Structural business statistics

EU economy in the Triad with contrasted results

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Statistics in focus

INDUSTRY, TRADE AND SERVICES

THEME 4 – 23/2000

SECTORIAL PROFILES

Contents

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This Statistics in Focus presents a number of significant indicators related to the competitiveness of the EU, the USA and Japan. With the exception of the macro-economic indicators, the indicators picture the manufacturing industry only. This is due to the lack of data still observed on services.

The main results are the following:

- Main macro-economic indicators show lower results for the EU compared to USA and Japan.
- This is also true for main results measuring the spending on ICT (information and communication technologies) and R&D;
- The EU is the greatest exporter in the Triad measuring the share of exports in GDP. Furthermore, all industrial sectors (NACE section D) in Europe show a greater cover ratio than the United States (see Figure 1);

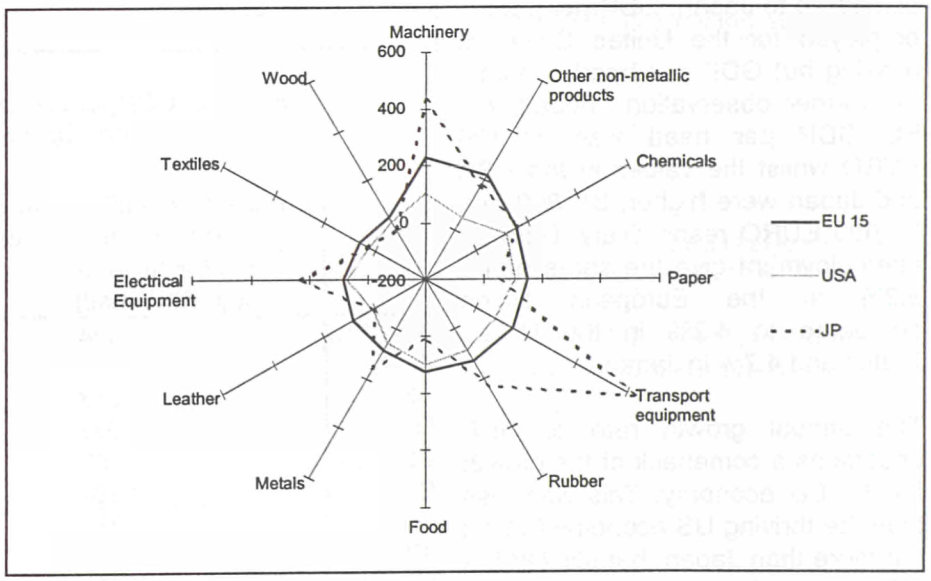

Figure 1: Cover ratio in % (Exports divided by imports) [1998]
Graph based on Table 6
Source Eurostat Compet database

- Some EU specialised industries (leather, textiles and food industries) have better trade performances than its counterparts in the Triad but some non-specialised industries do also show a good external trade performance (transport, rubber and wood industries);
- European industries were not as well placed compared to their competitors to move to or intensify in expanding markets in manufacturing sectors.

The economic performance of the Triad members, but also of all the EU Member States, is based on a multitude of economic aspects. However, with regard to the wide scope of concerned economic areas, only a limited number of indicators are presented in the following publication. These are indicators measuring economic growth, employment, productivity, trade and specialisation.

The economic performance of a country is, first of all, measured by a high level of productivity as well as a high number of persons employed, i.e. a high Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per person employed ratio and a low unemployment rate.

With regard to both indicators, the European Union shows lower results compared to USA and Japan. With 49 800 EURO, GDP per person employed for the EU is lower compared to Japan. GDP per person employed for the United States is missing but GDP per head confirms the former observation. Indeed, the EU GDP per head was 21 100 EURO whilst the values in the USA and Japan were higher, 31 800 and 32 000 EURO respectively. Data on unemployment give the same order: 9.2% in the European Union compared to 4.2% in the United States and 4.7% in Japan.

