

8 February 2016 | 1100 hrs | 022/2016

Seasonally adjusted industrial production increased by 0.4 per cent in December over the previous month. When compared to December 2014, the index of industrial production adjusted for working days went up by 5.8 per cent.

Index of Industrial Production: December 2015

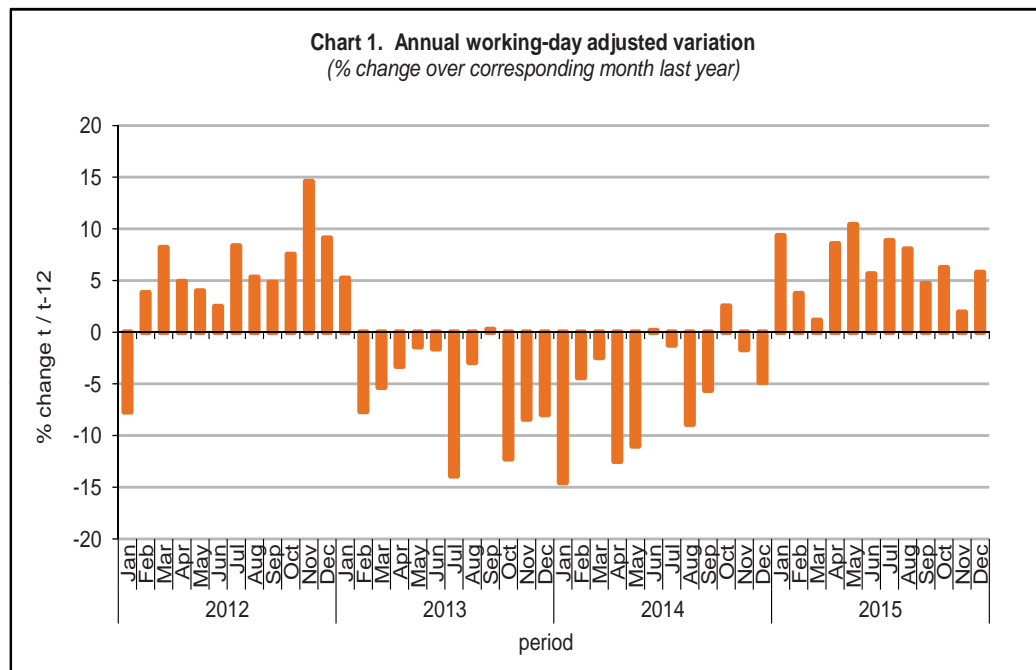
Cut-off date:
3 February 2016

Monthly comparison

In December, the seasonally adjusted index of industrial production increased by 0.4 per cent to 99.3 points. Increases were registered in the production of capital goods (1.8 per cent) and intermediate goods (1.1 per cent). On the other hand, the production of consumer goods and energy decreased by 0.7 and 0.2 per cent respectively (Tables 1 and 2).

Annual comparison

When compared to the corresponding month of 2014, the index of industrial production adjusted for working days went up by 5.8 per cent. Increases were registered in the production of intermediate goods (13.2 per cent), capital goods (4.5 per cent), energy (3.9 per cent) and consumer goods (0.4 per cent) (Table 4) ■



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

Main industrial grouping	Dec 14	Jan 15	Feb 15	Mar 15	Apr 15	May 15	Jun 15	Jul 15	Aug 15	Sep 15	Oct 15	Nov 15	Dec 15
Intermediate goods	78.6	81.1	88.3	88.0	92.3	90.8	92.3	86.9	85.1	83.3	84.1	84.3	85.3
Energy	103.4	107.4	107.2	106.8	105.2	105.9	104.7	109.4	107.9	108.0	107.2	107.7	107.5
Capital goods	116.1	117.7	120.9	120.1	117.1	114.4	118.9	118.4	115.9	115.1	124.7	118.7	120.9
Consumer goods	100.2	107.1	98.0	102.0	100.6	103.1	106.6	106.5	107.7	108.4	108.5	102.3	101.5
Durable consumer goods	87.9	89.7	89.8	89.5	89.7	96.5	95.9	90.6	94.5	89.8	97.3	95.3	99.6
Non-durable consumer goods	101.3	108.6	98.7	103.0	101.5	103.8	107.5	107.8	108.9	110.2	109.5	102.8	101.6
Total production	93.6	99.9	99.0	99.2	99.3	101.2	102.8	101.3	100.3	100.3	102.0	98.9	99.3

