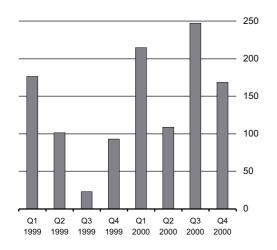


8 May 2001

Total Stock Changes £m



Industrial Stocks

Fourth Quarter 2000

	Q3 2000	Q4 2000	Q4 2000
	£m	£m	€m¹
Materials and Fuel	+ 122.8	+ 57.3	+ 72.8
Finished Goods	+ 32.2	+120.4	+ 152.9
Work-in-progress	+ 71.5	+ 4.2	+ 5.3
Goods purchased for resale	+ 20.8	- 13.4	- 17.0
Total Stocks	+ 247.3	+168.5	+ 213.9

Industrial Stocks up £169m in Fourth Quarter

Total stocks held by industry increased by £168.5m in the fourth quarter of 2000, following an increase of £247.3m in the third quarter of 2000. *See Table 1 & graph.*

The major changes in stocks in the fourth quarter were in finished goods (+120.4m) and materials and fuel (+57.3m). *See Tables 2-3*.

The breakdown of the components of stocks for the different industrial sectors shows:

- ◆ An increase of £46.5m in stocks of materials and fuel held in the office machinery and computers sector in the fourth quarter of 2000 followed an increase of £47.9m in the previous quarter. See Table 2.
- ♦ An increase of £32.2m in stocks of finished goods held in the food products and beverages sector in the fourth quarter of 2000 followed an increase of £22.7m in the previous quarter. See Table 3.
- ◆ Stocks of work-in-progress goods held in the communication equipment sector ,which had increased by £1.2m in the third quarter, increased by £54.3m in the fourth quarter. See Table 4.

¹Converted at the EU official exchange rate conversion factor, fixed at 0.787564, effective from 1 January 1999.

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Table 1 Total Stocks held in Industry (£million)

