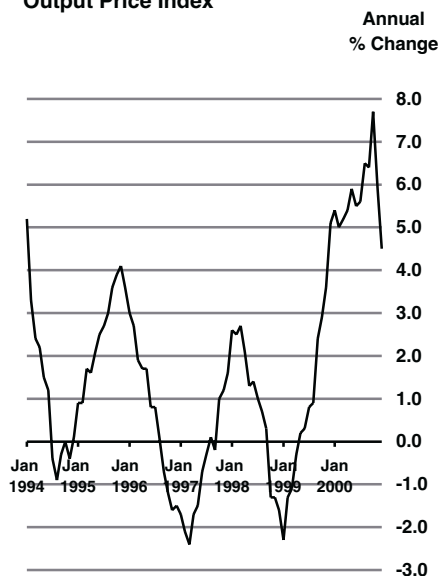




Wholesale Price Index December 2000

Manufacturing Industries Output Price Index



Manufacturing Output Price Index

	Price Index	% monthly change	% annual change
Sep 2000	130.8	+0.5%	+6.4%
Oct 2000	132.1	+1.0%	+7.7%
Nov 2000	131.0	-0.8%	+5.9%
Dec 2000	131.3	+0.2%	+4.5%

Manufacturing Output Price Index up 4.5% in the year

Factory gate prices increased by 0.2% in December 2000 to bring the overall Manufacturing Output Price Index to 131.3. Year on year the index rose by 4.5% compared with an annual increase of 5.9% in November 2000. *See graph across and Table 1.*

The index for export sales increased by 0.2% and the index for home sales increased by 0.1% in the month. *See Table 2 and Graph on page 5.*

Overall for the year 2000, the annual manufacturing output price index rose on average by 5.7%, following modest increases of between 1.0% and 2.5% in the previous six years (see Table 1 and Producer Price Summary 2000 on pages 6 and 7).

The main contributors to the monthly change were: increases in Dairy products (+2.5%), Timber and wooden furniture (+2.0%) and Grain milling, animal and poultry foods (+1.4%) and decreases in Pharmaceuticals and other chemical products (incl. man-made fibres) (-0.7%) and Mineral oil refining¹. *See Table 2a.*

Contributing to the annual change were increases in Dairy products (+10.9%), Mineral oil refining¹, Basic industrial chemicals (incl. fertilisers) (+15.6%), Electrical engineering (+3.3%) and Slaughtering, preparing and preserving of meat (+2.2%). *See Table 2a.*

The monthly price index for Mining, quarrying and turf decreased by 0.7%. *See Table 2.*

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

- ◆ Building and construction material prices increased by 0.1% in December 2000 and increased by 6.0% in the year since December 1999. The most notable monthly change was in Bituminous emulsions (-5.5%). *See Table 3.*
- ◆ Prices of capital goods decreased by 0.1% in December 2000 and increased by 7.4% in the year since December 1999. *See Table 4.*
- ◆ The price of energy products decreased by 2.4% in December 2000 and increased by 15.5% in the year since December 1999. Petroleum fuels fell by 3.6% in December 2000 and year on year this index rose by 25%. *See Table 5.*

¹ Indices not published due to issues of confidentiality.

