug 16	Sep 16	Oct 16	Nov 16	Dec 16	Jan 17	Feb 17	Mar 17
Intermediate goods	-6.4	4.5	-15.2	-8.1	-17.3	-6.1	-4.5	9.9	-0.9	6.2	9.1	14.0	7.1	4.5
Energy	2.7	-0.5	2.8	1.5	3.4	-3.1	-4.0	-2.1	4.7	3.3	3.2	11.6	1.8	6.1
Capital goods	7.8	4.7	-7.7	-1.8	-8.1	-0.9	2.6	1.2	-8.8	2.4	8.7	7.3	1.8	-0.4
Consumer goods	5.2	-13.8	9.4	-1.1	0.4	-7.6	0.0	-11.8	-14.8	-7.4	-7.3	-0.8	5.3	6.9
Durable consumer goods	-7.1	10.0	2.7	-5.6	-4.6	1.7	0.9	2.5	-1.9	-10.1	-1.8	-2.5	-4.9	-10.7
Non-durable consumer goods	6.4	-15.3	9.9	-0.5	0.6	-8.5	0.1	-12.9	-15.9	-7.0	-8.0	-0.2	6.2	8.6
Total production	0.9	-3.6	-2.2	-3.5	-6.1	-4.8	-2.3	-1.5	-6.1	-0.4	3.0	6.2	4.9	4.4

Notes:

1. Table shows % 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 total industrial production.
2. A Laspeyres-type index is used for calculating the index of industrial production, with 2010 as base year.
3. The number of surveyed enterprises is about 180. Data on physical quantities are collected from 50 per cent of these enterprises. The number of hours worked is estimated on the basis of information from 30 per cent of the surveyed enterprises. Furthermore, 20 per cent have their turnover deflated by the use of industrial producer prices.
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:
 - a. Working-day adjustment is a statistical method 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 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, meaning that each time series is adjusted on an individual basis.
5. The NSO has adopted methodologies and guidelines recommended by Eurostat and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
6. The objective of 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 weights for the aggregates are shown below:

Main industrial grouping	Value added
Intermediate goods	35.8
Energy	16.3
Capital goods	11.7
Consumer goods	36.2
Durable consumer goods	2.9
Non-durable consumer goods	33.3
Total	100.0

8. Figures for the past 26 months, inclusive of the reference month, are to be considered as provisional and therefore subject to revision.
9. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:
Statistical Concepts: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/concepts.aspx>
Metadata: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/reports.aspx?id=13>
Classifications: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/classificationdetails.aspx?id=NACE Rev. 2>
10. Kindly indicate source when quoting from this release.
11. The advanced news release calendar may be accessed at www.nso.gov.mt