

Developments for construction in the first quarter of 2001

Output fell by 2.5% in the EU

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Latest construction trends

EU-15 construction output fell by 2.5% in the first quarter of 2001, when compared to the first quarter of 2000. This marked a distinct change from the data reported throughout 2000, when construction output grew in every quarter - using this measure. Construction activity within the euro-zone¹ also fell, losing 2.7% to the first quarter of 2001, after having posted growth of 1.5% to the final quarter of 2000.

A breakdown of construction activity shows that all of the losses experienced in the EU construction sector could be attributed to a decline in building activity, which was down 2.8% in the first quarter of 2001 (compared to the first quarter of 2000). Civil engineering activity in the EU rose by 0.3% over the same period - see figure 1 below and tables 3 and 4 on page 3.

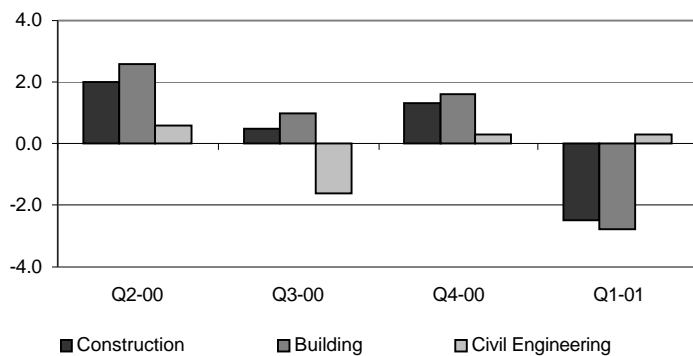


Figure 1: Production volume index for construction, building and civil engineering, growth rates, compared to the same quarter of the previous year (%)

Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series				Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted series			
EU-15		Euro-zone		EU-15		Euro-zone	
Q2-00	-0.6	Q2-00	-2.4	Q2-00	2.0	Q2-00	1.9
Q3-00	-0.2	Q3-00	-0.3	Q3-00	0.5	Q3-00	0.7
Q4-00	0.3	Q4-00	1.6	Q4-00	1.3	Q4-00	1.5
Q1-01	-0.8	Q1-01	-0.9	Q1-01	-2.5	Q1-01	-2.7

Table 1: Production volume index for construction, growth rates (%)

Data extracted: 11.07.2001

1) Euro-zone data up to the end of 2000 cover eleven Member States (B, D, E, F, IRL, I, L, NL, A, P and FIN); with Greece's entry into the euro-zone from the beginning of 2001, they cover twelve Member States.

Statistics in focus

INDUSTRY, TRADE AND SERVICES

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Production indices for construction

Following growth of 0.3% in the final quarter of 2000 (compared to the previous quarter), the EU production index for construction fell by 0.8% in the first quarter of 2001. As such, three of the last four quarters have seen a reduction in construction output in the EU - using this measure. These figures fed through into the more long-term rate (measuring the change in output between one quarter and the same quarter of the year before) which resulted in the reduction of EU construction activity in the first quarter of 2001.

In the euro-zone, production within the construction sector fell by 0.9% in the first quarter of 2001 (compared to the quarter before). This represented a reverse in comparison with the final quarter of 2000.

Within the Member States, the largest reduction in construction activity was recorded in Germany, where a decline of 6.8% was registered between the final quarter of 2000 and the first quarter of 2001. In terms of a comparison with the same quarter of 2000, the production index for the German construction sector fell by 14.6% - the fourth successive quarter that a negative rate was posted - using this measure.

On the other hand, there was a fairly rapid expansion in activity in the Spanish construction sector, where the production index rose by 7.7% between the first quarters of 2000 and 2001. Using this same measure, output within the Austrian construction sector grew by 3.9% (following no change the quarter before), whilst construction activity was 6.3% higher in Finland and

3.2% higher in Italy in the final quarter of 2000 (resulting in positive rates being recorded in all four quarters of 2000 in both of these countries).