The annual growth rate of GDP underlines a comeback of the growth for the EU economy. This was less than the thriving US economy (4.2%) but more than Japan that still felt the effect of the Southeast Asia crisis as its GDP growth figured only at 0.3%.

Amongst the factors that influence productivity, such as the capacity utilisation, investment or the organisation of production, the information technology and telecommunications are crucial. Therefore, investment in the information technology is a major key to enhance productivity.

	Annual growth rate of GDP in constant prices (%)	GDP per capita in constant prices (1000 EURO/head)	GDP per person employed in constant prices (1000 EURO/head)	Unemployment rate as a share of the total labour force (%)
EU-15	2.4	21.1	49.8	9.2
EUR-11	2.4	20.9	50.3	9.9
USA	4.2	31.8	:	4.2
JP	0.3	32.0	60.8	4.7

Table 1: General macro-economic indicators [1999]
Source Eurostat National Accounts

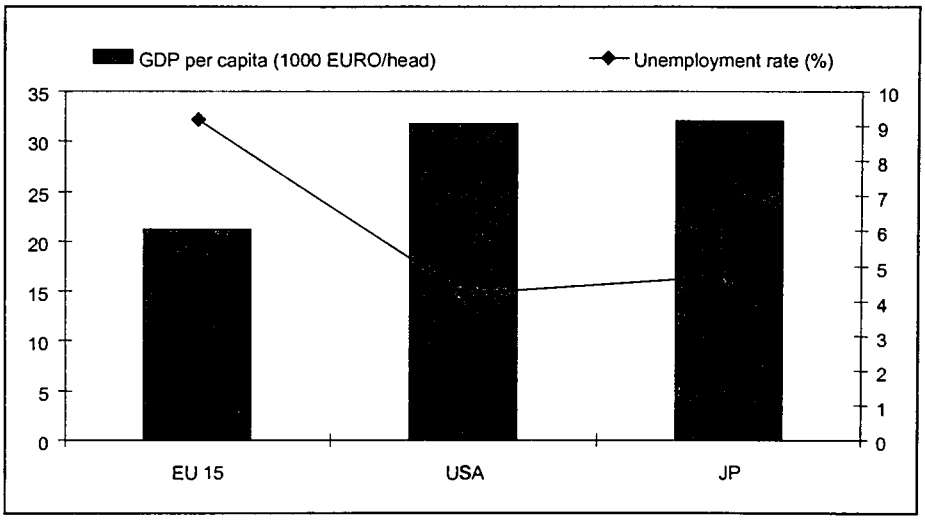

Figure 2: GDP per capita and unemployment rate [1999]
Source Eurostat National Accounts

	Per capita spending ding on information technology (ECU/head)	Per capita spending ding on telecommunications (ECU/head)	Information and communication technology expenditure as a share of GDP at current prices (%)
EU-15 (1)	484	522	5.1
B	:	:	:
DK	868	686	5.5
D	536	528	4.5
EL	93	359	4.4
E	184	314	3.9
F	575	508	5.0
IRL	368	682	5.7
I	290	492	4.1
L	:	:	:
NL	626	607	5.9
A	501	495	4.3
P	141	337	4.9
FIN	568	551	5.3
S	858	662	6.5
UK	687	563	6.4
USA	1166	724	7.6
JP	713	574	4.4

(1) EU-15 calculated without B and L

Table 2: Indicators regarding ICT [1998]
Source Eurostat Comext database

One key indicator for measuring the ICT use is the ratio information and communication technologies expenditure as a share of GDP in current prices. This indicator shows that the EU spent 5.1% of its GDP in ICT, which places the EU second in the Triad. 7.6% for the US and 4.4% for Japan are the corresponding figures. More precisely, 484 ECU and 522 ECU per head are spent on IT and telecommunications in the EU compared to 1166 ECU and 724 ECU per head in the US and 713 ECU and 574 ECU in Japan (see table 2).

