

World Manufacturing Production in August 2021

Global manufacturing production grew by almost six per cent in August 2021 compared to the same month of 2020, continuing the gradual stabilization after the COVID-19 related disruptions. However, a gradual decline in growth over the past months is observed across all country groups and industries. Current developments in the global supply chains, resulting in shortages of raw materials, components and other products, are putting this year's manufacturing upturn at risk. Additionally, possible containment measures to fight new waves of coronavirus infections, already becoming a reality in several industrialized economies in autumn 2021, also threaten the sustainability of the recovery.

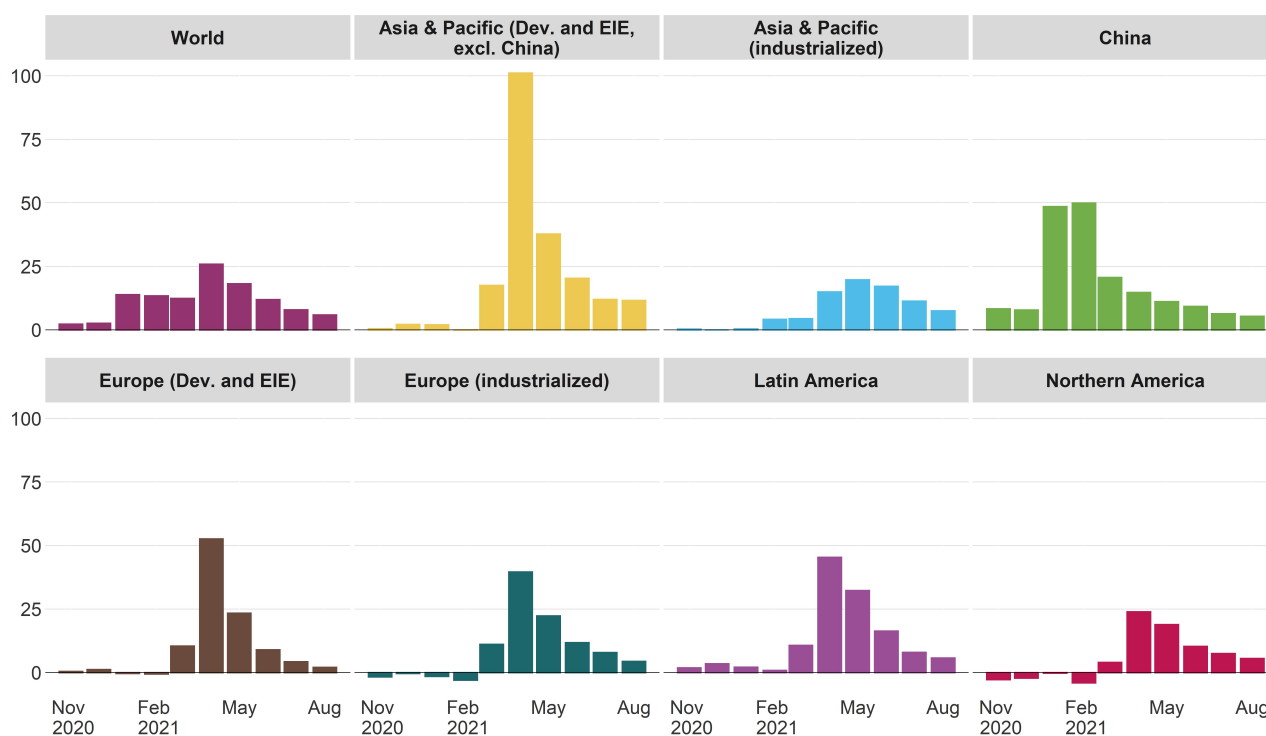


Figure 1: Annual growth rates of manufacturing output for selected country groups

The year-over-year growth rates of manufacturing production of recent months can be observed in (Figure 1). In August 2021, growth rates ranged from 2.1 per cent in Europe (Dev. and EIE) to 11.6 per cent in Asia & Pacific (Dev. and EIE). The positive performance of the latter is mostly based on India, Turkey and the Philippines, which registered comparably higher annual growth rates than other countries. Moreover, a moderate growth in industrial output was a common feature across the world in August 2021, with only few exceptions, such as Brazil or Thailand. All country groups already reached and exceeded their pre-pandemic production level, but individual countries, including major economies such as Germany or France, have not yet returned to that level.

