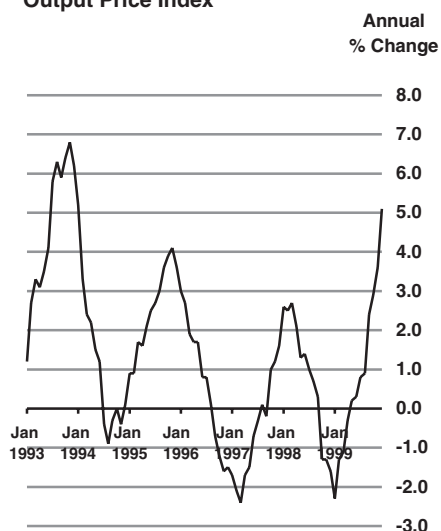




Central Statistics Office
An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh

25 January 2000

Manufacturing Industries Output Price Index



Wholesale Price Index December 1999

Manufacturing Output Price Index

	Price Index	% monthly change	% annual change
Sep 1999	122.9	+0.5%	+2.4%
Oct 1999	122.7	-0.2%	+2.9%
Nov 1999	123.7	+0.8%	+3.6%
Dec 1999	125.6	+1.5%	+5.1%

Another sharp rise in Manufacturing Output Prices in December

Factory gate prices increased by 1.5% in December 1999 to bring the overall Manufacturing Output Price Index to 125.6. Year on year the index rose by 5.1% compared with an annual increase of 3.6% in November 1999. *See graph across and Table 1.*

The index for home sales increased by 2.0% and the index for export sales increased by 1.0% in the month. The increase in excise duty on tobacco in the December Budget was the main reason for the increase in the home index. The continued strength of the US Dollar and Sterling was the major factor influencing prices received for exported goods. *See Table 2 and graph on page 5.*

The main contributors to the monthly change were increases in Tobacco (+15.7%), Electrical engineering (+1.7%), All other food (+2.1%), Dairy products (+0.6%) and Textiles (+1.6%). *See Table 2a.*

The other notable change in the monthly index was in Production and preliminary processing of metals (+1.2%).

The main contributors to the annual change were: increases in Tobacco (+20.2%), Slaughtering, preparing and preserving of meat (+9.6%), Electrical Engineering (+6.4%). *See Table 2a.*

Another notable annual change was in Production and preliminary processing of metals (+7.1%).

The monthly price index for Mining, quarrying and turf increased by +2.5%. *See Table 2.*

Breaking down wholesale price changes by sector of use shows that:

- ◆ Building and construction material prices increased by 0.6% in December 1999 and increased by 2.1% in the year since December 1998. The most notable changes were in Electrical fittings (+4.3%), Bituminous macadam and asphalt (+3.3%) and Bituminous emulsions (+1.3%). *See Table 3.*
- ◆ Prices of capital goods increased by +0.3% in December 1999 and increased by +4.1% in the year since December 1998. *See Table 4.*
- ◆ The price of energy products increased by 2.5% in December 1999 and by 18.5% in the year since December 1998. Petroleum fuels rose by 4.1% in December 1999 bringing the index to 106.2. Year on year the index rose by 33.4%. *See Table 5.*

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Table 1 Wholesale Price Indices (excluding VAT)