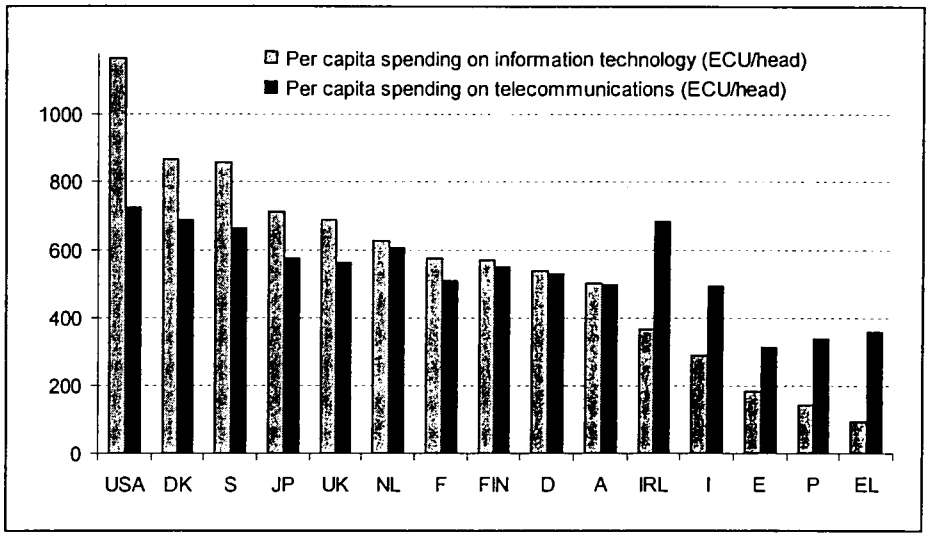

Figure 3: Spending on information technology (IT) and telecommunications [1998]
Source Eurostat Compet database

R&D: a great performance of the Nordic Member States

In a knowledge based economy, Research and Development (R&D) together with patents are one of the essential intangible investments to improve the competitiveness.

In the EU manufacturing industry (NACE section D), the general expenditure on R&D as a share of GDP was 1.9% in 1999, i.e. 0.94% and 1.16% percentage point less than the US and Japan.

This result is offset by the good performance of the Nordic Member States. Based on the R&D intensity by sector, the chemical and electrical industries show above average R&D expenditure. For the first sector, the R&D intensity in Sweden and Denmark were 9.9% and 8.5%. The same indicator showed 10.3% and 7.2% for the electrical industry in Sweden and Finland.

The good results in high value added sectors are confirmed by performance in high tech patents. Indeed, the European Union had greater number of high tech patents applications to patent offices per million population than Japan (14.9 against 9.4).

This can be illustrated with two concrete examples: in Sweden, pharmaceuticals and mobile telephone, which are a part of the chemical and electrical industries, represented 15% and 10% of the total patents in 1999 (source: PRV, Swedish Patent Office).

	General expenditure on R&D as a share of GDP (%)	Number of High Tech Patent applications to Patent Offices per million population
EU-15	1.90	14.9
EUR-11	1.83	:
USA	2.84	19.7
JP (1)	3.06	9.4

(1) R&D JP: 1998

Table 3: Indicators on R&D expenditure [1999] and patents [1998]
Source:
Eurostat, OECD for R&D expenditure
Eurostat, EPO for patents

	B	DK	D	E	F	IRL	I	NL	P	FIN	S	UK	USA	JP
Manufacturing of	1.3	2.3	2.6	0.6	2.6	1.1	0.9	1.9	0.1	2.2	3.8	1.9	2.9	3.0
- food products; beverages and tobacco	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.6	0.0	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.7
- chemicals, chemical products & man-made fibres (1)	3.6	8.5	4.7	1.4	4.7	1.2	1.6	3.7	0.4	3.9	9.9	6.7	4.5	6.7
- other non-metallic mineral products	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.2	1.3	1.4	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.5	0.8	0.7	0.5	2.0
- basic metals and fabricated metal products (1)	2.8	:	2.8	1.0	3.6	7.3	0.8	0.9	0.4	2.4	1.6	1.3	0.5	2.8
- machinery and equipment n.e.c. (1)	1.1	4.4	2.5	1.0	2.1	1.3	0.5	2.3	0.2	2.0	4.4	1.9	1.7	2.2
- electrical and optical equipment (2)	5.8	5.1	6.3	2.3	7.2	1.8	3.5	:	:	7.2	10.3	3.9	:	:

