

GGDC 10 Sector Database – Sources OECD

All series derived from this database need to be referred to as: "Bart van Ark (1996), Sectoral Growth Accounting and Structural Change in Post-War Europe, in B. van Ark and N.F.R. Crafts, eds., Quantitative Aspects of Post-War European Economic Growth, CEPR/Cambridge University Press, pp. 84-164".

The current version of the European 10-sector database is derived from the EU KLEMS March 2008 release for the period 1970-2006. Data before 1970 is based on van Ark (1996) through splicing. Growth rates of employment, hours worked, and constant price value added for the period before 1970 have been applied to the 1970 level from the EU KLEMS database. Obviously levels in the van Ark (1996) and EU KLEMS database are not strictly comparable. Absolute levels of employment and value added at the total economy level are roughly comparable but at industry level large differences can be observed; this is mainly in the services sectors. There are a variety of reasons for this:

Data revisions:

Ten years have passed since the estimates by van Ark and many revisions have taken place since then such as the FISIM adjustment, changes in deflation procedures (e.g. double deflation) and other SNA 1993 revisions

Differences in industrial classification:

In van Ark (1996) hotels and restaurants were included in personal services, but in EU KLEMS they are included in the trade sector (see footnote in van Ark 1996). Also it seems that the division between public and private services was made differently in the two databases. EU KLEMS follows the NACE rev 1 classification.

Improved estimates:

In van Ark sometimes sectoral labour productivity trends were used to estimate industry level employment. In contrast to absolute levels, industry growth rates differ much less between van Ark (1996) and EU KLEMS. For example over the period 1970-1994 average growth rates of real value added were within 1 % bounds for most industries and countries (except mining and personal and community services).