NACE Code				Chai	nge in 1999)			Change in 2000						
	Description	1998 ⁻ Closing CIP Level	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Year	1999 ⁻ Closing Level	Q1	Q2	Q3 ¹	Q4	Year	2000 Closing Level	
10-14	Mining and quarrying	56.8	1.8	6.5	9.3	-0.2	17.4	74.2	-7.3	5.4	13.6	-14.5	-2.9	71.3	
	Manufacturing:														
15	Food products and beverages	829.8	-41.3	25.0	39.8	28.4	52.0	881.8	-46.9	-5.6	64.9	25.7	38.1	919.9	
16	Tobacco products	69.8	-11.6	7.2	5.0	18.2	18.8	88.6	5.3	-6.0	-6.0	24.7	18.0	106.6	
17	Textiles	71.1	-1.4	5.3	-2.6	-1.6	-0.2	70.9	4.5	4.0	-0.8	-0.8	6.9	77.8	
18	Wearing apparel	98.4	-1.5	2.3	-5.3	0.1	-4.5	93.9	-2.5	0.3	-0.3	-2.1	-4.6	89.3	
19	Leather products	11.5	0.1	0.8	-0.5	-0.8	-0.4	11.1	0.1	1.2	2.2	-1.6	1.9	13.1	
20	Wood and wood products	75.5	-1.7	-2.7	0.4	3.4	-0.6	74.9	1.7	1.7	3.2	0.2	6.8	81.7	
21	Paper and paper products	44.9	-0.3	-0.8	0.6	3.0	2.5	47.4	0.2	1.6	0.4	1.1	3.4	50.8	
22	Publishing and printing	92.1	2.5	2.6	0.7	1.2	7.0	99.1	5.3	13.8	6.8	2.7	28.7	127.8	
24	Chemical products	1,050.0	66.1	30.0	-18.1	55.7	133.7	1,183.7	88.2	68.4	-32.6	53.8	177.8	1,361.5	
25	Rubber and plastic products	88.3	1.1	2.0	0.4	6.5	10.0	98.4	6.4	0.4	5.7	1.5	14.0	112.4	
26	Other non-metallic mineral products	104.5	10.5	4.2	-3.9	-4.4	6.3	110.8	12.8	2.7	4.3	-2.9	16.9	127.7	
27	Basic metals	41.3	4.7	-1.2	1.0	-0.3	4.2	45.6	-1.0	0.1	3.2	-2.0	0.2	45.7	
28	Fabricated metals (excl. machinery)	123.7	-0.1	-2.4	5.1	-6.9	-4.2	119.4	7.3	5.5	-3.7	-0.6	8.5	127.9	
29	Machinery not elsewhere classified	160.5	-1.4	-3.5	6.4	-1.3	0.2	160.8	13.0	3.4	9.0	-5.5	19.9	180.7	
30	Office machinery and computers	349.6	81.6	-27.0	11.2	10.8	76.6	426.3	20.7	13.3	84.0	15.5	133.4	559.6	
31	Other electrical equipment	168.4	1.0	3.1	30.0	-7.8	26.3	194.6	24.8	39.2	-13.0	-12.4	38.5	233.2	
32	Communication equipment	221.6	1.7	4.0	-12.9	4.9	-2.4	219.2	25.2	37.1	28.0	88.1	178.4	397.6	
33	Medical and optical instruments	336.7	22.7	-9.4	-27.1	-0.5	-14.2	322.4	9.1	10.2	15.3	-4.1	30.6	353.1	
34	Motor vehicles	47.2	1.1	-0.4	2.8	-0.3	3.2	50.4	-0.6	1.0	5.0	-1.2	4.1	54.5	
35	Other transport equipment	54.0	3.7	4.0	0.4	3.0	11.1	65.1	7.2	-2.9	3.6	-4.5	3.4	68.5	
36-37,23	Other manufacturing	170.3	-8.1	-0.1	0.7	-4.7	-12.2	158.2	38.6	-3.6	34.6	29.2	98.8	256.9	
40	Electricity and gas supply	332.7	45.0	51.8	-20.5	-13.6	62.7	395.4	2.7	-82.3	20.0	-21.8	-81.4	314.1	
10-40	All industries	4,598.8	176.3	101.3	22.9	93.0	393.5	4,992.3	214.6	108.9	247.3	168.5	739.3	5,731.6	
10-37	Transportable goods industries	4,266.1	131.3	49.5	43.3	106.6	330.8	4,596.9	211.9	191.2	227.4	190.2	820.7	5,417.6	
15-37	Manufacturing industries	4,209.3	129.5	43.0	34.1	106.8	313.4	4,522.7	219.2	185.8	213.8	204.8	823.6	5,346.3	

¹ Revised

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Table 2 Stocks of Materials and Fuel held in Industry (£million)

