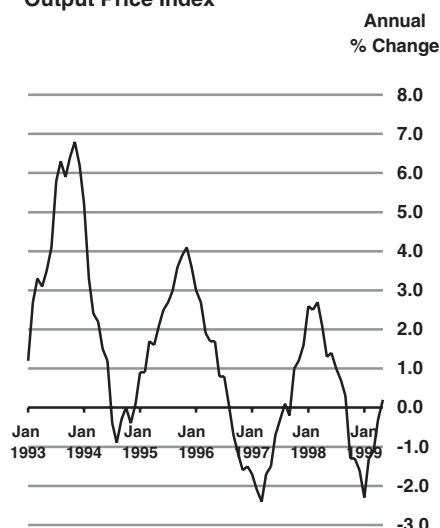


24 June 1999

Wholesale Price Index May 1999

Manufacturing Industries Output Price Index



Manufacturing Output Price Index

| | Price Index | % monthly change | % annual change |
|----------|-------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Feb 1999 | 120.1 | +0.6% | - 1.3% |
| Mar 1999 | 120.6 | +0.4% | - 1.1% |
| Apr 1999 | 121.3 | +0.6% | - 0.3% |
| May 1999 | 121.5 | +0.2% | +0.2% |

Manufacturing Output Price Index up 0.2% in May

Factory gate prices rose by 0.2% in May 1999 to bring the overall Manufacturing Output Price Index to 121.5. Year on year the annual index also rose by 0.2%. This was the first annual increase in the index since September 1998. *See Graph across and Table 1.*

The index for home sales increased by 0.2% and the index for export sales decreased by 0.1% in the month. *See Table 2 and Graph on page 6.*

The main contributors to the monthly change were: increases in Drink (+1.0%) and Slaughtering, preparing and preserving of meat (+0.7%) and decreases in All other food (-1.2%) and Dairy products (-0.4%). *See Table 2a.*

Other notable monthly changes were: Production and preliminary processing of metals (+1.1%), Leather, leather goods and footwear (+1.1%) and Basic industrial chemicals (including fertilisers) (-1.0%).

The main contributors to the annual change were: decreases in Dairy products (-2.8%), Slaughtering, preparing and preserving of meat (-2.0%) and increases in Drink (+2.6%) and Tobacco (+3.0%). *See Table 2a.*

Other notable annual changes were: Leather, leather goods and footwear (-9.9%).

The monthly price index for Mining, quarrying and turf rose by +1.8%. *See Table 2.*

