

Production levels rise in January

Manufacturing production increased by 3.9% year-on-year (y/y) in January after an unrevised 2.0% year-on-year rise in December, data released by Statistics SA on Thursday (14 March) showed.



The 3.9% year-on-year increase in manufacturing production was due to higher production in petroleum, chemical products, rubber and plastic products (11.1% and contributing 2.8 percentage points); motor vehicles, parts and accessories and `other` transport equipment (9.0% and contributing 1.0 percentage point); and food and beverages (4.9% and contributing 0.9 of a percentage point).

These increases were however partially counteracted by a number of decreases and by the basic iron and steel, non-ferrous metal products, metal products and machinery division (-2.7% and contributing -0.6 of a percentage point).

Seasonally adjusted manufacturing production for the three months ended January 2013 increased by 1.8% compared with the previous three months ended October 2012.

Five of the ten manufacturing divisions reported positive growth over this period.

The largest contributions to the increase of 1.8% were made by the following divisions:

- Petroleum, chemical products, rubber and plastic products (5.2% and contributing 1.3 percentage points);
- Motor vehicles, parts and accessories and `other` transport equipment (4.8% and contributing 0.5 of a percentage point);
- Food and beverages (2.1% and contributing 0.4 of a percentage point);
- Glass and non-metallic mineral products (3.5% and contributing 0.1 of a percentage point).

Manufacturing production for 2012 reflected an increase of 2.0% compared with a 2.6% increase in 2011.

Seasonally adjusted sales of manufactured products (at current prices) for the three months ended January increased by 4.8% (R18 250m) compared with the previous three months ended October 2012.

Seven of the ten manufacturing divisions reported positive growth rates over this period.

The manufacturing divisions that were mainly responsible for the increase in total manufacturing sales were:

- Petroleum, chemical products, rubber and plastic products (12.0% or R11,069m);
- Basic iron and steel, non-ferrous metal products, metal products and machinery (5.2% or R4,087m);
- Food and beverages (2.0% or R1,624m);
- Motor vehicles, parts and accessories and 'other' transport equipment (3.2% or R1,500m).

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