	Description			Char		Change in 2000								
NACE Code		1998 - Closing CIP Level	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Year	1999 [—] Closing Level	Q1	Q2	Q3 ¹	Q4	Year	2000 Closing Level
10-14	Mining and quarrying	14.0	0.1	1.8	0.2	-0.6	1.5	15.5	-1.1	1.4	1.1	-1.4	0.0	15.5
	Manufacturing:													
15	Food products and beverages	288.6	-18.5	0.7	29.9	-4.8	7.3	295.9	-7.6	-7.0	44.5	-10.5	19.4	315.3
16	Tobacco products	18.4	-0.3	1.6	-0.6	2.2	3.0	21.4	2.3	0.6	-6.3	6.4	2.9	24.2
17	Textiles	28.3	0.3	0.6	-0.3	-0.5	0.0	28.3	0.8	1.1	-0.1	-0.8	1.0	29.3
18	Wearing apparel	24.1	0.3	-3.7	-0.6	0.9	-3.1	21.0	-0.3	-0.1	-0.5	-2.6	-3.6	17.4
19	Leather products	4.5	-0.1	0.2	-0.3	0.1	0.0	4.5	-0.3	0.6	1.1	-0.8	0.6	5.1
20	Wood and wood products	47.4	-2.2	-1.3	0.4	1.1	-2.1	45.3	0.7	0.0	2.4	0.9	4.0	49.3
21	Paper and paper products	25.2	0.1	-0.2	0.3	2.4	2.5	27.7	1.3	0.3	-0.2	1.2	2.6	30.3
22	Publishing and printing	48.4	-1.9	0.8	-1.9	-2.0	-5.0	43.4	2.3	3.0	8.0	-0.8	5.3	48.7
24	Chemical products	385.7	37.4	11.2	-9.9	12.5	51.1	436.8	8.4	-17.4	1.9	30.4	23.4	460.2
25	Rubber and plastic products	45.3	1.2	2.5	1.2	1.5	6.3	51.7	2.2	1.4	0.0	-1.2	2.5	54.1
26	Other non-metallic mineral products	41.7	2.1	-0.7	1.7	1.3	4.4	46.1	1.7	0.9	1.5	-2.0	2.1	48.1
27	Basic metals	25.5	4.5	0.2	-0.1	-0.2	4.5	30.0	-1.3	-0.2	1.4	-2.5	-2.6	27.3
28	Fabricated metals (excl. machinery)	63.9	-4.8	0.3	1.3	0.7	-2.5	61.4	3.2	6.8	0.3	-0.9	9.3	70.8
29	Machinery not elsewhere classified	87.5	-0.2	-0.4	1.7	-1.4	-0.3	87.2	7.0	3.7	4.3	-3.0	11.9	99.2
30	Office machinery and computers	205.0	40.3	-15.5	10.9	1.2	36.9	242.0	15.9	7.3	47.9	46.5	117.7	359.7
31	Other electrical equipment	76.0	0.5	0.3	29.0	-11.6	18.2	94.2	13.1	27.4	-19.7	-13.5	7.4	101.7
32	Communication equipment	114.2	-3.8	5.7	-8.5	1.1	-5.5	108.6	21.0	10.0	28.4	3.6	63.0	171.6
33	Medical and optical instruments	152.1	21.6	3.5	5.5	3.4	34.0	186.0	2.3	10.3	7.0	0.4	20.0	206.0
34	Motor vehicles	24.2	0.5	0.1	2.2	-0.9	1.9	26.2	-0.6	1.7	3.7	-1.0	3.7	29.9
35	Other transport equipment	37.8	1.8	1.8	-0.5	6.6	9.7	47.4	5.6	-2.9	1.2	0.2	4.1	51.5
36-37,23	Other manufacturing	66.5	3.1	-2.3	1.2	-1.9	0.1	66.6	2.0	0.8	3.2	-1.4	4.6	71.2
40	Electricity and gas supply	112.0	-3.0	4.2	-6.8	20.1	14.5	126.5	-7.6	6.9	-1.0	10.1	8.4	134.9
10-40	All industries	1,936.3	79.1	11.3	56.1	31.0	177.4	2,113.8	70.9	56.7	122.8	57.3	307.7	2,421.5
10-37	Transportable goods industries	1,824.3	82.1	7.1	62.9	10.9	163.0	1,987.3	78.5	49.8	123.8	47.1	299.3	2,286.6
15-37	Manufacturing industries	1,810.3	82.0	5.3	62.7	11.5	161.5	1,971.8	79.6	48.4	122.6	48.6	299.3	2,271.1

¹ Revised

4

Table 3 Stocks of Finished Goods held in Industry (£million)