(1) US data: 1995
(2) 1995 for all countries

Table 4: R&D intensity by industry in % [1996], B, D, IRL P and S [1995]
Source Eurostat Compet database

External trade: EU Member States show higher shares of exports in GDP compared to the US and Japan

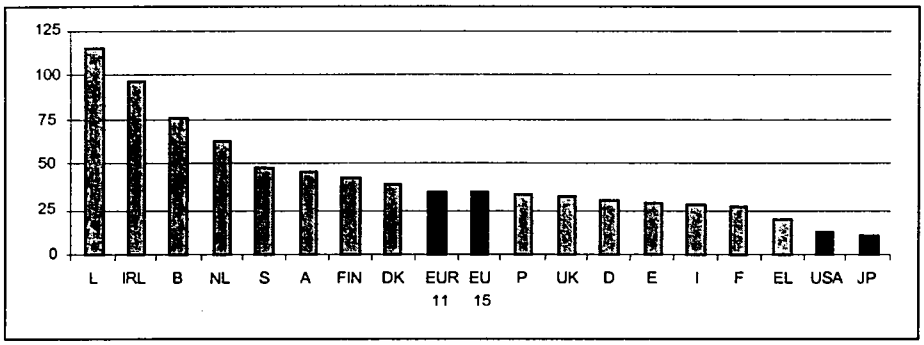

Figure 4: Exports of Goods & Services as a share of GDP in current prices (%) [1999] Source Eurostat Compet database

	Exports of goods and services as a share of GDP in current prices (%)	Imports of goods and services as a share of GDP in current prices (%)
EU-15	34.6	33.6
EUR-11	34.8	33.0
B	75.4	71.0
DK	38.4	34.8
D	30.0	29.1
EL	19.0	27.6
E	29.1	30.3
F	26.6	24.2
IRL	96.8	82.1
I	28.1	26.8
L	116.1	102.2
NL	63.5	57.8
A	46.1	45.2
P	34.1	45.2
FIN	42.7	31.8
S	48.6	40.7
UK	31.5	36.1
USA	12.2	16.0
JP	10.7	8.3

Table 5: Indicators regarding trade in goods and services [1999] Source Eurostat Compet database

A comparison of the share of the total exports (goods and services) of the GDP of the Triad shows that the EU Member States export a higher share on GDP than the US and Japan (in average, 34.6% for the EU against 12.2% for the United States and 10.7% for Japan).

This shows the openness of the EU economy and gauges the attractiveness of goods and services produced in the EU. The ranking is led by smaller Member States, such as Luxembourg, Ireland, Belgium and the Netherlands (see figure 4), whose economies show very high ratios, partially because of their smaller domestic market.

This share is raising in the EU (+2.9 percentage points from 1997 to 1999) while it stagnates in the US and in Japan (-0.1 percentage point and +0.4 percentage points respectively on the same period).

External trade: EU cover ratio higher than in the US

Trade performance for the manufacturing sectors is also assessed by the cover ratio, i.e. exports divided by imports. This ratio lies at 116% for the EU and 177% for Japan whilst the exports cover only 69% of the exports in the Unites States.

Nearly all industrial sectors in the EU have a greater cover ratio than the United States. However, the US results are more due to a high level of domestic demand (linked to national consumption) than a weak ability to export.

