In February 2019, manufacturing output has increased by 5.7%

According to the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia, manufacturing output in February 2019, compared to the corresponding period last year, was by 5.7% higher (as reported by both unadjusted and calendar adjusted data). Overall, manufacturing output in the first two months of 2019, according to unadjusted data, was by 4.7% higher than in the previous year.

In February 2019, the largest contribution to the growth in manufacturing brought the manufacture of fabricated metal products (growth of 20.4%) and the largest manufacturing sub-sector - the manufacture of wood and of products of wood and cork, except furniture (4.8%). A significant growth was also observed in the manufacture of computer, electronic, and optical products (20.8%), the manufacture of electrical equipment (18%), and the manufacture of machinery and equipment (16.4%). Output increased also in other manufacturing sub-sectors.

In February 2019, a decline, however, was observed in the manufacture of wearing apparel (-16.8%), the manufacture of basic metals (-13.7%), and the manufacture of paper and paper products (-10.6%).

In February 2019, manufacturing turnover at current prices grew faster than output (by 11.6%). Domestic sales volumes increased by 9.1%, while export volumes grew by 13%.

It is expected that similar growth rates in the upcoming months will be observed, and overall the annual growth in manufacturing could be close to 2018. As the development of the sector is closely linked to export opportunities, a more rapid growth in manufacturing will be held down by the uncertainties in the external markets. Also, economic growth in the EU countries is expected to slightly slow down.