NACE Code	Description			Char	nge in 1999)			Change in 2000						
		1998 ⁻ Closing CIP Level	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Year	1999 ⁻ Closing Level	Q1	Q2	Q3 ¹	Q4	Year	2000 Closing Level	
10-14	Mining and quarrying	36.8	0.8	5.0	9.9	-0.2	15.4	52.2	-6.9	3.9	12.2	-13.3	-4.1	48.1	
	Manufacturing:														
15	Food products and beverages	357.7	-24.3	18.6	14.2	18.9	27.4	385.1	-39.3	4.2	22.7	32.2	19.7	404.7	
16	Tobacco products	31.5	-9.4	7.2	4.8	6.5	9.1	40.6	6.4	-5.3	-6.6	14.2	8.6	49.2	
17	Textiles	26.1	-1.4	3.7	-1.5	-1.1	-0.3	25.7	1.7	1.9	-0.6	-0.2	2.8	28.5	
18	Wearing apparel	45.3	-0.6	-0.5	-3.8	0.5	-4.4	40.9	-2.3	0.2	-2.4	11.7	7.3	48.2	
19	Leather products	5.3	0.1	0.6	-0.2	-0.5	0.0	5.3	0.6	0.6	1.1	-0.5	1.7	7.0	
20	Wood and wood products	20.3	0.7	-0.9	-0.5	2.1	1.4	21.7	0.1	1.6	1.3	0.4	3.4	25.1	
21	Paper and paper products	12.2	-0.2	-0.8	-0.5	1.1	-0.3	11.8	-0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.8	12.6	
22	Publishing and printing	26.7	2.5	0.1	1.9	0.8	5.2	31.9	2.4	9.1	6.5	5.0	23.0	54.9	
24	Chemical products	295.6	-19.9	20.2	59.3	-15.0	44.6	340.2	-5.5	44.8	-43.9	27.1	22.5	362.7	
25	Rubber and plastic products	29.0	0.1	-0.4	-0.8	5.0	3.9	32.9	3.6	-1.1	5.6	2.9	11.0	43.9	
26	Other non-metallic mineral products	38.4	5.6	1.2	-4.9	-0.8	1.2	39.6	5.4	0.4	-3.5	8.0	3.1	42.7	
27	Basic metals	7.7	0.3	-0.3	0.0	0.7	0.7	8.4	0.3	0.4	0.5	1.8	2.9	11.2	
28	Fabricated metals (excl. machinery)	26.9	-0.4	-1.0	-1.1	-0.2	-2.7	24.2	0.9	-0.4	0.2	-0.4	0.4	24.6	
29	Machinery not elsewhere classified	29.4	-2.9	-1.7	1.4	1.0	-2.3	27.1	5.1	-0.4	0.3	2.0	6.9	34.1	
30	Office machinery and computers	67.2	7.8	-1.3	-2.5	6.9	10.8	78.0	0.1	-1.3	15.3	3.7	17.8	95.8	
31	Other electrical equipment	37.6	-0.8	8.0	1.8	0.3	2.2	39.7	8.0	3.0	4.7	1.5	17.1	56.9	
32	Communication equipment	48.2	12.5	-1.2	-7.7	-1.3	2.3	50.5	5.9	9.4	-5.9	30.2	39.6	90.1	
33	Medical and optical instruments	94.3	-0.6	-2.2	-6.0	-1.0	-9.8	84.5	2.5	-1.7	7.8	-2.0	6.6	91.1	
34	Motor vehicles	12.3	0.5	-0.4	0.3	-0.3	0.1	12.4	-0.3	-0.7	-0.4	0.7	-0.7	11.7	
35	Other transport equipment	2.1	0.9	1.2	-1.0	-3.3	-2.1	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.3	0.0	-0.3	-0.4	
36-37,23	Other manufacturing	59.7	-15.7	1.0	-1.6	1.5	-14.8	44.9	6.7	4.1	15.1	3.3	29.2	74.2	
40	Electricity and gas supply	0.8	-0.4	-0.1	0.7	0.2	0.3	1.1	-0.1	0.0	1.8	-0.6	0.9	2.0	
10-40	All industries	1,311.2	-44.8	48.4	62.1	21.8	87.6	1,398.7	-5.5	73.1	32.2	120.4	220.2	1,618.9	
10-37	Transportable goods industries	1,310.3	-44.3	48.6	61.4	21.6	87.3	1,397.7	-5.4	73.2	30.4	121.1	219.3	1,616.9	
15-37	Manufacturing industries	1,273.6	-45.1	43.6	51.6	21.8	71.9	1,345.5	1.5	69.3	18.2	134.4	223.4	1,568.8	