In both France and the United Kingdom there was little change in the output of the construction sector. French output declined by 0.2% in the first quarter of 2001, whilst output in the United Kingdom rose by 0.2% (both on the basis of a comparison with the previous quarter). Compared to the same quarter of a year before, French production grew by 0.4% in the first quarter of 2001, whilst the output in the construction sector of the United Kingdom declined by 1.2% - the third successive quarter that a negative rate was recorded using this measure - due to the reductions experienced in the second and third quarters of 2000.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted series					
	Q4-99	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q4-99	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01
EU-15	0.6	1.1	-0.6	-0.2	0.3	-0.8	4.2	4.8	2.0	0.5	1.3	-2.5
Euro-zone	0.9	2.8	-2.4	-0.3	1.6	-0.9	4.4	4.7	1.9	0.7	1.5	-2.7
B	0.4	1.2	-0.6	-0.6	3.2	-1.9	14.5	6.4	4.2	1.2	2.6	-0.1
DK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
D	-0.6	0.0	-2.8	-3.2	0.8	-6.8	2.5	2.0	-2.7	-5.3	-3.3	-14.6
EL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	2.1	2.2	1.5	1.4	2.1	2.4	5.7	7.2	6.2	7.1	7.2	7.7
F	0.5	-0.5	0.6	0.3	0.1	-0.2	4.3	3.6	2.2	1.2	2.6	0.4
IRL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I (2)	3.5	1.5	1.5	3.2	-2.9	:	3.5	8.7	8.6	10.0	3.2	:
L	2.0	2.7	-1.8	0.8	0.8	-1.9	9.2	7.1	2.2	3.6	4.1	-3.6
NL	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.2	1.2	0.1	7.5	3.1	4.5	1.2	4.7	1.2
A	0.5	-2.0	-1.9	1.2	2.4	1.8	3.0	4.1	-3.5	-2.7	0.0	3.9
P (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	2.8	6.9	-0.9	-4.5	4.0	:	3.5	11.3	6.5	4.4	6.3	:
S (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	0.2	1.2	-0.9	-1.4	0.9	0.2	3.4	5.4	2.2	-1.1	-0.3	-1.2

Table 2: Production volume index for construction, growth rates (%)

¹ Derogation not to provide this data until end 2001; ² 4 month delay permitted until end 2001.

Production indices for building

Output within the EU-15 building sector fell by 0.5% in the first quarter of 2001 (compared to the previous quarter). This was in contrast to the final quarter of 2000, when building activity rose by 1.7%.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted series					
	Q4-99	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q4-99	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01
EU-15	1.1	3.7	-2.6	-1.0	1.7	-0.5	5.1	5.5	2.6	1.0	1.6	-2.8
Euro-zone	1.1	3.7	-2.7	-1.0	1.7	-0.5	5.1	5.5	2.6	1.0	1.6	-2.8
B	1.1	1.6	-2.5	-3.0	13.9	-10.5	43.2	13.7	6.3	-3.2	9.2	-3.2
DK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
D	-0.6	0.2	-2.5	-3.3	-0.2	-7.6	0.1	1.2	-2.5	-5.1	-4.0	-15.8
EL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	2.8	2.2	2.0	1.1	0.8	2.8	8.5	10.7	9.8	8.5	6.0	6.9
F	0.8	0.6	-0.6	-0.1	1.3	-1.0	5.7	3.5	1.3	0.5	1.6	-0.5
IRL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I (2)	0.8	6.9	2.0	2.2	-5.4	6.0	3.2	11.6	11.3	12.4	5.4	4.5
L	2.1	4.6	-2.4	4.2	4.3	2.0	1.2	0.7	0.1	9.4	11.3	9.4
NL	1.2	0.5	1.0	0.5	0.3	-0.4	7.3	0.8	2.9	3.4	4.5	0.9
A	-0.4	0.2	-0.9	0.2	0.8	0.5	1.8	4.3	-3.0	-2.4	1.3	1.7
P (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	2.8	6.9	-0.9	-4.5	4.0	:	3.5	11.3	6.5	4.4	6.3	:
S (4)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Table 3: Production volume index for building, growth rates (%)

Production indices for civil engineering

Following two negative quarter on quarter rates during the middle of 2000, output within the EU's civil engineering sector grew by 0.4% in the final quarter of 2000 and by 0.2% in the first quarter of 2001 (on the basis of a comparison with the previous quarter).

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted series					
	Q4-99	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q4-99	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01
EU-15	0.6	0.0	-0.4	-0.2	0.4	0.2	6.3	3.7	0.6	-1.6	0.3	0.3
Euro-zone	0.6	0.0	-0.4	-0.2	0.4	0.2	6.3	3.7	0.6	-1.6	0.3	0.3
B	4.3	-0.3	-5.6	-7.8	12.4	-13.0	36.9	12.1	6.8	-9.5	-2.4	-14.8
DK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
D	-0.2	-0.6	-3.6	-2.8	2.2	-5.3	7.1	3.9	-2.9	-5.6	-2.2	-12.2
EL (5)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	2.3	-0.4	-0.9	1.2	6.2	3.0	-0.6	-2.2	-2.1	2.1	6.1	9.8
F	0.9	-0.2	1.3	-0.4	1.1	0.6	5.5	2.8	3.5	0.8	1.9	2.8
IRL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I (6)	7.0	-6.0	0.0	4.1	0.5	:	4.0	2.1	2.5	4.8	-1.5	:
L	1.8	10.2	-7.0	-5.4	0.3	-2.7	17.9	14.1	4.3	-1.4	-2.7	-16.0
NL	-2.8	4.8	-0.2	-4.4	5.8	0.9	8.0	15.2	9.9	-4.7	5.2	2.4
A	3.5	-8.4	-1.3	2.2	3.5	7.3	6.8	2.8	-5.0	-3.3	-3.9	12.6
P (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	2.8	6.9	-0.9	-4.5	4.0	:	3.5	11.3	6.5	4.4	6.3	:
S (4)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Table 4: Production volume index for civil engineering, growth rates (%)