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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	118.9	+ 1.0	+ 1.0
2000 Year	129.1	+ 5.7	+ 5.7			
1999 Quarter 1	120.0	+ 0.5	- 1.6	117.1	+ 1.0	- 1.2
Quarter 2	121.6	+ 1.3	-	118.5	+ 1.2	+ 0.2
Quarter 3	122.6	+ 0.8	+ 1.4	119.3	+ 0.7	+ 1.2
Quarter 4	124.0	+ 1.1	+ 3.9	120.7	+ 1.2	+ 4.1
2000 Quarter 1	126.3	+ 1.9	+ 5.3	122.9	+ 1.8	+ 5.0
Quarter 2	128.4	+ 1.7	+ 5.6	125.4	+ 2.0	+ 5.8
Quarter 3	130.1	+ 1.3	+ 6.1	127.2	+ 1.4	+ 6.6
Quarter 4	131.5	+ 1.1	+ 6.0			
1999 January	119.4	- 0.1	- 2.3	116.6	+ 0.3	- 2.0
February	120.1	+ 0.6	- 1.3	117.1	+ 0.4	- 0.8
March	120.6	+ 0.4	- 1.1	117.7	+ 0.5	- 0.7
April	121.3	+ 0.6	- 0.3	118.4	+ 0.6	- 0.2
May	121.5	+ 0.2	+ 0.2	118.2	- 0.2	+ 0.3
June	122.1	+ 0.5	+ 0.3	119.0	+ 0.7	+ 0.4
July	122.5	+ 0.3	+ 0.8	119.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.5
August	122.3	- 0.2	+ 0.9	119.7	+ 0.5	+ 1.5
September	122.9	+ 0.5	+ 2.4	119.2	- 0.4	+ 1.7
October	122.7	- 0.2	+ 2.9	119.2	-	+ 3.2
November	123.7	+ 0.8	+ 3.6	120.4	+ 1.0	+ 4.0
December	125.6	+ 1.5	+ 5.1	122.5	+ 1.7	+ 5.3
2000 January	125.8	+ 0.2	+ 5.4	122.1	- 0.3	+ 4.7
February	126.1	+ 0.2	+ 5.0	122.5	+ 0.3	+ 4.6
March	126.9	+ 0.6	+ 5.2	124.0	+ 1.3	+ 5.4
April	127.8	+ 0.7	+ 5.4	124.2	+ 0.1	+ 4.9
May	128.7	+ 0.7	+ 5.9	125.7	+ 1.2	+ 6.3
June	128.8	+ 0.1	+ 5.5	126.3	+ 0.5	+ 6.2
July	129.4	+ 0.5	+ 5.6	126.6	+ 0.2	+ 6.3
August	130.2	+ 0.6	+ 6.5	127.0	+ 0.3	+ 6.1
September	130.8	+ 0.5	+ 6.4	128.1	+ 0.9	+ 7.5
October	132.1	+ 1.0	+ 7.7			
November	131.0	- 0.8	+ 5.9			
December	131.3	+ 0.2	+ 4.5			

¹ Derived from the price indices for output of manufacturing industry, output of agriculture and the import price (unit value) index. The 2000 GWPI figures are provisional due to the provisional nature of the import (unit value) Price Indices. Final 2000 GWPI Indices should be available by mid 2001.

Table 2 Industrial Producer Price Indices (excluding VAT)

