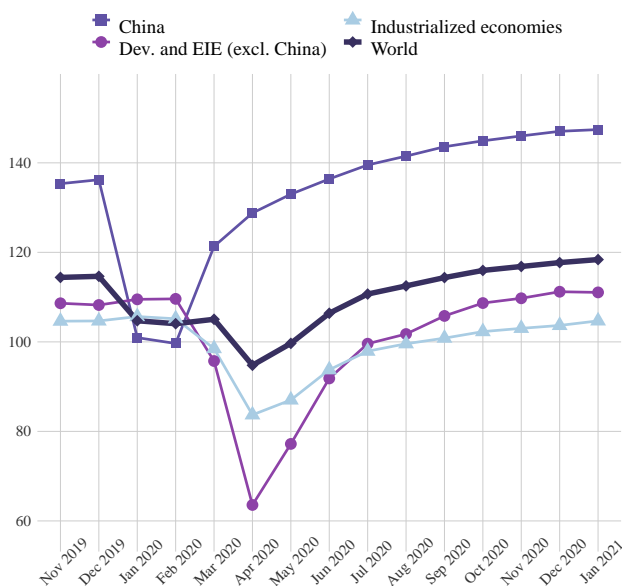
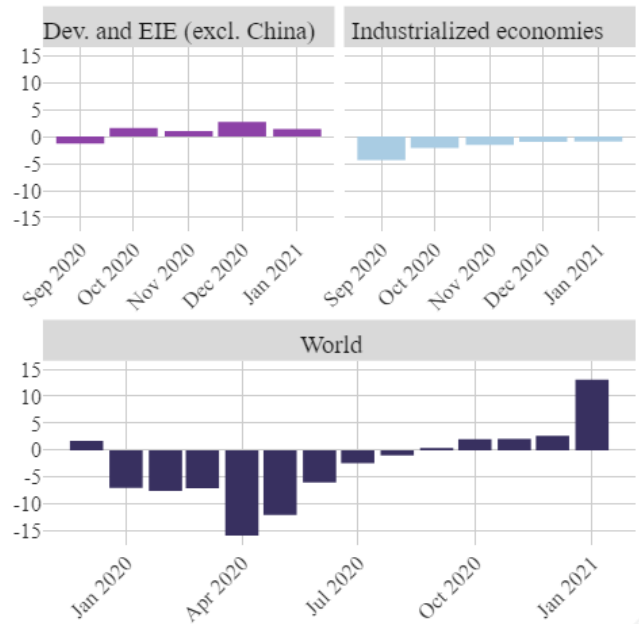


## World Manufacturing Production in January 2021

Growth in global manufacturing production has further consolidated following the economic contraction caused by COVID-19. However, recent data indicate that the recovery is still moving on diverging paths, due to regional differences on infection rates and renewed containment measures in many countries since autumn 2020.



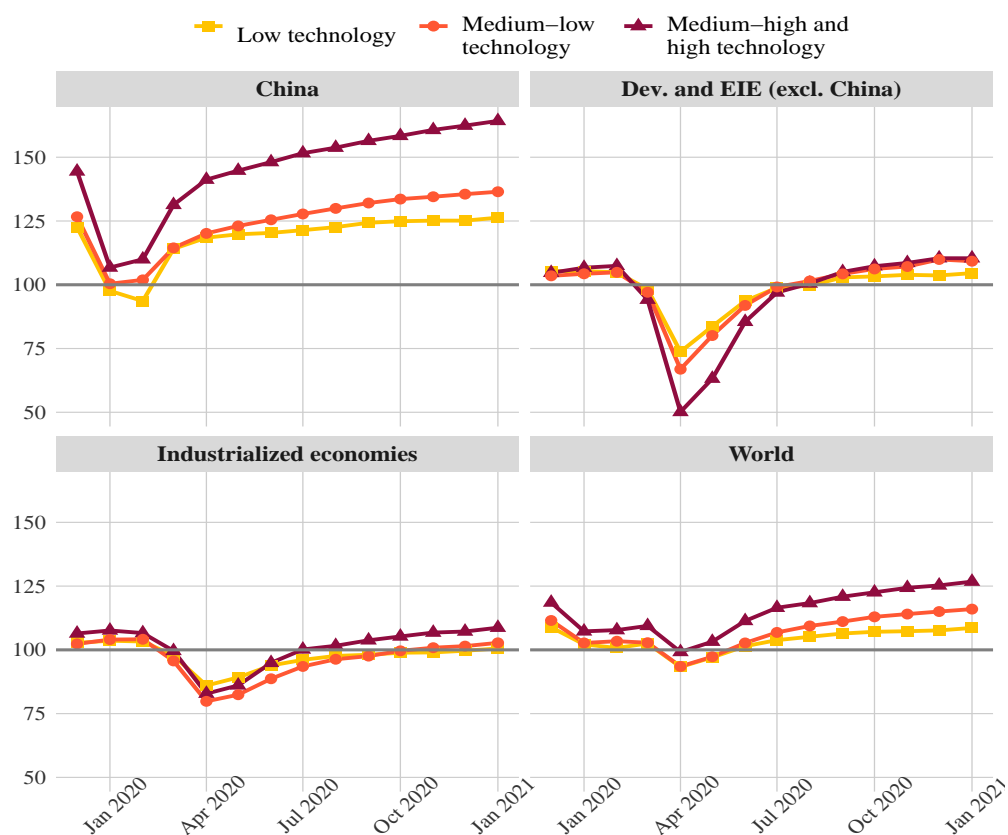
**Figure 1:** Index of world manufacturing output for selected country groups (base 2015)