¹ Derogation not to provide this data until June 2003; ² 1 month delay permitted until 2003; ³ Derogation until June 2002; ⁴ Derogation until end 2001; ⁵ Derogation until end 2002; ⁶ 4 month delay permitted until 2003.

New orders

New orders for construction rose in the United Kingdom by 10.6% in the first quarter of 2001 (compared to the previous quarter), and by 4.5% in Spain in the final quarter of 2000. No other Member State (for which data are available) reported positive growth for the latest data available.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q4-99	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q4-99	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01
EU-15 (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Euro-zone (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
B	5.6	1.5	-5.3	11.0	-2.1	-7.5	10.9	16.6	5.4	12.6	4.5	-4.8
DK (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
D	-5.5	-2.7	-4.7	-5.8	2.8	-1.4	-6.2	-10.2	-13.5	-16.4	-10.6	-9.9
EL (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	5.2	6.5	11.3	-9.1	4.5	:	0.2	4.2	23.4	12.2	12.3	:
F (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IRL (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
L	-27.6	25.0	12.1	-6.9	19.5	-1.0	-42.4	-15.6	2.4	-11.8	73.2	26.4
NL (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
A	-0.4	0.7	3.0	-2.5	0.9	-5.3	14.7	4.7	8.2	0.1	5.3	-4.1
P (4)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN (6)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
S (7)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	2.8	0.1	11.3	-4.2	-6.5	10.6	-11.2	-1.2	8.7	9.8	-0.2	9.9

Table 5: New orders index for construction, growth rates (%)

Employment

Employment in the EU construction sector fell by 0.6% in the first quarter of 2001 (compared to the same quarter of a year before). Nevertheless, several of the Member States reported a rapid expansion in the number of persons employed over the same period: France (5.5%), Ireland (3.3%), Belgium (2.8%) and Luxembourg (2.0%).

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q4-99	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q4-99	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01
EU-15	-0.3	0.8	0.1	-0.6	-0.1	0.1	0.7	1.8	1.3	0.0	0.1	-0.6
Euro-zone (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
B	1.6	1.1	1.0	0.5	1.2	0.1	9.6	8.2	6.3	4.1	4.2	2.8
DK	-0.3	3.2	-0.5	-1.5	0.5	0.0	0.6	6.0	4.0	0.7	1.6	-1.6
D	-1.8	-0.6	-2.2	-2.2	-2.5	-2.4	-3.3	-3.1	-4.9	-6.3	-7.3	-9.5
EL (8)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
F	0.8	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	2.9	3.1	3.8	4.6	5.2	5.5
IRL	0.7	2.3	1.3	0.9	0.6	0.6	5.3	6.8	6.9	5.7	5.1	3.3
I	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
L	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.7	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.3	2.0
NL	0.3	1.0	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.2	1.7	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.3	1.6
A	-0.8	0.8	-1.6	-0.4	-0.1	-0.5	-4.8	-1.9	-2.4	-1.9	-1.4	-3.6
P (4)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN (5)	-0.3	1.2	:	:	:	:	5.9	3.9	:	:	:	:
S (6)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	-0.2	1.4	1.2	-1.5	-0.2	1.3	0.8	4.4	5.2	0.8	0.5	0.8

Table 6: Employment index for construction, growth rates (%)

¹ Data available present less than 60% of the weight of all Member States, thus these aggregates are not calculated; ² Derogation not to provide this data until end 2002; ³ Derogation until mid-2001; ⁴ Derogation until June 2002; ⁵ Data available for later periods, but not entered for technical reasons; ⁶ Derogation until end 2001; ⁷ Derogation until April 2002; ⁸ Derogation until June 2003.