Base: Year 1985 as 100

Period	Output price index for manufacturing industries			General wholesale price index ¹ (See note below)		
	Price Index	% Change on preceding period	Annual % change	Price Index	% Change on preceding period	Annual % change
1990 Year	107.8	- 1.6	- 1.6	105.1	- 2.8	- 2.8
1991 Year	108.7	+ 0.8	+ 0.8	106.4	+ 1.2	+ 1.2
1992 Year	110.5	+ 1.7	+ 1.7	107.3	+ 0.8	+ 0.8
1993 Year	115.6	+ 4.6	+ 4.6	112.4	+ 4.8	+ 4.8
1994 Year	116.9	+ 1.1	+ 1.1	113.5	+ 1.0	+ 1.0
1995 Year	119.8	+ 2.5	+ 2.5	115.9	+ 2.1	+ 2.1
1996 Year	120.6	+ 0.7	+ 0.7	116.4	+ 0.5	+ 0.5
1997 Year	119.9	- 0.6	- 0.6	115.9	- 0.4	- 0.4
1998 Year	120.9	+ 0.8	+ 0.8	117.7	+ 1.6	+ 1.6
1999 Year	122.1	+ 1.0	+ 1.0			
1998 Quarter 1	121.9	+ 0.7	+ 2.6	118.5	+ 1.4	+ 3.1
Quarter 2	121.6	- 0.2	+ 1.7	118.3	- 0.2	+ 2.2
Quarter 3	120.9	- 0.6	+ 0.7	117.9	- 0.3	+ 1.5
Quarter 4	119.4	- 1.2	- 1.4	115.9	- 1.7	- 0.9
1999 Quarter 1	120.0	+ 0.5	- 1.6	116.6	+ 0.6	- 1.6
Quarter 2	121.6	+ 1.3	-	117.9	+ 1.1	- 0.3
Quarter 3	122.6	+ 0.8	+ 1.4			
Quarter 4	124.0	+ 1.1	+ 3.9			
1998 January	122.2	+ 0.7	+ 2.6	119.0	+ 1.6	+ 3.7
February	121.7	- 0.4	+ 2.5	118.1	- 0.8	+ 3.0
March	121.9	+ 0.2	+ 2.7	118.5	+ 0.3	+ 2.9
April	121.7	- 0.2	+ 2.1	118.6	+ 0.1	+ 3.2
May	121.3	- 0.3	+ 1.3	117.9	- 0.6	+ 1.6
June	121.7	+ 0.3	+ 1.4	118.5	+ 0.5	+ 2.1
July	121.5	- 0.2	+ 1.0	118.5	-	+ 1.8
August	121.2	- 0.2	+ 0.7	117.9	- 0.5	+ 1.1
September	120.0	- 1.0	+ 0.3	117.2	- 0.6	+ 1.4
October	119.2	- 0.7	- 1.3	115.5	- 1.5	- 1.2
November	119.4	+ 0.2	- 1.3	115.8	+ 0.3	- 0.9
December	119.5	+ 0.1	- 1.6	116.3	+ 0.4	- 0.7
1999 January	119.4	- 0.1	- 2.3	116.1	- 0.2	- 2.4
February	120.1	+ 0.6	- 1.3	116.4	+ 0.3	- 1.4
March	120.6	+ 0.4	- 1.1	117.4	+ 0.9	- 0.9
April	121.3	+ 0.6	- 0.3	117.7	+ 0.3	- 0.8
May	121.5	+ 0.2	+ 0.2	117.5	- 0.2	- 0.3
June	122.1	+ 0.5	+ 0.3	118.4	+ 0.8	- 0.1
July	122.5	+ 0.3	+ 0.8	118.4	-	- 0.1
August	122.3	- 0.2	+ 0.9	118.4	-	+ 0.4
September	122.9	+ 0.5	+ 2.4			
October	122.7	- 0.2	+ 2.9			
November	123.7	+ 0.8	+ 3.6			
December	125.6	+ 1.5	+ 5.1			

¹ Derived from the price indices for output of manufacturing industry, output of agriculture and the import price (unit value) index. The 1998 GWPI figures were revised in September 1999. The 1999 GWPI figures are provisional due to the provisional nature of the import (unit value) Price Indices. Final 1999 GWPI Indices should be available by mid 2000.

Table 2 Industrial Producer Price Indices (excluding VAT)

