



Press release

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06 Industry and Services

Production, orders and turnover statistics of the secondary sector in the 3rd quarter 2020

Decline in production: Covid-19 pandemic continues to leave its mark on the secondary sector

Secondary sector production declined 4.4% in 3rd quarter 2020 in comparison with the same quarter a year earlier. Turnover, for its part, contracted by 6.3%. For both, however, the decline is only half that seen in the previous quarter, when production fell by 8.6% and turnover by 11.2%. This is shown by provisional results from the Federal Statistical Office (FSO).

In comparison with the previous year industrial production declined in July by 6.7%, in August by 5.6%, and in September by 3.8%. For the whole of 3rd quarter 2020 production declined by 5.1% in comparison with the same quarter a year earlier.

Construction production declined by 0.4% in 3rd quarter 2020 in comparison with the same quarter a year earlier. Production declined by 7.2% in building, civil engineering in contrast registered an increase (+4.6%). Lastly, specialised construction activities registered an increase of 2.9% in their production.

Turnover

Industrial turnover in July fell by 9.7% in comparison with the previous year, and in August (-8.7%) and in September (-5.6%). For the whole of 3rd quarter 2020 in comparison with the same quarter a year earlier, turnover registered a decline of 7.9%.

Construction turnover fell by 0.6% in 3rd quarter 2020 in comparison with the same quarter a year earlier. Turnover fell by 6.9% in building, Civil engineering registered an increase of 5.1%, specialised construction activities an increase of 2.9%.

Pandemic and statistical results

The COVID-19 pandemic is currently affecting all of society and the economy. To measure this impact the Federal Statistical Office (FSO) must continue in these difficult circumstances to provide the public, but in particular the media and decision makers, with reliable data.

The results published in this press release are based on the data currently available. They may need to be corrected or revised.

Methodological notice

The **Industry Production, Orders and Turnover Statistics (INDPAU)** is a quarterly survey. The random sample comprises some 4500 companies.

The Swiss Federal Office for Energy (SFOE), the Swiss organization responsible for the compulsory stockpiling of oil products (CARBURA) and the Swiss Association of Gas Industry (VSG) serve as secondary sources for the statistical survey. This collaboration avoids certain economic activities having to be surveyed twice.

Among the variables surveyed are the monthly turnover figures and the quarterly orders received and on hand. The three variables are broken down by economic activity. A distinction is made by provenance (domestic/foreign) for the turnover and orders received variables. The economic activities' production is calculated by deflating turnover by production prices.

The **Construction Production, Orders and Turnover Statistics (BAPAU)** represent the economic development of the construction industry. The random sample is composed of roughly 3800 companies.

The Swiss Contractors' Association (SBV) conducts its own statistical survey among its members (approximately 1800 enterprises), data from which is used by the Federal Statistical Office (FSO) for the Construction Industry Production, Orders and Turnover Statistics. This coordinated approach makes it possible to avoid double surveys and eases the burden on enterprises.

Among the variables surveyed are the quarterly turnover figures, orders received and on hand. The three variables are broken down by economic activity. The economic activities' production is calculated by deflating turnover by production prices.

Both statistics are based on the General Classification of Economic Activities (NOGA) from the year 2008, which meets international standards and classifies businesses into different economic activities based on their economic activities.

In order to exclude seasonal fluctuations from the time series, data is seasonally adjusted. This is done using the X-12-ARIMA method which recalculates the entire time series every quarter. All time series will be adjusted for the number of working days (not every quarter has the same number of working days).

The results of the secondary sector (INDPAU and BAPAU) are available at: www.statistics.admin.ch
> [Look for statistics](#) > [Industry and services](#) > [Production, Orders, Turnover](#) > [Secondary sector](#)

Information

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Access to results

This press release has been established on the basis of the European Statistics Code of Practice, which ensures the independence, integrity and accountability of national and community statistical offices. Privileged access is supervised and under embargo.

The Swiss National Bank (exercise of its monetary policy) and the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (production of quarterly GDP estimate) received the data forming the basis of this press release five working days before publication for the purpose of the tasks mentioned. The press agencies received this press release with an embargo of 15 minutes.