¹ Revised

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Table 4 Stocks of Work-in-Progress Goods held in Industry (£million)

NACE Code	Description			Cha	nge in 1999			Change in 2000						
		1998 Closing	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Year	1999 ⁻ Closing Level	Q1	Q2	Q3 ¹	Q4	Year	2000 Closing Level
10-14	Mining and quarrying	6.0	0.8	-0.7	-0.6	0.6	0.2	6.2	0.6	0.0	0.3	0.3	1.2	7.4
	Manufacturing:													
15	Food products and beverages	105.1	1.4	0.1	-2.9	5.5	4.1	109.2	3.4	3.1	-4.8	6.3	8.0	117.2
16	Tobacco products	6.6	0.9	-0.6	1.1	0.8	2.1	8.7	-0.9	-0.2	-0.1	2.8	1.6	10.3
17	Textiles	11.3	0.6	0.0	0.0	-0.2	0.4	11.7	1.2	0.9	-0.6	0.3	1.9	13.6
18	Wearing apparel	7.9	-1.2	4.0	-1.7	0.1	1.1	9.0	1.8	0.5	-0.8	-1.8	-0.4	8.7
19	Leather products	1.3	0.1	0.0	0.1	-0.3	-0.1	1.2	0.1	0.0	-0.1	-0.3	-0.3	0.9
20	Wood and wood products	4.7	-0.9	0.1	0.1	0.2	-0.4	4.3	0.7	-0.9	0.0	-0.7	-0.9	3.4
21	Paper and paper products	5.4	-0.2	0.3	0.8	-0.6	0.3	5.7	-0.1	0.4	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	5.7
22	Publishing and printing	13.0	1.7	0.4	1.2	2.2	5.5	18.5	-0.3	2.0	0.2	-1.3	0.6	19.0
24	Chemical products	358.0	48.9	-1.7	-67.1	58.5	38.6	396.6	82.8	36.9	8.8	-2.2	126.3	523.0
25	Rubber and plastic products	9.6	0.3	0.0	0.2	-0.3	0.3	9.9	0.3	0.1	-0.2	-0.3	-0.1	9.8
26	Other non-metallic mineral products	20.1	1.9	1.8	-1.6	-3.3	-1.2	18.9	3.0	-2.5	1.4	-0.9	1.1	20.0
27	Basic metals	7.5	-0.2	-1.0	1.1	-0.8	-0.9	6.6	0.1	-0.1	1.4	-1.3	0.1	6.6
28	Fabricated metals (excl. machinery)	30.4	5.1	-1.8	4.8	-7.7	0.4	30.8	2.9	-1.4	-4.1	8.0	-1.7	29.0
29	Machinery not elsewhere classified	36.3	1.6	-1.5	1.0	-0.5	0.6	36.9	0.9	0.2	5.3	-5.5	1.0	37.9
30	Office machinery and computers	76.7	33.7	-10.0	3.1	1.1	27.9	104.7	3.8	4.7	21.7	-34.7	-4.5	100.1
31	Other electrical equipment	48.7	1.4	2.6	-0.8	3.1	6.3	55.0	3.6	8.8	2.2	-0.5	14.1	69.2
32	Communication equipment	57.5	-6.4	-0.7	0.2	-1.1	-7.9	49.6	2.3	13.8	1.2	54.3	71.6	121.2
33	Medical and optical instruments	45.5	-1.8	2.1	1.2	-2.7	-1.1	44.3	3.7	2.2	0.1	-1.5	4.5	48.8
34	Motor vehicles	8.4	0.2	-0.1	0.2	0.3	0.6	9.0	0.4	-0.1	1.6	-1.0	0.9	9.9
35	Other transport equipment	13.6	0.9	0.1	1.7	-0.7	2.0	15.6	1.6	-0.1	2.2	-5.0	-1.2	14.4
36-37,23	Other manufacturing	25.4	4.3	1.0	0.8	-4.7	1.4	26.7	30.6	-8.6	16.4	27.4	65.8	92.5
40	Electricity and gas supply	216.7	47.3	46.1	-14.4	-34.2	44.8	261.5	10.1	-89.2	19.6	-31.0	-90.5	171.0
10-40	All industries	1,115.8	140.4	40.5	-71.2	15.2	124.9	1,240.7	152.7	-29.2	71.5	4.2	199.1	1,439.8
10-37	Transportable goods industries	899.1	93.1	-5.6	-56.9	49.4	80.1	979.2	142.6	60.0	51.9	35.1	289.6	1,268.8
15-37	Manufacturing industries	893.1	92.3	-4.9	-56.3	48.8	79.9	973.0	142.0	60.0	51.6	34.8	288.4	1,261.4