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

Main industrial grouping	Dec 14	Jan 15	Feb 15	Mar 15	Apr 15	May 15	Jun 15	Jul 15	Aug 15	Sep 15	Oct 15	Nov 15	Dec 15
Intermediate goods	1.2	3.1	8.9	-0.4	4.9	-1.6	1.7	-5.8	-2.1	-2.1	1.0	0.2	1.1
Energy	-0.6	3.8	-0.2	-0.3	-1.6	0.7	-1.1	4.4	-1.4	0.1	-0.7	0.5	-0.2
Capital goods	-2.8	1.4	2.7	-0.6	-2.5	-2.3	3.9	-0.4	-2.2	-0.6	8.4	-4.8	1.8
Consumer goods	-4.1	6.8	-8.4	4.0	-1.4	2.5	3.4	-0.1	1.1	0.7	0.1	-5.8	-0.7
Durable consumer goods	3.6	2.0	0.1	-0.4	0.2	7.7	-0.7	-5.5	4.3	-5.1	8.4	-2.1	4.5
Non-durable consumer goods	-4.7	7.1	-9.1	4.4	-1.5	2.3	3.6	0.3	1.0	1.2	-0.6	-6.1	-1.1
Total production	-3.3	6.7	-0.9	0.2	0.1	1.9	1.6	-1.5	-0.9	0.0	1.7	-3.0	0.4

Notes:

1. Table shows % change compared to 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	Dec 13	Dec 14	Jan 15	Feb 15	Mar 15	Apr 15	May 15	Jun 15	Jul 15	Aug 15	Sep 15	Oct 15	Nov 15	Dec 15
Intermediate goods	86.4	73.0	75.3	83.3	94.3	91.8	89.8	105.6	87.0	73.9	90.5	88.8	82.1	82.7
Energy	99.3	96.1	104.4	94.8	99.6	93.3	99.9	105.5	131.3	131.6	118.2	109.4	97.9	99.8
Capital goods	102.4	103.3	114.8	115.6	132.4	126.1	112.7	130.0	112.1	100.6	122.0	134.6	116.0	107.9
Consumer goods	72.7	76.5	108.4	95.5	114.3	103.3	111.5	109.6	120.6	94.5	104.9	114.1	103.3	76.8
Durable consumer goods	69.1	75.4	89.9	88.6	92.0	90.3	101.9	98.7	96.1	85.9	91.4	98.9	97.0	85.7
Non-durable consumer goods	73.0	76.5	110.0	96.1	116.3	104.5	112.5	110.4	122.7	95.3	106.1	115.4	103.9	76.0
Total production	85.4	81.3	96.7	93.4	107.0	100.2	102.4	109.6	109.1	94.0	103.9	106.7	96.4	86.0

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

Main industrial grouping	Dec 13	Dec 14	Jan 15	Feb 15	Mar 15	Apr 15	May 15	Jun 15	Jul 15	Aug 15	Sep 15	Oct 15	Nov 15	Dec 15
Intermediate goods	-19.3	-15.4	1.1	9.2	-6.5	13.7	18.9	3.5	2.3	2.0	-2.4	1.1	10.0	13.3
Energy	1.2	-3.2	3.8	6.4	2.7	-0.2	1.6	-1.3	9.2	7.2	1.5	2.8	3.5	3.9
Capital goods	15.4	0.8	2.1	8.0	7.8	-2.7	-2.3	1.4	5.4	2.7	-4.7	10.9	-0.9	4.5
Consumer goods	-5.2	5.2	20.9	-3.1	5.9	13.1	12.0	12.9	14.9	17.5	16.9	9.5	-2.6	0.4
Durable consumer goods	-4.5	9.1	8.2	-1.0	-7.1	0.4	5.5	6.1	-4.4	0.2	-11.7	12.5	12.0	13.7
Non-durable consumer goods	-5.3	4.8	22.0	-3.3	6.8	14.2	12.7	13.5	16.5	19.1	19.9	9.4	-3.7	-0.7
Total production	-8.0	-4.8	9.3	3.7	1.1	8.5	10.4	5.6	8.8	8.0	4.7	6.2	1.9	5.8

Notes:

1. Table shows % change compared to 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>