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

- ◆ Building and construction material prices remained unchanged in May 1999 and increased by 0.2% in the year since May 1998. The largest price changes in the month were: Bituminous macadam and Asphalt which decreased by 3.4%, Bituminous emulsions which increased by 3.1%, Stone, sand and gravel which decreased by 1.6% and All other materials which rose by 1.3%. *See Table 3.*
- ◆ Prices of capital goods remained unchanged in May 1999 and increased by +2.6% in the year since May 1998. *See Table 4.*
- ◆ The price of energy products increased by 1.3% in May 1999 and by 1.9% in the year since May 1998. There were increases in all the petroleum fuels. *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 | 117.6 | + 1.5 | + 1.5 |
| 1997 Quarter 1 | 118.8 | - 0.7 | - 2.1 | 114.9 | - 0.1 | - 2.2 |
| Quarter 2 | 119.6 | + 0.7 | - 1.3 | 115.7 | + 0.7 | - 1.0 |
| Quarter 3 | 120.1 | + 0.4 | - 0.2 | 116.2 | + 0.4 | + 0.1 |
| Quarter 4 | 121.1 | + 0.8 | + 1.3 | 116.9 | + 0.6 | + 1.7 |
| 1998 Quarter 1 | 121.9 | + 0.7 | + 2.6 | 118.4 | + 1.3 | + 3.0 |
| Quarter 2 | 121.6 | - 0.2 | + 1.7 | 118.4 | - | + 2.3 |
| Quarter 3 | 120.9 | - 0.6 | + 0.7 | 117.9 | - 0.4 | + 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 | | | |
| 1997 January | 119.1 | - 0.3 | - 1.7 | 114.8 | - 0.1 | - 2.1 |
| February | 118.7 | - 0.3 | - 2.1 | 114.7 | - 0.1 | - 2.5 |
| March | 118.7 | - | - 2.4 | 115.2 | + 0.4 | - 2.1 |
| April | 119.2 | + 0.4 | - 1.7 | 114.9 | - 0.3 | - 2.0 |
| May | 119.7 | + 0.4 | - 1.5 | 116.0 | + 1.0 | - 0.9 |
| June | 120.0 | + 0.3 | - 0.7 | 116.1 | + 0.1 | - 0.3 |
| July | 120.3 | + 0.3 | - 0.3 | 116.4 | + 0.3 | - 0.1 |
| August | 120.3 | - | + 0.1 | 116.6 | + 0.2 | + 0.4 |
| September | 119.7 | - 0.5 | - 0.2 | 115.6 | - 0.9 | - |
| October | 120.8 | + 0.9 | + 1.0 | 116.9 | + 1.1 | + 1.6 |
| November | 121.0 | + 0.2 | + 1.2 | 116.8 | - 0.1 | + 1.6 |
| December | 121.4 | + 0.3 | + 1.6 | 117.1 | + 0.3 | + 1.9 |
| 1998 January | 122.2 | + 0.7 | + 2.6 | 118.8 | + 1.5 | + 3.5 |
| February | 121.7 | - 0.4 | + 2.5 | 118.0 | - 0.7 | + 2.9 |
| March | 121.9 | + 0.2 | + 2.7 | 118.5 | + 0.4 | + 2.9 |
| April | 121.7 | - 0.2 | + 2.1 | 118.7 | + 0.2 | + 3.3 |
| May | 121.3 | - 0.3 | + 1.3 | 118.0 | - 0.6 | + 1.7 |
| June | 121.7 | + 0.3 | + 1.4 | 118.4 | + 0.3 | + 2.0 |
| July | 121.5 | - 0.2 | + 1.0 | 118.5 | + 0.1 | + 1.8 |
| August | 121.2 | - 0.2 | + 0.7 | 118.0 | - 0.4 | + 1.2 |
| September | 120.0 | - 1.0 | + 0.3 | 117.2 | - 0.7 | + 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 | - 1.9 |
| 1999 January | 119.4 | - 0.1 | - 2.3 | | | |
| February | 120.1 | + 0.6 | - 1.3 | | | |
| March | 120.6 | + 0.4 | - 1.1 | | | |
| April | 121.3 | + 0.6 | - 0.3 | | | |
| May | 121.5 | + 0.2 | + 0.2 | | | |

¹ Derived from the price indices for output of manufacturing industry, output of agriculture and the import price (unit value) index. The 1997 GWPI figures were revised in September 1998. The 1998 GWPI figures are provisional due to the provisional nature of the Import (Unit value) Price Indices. Final 1998 GWPI Indices should be available by mid 1999.

Table 2 Industrial Producer Price Indices (excluding VAT)

