

World Manufacturing Production in April 2021

Global manufacturing production has shown clear signs of recovery since the beginning of 2021, after more than a year of COVID-19 related disruptions. In April 2021, manufacturing output grew considerably in year-over-year comparison for almost all country groups, mostly due to the large production declines registered a year ago. It remains to be seen if production increases will be maintained, with new coronavirus variants already threatening hard-gained improvements in some economies.

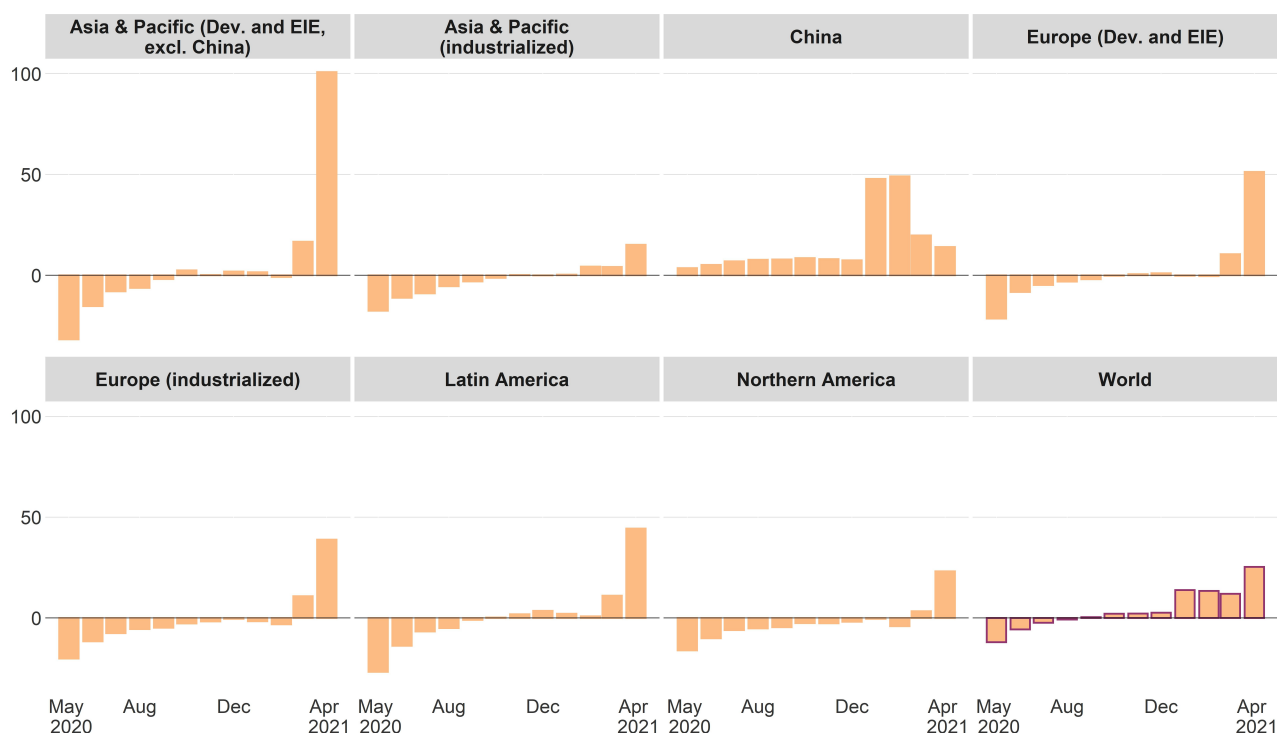


Figure 1: Growth of manufacturing output for selected country groups, percentage change compared to the same month of the previous year

The gradual recovery of global manufacturing production (Figure 1) led to a year-over-year output growth of 25.3 per cent in April 2021, following an increase of 12 per cent in the previous month. China exceeded its production level from the previous year by 14 per cent. Industrialized countries recorded a growth of 26.2 per cent, while output in developing and emerging industrial economies (Dev. and EIE) excluding China increased by 74.4 per cent in year-over-year comparison. Detailed regional data point to a strong recovery in (Dev. and EIE) Asian and Pacific economies, where output doubled compared to the previous year, mainly attributable to India and the very low base of comparison in April 2020. Furthermore, all other regions reported high year-over-year growth rates, with expected boosts continuing in the upcoming months due to further lockdown easing and the dampened production of 2020.

