ASSOCIATION D'INSTITUTS EUROPÉENS DE CONJONCTURE ÉCONOMIQUE

-- Working Group on Commodity Prices --

WORLD COMMODITY PRICES 1996–1998

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by
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Abstract
World commodity prices increased in 1996 on aggregate by 7 percent. However, taking yearly averages, this was the result of heterogeneous developments: increasing oil prices, which have a dominant weight, and falling prices for industrial raw materials and food and beverages. Forecasts for 1997 and 1998 point in the opposite direction: oil prices are expected to fall slightly whereas industrial raw material prices are likely to increase, a process which already began at the end of 1996 and will level off through 1998. Prices for food and beverages will decline slightly after a pronounced increase during the first months of 1997.