	EU 15	USA	JP
Manufacturing of	116	69	177
- food products; beverages and tobacco	124	100	6
- textiles and textile products	61	25	29
- leather and leather products	85	10	5
- wood and wood products	53	31	1
- pulp, paper & paper products; publishing & printing	151	106	58
- other non-metallic mineral products	220	47	174
- chemicals, chemical products & man-made fibres	158	121	167
- rubber and plastic products	127	88	232
- basic metals and fabricated metal products	88	55	160
- machinery and equipment n.e.c.	229	103	428
- electrical and optical equipment	83	70	231
- transport equipment	147	79	627

Table 6: Cover ratio in % [1998] Source Eurostat Compet database

European industries show better results than the rest of the Triad in the following sectors: food, textiles, leather, wood, paper industries and other non-metallic mineral products (see grey part of table 6). Except for other non-metallic mineral products, these industries are, *a priori*, more affected by the level of labour costs than other industries. This could be a cause of concern due to newly-industrialised countries getting more competitive in these industries. At the opposite, Japan has striking results in high value added industries: transport equipment (627%), machinery (428%), rubber (232%) and electrical products (231%).

However, the EU results have to be taken with caution because they are often based on the trade performances of one or two Member States. The most evident cases are Italy for manufacture of textiles (230%) and manufacture of leather (273%) and Finland for wood industry (1209%) and manufacture of paper (1432%). Germany shows the highest cover ratio of the EU manufacture of transport equipment (182%) just before Sweden (155%). The highest cover ratio in the EU for manufacture of machinery and equipment is observed in Italy (283%).

Cover ratios in absolute value show that the best positions of the EU are recorded in manufacture of machinery (229%), manufacture of other non-metallic products, such as glass, concrete, cement or ceramics, (220%) and chemicals industry (158%).

Sectoral specialisation sometimes linked to good trade performance

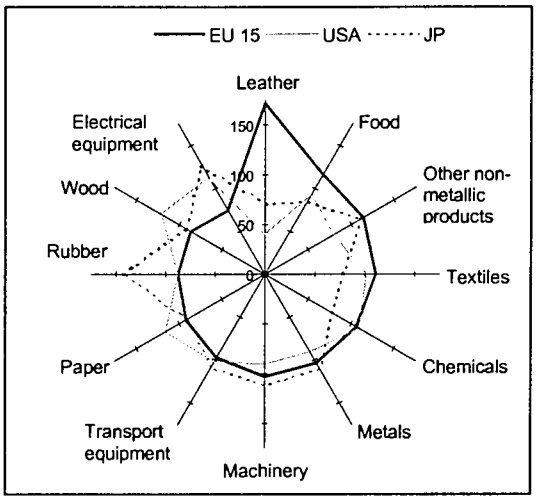

Figure 5: production specialisation ratio relative to Triad in % [1997]
Source Eurostat Compet database

	EU 15	USA	JP	TRIAD
Manufacturing of	100	100	100	100
- food products; beverages and tobacco	115	94	85	100
- textiles and textile products	111	102	77	100
- leather and leather products	172	41	72	100
- wood and wood products	86	120	91	100
- pulp. paper & paper products; publishing & printing	92	115	90	100
- chemicals. chemical products & man-made fibres	106	108	76	100
- rubber and plastic products	87	88	142	100
- other non-metallic mineral products	113	79	111	100
- basic metals and fabricated metal products	103	90	110	100
- machinery and equipment n.e.c.	102	91	111	100
- electrical and optical equipment	73	112	126	100
- transport equipment	95	101	106	100

Table 7: production specialisation ratio relative to Triad in % [1997]
Source Eurostat Compet database

The production specialisation ratio is the share of the production of a NACE sector in the total production for manufacturing for Triad member divided by the same share for the whole Triad. If the value is greater than 100 for a sector, the Triad member is relatively more specialised in this sector than the Triad as a whole.