Base: Year 1985 as 100

Industrial sector	NACE code ¹	Index			Monthly % Change		Annual % Change		
		Nov 2000	Dec 2000	Year 2000	Nov 2000	Dec 2000	Nov 2000	Dec 2000	Year 2000
Production and preliminary processing of metals	22	138.8	140.0	131.3	-0.1	+0.9	+14.8	+14.5	+11.4
Non metallic mineral products	24	117.9	117.7	117.2	-0.4	-0.2	+3.2	+2.9	+3.2
Chemicals	25-26	101.1	100.4	99.7	+1.1	-0.7	+3.0	+2.1	+2.3
Basic industrial chemicals (incl. fertilisers)	251	77.8	77.6	71.8	+6.3	-0.3	+15.6	+15.6	+5.6
Pharmaceuticals and other chemical products (incl. man-made fibres)	255-260	109.9	109.1	110.2	-0.3	-0.7	-0.1	-1.0	+1.4
Metal articles	31	138.8	139.0	136.6	-0.4	+0.1	+5.6	+5.0	+4.8
Mechanical engineering	32	134.1	133.5	131.6	-0.6	-0.4	+5.3	+4.1	+4.0
Electrical engineering	34	120.5	120.5	119.5	-0.9	-	+5.1	+3.3	+5.6
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	35	161.2	161.2	155.9	-0.1	-	+6.9	+6.8	+7.0
Instrument engineering	37	102.1	100.8	100.4	-0.4	-1.3	+5.1	+3.1	+3.9
Food	411-423	134.4	135.6	132.6	-1.6	+0.9	+5.2	+5.4	+5.2
of which:									
Vegetable/animal oils and fats	411	122.0	121.9	121.0	-0.3	-0.1	+3.6	+3.3	+6.4
Slaughtering, preparing and preserving of meat	412	118.7	118.3	120.9	-6.0	-0.3	+2.8	+2.2	+8.5
Dairy products	413	150.5	154.2	145.0	+0.1	+2.5	+8.8	+10.9	+5.0
Processing/preserving fruit and vegetables	414	140.5	140.2	139.5	-0.7	-0.2	+3.9	+2.6	+4.4
Grain milling, animal and poultry foods	416, 422	107.1	108.6	106.0	+0.3	+1.4	+3.6	+4.2	+2.8
Bread and flour confectionery	419	148.0	148.6	144.7	-0.5	+0.4	+4.4	+4.9	+2.5
Sugar, cocoa, chocolate and sugar confectionery	420, 421	145.3	145.1	144.2	-0.3	-0.1	+2.8	+2.5	+2.7
All other food	415, 417 418, 423	143.4	143.6	140.6	+1.2	+0.1	+2.9	+1.0	+2.6
Drink	424-428	137.2	136.8	136.0	-0.2	-0.3	+2.9	+2.5	+2.9
Tobacco	429	238.2	238.1	237.1	-	-	+17.4	+1.4	+17.5
Textiles	43	119.5	119.4	119.8	-1.4	-0.1	+0.8	-0.9	+1.4
Hosiery and other knitted goods	436	116.6	116.6	116.9	-	-	-0.6	-0.6	-0.8
Leather, leather goods and footwear	44, 451	103.6	104.3	97.8	+3.4	+0.7	+13.6	+13.6	+9.3
Clothing	453, 455, 456	151.0	149.8	148.1	-0.5	-0.8	+4.4	+3.4	+3.2
Timber and wooden furniture	46	156.3	159.5	154.4	-0.3	+2.0	+3.6	+5.0	+3.5
Paper and paper products	471-472	132.3	132.3	130.2	-0.1	-	+5.3	+4.8	+4.7
Printing and publishing	473-474	168.5	168.4	167.1	+0.1	-0.1	+3.6	+3.5	+2.8
Rubber processing	481-482	132.4	132.5	132.8	-0.3	+0.1	-3.7	-3.8	-2.9
Plastics	483	150.8	150.7	148.0	-0.1	-0.1	+5.6	+5.1	+5.2
Other manufactured products	49	107.9	107.8	105.8	-	-0.1	+4.7	+4.6	+2.8
Mining, quarrying and turf	111, 21, 23	133.1	132.2	131.6	-2.0	-0.7	+8.8	+5.4	+10.4
Total transportable goods industries		131.0	131.3	129.1	-0.9	+0.2	+5.9	+4.5	+5.8
Food, drink and tobacco		142.4	143.3	140.7	-1.2	+0.6	+6.2	+4.6	+6.3
Manufacturing industries excluding food		128.9	128.5	126.9	-0.3	-0.3	+6.4	+3.8	+6.0
Manufacturing industries excluding food, drink and tobacco		120.8	120.4	118.6	-0.3	-0.3	+5.6	+4.3	+5.2
Manufacturing industries (home sales) ²		140.7	140.9	138.2	-0.3	+0.1	+6.8	+4.9	+6.1
Manufacturing industries (export sales) ²		122.1	122.4	120.6	-1.4	+0.2	+4.9	+4.1	+5.4
Total manufacturing industries²		131.0	131.3	129.1	-0.8	+0.2	+5.9	+4.5	+5.7

¹ General classification of economic activities within the European Communities

² Excludes mining, quarrying and turf

Table 2A Contributions to changes in the Manufacturing Output Price Index (Table 2), December 2000

Industrial sector	NACE code ¹	Contributions to overall % change	
		One month	12 months
Production and preliminary processing of metals	22	0.01	0.12
Non metallic mineral products	24	-0.01	0.16
Chemicals	25-26	-0.07	0.17
<i>Basic industrial chemicals (incl. fertilisers)</i>	251	0.00	0.29
<i>Pharmaceuticals and other chemical products (incl. man-made fibres)</i>	255-260	-0.06	-0.11
Metal articles	31	0.00	0.17
Mechanical engineering	32	-0.01	0.12
Electrical engineering	34	0.00	0.24
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	35	0.00	0.07
Instrument engineering	37	-0.03	0.08
Food	411-423	0.37	2.12
of which:			
Vegetable/animal oils and fats	411	0.00	0.01
Slaughtering, preparing and preserving of meat	412	-0.04	0.23
Dairy products	413	0.37	1.57
Processing/preserving fruit and vegetables	414	0.00	0.01
Grain milling, animal and poultry foods	416, 422	0.04	0.11
Bread and flour confectionery	419	0.01	0.09
Sugar, cocoa, chocolate and sugar confectionery	420, 421	0.00	0.07
All other food	415, 417, 418, 423	0.01	0.04
Drink	424-428	-0.02	0.18
Tobacco	429	0.00	0.09
Textiles	43	0.00	-0.03
<i>Hosiery and other knitted goods</i>	436	0.00	0.00
Leather, leather goods and footwear	44, 451	0.00	0.07
Clothing	453, 455, 456	-0.02	0.08
Timber and wooden furniture	46	0.04	0.09
Paper and paper products	471-472	0.00	0.04
Printing and publishing	473-474	0.00	0.07
Rubber processing	481-482	0.00	-0.03
Plastics	483	0.00	0.09
Other manufactured products	49	0.00	0.02