Industrial sector	NACE code ¹	Index			Monthly % Change		Annual % Change		
		Nov 1999	Dec 1999	Year 1999	Nov 1999	Dec 1999	Nov 1999	Dec 1999	Year 1999
Production and preliminary processing of metals	22	120.9	122.3	117.9	+1.3	+1.2	+5.6	+7.1	-0.5
Non metallic mineral products	24	114.2	114.4	113.6	+0.4	+0.2	+3.3	+3.2	+1.1
Chemicals	25-26	98.2	98.3	97.5	+0.5	+0.1	+1.8	+1.8	+1.0
Basic industrial chemicals (incl. fertilisers)	251	67.3	67.1	68.0	+0.6	-0.3	-0.3	-1.2	-0.7
Pharmaceuticals and other chemical products (incl. man-made fibres)	255-260	110.0	110.2	108.7	+0.5	+0.2	+2.3	+2.5	+1.4
Metal articles	31	131.5	132.4	130.3	+0.6	+0.7	+2.1	+3.2	+1.7
Mechanical engineering	32	127.4	128.2	126.5	+1.0	+0.6	+3.6	+4.2	+1.9
Electrical engineering	34	114.7	116.6	113.2	+1.9	+1.7	+4.6	+6.4	+0.4
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	35	150.8	150.9	145.7	+2.9	+0.1	+4.6	+4.7	+1.8
Instrument engineering	37	97.1	97.8	96.6	+1.4	+0.7	+2.1	+2.8	+0.8
Food	411-423	127.8	128.6	126.0	+0.5	+0.6	+3.3	+3.6	-
of which:									
Vegetable/animal oils and fats	411	117.8	118.0	113.7	+0.3	+0.2	+5.7	+5.8	+5.7
Slaughtering, preparing and preserving of meat	412	115.5	115.8	111.4	+1.2	+0.3	+9.9	+9.6	+1.1
Dairy products	413	138.3	139.1	138.1	-	+0.6	-0.2	+0.5	-1.8
Processing/preserving fruit and vegetables	414	135.2	136.7	133.6	+0.6	+1.1	+3.6	+4.4	+2.7
Grain milling, animal and poultry foods	416, 422	103.4	104.2	103.1	+0.3	+0.8	+0.8	+1.6	-2.0
Bread and flour confectionery	419	141.8	141.7	141.2	-	-0.1	+2.0	+1.9	+1.7
Sugar, cocoa, chocolate and sugar confectionery	420, 421	141.3	141.5	140.4	+0.3	+0.1	+2.1	+2.1	+2.4
All other food	415, 417, 418, 423	139.3	142.2	137.0	+0.7	+2.1	+2.7	+3.3	+1.9
Drink	424-428	133.3	133.5	132.2	+0.5	+0.2	+3.2	+3.3	+1.8
Tobacco	429	202.9	234.8	201.8	+1.9	+15.7	+5.5	+20.2	+4.6
Textiles	43	118.6	120.5	118.1	+0.4	+1.6	+0.5	+2.7	-1.0
Hosiery and other knitted goods	436	117.3	117.3	117.9	-	-	-0.7	-0.7	-2.2
Leather, leather goods and footwear	44, 451	91.2	91.8	89.5	+2.1	+0.7	-0.1	+2.3	-7.6
Clothing	453, 455, 456	144.6	144.9	143.5	+0.4	+0.2	+3.6	+3.7	+2.2
Timber and wooden furniture	46	150.9	151.9	149.2	+1.1	+0.7	+2.4	+3.1	+1.2
Paper and paper products	471-472	125.6	126.3	124.3	-	+0.6	+1.0	+1.8	-0.1
Printing and publishing	473-474	162.7	162.7	162.6	-	-	+0.7	+0.7	+0.8
Rubber processing	481-482	137.5	137.7	136.7	+0.1	+0.1	+3.9	+3.9	+3.6
Plastics	483	142.8	143.4	140.7	+1.3	+0.4	+2.9	+3.3	+0.9
Other manufactured products	49	103.1	103.1	102.9	+0.1	-	+1.2	+1.2	+1.2
Mining, quarrying and turf	111, 21, 23	122.3	125.4	119.2	+2.0	+2.5	+10.0	+12.3	+3.9
Total transportable goods industries		123.7	125.6	122.0	+0.9	+1.5	+3.8	+5.3	+1.0
Food, drink and tobacco		134.1	137.0	132.4	+0.7	+2.2	+3.6	+5.5	+0.8
Manufacturing industries excluding food		121.2	123.8	119.7	+1.0	+2.1	+3.8	+6.0	+1.5
Manufacturing industries excluding food, drink and tobacco		114.4	115.4	112.7	+1.1	+0.9	+3.6	+4.7	+1.1
Manufacturing industries (home sales) ²		131.7	134.3	130.3	+0.4	+2.0	+2.7	+4.6	+0.9
Manufacturing industries (export sales) ²		116.4	117.6	114.4	+1.3	+1.0	+4.8	+5.7	+1.0
Total manufacturing industries²		123.7	125.6	122.1	+0.8	+1.5	+3.6	+5.1	+1.0

