

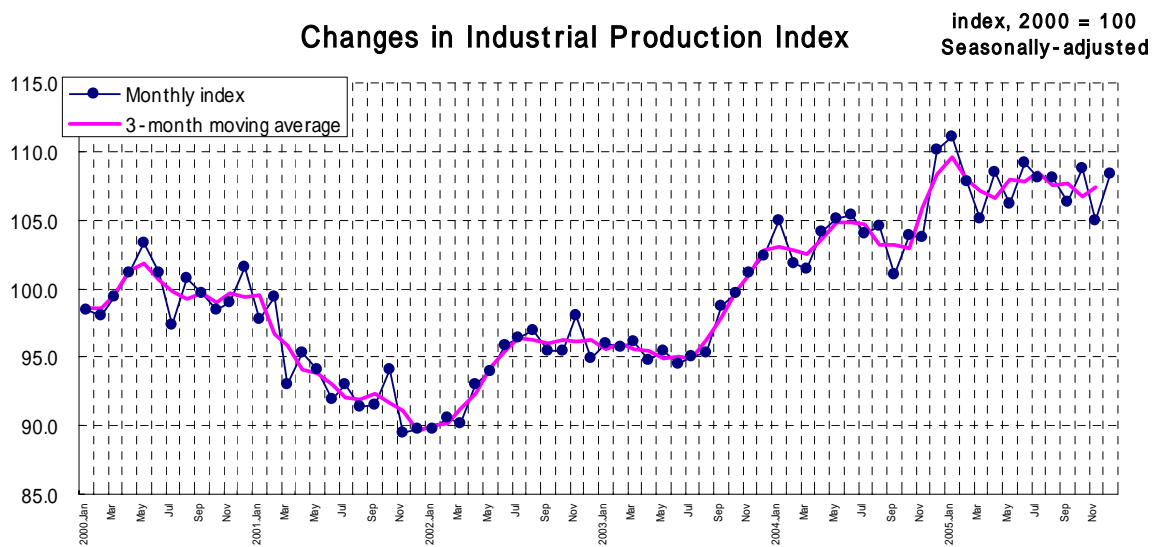
# Economic Trends in the Chugoku Region

(For December 2005, published on February 17, 2006)

*– Showing signs of a gradual improvement –*

## Production Trends

*– Industrial Production: Holding steady –*



## Industrial Production Index

(Seasonally-adjusted index)

		2004	2005	Jan -Mar 2005	Apr- Jun 2005	Jul- Sep 2005	Oct -Dec 2005	Sep 2005	Oct 2005	Nov 2005	Dec 2005
Chugoku Region	Industrial production index	104.4	107.4	108.0	107.9	107.5	107.4	106.3	108.8	<u>104.9</u>	108.4
	% Change from previous month (quarter)	-	-	2.0	-0.1	-0.4	-0.1	-1.7	2.4	<u>-3.6</u>	3.3
	% Change from previous year	7.6	2.9	3.6	2.9	4.1	0.8	5.2	4.7	<u>1.0</u>	-2.6
Nationwide	Industrial production index	100.2	101.5	101.5	101.1	100.9	103.6	101.5	102.1	103.6	105.0
	% Change from previous month (quarter)	-	-	1.7	-0.4	-0.2	2.7	0.4	0.6	1.5	1.4
	% Change from previous year	5.5	1.3	1.4	0.3	0.1	3.4	1.2	3.0	3.4	3.8

(Source: Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry)

\* Annual indices and % changes from the previous year are original.

\* Underlined figures have been revised, and hatched figures are preliminary.

## Prices

– **Consumer Prices: Showed an increase from the previous year for consecutive three months** –

### Consumer Price Index and Corporate Goods Price Index

(% change from previous year)

		2004	2005	Jan- Mar 2005	Apr- Jun 2005	Jul- Sep 2005	Oct- Dec 2005	Sep 2005	Oct 2005	Nov 2005	Dec 2005
Consumer price index (Based on 2000, general)	Chugoku Region	-0.1	-0.2	-0.1	0.1	-0.3	-0.7	-0.4	-0.7	-1.0	-0.3
	Nation-wide	0.0	-0.3	-0.2	-0.1	-0.3	-0.5	-0.3	-0.7	-0.8	-0.1
Corporate goods price index*	Nation-wide	1.2	1.6	1.3	1.7	1.6	2.0	1.7	2.0	1.9	2.2

(Sources: Bank of Japan; Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications)

\*Corporate goods price indices are domestic ones. The conventional “wholesale price index” and the “1995-based index” were revised into the “corporate goods price index” and the “2000-based index” in January 2003, when adopted items and the base year were revised.

## International Trade

– Exports: Holding steady –

### Changes in Export/Import Value

(Customer-based, Yen-based, % change from previous year)

			2004	2005	Jan-Mar 2005	Apr-Jun 2005	Jul-Sep 2005	Oct-Dec 2005	Sep 2005	Oct 2005	Nov 2005	Dec 2005
Exports	General	Chugoku Region	12.8	6.9	-2.2	3.9	12.2	13.6	22.6	17.2	15.4	8.7
		Nationwide	12.1	7.3	3.8	4.3	7.4	13.4	8.8	8.0	14.7	17.5
	Motor vehicles (Chugoku Region)		-2.9	8.0	-15.4	11.6	19.7	15.5	27.5	17.5	28.6	3.9
	Iron & steel (Chugoku Region)		24.8	13.7	33.0	13.7	12.9	-0.4	20.7	6.7	-6.7	-0.9
Imports	General	Chugoku Region	22.2	27.1	13.4	24.5	28.5	39.1	30.8	35.6	34.6	47.5
		Nationwide	10.9	15.6	10.0	14.1	16.8	20.6	17.4	17.8	16.6	27.3
	Crude petroleum (Chugoku Region)		24.9	51.1	21.3	40.2	62.7	75.5	78.1	57.6	76.2	91.3
	Coal (Chugoku Region)		41.9	36.4	60.2	11.9	38.6	43.7	68.6	37.2	34.1	64.7
Current account			18.1	-	-8.1	-9.8	-2.1	-	<u>6.1</u>	2.6	15.1	-
Exchange rate (Yen per US\$)			<u>108.17</u>	110.21	104.47	107.63	111.24	117.29	111.06	114.82	118.41	118.64

(Source: Ministry of Finance)

\*Exchange rate: Tokyo Interbank market rate

\* Underlined figures have been revised, and hatched figures are preliminary.

### Export / Import Value (Yen based, % change from previous year)