The following sectors show high production specialisation ratio for the EU: leather (172%), food (115%), other non-metallic products (113%) and textiles (111%). These EU industries sometimes also have good trade performances (e.g. cover ratio in the food industry: 124%, in other non-metallic mineral products: 220%). Cover ratios for textiles and leather industries are still greater for

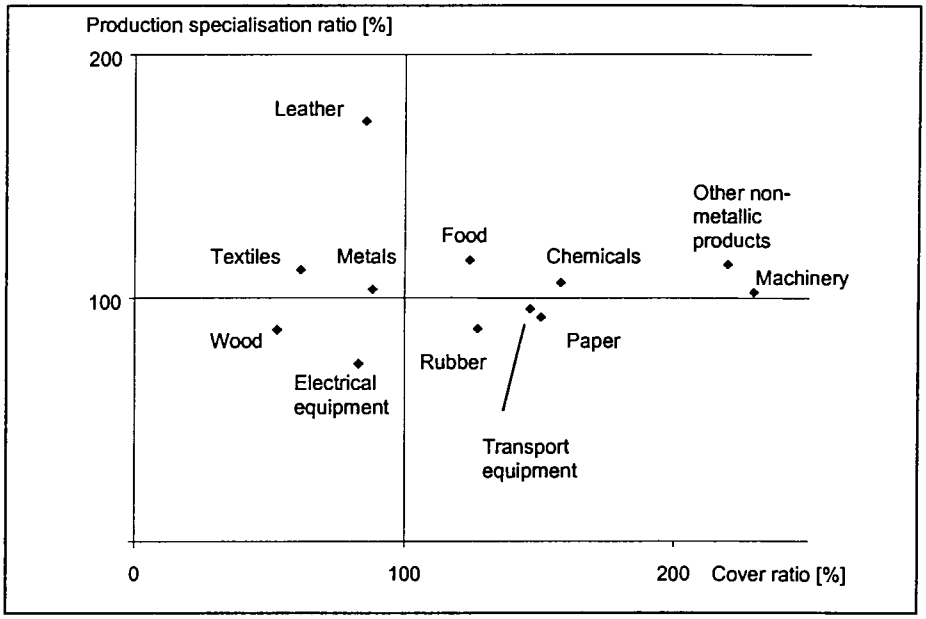

Figure 6: cover ratio [1998] and production specialisation ratio in the EU [1997]
Source Eurostat Compet database

the EU than for the US and Japan. Most specialised Member States for these sectors are Portugal with manufacture of textiles (with a production specialisation ratio of 359%) and manufacture of leather (781%), Denmark for food industry (224%) and Luxembourg for manufacture of other non-metallic products (263%).

In contrary, the following sectors are characterised by a low production specialisation ratio in the EU: electrical equipment (73%), wood industry (86%), manufacture of rubber (87%) and manufacture of transport (95%). Some of these sectors have however a positive trade balance: transport and rubber industry with 147% and 127%.

The EU is also less specialised than the US and Japan in the high value added electrical equipment industry, despite the good positions of Ireland (180% mainly due the computer industry) and Finland (108% mainly due to the telecommunications industry).

The picking winners production ability often lower in the EU compared to the US and Japan

The Triad performance can also be described using the picking winners production ability (PWPA) indicator. This ratio shows the link between production of one of the Triad members for one sector between 1990 and 1997 and growth in the same industrial activity in the same period. Higher values show a propensity to specialise production in high-growth industries within the Triad.

In many main industries such as the textile and leather industry, other non-metallic products or basic metals and fabricated metal products the PWPA was lower in the European Union than in the United States and Japan (see table 8 and figure 7).

This means that European industrial firms were behind US and Japanese industrial firms in focussing on growing sectors or segments of sector. In other words, they were strategically not as well placed compared to their competitors to move to or intensify in high growing manufacturing sectors.

The ability of 'picking winners' was particularly low for manufacture of leather (-332), manufacture of textiles (-205) and manufacture of non-metallic products (-175).

In the rubber and plastics industry, the EU-15 competitors scored however better than the US and Japanese firms. In some other industries, only minor differences in the competitive position between the Triad members were observed (e.g. or in the production of electrical and optical equipment).