¹ General classification of economic activities within the European Communities² Excludes mining, quarrying and turf

Table 2A Contributions to changes in the Manufacturing Output Price Index (Table 2), December 1999

Industrial sector	NACE code ¹	Contributions to overall % change	
		One month	12 months
Production and preliminary processing of metals	22	0.01	0.07
Non metallic mineral products	24	0.01	0.17
Chemicals	25-26	0.01	0.21
<i>Basic industrial chemicals (incl. fertilisers)</i>	251	-0.01	-0.02
<i>Pharmaceuticals and other chemical products (incl. man-made fibres)</i>	255-260	0.02	0.23
Metal articles	31	0.02	0.12
Mechanical engineering	32	0.02	0.14
Electrical engineering	34	0.12	0.47
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	35	0.00	0.05
Instrument engineering	37	0.02	0.08
Food	411-423	0.25	1.45
of which:			
<i>Vegetable/animal oils and fats</i>	411	0.00	0.02
<i>Slaughtering, preparing and preserving of meat</i>	412	0.03	1.03
<i>Dairy products</i>	413	0.09	0.07
<i>Processing/preserving fruit and vegetables</i>	414	0.01	0.03
<i>Grain milling, animal and poultry foods</i>	416, 422	0.02	0.05
<i>Bread and flour confectionery</i>	419	0.00	0.03
<i>Sugar, cocoa, chocolate and sugar confectionery</i>	420, 421	0.00	0.06
<i>All other food</i>	415, 417, 418, 423	0.10	0.16
Drink	424-428	0.01	0.25
Tobacco	429	0.86	1.10
Textiles	43	0.05	0.09
<i>Hosiery and other knitted goods</i>	436	0.00	-0.01
Leather, leather goods and footwear	44, 451	0.00	0.01
Clothing	453, 455, 456	0.01	0.09
Timber and wooden furniture	46	0.01	0.07
Paper and paper products	471-472	0.01	0.02
Printing and publishing	473-474	0.00	0.02
Rubber processing	481-482	0.00	0.03
Plastics	483	0.01	0.07
Other manufactured products	49	0.00	0.01

¹ General classification of economic activities within the European Communities

Table 3 Wholesale Price Indices (excluding VAT) for Building and Construction Materials

Base: Year 1985 as 100

Materials	Index			Monthly % Change		Annual % Change		
	Nov 1999	Dec 1999	Year 1999	Nov 1999	Dec 1999	Nov 1999	Dec 1999	Year 1999
Sand and gravel	166.9	165.9	166.0	-0.4	-0.6	+2.2	+2.0	+3.8
Cement	113.9	113.9	113.9	-	-	-	-	-
Ready mixed mortar and concrete	126.2	126.6	126.8	+0.2	+0.3	+0.1	-0.2	+0.6
Concrete blocks and bricks	135.4	135.4	135.3	-0.3	-	+0.7	+0.4	+1.3
Other concrete products	157.6	157.5	157.2	+0.1	-0.1	+2.4	+2.1	+2.3
Structural steel and reinforcing metal of which	99.0	99.2	97.5	+0.3	+0.2	+1.7	+2.0	-3.3
Structural steel	104.5	104.8	103.3	+0.7	+0.3	+1.4	+1.6	-1.7
Reinforcing metal	93.9	94.0	92.1	-0.1	+0.1	+2.2	+2.4	-4.8
Rough timber (including plain sawn)	169.2	170.3	166.6	+0.5	+0.7	+1.3	+1.9	-1.5
Other timber (including joinery)	157.5	157.5	157.5	-	-	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4
Bituminous macadam, asphalt and bituminous emulsions of which	109.3	112.3	106.9	+1.4	+2.7	+4.9	+8.1	+3.6
Bituminous macadam and asphalt	142.4	147.1	143.7	+1.4	+3.3	-0.4	+2.9	+1.6
Bituminous emulsions	70.1	71.0	63.2	+1.6	+1.3	+20.4	+23.7	+9.5
Electrical fittings	124.5	129.8	121.8	+0.6	+4.3	+2.8	+8.5	-1.5
All other materials	143.7	144.1	142.1	+0.6	+0.3	+2.2	+2.1	+1.6
All materials	138.2	139.0	137.2	+0.3	+0.6	+1.5	+2.1	+0.7

