

## World Manufacturing Production in September 2021

The latest data on manufacturing production point to a gradual stabilization after the COVID-19 related disruptions. Global manufacturing production grew by 3.5 per cent in September 2021 compared to the same month of 2020. However, the current recovery pace in manufacturing production remains at risk, as restrictions return in some countries, mostly in Europe, and new coronavirus variants emerge. Bottlenecks in global supply chains, resulting in shortages of raw materials, components and other products, are additional challenges to global industrial prospects.

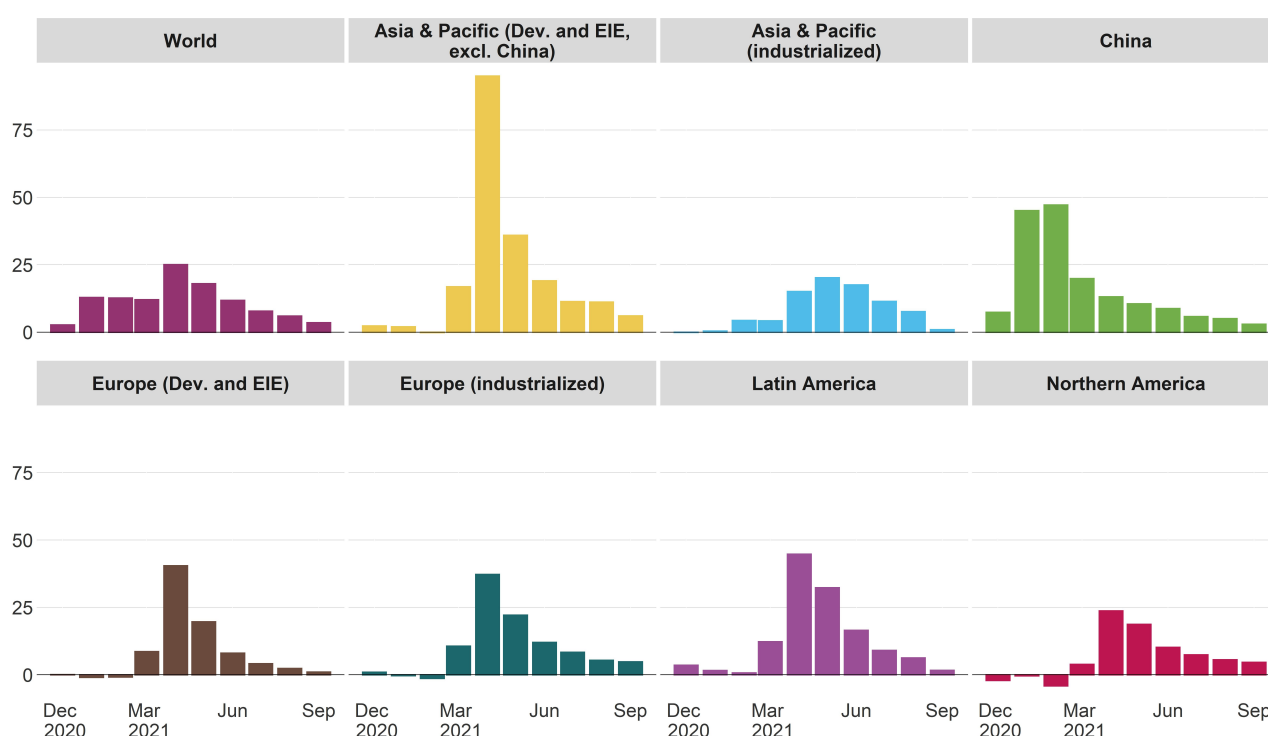
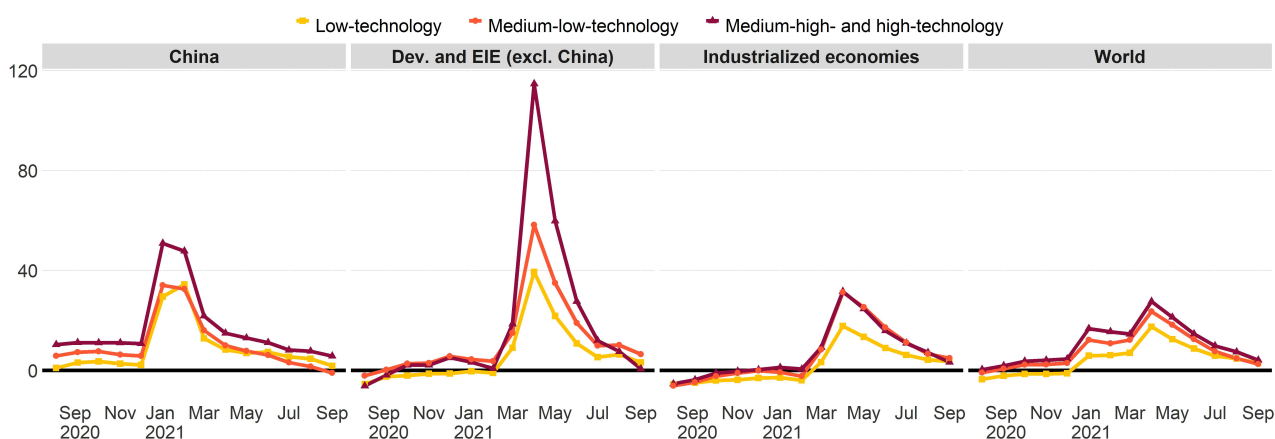