**Figure 2:** Growth of manufacturing output of selected country groups, percentage change compared to the same month of the previous year

Figures 1 and 2 present manufacturing production worldwide and in selected country groups, and clearly depict the gradual recovery in the second half of 2020, although at different speeds. In January 2021, developing and emerging industrial economies (also referred to as "Dev. and EIE"), spearheaded by China, reached production levels already above the pre-pandemic peak since the second half of 2020. On the other hand, many industrialized countries are still reporting mostly negative year-over-year growth rates.

Overall, world manufacturing production surged to a year-over-year growth rate of 13.1 per cent, attributable primarily to China’s annual production increase. This country, as the largest manufacturer in the world, has a major influence on the global manufacturing landscape. In January, it reported a high growth rate of 46.0 per cent due to the low base of comparison, since the first impacts of COVID-19 were registered in this country a year before. As other countries reach the 12-month mark after the first impacts of COVID-19 on manufacturing, in February to April, large year-to-year growth rates are also expected.



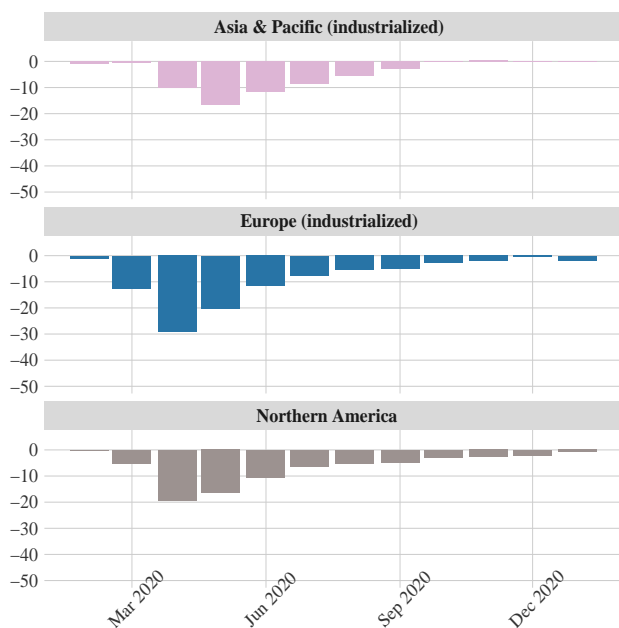
**Figure 3:** Index of manufacturing industries by technological intensity (base 2015)

Data on industries grouped by technological intensity (figure 3) reveal that medium-high and high-technology industries have recovered faster from the crisis than industries with lower technological intensity. Some medium-high- and high-technology industries, such as basic pharmaceuticals, computer, electronic and optical products, electrical equipment or machinery, are already registering two-digit annual growth rates (figure 4).

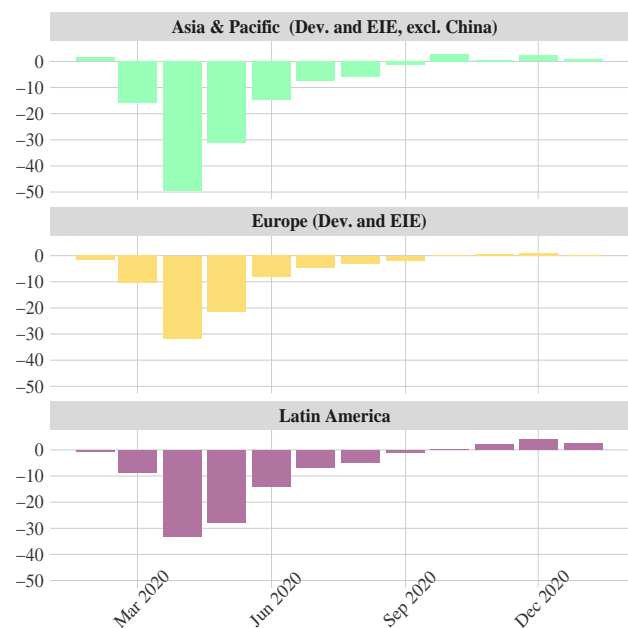


**Figure 4:** Estimated global growth by industry, percentage change compared to the same month of the previous year, January 2021