Table 4 Capital Goods Price Indices (excluding VAT)

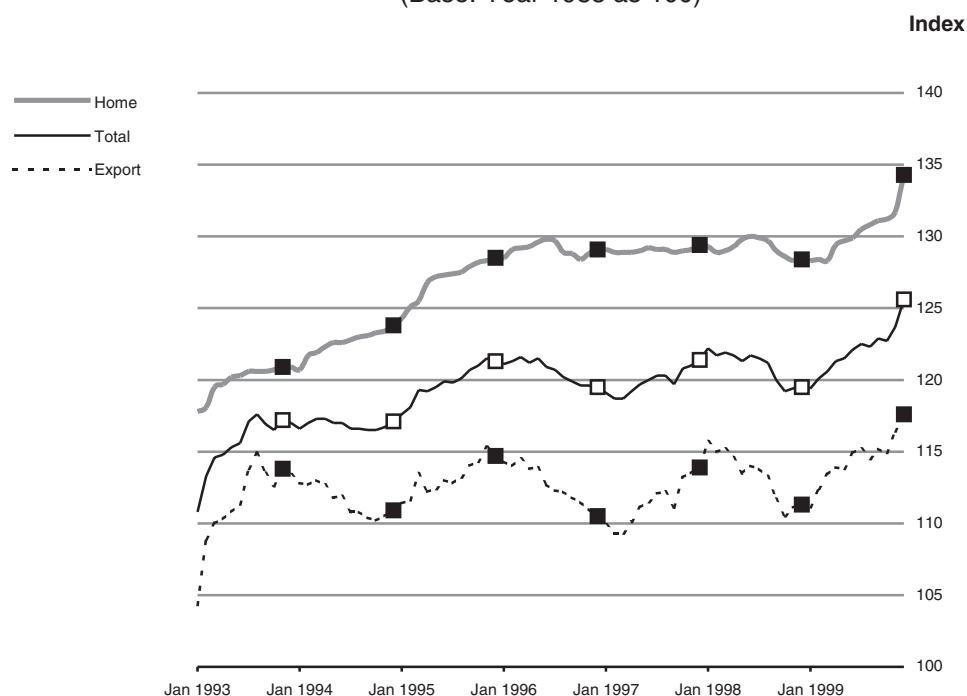
Base: Year 1985 as 100

Capital goods	Index			Monthly % Change		Annual % Change		
	Nov 1999	Dec 1999	Year 1999	Nov 1999	Dec 1999	Nov 1999	Dec 1999	Year 1999
Transportable capital for use in								
Agriculture	147.7	147.4	147.0	+0.6	-0.2	+0.9	+0.7	+1.0
Industry	143.4	143.8	142.7	+0.4	+0.3	+1.1	+1.5	+0.9
of which:								
Private vehicles ¹	144.9	144.9	144.6	-	-	+2.3	+2.3	+2.3
Commercial vehicles	146.5	146.5	146.0	+0.2	-	+0.9	+0.9	+1.7
Agriculture and industry	144.5	144.7	143.8	+0.5	+0.1	+1.0	+1.3	+0.9
Other sectors	139.6	139.9	139.0	+0.4	+0.2	+1.7	+2.0	+1.5
Total transportable capital	141.8	142.1	141.2	+0.4	+0.2	+1.4	+1.6	+1.2
Building and construction (i.e. materials and wages)	159.9	160.4	155.9	+0.1	+0.3	+6.4	+6.7	+4.2
All capital goods	150.5	150.9	148.2	+0.3	+0.3	+3.9	+4.1	+2.6

¹ Private vehicles are inclusive of VAT which is non-deductible for industry and agriculture.**Table 5 Wholesale Price Indices (excluding VAT) for Energy Products (i.e. Fuels purchased by Manufacturing Industry)**