¹ Revised

6

Table 5 Stocks of Goods Purchased for Resale held in Industry (£million)

NACE Code	Description			Cha	nge in 1999				Change in 2000						
		1998 — Closing CIP Level	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Year	1999 — Closing Level	Q1	Q2	Q3 ¹	Q4	Year	2000 Closing Level	
10-14	Mining and quarrying	0.1	0.1	0.4	-0.2	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.1	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.3	
	Manufacturing:														
15	Food products and beverages	78.4	0.2	5.7	-1.5	8.8	13.2	91.6	-3.4	-6.0	2.5	-2.2	-9.0	82.6	
16	Tobacco products	13.3	-2.8	-1.1	-0.2	8.8	4.7	18.0	-2.5	-1.1	7.1	1.4	4.9	22.9	
17	Textiles	5.5	-0.9	1.1	-0.8	0.3	-0.2	5.2	0.8	0.1	0.5	-0.2	1.2	6.5	
18	Wearing apparel	21.1	-0.1	2.5	0.9	-1.4	1.9	23.0	-1.8	-0.2	3.4	-9.4	-8.0	15.0	
19	Leather products	0.4	0.0	0.0	-0.2	-0.1	-0.2	0.2	-0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	-0.1	0.0	
20	Wood and wood products	3.0	0.7	-0.6	0.4	0.1	0.6	3.6	0.2	1.0	-0.5	-0.4	0.3	3.9	
21	Paper and paper products	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.1	-0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.1	
22	Publishing and printing	4.1	0.3	1.2	-0.6	0.3	1.2	5.3	0.9	-0.3	-0.7	-0.1	-0.1	5.2	
24	Chemical products	10.7	-0.3	0.3	-0.4	-0.3	-0.7	10.0	2.4	4.1	0.6	-1.6	5.6	15.5	
25	Rubber and plastic products	4.4	-0.5	-0.2	-0.2	0.3	-0.5	3.9	0.3	-0.1	0.3	0.1	0.6	4.5	
26	Other non-metallic mineral products	4.2	0.9	2.0	8.0	-1.6	2.0	6.3	2.7	3.8	4.9	-0.8	10.7	16.9	
27	Basic metals	0.7	0.0	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.1	0.6	
28	Fabricated metals (excl. machinery)	2.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.6	3.0	0.3	0.4	-0.1	-0.1	0.5	3.6	
29	Machinery not elsewhere classified	7.3	0.1	0.2	2.3	-0.4	2.2	9.5	0.0	-0.1	-0.8	1.0	0.1	9.6	
30	Office machinery and computers	0.7	-0.2	-0.1	-0.3	1.6	1.0	1.7	0.9	2.4	-0.9	0.0	2.4	4.1	
31	Other electrical equipment	6.1	-0.1	-0.6	0.0	0.3	-0.4	5.7	0.0	0.0	-0.2	0.0	-0.2	5.5	
32	Communication equipment	1.6	-0.6	0.2	3.1	6.2	8.8	10.4	-3.9	3.8	4.4	0.0	4.3	14.7	
33	Medical and optical instruments	44.8	3.4	-12.8	-27.8	-0.1	-37.3	7.5	0.7	-0.5	0.4	-1.0	-0.4	7.1	
34	Motor vehicles	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.6	2.9	-0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	3.0	
35	Other transport equipment	0.5	0.1	1.0	0.1	0.4	1.6	2.1	-0.1	0.1	0.5	0.3	0.8	2.9	
36-37,23	Other manufacturing	18.7	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	1.2	19.9	-0.7	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.9	18.9	
40	Electricity and gas supply	3.1	1.2	1.6	0.1	0.3	3.2	6.4	0.4	0.0	-0.4	-0.3	-0.3	6.1	
10-40	All industries	235.5	1.7	1.1	-24.1	25.0	3.6	239.1	-3.5	8.3	20.8	-13.4	12.2	251.4	
10-37	Transportable goods industries	232.3	0.5	-0.5	-24.2	24.6	0.4	232.8	-3.9	8.2	21.3	-13.1	12.5	245.3	
15-37	Manufacturing industries	232.3	0.4	-1.0	-24.0	24.6	0.1	232.4	-3.9	8.1	21.4	-13.0	12.6	245.0	