	EU 15	USA	JP	TRIAD
Manufacturing of				
- food products; beverages and tobacco	(-) 97	(-) 74	(-) 42	(-) 213
- textiles and textile products	(-) 205	(-) 176	(-) 84	(-) 465
- leather and leather products	(-) 332	(-) 74	(-) 81	(-) 488
- wood and wood products	(+) 27	(+) 35	(+) 16	(+) 78
- pulp, paper & paper products; publishing & printing	(-) 51	(-) 61	(-) 30	(-) 142
- chemicals, chemical products & man-made fibres	(-) 33	(-) 32	(-) 14	(-) 78
- rubber and plastic products	(+) 65	(+) 62	(+) 62	(+) 189
- other non-metallic mineral products	(-) 175	(-) 115	(-) 101	(-) 390
- basic metals and fabricated metal products	(-) 130	(-) 107	(-) 81	(-) 318
- machinery and equipment n.e.c.	(-) 61	(-) 51	(-) 39	(-) 151
- electrical and optical equipment	(+) 56	(+) 81	(+) 56	(+) 193
- transport equipment	(-) 6	(-) 6	(-) 4	(-) 16

Table 8: picking winners production ability [1997] (This index has been multiplied by 1000, see methodology)
Source Eurostat Compet database

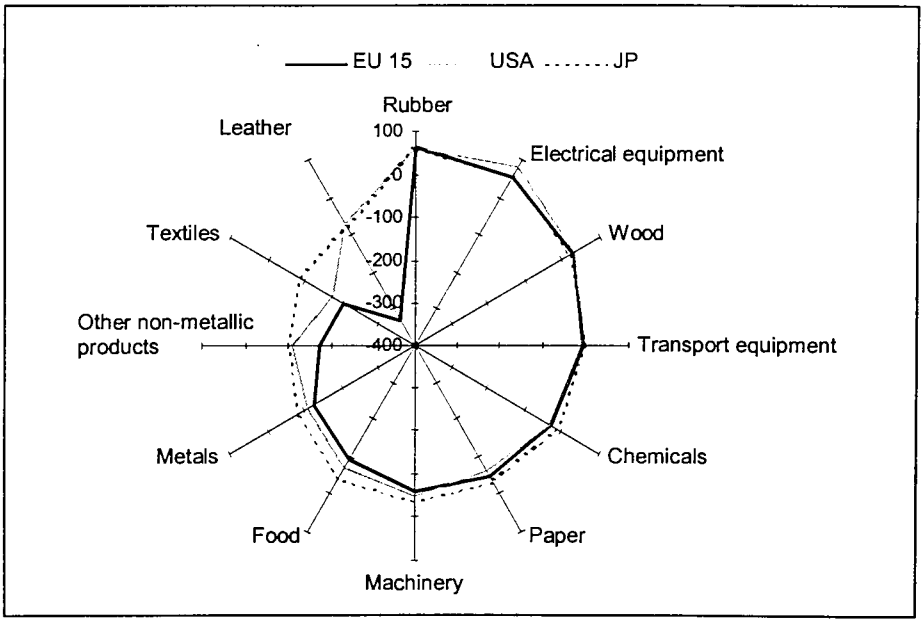

Figure 7: picking winners production ability [1997]
Source Eurostat Compet database

➢ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The COMPET database and its domains

This publication is based on the COMPET database. This database contains numerous analytical indicators assessing the competitiveness of EU industries and stored in three domains:

- macroeconomic and living standard indicators;
- performance indicators by industrial activity;
- cost, price and productivity indicators by industrial activity.

COMPET is largely based on official statistics, but also non-official data are added. This database is accessible through New Cronos, Eurostat's reference database (last extraction June 2000).

NACE Rev.1

The following sub-sections of the NACE section D Manufacturing were used in this publication:

DA Manufacture of food products; beverages and tobacco
DB Manufacture of textiles and textile products
DC Manufacture of leather and leather products
DD Manufacture of wood and wood products
DE Manufacture of pulp, paper and paper products; publishing and printing
DG Manufacture of chemicals, chemical products and man-made fibres
DH Manufacture of rubber and plastic products
DI Manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products
DJ Manufacture of basic metals and fabricated metal products
DK Manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c.
DL Manufacture of electrical and optical equipment
DM Manufacture of transport equipment

The sub-section DF Manufacture of coke, refined petroleum products and nuclear fuel has been ignored due the lack of data.