| Industrial sector | NACE code ¹ | Index | | | Monthly % Change | | | Annual % Change | | |
|---|------------------------|----------|----------|----------|------------------|----------|----------|-----------------|----------|----------|
| | | Mar 1999 | Apr 1999 | May 1999 | Mar 1999 | Apr 1999 | May 1999 | Mar 1999 | Apr 1999 | May 1999 |
| Production and preliminary processing of metals | 22 | 116.1 | 115.1 | 116.4 | +1.2 | -0.9 | +1.1 | -5.3 | -6.2 | -3.2 |
| Non metallic mineral products | 24 | 113.1 | 113.3 | 113.5 | +0.2 | +0.2 | +0.2 | -0.4 | -0.1 | +0.4 |
| Chemicals | 25-26 | 97.4 | 97.5 | 97.3 | +0.4 | +0.1 | -0.2 | +0.1 | +0.4 | +0.9 |
| Basic industrial chemicals (incl. fertilisers) | 251 | 69.1 | 69.2 | 68.5 | +1.2 | +0.1 | -1.0 | -1.3 | -0.9 | +0.6 |
| Pharmaceuticals and other chemical products (incl. man-made fibres) | 255-260 | 108.1 | 108.2 | 108.2 | +0.2 | +0.1 | - | +0.4 | +0.7 | +0.9 |
| Metal articles | 31 | 129.2 | 129.6 | 130.0 | +0.4 | +0.3 | +0.3 | +1.7 | +1.5 | +2.3 |
| Mechanical engineering | 32 | 125.9 | 126.6 | 126.8 | +0.9 | +0.6 | +0.2 | +0.5 | +1.2 | +2.4 |
| Electrical engineering | 34 | 112.2 | 113.0 | 113.0 | +1.4 | +0.7 | - | -3.1 | -1.3 | +0.3 |
| Motor vehicles, parts and accessories | 35 | 144.3 | 144.3 | 144.4 | +0.1 | - | +0.1 | +1.4 | +1.3 | +1.3 |
| Instrument engineering | 37 | 96.4 | 96.8 | 96.4 | +0.5 | +0.4 | -0.4 | - | +0.9 | +0.6 |
| Food | 411-423 | 124.5 | 125.3 | 125.2 | +0.1 | +0.6 | -0.1 | -1.8 | -1.3 | -1.4 |
| of which: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Vegetable/animal oils and fats | 411 | 111.6 | 111.7 | 111.9 | - | +0.1 | +0.2 | +6.8 | +6.9 | +3.4 |
| Slaughtering, preparing and preserving of meat | 412 | 107.5 | 109.2 | 110.0 | +0.4 | +1.6 | +0.7 | -3.8 | -2.4 | -2.0 |
| Dairy products | 413 | 137.9 | 138.2 | 137.6 | -0.2 | +0.2 | -0.4 | -2.4 | -2.2 | -2.8 |
| Processing/preserving fruit and vegetables | 414 | 132.3 | 132.7 | 133.1 | +0.7 | +0.3 | +0.3 | +1.9 | +1.7 | +3.1 |
| Grain milling, animal and poultry foods | 416,422 | 103.0 | 103.0 | 102.9 | - | - | -0.1 | -3.6 | -3.6 | -3.7 |
| Bread and flour confectionery | 419 | 139.6 | 141.8 | 141.8 | - | +1.6 | - | +0.9 | +2.0 | +2.0 |
| Sugar, cocoa, chocolate and, sugar confectionery | 420,421 | 139.1 | 140.2 | 140.8 | +0.1 | +0.8 | +0.4 | +2.4 | +2.9 | +2.3 |
| All other food | 415,417, 418,423 | 136.3 | 136.4 | 134.7 | +0.2 | +0.1 | -1.2 | +0.9 | +0.8 | +1.0 |
| Drink | 424-428 | 130.1 | 131.7 | 133.0 | +0.1 | +1.2 | +1.0 | +0.1 | +1.5 | +2.6 |
| Tobacco | 429 | 196.7 | 198.9 | 199.2 | +0.2 | +1.1 | +0.2 | +2.4 | +2.7 | +3.0 |
| Textiles | 43 | 118.0 | 117.2 | 117.4 | +0.9 | -0.7 | +0.2 | -1.9 | -2.9 | -1.9 |
| Hosiery and other knitted goods | 436 | 117.8 | 117.8 | 118.6 | - | - | +0.7 | -3.6 | -3.2 | -2.3 |
| Leather, leather goods and footwear | 44,451 | 87.1 | 87.9 | 88.9 | +0.6 | +0.9 | +1.1 | -12.5 | -11.8 | -9.9 |
| Clothing | 453,455,456 | 143.0 | 144.0 | 144.2 | +0.9 | +0.7 | +0.1 | +1.6 | +2.4 | +2.6 |
| Timber and wooden furniture | 46 | 148.3 | 148.4 | 149.5 | +0.7 | +0.1 | +0.7 | +0.5 | +0.6 | +1.6 |
| Paper and paper products | 471-472 | 123.1 | 122.9 | 123.0 | -0.3 | -0.2 | +0.1 | -1.2 | -1.4 | -1.7 |
| Printing and publishing | 473-474 | 162.5 | 162.5 | 162.6 | - | - | +0.1 | +0.6 | +0.6 | +0.7 |
| Rubber processing | 481-482 | 136.4 | 136.9 | 137.0 | +0.1 | +0.4 | +0.1 | +3.4 | +4.0 | +4.3 |
| Plastics | 483 | 140.0 | 140.2 | 140.6 | +0.4 | +0.1 | +0.3 | +0.2 | +0.2 | +0.7 |
| Other manufactured products | 49 | 102.7 | 102.7 | 102.8 | - | - | +0.1 | +1.4 | +1.4 | +0.9 |
| Mining, quarrying and turf | 111,21,23 | 115.7 | 116.9 | 119.0 | +1.0 | +1.0 | +1.8 | - | -0.7 | +2.5 |
| Total transportable goods industries | | 120.5 | 121.2 | 121.4 | +0.4 | +0.6 | +0.2 | -1.0 | -0.3 | +0.2 |
| Food, drink and tobacco | | 130.5 | 131.5 | 131.6 | +0.2 | +0.8 | +0.1 | -1.1 | -0.5 | -0.5 |
| Manufacturing industries excluding food | | 118.3 | 118.9 | 119.2 | +0.6 | +0.5 | +0.3 | -0.4 | +0.3 | +1.1 |
| Manufacturing industries excluding food, drink and tobacco | | 111.6 | 112.1 | 112.2 | +0.6 | +0.4 | +0.1 | -1.0 | -0.2 | +0.5 |
| Manufacturing industries (home sales) ² | | 128.3 | 129.4 | 129.7 | -0.1 | +0.9 | +0.2 | -0.5 | +0.1 | -0.1 |
| Manufacturing industries (export sales) ² | | 113.4 | 113.9 | 113.8 | +0.9 | +0.4 | -0.1 | -1.6 | -0.6 | +0.3 |
| Total manufacturing industries² | | 120.6 | 121.3 | 121.5 | +0.4 | +0.6 | +0.2 | -1.1 | -0.3 | +0.2 |