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 2000	Dec 2000	Year 2000	Nov 2000	Dec 2000	Nov 2000	Dec 2000	Year 2000
Sand and gravel	184.7	184.5	178.8	+0.9	-0.1	+10.7	+11.2	+7.7
Cement	113.9	113.9	113.9	-	-	-	-	-
Ready mixed mortar and concrete	129.6	129.9	129.1	+0.2	+0.2	+2.7	+2.6	+1.8
Concrete blocks and bricks	138.5	139.3	138.2	-0.4	+0.6	+2.3	+2.9	+2.1
Other concrete products	163.7	163.7	162.1	-0.1	-	+3.9	+3.9	+3.1
Structural steel and reinforcing metal of which	110.8	111.2	105.6	-	+0.4	+11.9	+12.1	+8.3
Structural steel	113.0	113.0	108.6	-	-	+8.1	+7.8	+5.1
Reinforcing metal	108.8	109.5	102.8	+0.1	+0.6	+15.9	+16.5	+11.6
Rough timber (including plain sawn)	179.5	179.6	177.5	+0.3	+0.1	+6.1	+5.5	+6.5
Other timber (including joinery)	164.7	166.0	162.9	-	+0.8	+4.6	+5.4	+3.4
Bituminous macadam, asphalt and bituminous emulsions of which:	131.1	129.7	124.2	+0.7	-1.1	+19.9	+15.5	+16.2
Bituminous macadam and asphalt	171.5	172.7	165.7	-1.0	+0.7	+20.4	+17.4	+15.3
Bituminous emulsions	83.2	78.6	74.9	+5.3	-5.5	+18.7	+10.7	+18.5
Electrical fittings	132.7	132.2	131.4	-0.5	-0.4	+6.6	+1.8	+7.9
All other materials	156.6	156.8	150.8	+0.3	+0.1	+9.0	+8.8	+6.1
All materials	147.2	147.4	144.2	+0.1	+0.1	+6.5	+6.0	+5.1

Table 4 Capital Goods Price Indices (excluding VAT)

Base: Year 1985 as 100

Capital goods	Index			Monthly % Change		Annual % Change		
	Nov 2000	Dec 2000	Year 2000	Nov 2000	Dec 2000	Nov 2000	Dec 2000	Year 2000
Transportable capital for use in								
Agriculture	149.5	149.6	148.2	+0.3	+0.1	+1.2	+1.5	+0.8
Industry	146.9	146.4	145.4	+0.3	-0.3	+2.4	+1.8	+1.9
of which:								
Private vehicles ¹	146.8	146.7	146.0	+0.2	-0.1	+1.3	+1.2	+1.0
Commercial vehicles	149.4	149.4	148.2	+0.5	-	+2.0	+2.0	+1.5
Agriculture and industry	147.6	147.2	146.1	+0.3	-0.3	+2.1	+1.7	+1.6
Other sectors	142.8	142.5	141.3	+0.3	-0.2	+2.3	+1.9	+1.7
Total transportable capital	145.0	144.7	143.6	+0.3	-0.2	+2.3	+1.8	+1.7
Building and construction (i.e. materials and wages)	180.7	180.8	167.6	+0.1	+0.1	+13.0	+12.7	+7.5
All capital goods	162.1	162.0	155.1	+0.1	-0.1	+7.7	+7.4	+4.7