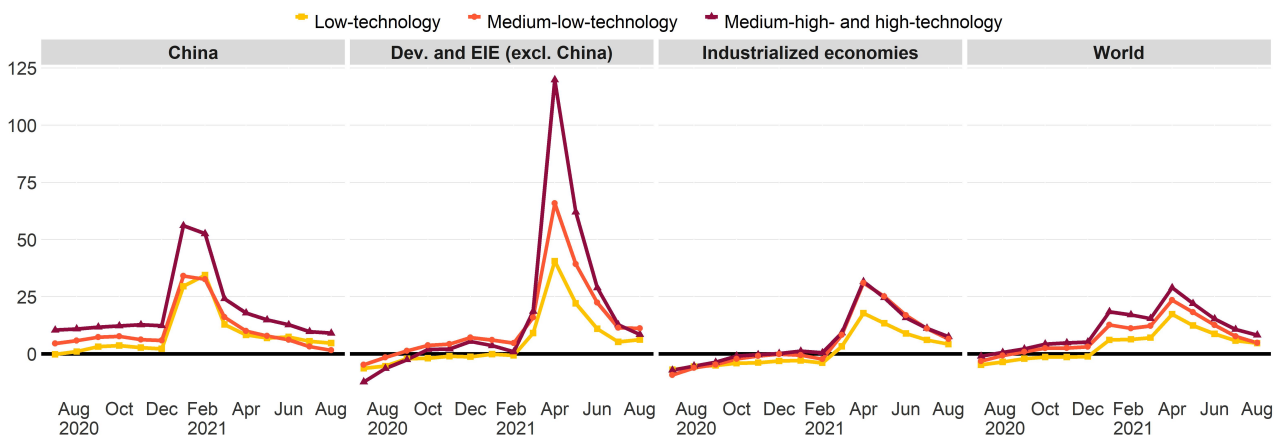


Figure 2: Annual growth rates of manufacturing production grouped by technological intensity for selected country groups

Data on industries grouped by technological intensity (Figure 2) reveal that industries with higher technological intensity continue to recover faster from the impacts of the pandemic. Many of the medium-high- and high-technology industries with major influence on global manufacturing, such as basic pharmaceuticals, electrical equipment as well as computer, electronic and optical products, have registered significant annual growth rates in the past months (Figure 3). Generally, output in most industries increased considerably compared to the level observed a year ago, with motor vehicles as the most significant exception, falling by 7.8 per cent in August 2021 due to ongoing troubles in its supply chains, among other causes.

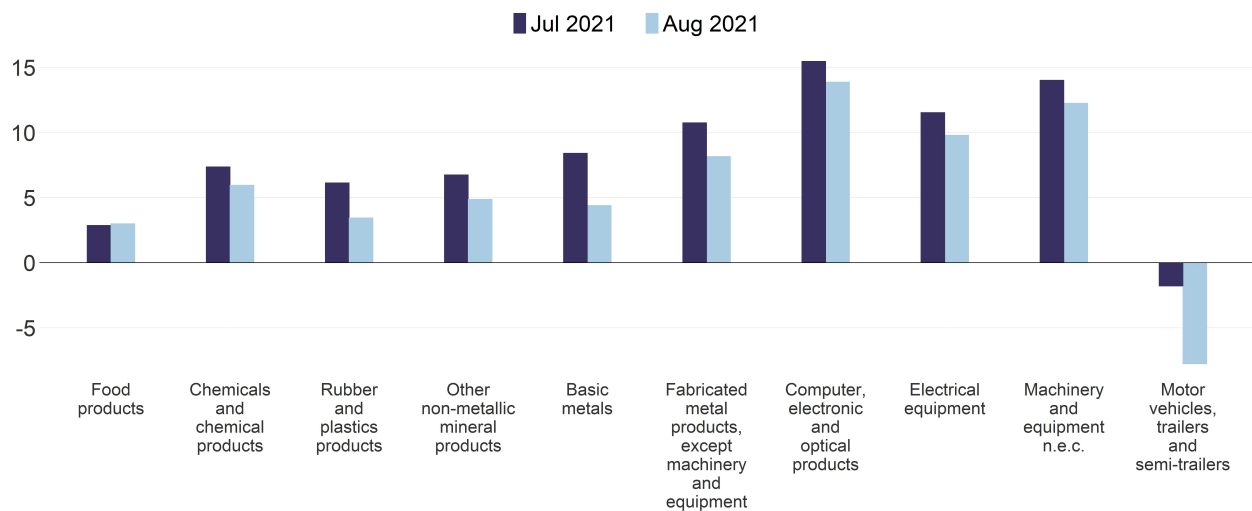


Figure 3: Annual growth rates of global manufacturing production by industry

Methodological note: Preliminary index numbers of industrial production (base 2015) are obtained 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](#).