¹General classification of economic activities within the European Communities²Excludes mining, quarrying & turf

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

| Industrial sector | NACE code ¹ | Contributions to overall % change | |
|--|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| | | One month | 12 months |
| Production and preliminary processing of metals | 22 | +0.01 | -0.02 |
| Non metallic mineral products | 24 | +0.01 | 0.00 |
| Chemicals | 25-26 | -0.02 | +0.10 |
| <i>Basic industrial chemicals (incl. fertilisers)</i> | 251 | -0.02 | +0.02 |
| <i>Pharmaceuticals and other chemical products (incl. man-made fibres)</i> | 255-260 | 0.00 | +0.09 |
| Metal articles | 31 | +0.01 | +0.08 |
| Mechanical engineering | 32 | +0.01 | +0.07 |
| Electrical engineering | 34 | 0.00 | +0.03 |
| Motor vehicles, parts and accessories | 35 | 0.00 | +0.01 |
| Instrument engineering | 37 | -0.01 | +0.02 |
| Food | 411-423 | -0.02 | -0.56 |
| of which: | | | |
| <i>Vegetable/animal oils and fats</i> | 411 | 0.00 | +0.01 |
| <i>Slaughtering, preparing and preserving of meat</i> | 412 | +0.08 | -0.21 |
| <i>Dairy products</i> | 413 | -0.06 | -0.42 |
| <i>Processing/preserving fruit and vegetables</i> | 414 | 0.00 | +0.02 |
| <i>Grain milling, animal and poultry foods</i> | 416,422 | 0.00 | -0.10 |
| <i>Bread and flour confectionery</i> | 419 | 0.00 | +0.04 |
| <i>Sugar, cocoa, chocolate and, sugar confectionery</i> | 420,421 | +0.01 | +0.07 |
| <i>All other food</i> | 415,417 418,423 | -0.06 | +0.05 |
| Drink | 424-428 | +0.08 | +0.22 |
| Tobacco | 429 | +0.01 | +0.16 |
| Textiles | 43 | 0.00 | -0.07 |
| <i>Hosiery and other knitted goods</i> | 436 | 0.00 | -0.02 |
| Leather, leather goods and footwear | 44,451 | +0.01 | -0.05 |
| Clothing | 453,455,456 | 0.00 | +0.06 |
| Timber and wooden furniture | 46 | +0.01 | +0.03 |
| Paper and paper products | 471-472 | 0.00 | -0.01 |
| Printing and publishing | 473-474 | 0.00 | +0.01 |
| Rubber processing | 481-482 | 0.00 | +0.04 |
| Plastics | 483 | +0.01 | +0.02 |
| Other manufactured products | 49 | 0.00 | +0.01 |