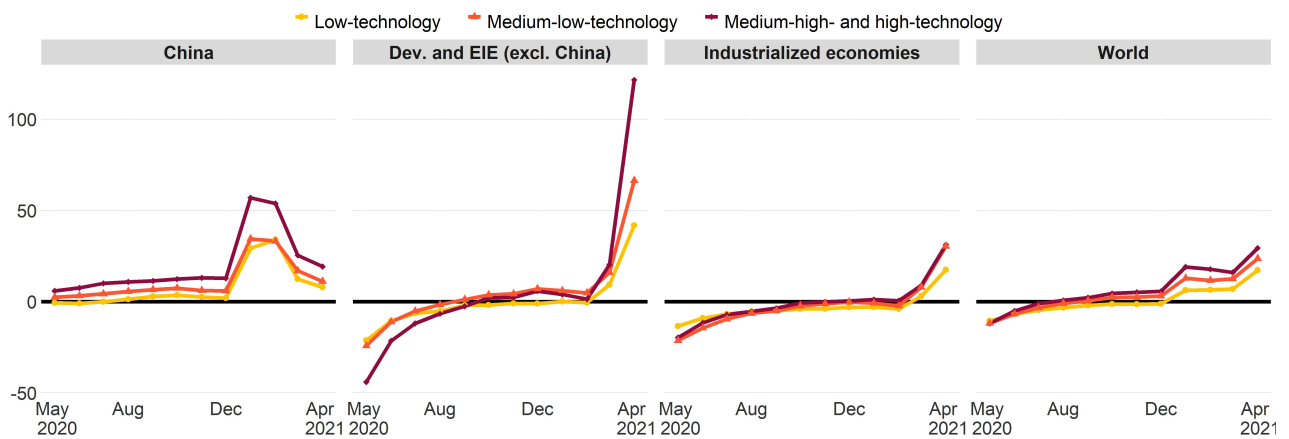


Figure 2: Growth rates of manufacturing production grouped by technological intensity for selected country groups

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, such as motor vehicles, basic pharmaceuticals or computer, electronic and optical products, have registered considerable annual growth rates for several months already (Figure 3). Output of motor vehicles almost doubled in April 2021 compared to the same month of the previous year. This is a welcome change of trend for a sector that was registering negative growth already before the start of the pandemic.

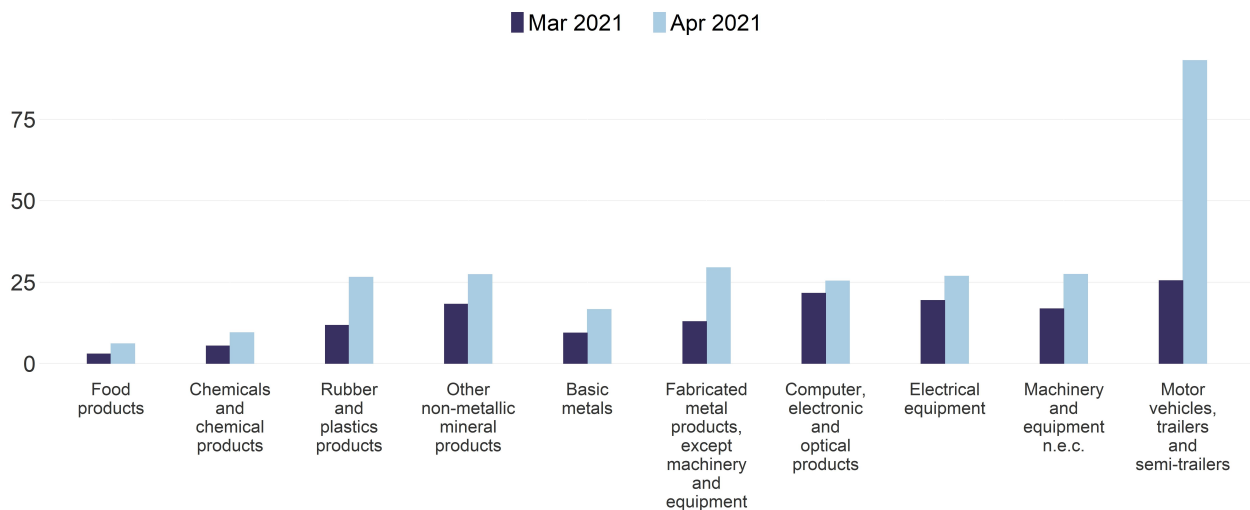


Figure 3: Estimated global growth by industry, percentage change compared to the same month of the previous year

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](#).