¹ Revised

Central Statistics Office Industrial Stocks

Background Notes

Introduction

This Release details quarterly changes in stocks of goods held in the Mining, Manufacturing, and Energy sectors. The series are derived from a quarterly accounts inquiry to industrial enterprises with 20 or more persons engaged. This inquiry was initiated to meet national and EU requirements for quarterly economic variables, and is conducted under the Statistics (Business Accounts) Order, 1996, made under the Statistics Act, 1993.

The survey results provided are grossed to represent levels of stocks for all industrial enterprises with 3 or more persons engaged, and are shown at current values (seasonally unadjusted).

The series are short-term indicators of trends, and are subject to revision when the annual Census of Industrial Production (CIP) results become available.

Scope

The inquiry covers all enterprises with 20 or more persons engaged in the Mining, Manufacturing, and Energy sectors. The sample, approximately 2,000 enterprises, accounts for over 95% of stocks held by enterprises with 3 or more persons engaged (as measured by the 1998 CIP).

The activity classification used in this Statistical Release is the NACE Rev. 1 classification.

Methodology

Estimates are made for non-response. For each non-responding enterprise, stock level data are imputed from returns for that enterprise in previous quarters or in the 1998 CIP. Where no historical data are available, estimates are made as follows: the sample is classified into relatively homogeneous cells defined by NACE division and employment size, and the cell ratio stocks per person (calculated from the aggregated respondent values in the non-respondent's cell) is applied to the employment for the non-respondent.

To derive estimates inclusive of those enterprises having 3 to 19 persons engaged, the sample results are grossed, by NACE division, using grossing ratios from the 1998 CIP.

Definitions

Stocks are valued (excluding VAT) on the accounting basis used by the enterprise. The stocks covered relate to goods actually held by the enterprise on its premises. Stock changes are calculated by subtracting the value of stocks at the beginning of the quarter from the value at the end of the quarter.

An enterprise is defined as the smallest combination of legal units that is an organisational unit producing goods or services, which benefits from a certain degree of autonomy in decision making, especially for the allocation of its current resources (e.g. company, partnership, individual proprietorship, etc.). An enterprise may be a sole legal unit.

Other

The figures provided in this Release are short-term indicators only. They are based on quarterly information supplied by enterprises, many of whom do not maintain sub-annual accounting systems. The annual Census of Industrial Production, which utilises financial accounts data, should be considered as the definitive reference for stocks information.

Related series, on quarterly acquisitions and disposals of Capital Assets in Industry, are published in a separate Statistical Release.