¹General 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 | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Mar 1999 | Apr 1999 | May 1999 | Mar 1999 | Apr 1999 | May 1999 | Mar 1999 | Apr 1999 | May 1999 |
| Sand and gravel | 167.8 | 167.5 | 164.8 | +2.1 | -0.2 | -1.6 | +6.5 | +6.3 | +3.8 |
| Cement | 113.9 | 113.9 | 113.9 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Ready mixed mortar and concrete | 126.0 | 128.0 | 126.9 | -0.7 | +1.6 | -0.9 | - | +0.9 | +0.6 |
| Concrete blocks and bricks | 135.0 | 135.4 | 135.3 | +0.2 | +0.3 | -0.1 | +1.6 | +1.8 | +1.3 |
| Other concrete products | 156.6 | 157.4 | 157.7 | - | +0.5 | +0.2 | +2.4 | +2.5 | +2.9 |
| Structural steel and reinforcing metal of which | 96.9 | 96.8 | 96.7 | - | -0.1 | -0.1 | -5.2 | -4.6 | -4.7 |
| Structural steel | 103.0 | 103.1 | 103.1 | -0.1 | +0.1 | - | -3.1 | -2.5 | -2.6 |
| Reinforcing metal | 91.1 | 90.9 | 90.7 | - | -0.2 | -0.2 | -7.4 | -6.9 | -7.0 |
| Rough timber (including plain sawn) | 165.5 | 165.5 | 164.8 | -1.1 | - | -0.4 | -2.6 | -2.6 | -3.1 |
| Other timber (including joinery) | 157.1 | 157.3 | 157.5 | - | +0.1 | +0.1 | -0.6 | -0.5 | -0.4 |
| Bituminous macadam, asphalt and bituminous emulsions of which: | 105.7 | 108.0 | 106.1 | +2.4 | +2.2 | -1.8 | +3.0 | +4.3 | +2.9 |
| Bituminous macadam and asphalt | 145.8 | 149.5 | 144.4 | +3.8 | +2.5 | -3.4 | +3.0 | +4.7 | +2.5 |
| Bituminous emulsions | 58.0 | 58.7 | 60.5 | -1.4 | +1.2 | +3.1 | +3.2 | +3.3 | +4.0 |
| Electrical fittings | 119.4 | 119.7 | 119.2 | -0.3 | +0.3 | -0.4 | -5.1 | -4.2 | -4.0 |
| All other materials | 140.3 | 140.5 | 142.3 | - | +0.1 | +1.3 | +1.1 | +0.5 | +1.6 |
| All materials | 136.2 | 136.7 | 136.7 | - | +0.4 | - | +0.1 | +0.2 | +0.2 |

Table 4 Capital Goods Price Indices (excluding VAT)

Base: Year 1985 as 100

| Capital goods | Index | | | Monthly % Change | | | Annual % Change | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Mar 1999 | Apr 1999 | May 1999 | Mar 1999 | Apr 1999 | May 1999 | Mar 1999 | Apr 1999 | May 1999 |
| Transportable capital for use in | | | | | | | | | |
| Agriculture | 146.6 | 146.8 | 146.9 | -0.1 | +0.1 | +0.1 | +1.4 | +1.4 | +1.0 |
| Industry | 142.2 | 142.4 | 142.4 | +0.1 | +0.1 | - | +0.9 | +0.9 | +0.5 |
| of which: | | | | | | | | | |
| Private vehicles ¹ | 144.4 | 144.4 | 144.4 | - | - | - | +2.5 | +2.5 | +2.1 |
| Commercial vehicles | 145.6 | 145.6 | 146.0 | - | - | +0.3 | +3.8 | +3.8 | +0.7 |
| Agriculture and industry | 143.4 | 143.6 | 143.6 | +0.1 | +0.1 | - | +1.1 | +1.1 | +0.6 |
| Other sectors | 138.5 | 138.7 | 138.8 | +0.1 | +0.1 | +0.1 | +1.6 | +1.5 | +1.1 |
| Total transportable capital | 140.8 | 140.9 | 141.0 | +0.1 | +0.1 | +0.1 | +1.4 | +1.2 | +0.9 |
| Building and construction (i.e. materials and wages) | 150.3 | 155.4 | 155.4 | - | +3.4 | - | +1.1 | +4.4 | +4.4 |
| All capital goods | 145.3 | 147.9 | 147.9 | - | +1.8 | - | +1.2 | +2.8 | +2.6 |

¹Private vehicles are inclusive of VAT which is non-deductible for industry and agriculture.