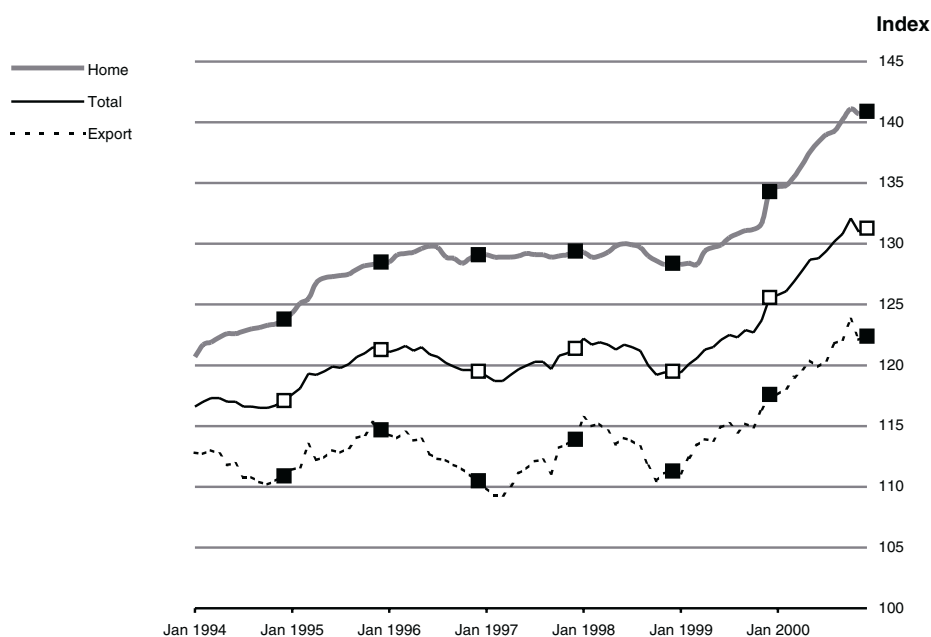
¹ Private vehicles are inclusive of VAT which is non-deductible for industry and agriculture.

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 2000	Dec 2000	Year 2000	Nov 2000	Dec 2000	Nov 2000	Dec 2000	Year 2000
Petrol	133.5	126.9	128.0	-0.2	-4.9	18.5	9.7	19.7
Autodiesel	136.5	123.2	123.0	+0.1	-9.7	28.7	9.0	23.7
Gas oil (other than autodiesel)	146.1	145.7	124.9	-0.3	-0.3	50.8	40.8	44.4
Fuel oil	136.2	131.7	119.1	+4.1	-3.3	34.1	25.7	33.8
Electricity	84.2	84.2	84.2	-	-	-	-	-
Petroleum fuels¹	137.7	132.8	121.0	+2.6	-3.6	35.0	25.0	33.3
Energy products	114.5	111.7	105.0	+1.8	-2.4	21.4	15.5	19.5

¹ Energy products excluding electricity.

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


Producer Price Summary 2000

Overall prices received by Irish Producers rose by 5.7 percent during 2000 compared to a rise of 1.0 percent in 1999. This was the largest annual percentage increase since 1984 when the figure was 6.7 percent. The price index for goods sold on the home market rose by 6.1 percent in 2000 after increasing by 0.9 percent in 1999. The index for exported goods rose by 5.4 percent in 2000 following an increase of 1.0 percent in the previous year (see Table 6).

External factors namely oil prices, the weak Euro and the introduction of the minimum wage affected producer prices. Throughout the year the price of Petroleum Fuels purchased by manufacturing industries rose, resulting in an overall increase of 33.3 percent on last year's prices (see Table 5). An increase of this magnitude has not occurred since 1981 when the annual percentage change was 38.6%. On the currency market the Euro weakened, thus favouring exporters that sold goods in US dollars and Sterling. This also resulted in increased prices paid by manufacturing companies for imported raw materials. The exchange rates for the US dollar and Sterling are shown in Table 7 below.

In 2000 the manufacturing sectors that contributed most to the annual increase in the index were Slaughtering, preparing and preserving of meat, Dairy products, Tobacco and Mineral oil refining.

Table 6 Annual percent change in Producer Price Indices for home, export and total sales, 1996-2000

Index	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Manufacturing Industries (home sales)	1.7	0.0	0.1	0.9	6.1
Manufacturing Industries (export sales)	-0.4	-1.2	1.7	1.0	5.4
Total Manufacturing Industries	0.7	-0.6	0.8	1.0	5.7

Table 7 Annual exchange rates 1996-2000 **Source: Central Bank**

Exchange Rate	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Pound Sterling per IR£	1.0257	0.9268	0.8602	0.8364	0.7739
US Dollar per IR£	1.6007	1.5179	1.4259	1.3533	1.1727

Food, Drink and Tobacco The overall index for the Food, Drink and Tobacco sector rose by 6.3 percent in 2000 compared to a 0.8 percent increase in 1999. This rise was due to price increases in Food and Tobacco. The index for Food went up by 5.2 percent in 2000 after showing no change in 1999. The annual increase of 17.5 percent for Tobacco in 2000 was as a result of an increase in excise duty in the December 1999 Budget (see Table 8).