Base: Year 1985 as 100

Energy fuels	Index			Monthly % Change		Annual % Change		
	Nov 1999	Dec 1999	Year 1999	Nov 1999	Dec 1999	Nov 1999	Dec 1999	Year 1999
Petrol	112.7	115.7	106.9	-0.4	+2.7	+12.4	+16.8	+4.8
Autodiesel	106.1	113.0	99.4	+1.6	+6.5	+14.6	+23.2	+5.2
Gas oil (other than autodiesel)	96.9	103.5	86.5	+0.2	+6.8	+27.7	+38.6	+10.2
Fuel oil	101.6	104.8	89.0	+1.2	+3.1	+29.8	+35.9	+12.5
Electricity	84.2	84.2	84.2	-	-	-	-	-
Petroleum fuels¹	102.0	106.2	90.8	+1.0	+4.1	+26.2	+33.4	+10.6
Energy products	94.3	96.7	87.9	+0.6	+2.5	14.6	+18.5	+5.9

¹ Energy products excluding electricity.**Manufacturing Industries: Output Price Indices for Home and Export Sales**
(Base: Year 1985 as 100)

Producer Price Summary 1999

Overall the price of goods manufactured in Ireland rose by 1.0 percent during 1999 following a rise of 0.8 percent in 1998. The index for exported goods increased by 1.0 percent in 1999 after an increase of 1.7 percent in the previous year. The index for goods sold on the home market went up 0.9 percent in 1999 after showing little or no movement over the period 1997-1998 (see Table 6).

Market forces such as demand and supply, economic crises and exchange rates are the main factors influencing producer price indices. The beginning of 1998 saw the introduction of the Euro and a fixed exchange rate within eleven European countries. However fluctuations in the exchange rates for Sterling and the US Dollar have a major effect particularly on the export index. Both home and export indices are also influenced by currency changes where raw materials are imported by manufacturing industries for further processing. The average exchange rates for Sterling, the US Dollar and Deutsche Mark are shown in Table 7.

Table 6 Annual percent change in Producer Price Indices for home, export and total sales, 1995-1999

Index	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Total Manufacturing Industries	2.5	0.7	-0.6	0.8	1.0
Manufacturing Industries (home sales)	3.6	1.7	0.0	0.1	0.9
Manufacturing Industries (export sales)	1.5	-0.4	-1.2	1.7	1.0

Table 7 Annual exchange rates 1995-1999 **Source: Central Bank**

Exchange Rate	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Pound Sterling per IR£	1.0165	1.0257	0.9268	0.8602	0.8364
US Dollar per IR£	1.6039	1.6007	1.5179	1.4259	1.3533
Deutsche Mark per IR£	2.2974	2.4081	2.6285	2.5049	2.4836

Food, Drink and Tobacco The combined index for the Food, Drink and Tobacco sectors rose by 0.8 percent in 1999 after a modest rise of 0.3 percent in 1998. The increase was due to Drink and Tobacco where prices continue to increase. Drink rose by 1.8 percent and tobacco by 4.6 percent in 1999. The index for food remained unchanged in 1999 after a downward trend since 1996 (see Table 8).

Within the Food sector price changes were mixed. The index for Dairy Products dropped by 1.8 percent in 1999 after an increase of 0.6 percent the previous year. Meat prices recovered and increased by 1.1 percent in 1999 following a decrease of 3.9 percent a year earlier. The index for Bread and Flour Confectionery went up again in 1999 by 1.7 percent while prices for Grain Milling, Animal and Poultry Foods declined by 2.0 percent following a decrease of 1.5 percent in 1998 (see Table 8).