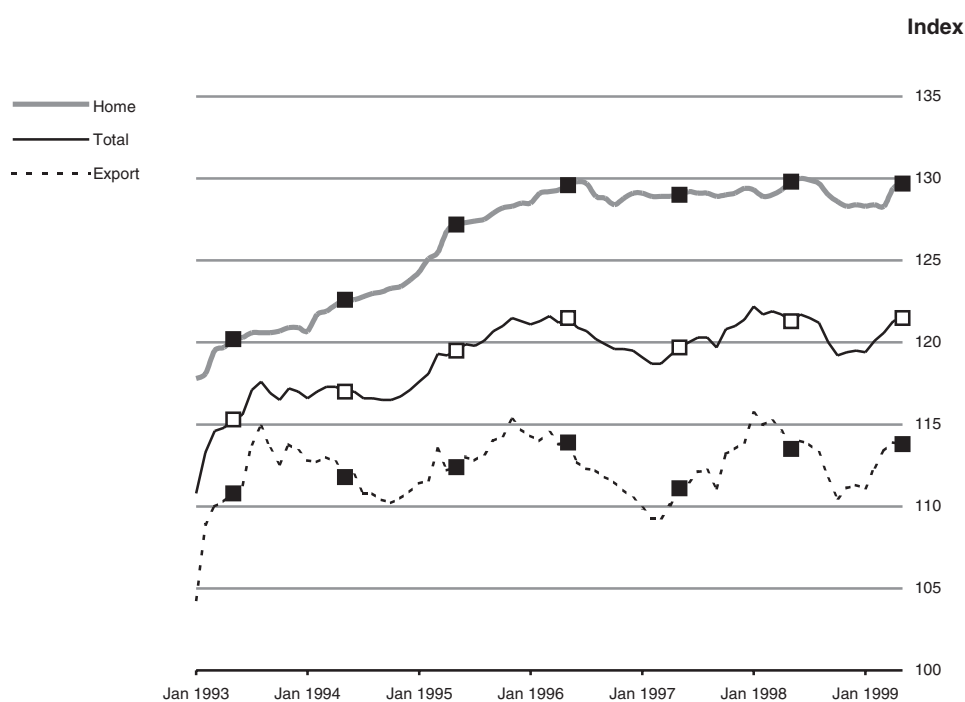
**Table 5 Wholesale Price Indices (excluding VAT) for Energy Products
(i.e. Fuels purchased by Manufacturing Industry)**

Base: Year 1985 as 100

| Energy fuels | Index | | | Monthly % Change | | | Annual % Change | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Mar 1999 | Apr 1999 | May 1999 | Mar 1999 | Apr 1999 | May 1999 | Mar 1999 | Apr 1999 | May 1999 |
| Petrol | 99.0 | 103.2 | 104.8 | +1.1 | +4.2 | +1.6 | -4.3 | +1.1 | +2.4 |
| Autodiesel | 92.8 | 96.1 | 97.3 | +2.1 | +3.6 | +1.2 | -3.5 | +1.4 | +2.0 |
| Gas oil (other than autodiesel) | 76.6 | 80.7 | 82.0 | +3.1 | +5.4 | +1.6 | -5.5 | +1.8 | +2.5 |
| Fuel oil | 78.7 | 81.6 | 83.9 | +0.6 | +3.7 | +2.8 | -0.6 | +3.2 | +3.8 |
| Electricity | 84.2 | 84.2 | 84.2 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Petroleum fuels¹ | 81.1 | 84.4 | 86.3 | +1.1 | +4.1 | +2.3 | -2.1 | +2.7 | +3.2 |
| Energy products | 82.5 | 84.3 | 85.4 | +0.7 | +2.2 | +1.3 | -1.1 | +1.4 | +1.9 |

¹Energy products excluding electricity.

**Manufacturing Industries: Output Price Indices
for Home and Export Sales
(Base: Year 1985 as 100)**



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 & 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*).