



Press release

Embargo: 19.2.2021, 8:30

06 Industry and Services

Production, orders and turnover statistics of the secondary sector in the 4th quarter 2020

Secondary sector with strong production and turnover losses in the 4th quarter and for the whole of 2020

Secondary sector production declined 3.1% in 4th quarter 2020 in comparison with the same quarter a year earlier. Turnover fell by 4.4%. For 2020 as a whole which was shaped by the Covid 19 pandemic, there were strong decreases in production (-3.3%) and turnover (-5.2%). The last time such losses were observed in production figures was in 2009, a year affected by the financial crisis. This is shown by provisional results from the Federal Statistical Office (FSO).

In comparison with the previous year industrial production declined in October by 7.0%, in November by 3.1%, and in December by 1.0%. For the whole of 4th quarter 2020 production declined by 3.8% in comparison with the same quarter a year earlier.

Construction production increased by 0.2% in 4th quarter 2020 in comparison with the same quarter a year earlier. Production rose by 4.2% in building, civil engineering also registered an increase (+11.0%). Lastly, specialised construction activities registered a decline of 3.4% in their production.

Turnover

Industrial turnover in October fell by 7.8% in comparison with the previous year, and in November (-5.2%) and in December (-3.2%). For the whole of 4th quarter 2020 in comparison with the same quarter a year earlier, turnover registered a decline of 5.5%.

Construction turnover rose by 0.1% in 4th quarter 2020 in comparison with the same quarter a year earlier. Turnover rose by 4.5% in building. Also civil engineering increased (+11.1%) whereas specialised construction activities registered a decline of 3.6%.

Provisional results for 2020 as a whole

For the whole of 2020, compared with the previous year the secondary sector recorded a decline in production of 3.3% (turnover -5.2%), whereby the sectors responded in different ways to the measures taken following the Covid 19 pandemic.

The largest production and turnover declines were seen in the sectors "textiles and apparel"

(-16.3%; -16.7%), “machinery and equipment” (-15.6%; -15.6%) and “electronic products, watches and clocks” (-15.6%; -15.5%). The greatest increases were recorded by the pharmaceutical industry (+6.9%; +2.4%) and civil engineering (+3.7%; +4.0%).

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

Info IID, FSO, Section Economic Surveys, tel.: +41 58 467 23 70, email: info.iid@bfs.admin.ch
FSO Media Office, tel.: +41 58 463 60 13, email: media@bfs.admin.ch

Online

Further information and publications: www.bfs.admin.ch/news/en/2021-0063
Statistics counts for you: www.statistics-counts.ch
NewsMail subscription in German, French and Italian: www.news-stat.admin.ch
FSO website: www.statistics.admin.ch

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.