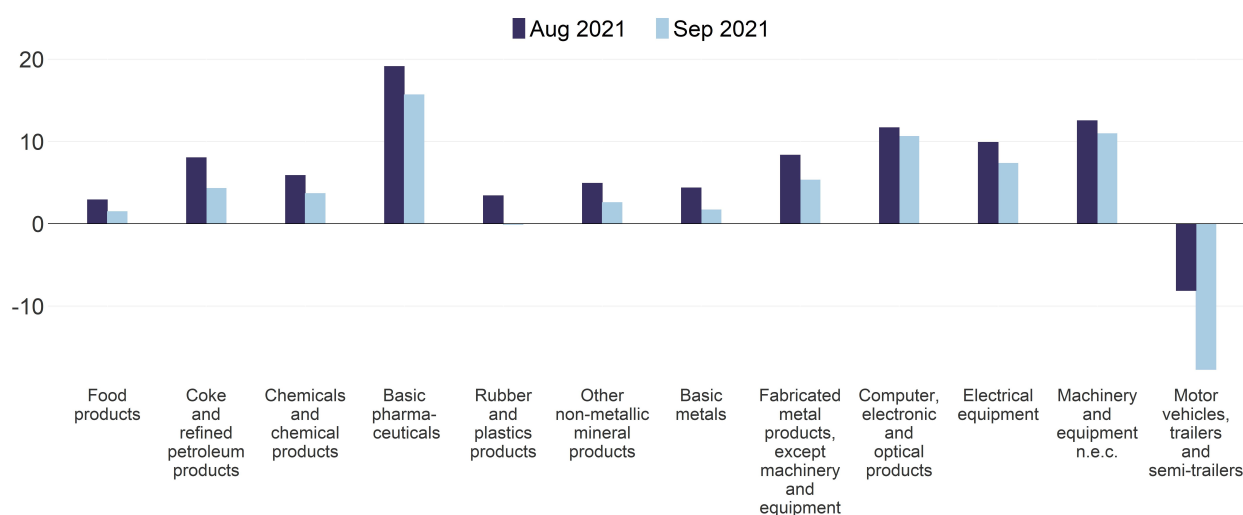
Figure 1: Annual growth rates of manufacturing output for selected country groups

The year-over-year growth rates of manufacturing production in recent months are shown in Figure 1. In September 2021, the Asia & Pacific (Dev. and EIE) region experienced the best performance among all regions, reaching a year-over-year growth of 6.1 per cent, mostly driven by the high production performance of India, Turkey and the Philippines. Industrialized economies in Europe and Northern America reached moderate growth of more than four per cent. However, European economies showed a significant variability, with Germany and France, for example, facing a reduction in production, while Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the Russian Federation recorded increases of five per cent and above. China, on the other hand, registered a growth of less than three per cent, its lowest performance since 2006, with the exception of the months at the beginning of the pandemic. The economic upturn of the previous months is currently decelerating, showing gradually declining growth rates and keeping several economies below their pre-pandemic levels, including Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Mexico and Thailand.



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

In September 2021, data on industries grouped by technological intensity (Figure 2) show that industries with higher technological intensity keep recovering faster, although the gap with lower-technology industries is shrinking compared to previous months. This trend is mostly attributable to the production of automobiles (-17.7 per cent), which is facing shortages in raw materials and intermediate goods. However, most other medium-high- and high-technology industries, such as basic pharmaceuticals, electrical equipment as well as computer, electronic and optical products, continue to report comparably high annual growth rates (Figure 3).



**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](#).