

World Manufacturing Production in March 2021

Since the beginning of 2021, global manufacturing production has shown clear signs of improvement, after last year's COVID-19 related disruptions. In March 2021, output of almost all country groups recorded considerable year-over-year growth due to the low base of comparison from the start of the crisis a year ago. Further positive developments are expected for the upcoming months as many (mostly industrialized) economies started re-opening their economies in spring 2021 after months of restrictive measures.

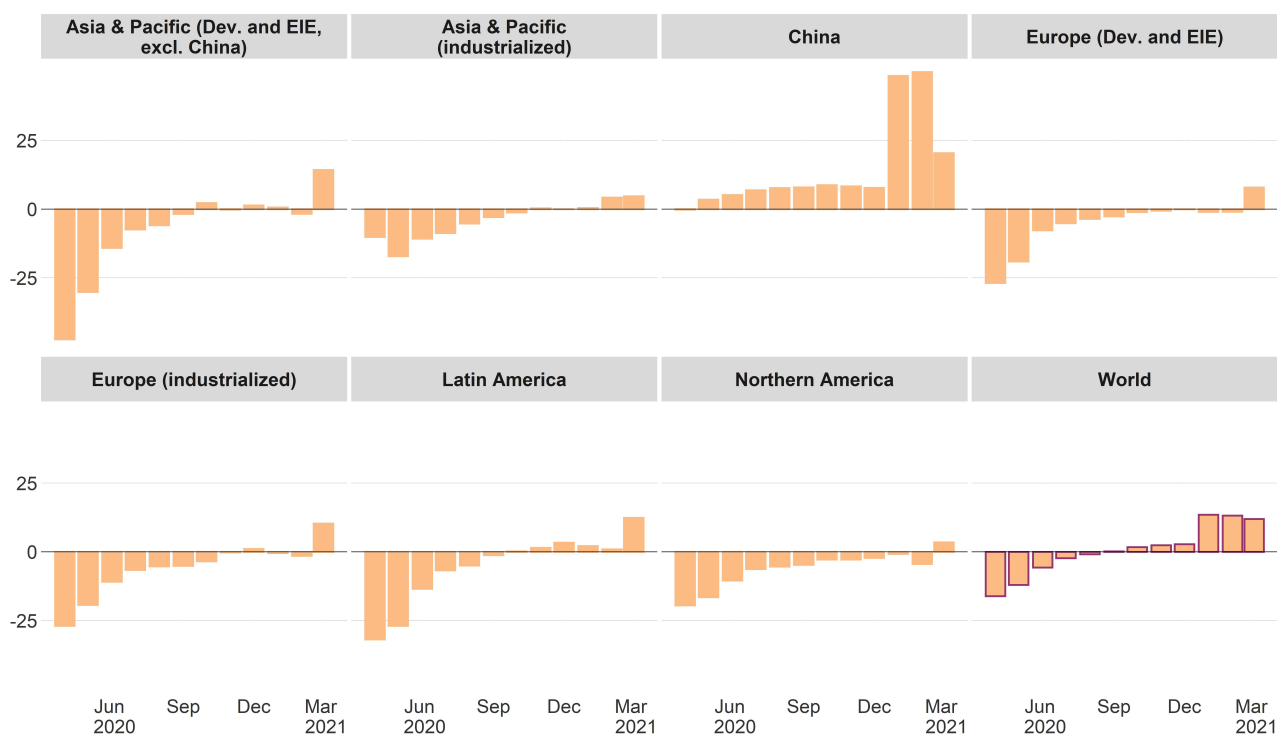


Figure 1: Growth of manufacturing output for selected country groups, percentage change compared to the same month of the previous year

The gradual recovery of manufacturing production (Figure 1) around the world led to a global output growth of 12.0 per cent in March 2021, following an increase of 13.2 per cent in the previous month. China exceeded its production level from the previous year by 20.4 per cent. Industrialized countries recorded a growth of 6.5 per cent, while output in developing and emerging industrial economies (Dev. and EIE) excluding China increased by 13.1 per cent in year-over-year comparison. Detailed data by region indicate a generalized recovery with high growth rates, which are expected to receive an additional boost in the upcoming months due to the further easing of lockdown measures and the dampened production caused by strict containment policies implemented a year ago.