Price indices for every food-producing sector showed an increase in 2000. In particular the meat price index recovered during the first 10 months of 2000 and was up to its level prior to BSE in 1996 (see graph across). In November 2000 beef prices fell again due to BSE. The index for Dairy products went up by 5.0 percent in 2000 after a decrease of 1.8 percent the previous year. This rise was mostly due to increased prices for milk powder because of world scarcity and demand for this product (see Table 8).

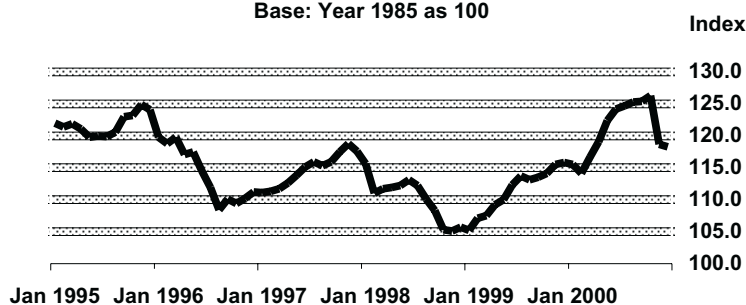
Table 8 Annual percent change in Producer Price Indices for Food, Drink and Tobacco (including selected categories of Food), 1996-2000

Index	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Food, Drink and Tobacco	0.1	-0.3	0.3	0.8	6.3
Food	-0.5	-0.9	-0.4	0.0	5.2
Slaughtering, preparing and preserving of meat	-6.3	0.5	-3.9	1.1	8.5
Dairy products	1.8	-3.7	0.6	-1.8	5.0
Grain milling, animal and poultry foods	4.0	-2.8	-1.5	-2.0	2.8
Bread and flour confectionery	2.7	1.6	0.8	1.7	2.5
Drink*	1.0	0.4	1.4	1.8	2.9
Tobacco*	4.9	3.9	4.3	4.6	17.5

* Prices include excise duty

**Slaughtering, Preparing and Preserving of Meat
Jan 1995 - Dec 2000**

Base: Year 1985 as 100



Manufacturing Industries excluding Food, Drink and Tobacco

The index representing manufacturing industries other than food, drink and tobacco moved up 5.2 percent in 2000 following an increase of 1.1 percent a year earlier. The majority of sectors within this category showed a price increase in 2000. Exceptions to this were Rubber Processing (-2.9%) and Hosiery and Other Knitted Goods (-0.8%).

By and large industries within this group export a greater proportion of their goods than the Food, drink and tobacco group. In general these industries also import a higher percentage of raw materials for production. So on the one hand this group benefits from a weak Euro and on the other hand they have to pay more for imported raw materials.

No one industrial sector contributed a substantial amount to the increase in this index, each sector added a little. Among them one of the bigger contributors to the annual percent increase in this index for 2000 was Mineral Oil Refining (figures not published due to confidentiality) due mainly to increases in the international price of oil and the strength of the US dollar.

Prices received by Chemical producing industries moved up 2.3 percent in 2000 following an increase of 1.0 percent in 1999. Prices of Basic Industrial Chemicals (incl. fertilisers) went up 5.6 percent in 2000 due to a rise in fuel prices and currency fluctuations. Within the Chemical sector prices do not always reflect current market values because companies can legitimately quote inter-company transfer prices. The index for Electrical Engineering rose by 5.6 percent in 2000 due to the increase cost of raw materials and currency fluctuations. (see Table 9).

Table 9 Annual percent change in Producer Price Indices for selected Manufacturing Industries excluding Food, Drink and Tobacco, 1996-2000

Index	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Manufacturing Industries excl. Food, Drink and Tobacco	1.2	-0.8	1.5	1.1	5.2
Chemicals	1.1	-5.7	0.3	1.0	2.3
Basic Industrial Chemicals (incl. fertilisers)	0.4	-3.8	-2.8	-0.7	5.6
Pharmaceuticals and other chemical products (incl. man-made fibres)	1.2	-6.0	1.1	1.4	1.4
Metal articles	3.4	0.2	4.0	1.7	4.8
Mechanical Engineering	0.7	2.9	4.1	1.9	4.0
Electrical Engineering	-2.4	-0.1	2.5	0.4	5.6
Instrument Engineering	-1.8	-7.2	3.5	0.8	3.9
Clothing	2.1	2.4	2.6	2.2	3.2
Timber and Wooden Furniture	-0.6	3.4	3.1	1.2	3.5

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).

Every effort is made by Wholesale Prices Section to collect all prices for the relevant month. Where this is not possible late prices are included in the following month's calculations.

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*).