

COMMENT

Sales from industrial activity at constant prices (of the year 2000) in December 2007 rose by 2.4% (+3.8% at current prices), by 4.2% WDA, or by 4.9% SA, year-on-year. The increase of sales from industrial activity was most contributed to by 'manufacture of transport equipment' (+11.2%, contribution to the growth of industry in total 2.1 percentage points), 'manufacture of electrical and optical equipment' (+5.1%, contribution 0.9 p.p.) and 'electricity, gas and water supply' (+7.4%, contribution 0.6 p.p.). Sales from industrial activity decreased in 'manufacture of food products; beverages and tobacco' (-8.1%, contribution -0.7 p.p.), 'manufacture of chemicals, chemical products and man-made fibres' (-10.2%, contribution -0.5 p.p.) and 'manufacture of basic metals and fabricated metal products' (-3.2%, contribution -0.3 p.p.).

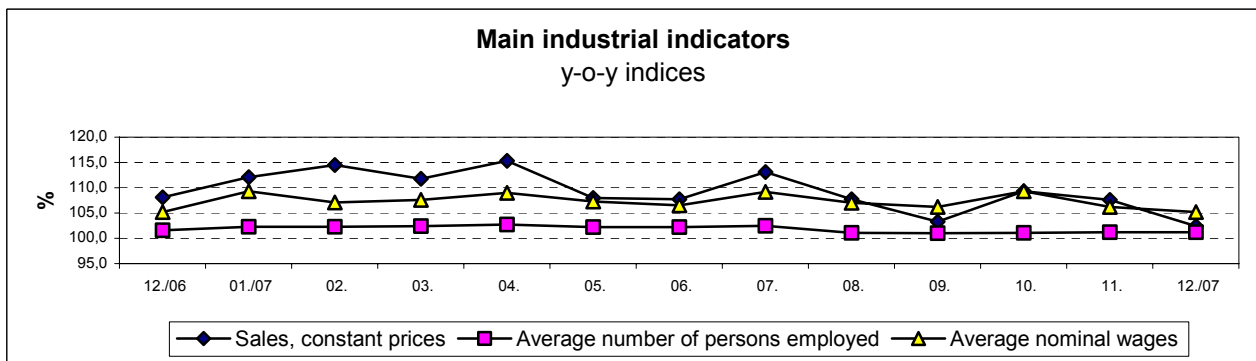
Direct export sales of industrial enterprises increased by 1.9% at constant prices (+0.5% at current prices), and their proportion in total sales of industrial enterprises stood at 44.4% (at current prices).

Sales from industrial activity of foreign-controlled enterprises were 4.5% up at constant prices (+4.2% at current prices), and their contribution to total sales made 56.0% (current prices). Direct export sales of industrial foreign-controlled enterprises increased by 3.2% at constant prices (+1.5% at current prices) and made up 74.2% of total sales of these enterprises (current prices).

The **average number of persons employed*** in the industry went up by 1.2% in December 2007 (+14.0 thousand persons), year-on-year. In December, increases in average number of persons employed were registered in 'manufacture of rubber and plastic products' (+6.9%), 'manufacture of transport equipment' (+5.8%) and 'manufacture of machinery and equipment' (+4.7%). Employment decreased most in 'manufacture of textiles and textile products' (-8.7%), 'manufacture of leather and leather products' (-5.8%) and 'mining and quarrying except energy producing materials' (-5.2%).

The **average monthly nominal wage** in industry rose by 5.2%, year-on-year, and in December amounted to CZK 22,077. The average hourly wage increased by 11.3% and stood at CZK 195.2. Labour productivity in industry (sales per employee) rose by 0.5% and hourly labour productivity by 7.0%.

Graph 4



Industrial new orders in selected CZ-NACE activities concluded in December 2007 reached the value of CZK 136.3 billion (current prices), of which non-domestic industrial new orders made up CZK 87.0 billion. The y-o-y index of industrial new orders in total stood at 97.8%, the index of non-domestic industrial new orders was 97.6%. Non-domestic industrial new orders grew most in 'manufacture of machinery and equipment' (+18.0%, contribution to the growth of industry in total 2.3 percentage points), 'manufacture of chemicals, chemical products and man-made fibres' (+9.7%, contribution 0.6 p.p.) and 'manufacture of medical, precision and optical instruments, watches and clocks' (+10.1%, contribution 0.3 p.p.). Non-domestic industrial new orders dropped in 'manufacture of basic metals' (-20.5%, contribution -1.9 percentage points), 'manufacture of office machinery and computers' (-32.1%, contribution -1.7 percentage points) and 'manufacture of radio, television and communication equipment and apparatus' (-11.9%, contribution -0.9 percentage points).

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**) Starting from January 2007, in accordance with Eurostat methodology, monthly data on numbers of employed persons are published by the Czech Statistical Office as part of the short-term industrial statistics. Unlike the average registered number of employees published before, the new indicator includes also persons working under agreement for work performed outside the employment relationship and other employed persons who participate in work for the company without having an employment relationship with the company. The new figure represents full-time equivalent (FTE). This change has an impact on average wage and labour productivity calculations. The last mentioned indicator considers, in addition, the number of agency workers not included in the number of persons employed. Year-on-year comparability of the data published is ensured.*