Table 8 Annual percent change in Producer Price Indices for Food, Drink and Tobacco (including selected categories of Food), 1995-1999

Index	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Food, Drink and Tobacco	2.9	0.1	-0.3	0.3	0.8
Food	3.0	-0.5	-0.9	-0.4	0.0
Slaughtering, preparing and preserving of meat	-0.2	-6.3	0.5	-3.9	1.1
Dairy products	6.1	1.8	-3.7	0.6	-1.8
Grain milling, animal and poultry foods	-0.2	4.0	-2.8	-1.5	-2.0
Bread and flour confectionery	1.6	2.7	1.6	0.8	1.7
Drink*	0.7	1.0	0.4	1.4	1.8
Tobacco*	5.7	4.9	3.9	4.3	4.6

* Prices include excise duty

Manufacturing Industries excluding Food, Drink and Tobacco

The index representing the Manufacturing Industries excluding Food, Drink and Tobacco moved up 1.1 percent in 1999 following an increase of 1.5 percent a year earlier. The majority of sectors within this category showed a price increase. The exceptions were Textiles (-1.0%), Hosiery and Other Knitted Goods (-2.2%) and Leather Goods and Footwear (-7.6%). Prices received by industries producing Chemicals moved up in 1999 by 1.0 percent following an increase of 0.3 percent in 1998. All indices within the Metal, Mechanical, Electrical and Instrument Engineering sectors rose in 1999 following an increase in 1998 also. The index for Clothing went up 2.2 percent in 1999 continuing the long-term upward trend (see Table 9).

Table 9 Annual percent change in Producer Price Indices for selected Manufacturing Industries excluding Food, Drink and Tobacco, 1995-1999

Index	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Manufacturing Industries excl. Food, Drink and Tobacco	2.1	1.2	-0.8	1.5	1.1
Chemicals	2.4	1.1	-5.7	0.3	1.0
Metal articles	4.1	3.4	0.2	4.0	1.7
Mechanical Engineering	2.1	0.7	2.9	4.1	1.9
Electrical Engineering	-0.6	-2.4	-0.1	2.5	0.4
Instrument Engineering	-3.1	-1.8	-7.2	3.5	0.8
Clothing	0.2	2.1	2.4	2.6	2.2

Background Notes

Coverage The output price indices for sectors of Manufacturing Industries cover both home sales and export sales. The Indices for Total transportable goods industries; Food, drink and tobacco; Manufacturing industries excluding food; Manufacturing industries excluding food, drink and tobacco; Manufacturing industries (home sales); Manufacturing industries (export sales) and Total manufacturing industries are all calculated on a net sector basis i.e. the weights used to combine the sectoral indices (including those for sectors not distinguished in Table 2) exclude sales to other sectors of Manufacturing Industry.

A new table -2A, Contributions to changes in the Manufacturing Output Price Index (Table 2), was introduced in November 1998. This table gives the percentage contribution of each published sector to the overall Monthly and Annual percentage change on Table 2. Neither the monthly or annual percentage contributions on this table 2A will add up to the Total Manufacturing industries monthly or annual percentage change on Table 2, as not all sectors which are added into the Total Manufacturing industries figure can be published separately, due to issues of confidentiality.

The General Wholesale Price Index (Table 1) is calculated by combining special price indices for:

Output of Manufacturing Industry - excluding sales to Agriculture Sector
Output of Agriculture - excluding sales to Manufacturing Industry
Imports plus duty (Unit Value) Index - excluding imports by Agriculture Sector and
Manufacturing Industry

which eliminates duplication as far as possible. The usefulness of this general index is limited; the sectoral indices are more relevant and meaningful. As the index is dependent on the Import Price (Unit Value) Index, it normally becomes available in final form a few months or so later than the other series.

The Building Materials, Capital Goods and Energy Products indices (Tables 3, 4 and 5) cover home production and imports of these commodities. Table 3, the Wholesale Price Index for Building and Construction Materials provides only a general indication of price trends in that sector.

Prices All indices in the series are based on prices at the 15th of the month (except for the Import Price (Unit Value) Index and the Agricultural Output Price Index). Quarterly and annual indices are simple averages of the corresponding monthly indices.

Prices used in the compilation of the indices are:

Inclusive of excise duties
after deduction of direct subsidies
exclusive of VAT (except for Private Vehicles in Table 4).

Methodology The present Wholesale Price Index series compiled to base 1985 as 100 was introduced for May 1989. A methodological description of this updated series was given in the September 1989 issue of the *Statistical Bulletin*. In 1992 weights were updated and since then the 3-digit NACE weights relate to the 1985 Census of Industrial Production (CIP) while the commodity group weights are derived from the 1986 CIP. (See December 1992 Release).