A closer look in selected regions reveals diverging trends. Focusing on Dev. and EIE (figure 6), production data for Latin America and Asia & Pacific (excl. China) indicate a continuing recovery in January 2021, with year-over-year growth rates of 2.5 per cent and 0.9 per cent, respectively, while Dev. and EIE European economies recorded a slight decrease of 0.2 per cent. By contrast, industrialized countries (figure 5) continue to struggle with the ongoing economic and health crisis. East Asia reported an output increase of 0.3 per cent compared to January 2020, whereas the output of Europe and Northern America decreased by 1.9 per cent and 0.8 per cent, respectively.



**Figure 5:** Growth of manufacturing output for selected industrialized country groups, percentage change compared to the same month of the previous year



**Figure 6:** Growth of manufacturing output for selected Dev. and EIE country groups, 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<sup>1</sup> and quarterly<sup>2</sup> data are available on the UNIDO Statistics data portal. 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<sup>3</sup> as well as in a document on seasonal adjustment.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup><https://stat.unido.org/database/Monthly%20IIP>

<sup>2</sup><https://stat.unido.org/database/Quarterly%20IIP>

<sup>3</sup><https://stat.unido.org/content/publications/world-manufacturing-production-%2528methodological-note%2529>

<sup>4</sup><https://stat.unido.org/content/publications/seasonal-adjustment-of-iip>

Table 1

## Estimated index of industrial production, selected country groups (base 2015)

	Developing and emerging industrial economies				Industrialized economies			World
	China	Asia & Pacific	Latin America	Europe	Northern America	Europe	Asia & Pacific	
2019 Jan	126.5	116.1	99.8	115.5	104.9	107.7	104.9	112.6
2019 Feb	126.5	114.9	100.9	117.5	104.4	107.9	104.9	112.5
2019 Mar	128.2	116.5	99.9	117.0	104.3	108.1	104.3	113.0
2019 Apr	126.8	117.1	101.2	117.4	103.4	107.2	105.8	112.6
2019 May	128.6	115.3	101.0	115.5	103.5	107.9	106.2	113.2
2019 Jun	130.2	112.2	99.8	113.2	104.1	106.9	105.3	113.1
2019 Jul	130.5	112.3	100.2	113.1	103.7	106.8	106.7	113.4
2019 Aug	131.8	112.7	100.3	113.7	104.4	106.4	104.7	113.6
2019 Sep	132.9	112.5	99.7	114.2	103.7	106.6	106.0	113.9
2019 Oct	133.6	111.8	100.1	113.6	103.1	106.1	103.9	113.6
2019 Nov	135.3	115.7	99.2	112.5	104.1	105.9	103.3	114.4
2019 Dec	136.2	115.3	98.9	112.9	104.4	104.8	104.6	114.6
2020 Jan	100.9	116.4	100.2	116.1	104.2	106.4	106.3	104.7
2020 Feb	99.6	116.6	100.3	115.4	104.1	106.7	104.1	104.1
2020 Mar	121.3	98.1	91.3	104.9	98.9	94.5	103.7	105.0
2020 Apr	128.8	59.2	67.7	80.2	83.3	76.0	95.0	94.8
2020 May	133.0	79.3	73.0	90.7	86.5	86.1	88.5	99.7
2020 Jun	136.4	95.4	85.8	103.9	93.2	94.3	93.2	106.4
2020 Jul	139.5	103.8	93.5	107.7	97.2	98.6	97.6	110.7
2020 Aug	141.5	106.1	95.4	110.2	98.8	100.5	99.0	112.5
2020 Sep	143.6	111.0	98.7	112.0	98.8	101.2	102.7	114.4
2020 Oct	144.9	115.1	100.1	113.3	100.2	103.0	103.6	116.0
2020 Nov	146.0	116.3	101.4	113.2	101.3	103.8	103.8	116.8
2020 Dec	147.0	117.9	102.7	114.1	102.3	104.3	104.3	117.7
2021 Jan	147.4	117.4	102.7	115.9	103.4	104.4	106.6	118.4

Source: UNIDO Statistics.

Note: Seasonally adjusted data. Asia & Pacific does not include China.