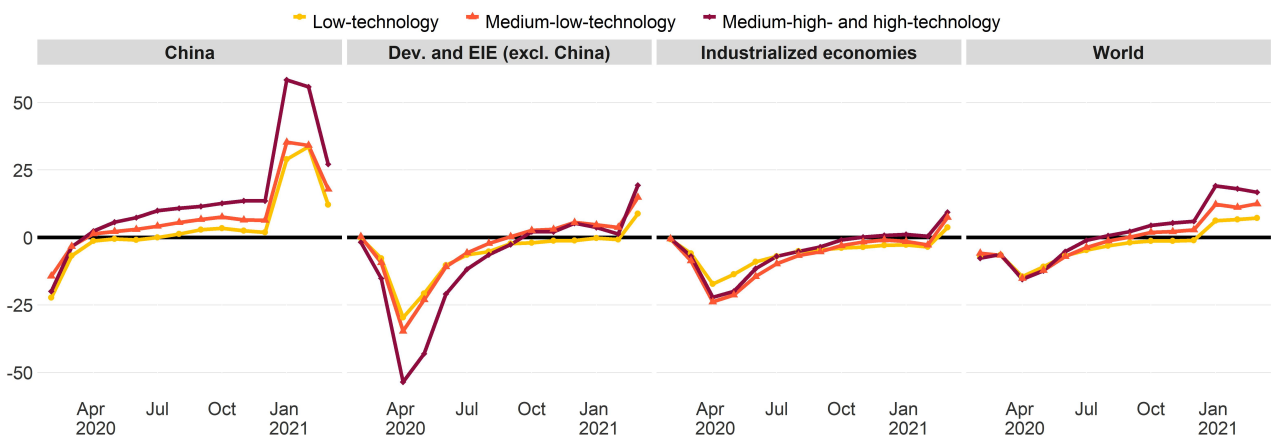


Figure 2: Growth rates of manufacturing production grouped by technological intensity for selected country groups

Data on industries grouped by technological intensity (Figure 2) reveal that medium-high and high-technology industries continue to recover faster from the crisis than industries with lower technological intensity. Many medium-high- and high-technology industries, which also play a major role in global manufacturing, such as automobiles, basic pharmaceuticals or computer, electronic and optical products, have registered considerable annual growth rates for several months already (Figure 3).

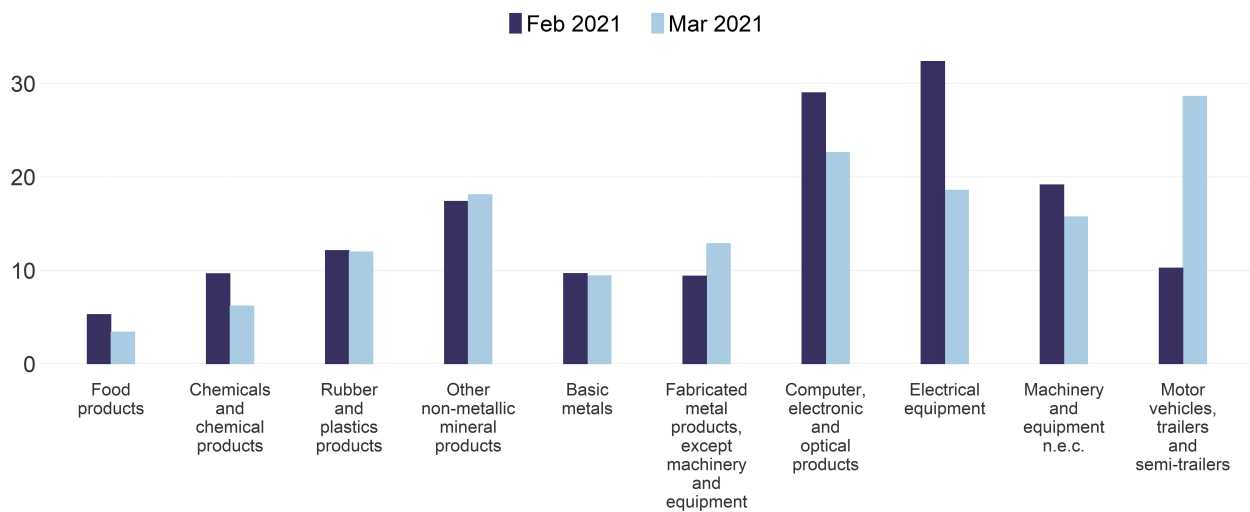


Figure 3: Estimated global growth by industry, percentage change compared to the same month of the previous year

Methodological note: Preliminary index numbers of industrial production (base 2015) are derived from national statistical sources. UNIDO conducts seasonal adjustment where necessary and appropriate. The most recent [monthly](#) and [quarterly](#) data are available on the UNIDO Statistics data portal. The detailed data according to country groups used in this overview can be downloaded [here](#). Country coverage for this monthly report is limited due to data availability, with the aggregate of world manufacturing output including around 50 countries and a share of approximately 80 per cent of global manufacturing output. Information on the methodology of index numbers can be found in a [methodological document](#) as well as in a [document on seasonal adjustment](#).