You can download NACE Rev.1 from the web:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/ramon/

The radar graphs

Radar graphs have been chosen due to their ability to describe several variables (NACE sub-sections) for several dimensions (EU, US, Japan).

Please note that:

- all radar graphs include the 12 NACE sub-sections;
- the 12 sub-sections have been listed in descending order;
- for a better visibility, the minimum value of the cover ratio graph (figure 1) has been lowered to -200;
- for the same reason, the minimum value of the PWPA graph (figure 7) has been lowered to -100.

ICT expenditure as a share of GDP in current prices (%)

ICT (Information and communication technology) as a share of GDP is defined as expenditure on information and communications technologies as a share of GDP in current prices.

Per capita spending on information technology (ECU/head)

Per capita spending on information technology is defined as the total spending on information technology divided by the population.

Per capita spending on telecommunications (ECU/head)

Per capita spending on telecommunications is defined as the total spending on telecommunication services divided by the population.

Exports of goods and services as a share of GDP in current prices (%)

It is defined as exports of goods and services divided by GDP in current market prices. (XG&S/GDP)x100

General expenditure on R&D as a share of GDP (%) (only for manufacturing)

General expenditure on R&D (GERD) is the standard measure of expenditure in R&D statistics, covering all R&D carried out on national territory during the year concerned. This indicator is calculated as a ratio of general expenditure on R&D divided by GDP, both measures in current prices. (GERD/GDP)x100

Number of resident patent applications / million population

Patent data may be considered as a measure of the output of R&D. The data are not fully comparable between countries. This is particularly the case for Japan, where a patent is four times less likely to be awarded due to the intricate and detailed process of granting patents in that country.

This indicator is calculated as follows: (number of resident patent applications on home territory by nationally registered companies or individuals)/population (expressed as million population).

R&D intensity (%)

BERD (business enterprise R&D) is the standard measure of business expenditure in R&D statistics, covering all business R&D carried out on national territory during the year concerned. This measure is then divided by the production value (Q) in current prices, to give a measure of R&D intensity. (BERD/Q)x100

Cover ratio (%)

The cover ratio is the result of exports (X) divided by imports (M). It is expressed in percentage terms. (X/M)x100

Production specialisation ratio relative to the TRIAD (%)

The production specialisation ratio relative to the TRIAD is the share of the production (Q) of the NACE activity (i) in the total production for manufacturing (manf) of a country (c) divided by the same share for the TRIAD. It is expressed in percentage terms. If the value is superior to 100, it means that the Triad member is relatively more specialised in this NACE activity than the TRIAD as a whole.
((Qc,i/Qc,manf)/(QTRIAD,i/QTRIAD,manf)) x100 where Q = production

Picking winners production ability - PWPA (index, manufacturing=0)

This indicator shows the link between production and growth in industrial activities and hence whether a Triad member (c) specialises in high growth industries.

For each industrial sector, the share of the Triad production and the growth of production in real terms between 1990 and 1997 is calculated. Growth rates for some 92 industries are re-based on a scale of-1 to 1, with the fastest growth industry set to 1, the slowest growth industry set to -1 and the growth for manufacturing as a whole set to 0. The growth rate is multiplied with the share in TRIAD production. The value can be negative if TRIAD production declined.

Generally higher scores show a propensity to specialise production in industries that are high-growth industries within the TRIAD. Qc/Qtriad*GRtriad where Q = production and GR = growth rate of production at constant prices (1990-1997), rebased relative to the fastest and slowest growing industries and the manufacturing total.

For visual reasons, this index has been multiplied by 1000.

Please find more information on the web:
http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/dsis/bmethods/info/data/new/coded/coded_domains_en.html

Further information:

➢ Data bases

New Cronos
Domaines: COMPET, National Accounts

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