Hours worked

Whilst employment rose in France, Ireland, Belgium and Luxembourg - see table 6 on the previous page - three of these countries (no data for France) reported a decline in the number of hours worked. Only the United Kingdom and the Netherlands reported growth in the number of hours worked, up 4.9% and 1.3% respectively in the first quarter of 2001 - compared to the same quarter of the previous year.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q4-99	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q4-99	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01
EU-15 (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Euro-zone (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
B	3.8	1.0	-1.3	0.2	4.3	-2.7	39.2	13.7	8.3	2.7	6.6	-1.2
DK (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
D	-1.4	0.4	-5.8	-3.0	-0.4	-5.1	-0.8	-0.3	-6.4	-8.6	-8.5	-17.0
EL (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
F (4)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IRL	0.1	-0.3	0.5	-1.1	-0.8	:	2.0	0.9	1.6	-0.9	-1.7	:
I (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
L	1.4	2.9	-2.2	-0.7	1.7	-1.8	9.4	8.4	2.5	0.0	3.1	-4.3
NL	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.2	2.3	3.0	2.6	2.4	2.6	1.3
A	-1.6	0.7	-1.3	-1.1	0.4	-1.0	-4.5	-0.1	-2.7	-5.2	0.0	-3.2
P (5)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	-0.2	0.0	-2.8	-2.7	-2.3	-1.5	6.6	5.8	-0.1	-5.9	-8.3	-8.8
S (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	0.3	-0.6	2.4	1.4	-1.0	1.7	-0.3	-0.2	2.5	3.7	2.0	4.9

Table 7: Hours worked index for construction, growth rates (%)

Wages and salaries

There were mixed signs with respect to wage growth in the first quarter of 2001. Whilst wage growth slowed in Belgium and Denmark and retracted in Germany, there was a rapid increase in Finland, Luxembourg and the Netherlands, whilst wages in Austria remained almost unchanged.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q4-99	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q4-99	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01
EU-15	0.8	1.1	0.8	:	:	:	3.1	5.5	4.0	:	:	:
Euro-zone	-0.3	0.8	-1.1	-0.6	-0.2	-0.5	1.0	3.2	0.0	-1.4	-0.9	-2.9
B	2.4	3.8	0.7	1.0	2.5	-1.1	18.5	15.1	8.8	6.4	11.9	2.5
DK	-0.2	4.9	1.2	0.1	2.9	0.5	2.2	10.1	11.9	4.7	8.8	3.5
D	-2.3	1.2	-2.7	-2.3	-2.2	-3.0	-1.7	-0.1	-4.5	-6.0	-6.1	-9.8
EL (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
F (4)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IRL	1.8	0.7	2.8	1.9	8.3	:	15.4	15.1	14.0	7.4	14.4	:
I	0.5	:	:	:	:	:	1.7	:	:	:	:	:
L	3.5	-1.8	1.8	1.9	0.1	4.5	8.3	3.0	5.0	5.4	1.1	9.4
NL	1.7	2.0	1.7	1.6	1.8	1.7	5.6	11.1	7.3	5.9	7.3	8.1
A	0.0	0.4	0.1	-0.1	-0.1	0.1	-2.5	0.0	0.5	0.1	-0.4	0.1
P (5)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	-0.2	4.6	5.6	-1.4	-0.5	9.2	7.9	14.2	17.1	8.1	8.4	13.3
S (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	2.3	2.9	1.9	:	:	:	12.1	12.6	19.4	:	:	:

Table 8: Wages and salaries index for construction, growth rates (%)

¹ Data available present less than 60% of the weight of all Member States, thus European aggregates are not calculated; ² Derogation not to provide this data until end 2001; ³ Derogation until June 2003; ⁴ Derogation until end 2000; ⁵ Derogation until June 2002.

Construction costs

Construction costs for residential buildings in the EU rose by 0.9% in the first quarter of 2001 (compared to the previous quarter), the same rate as that observed in the final quarter of 2000. Costs for residential buildings were virtually unchanged in Germany throughout the whole of 2000 and into the first quarter of 2001.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, gross series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q4-99	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q4-99	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01
EU-15	0.1	1.1	0.6	0.7	0.9	0.9	1.6	2.4	2.5	2.5	3.3	3.1
Euro-zone	-0.1	1.2	0.5	0.4	0.9	0.9	0.9	2.0	2.1	2.1	3.0	2.8
B (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
DK	0.6	-1.1	0.6	2.0	0.9	1.2	3.3	1.4	0.1	2.1	2.4	4.8
D (2)	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.1
EL	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.7	1.1	0.4	3.3	2.5	2.4	2.5	3.0	3.0
E (3)	0.4	2.4	0.7	0.6	0.4	1.3	2.8	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.3	3.1
F (2)	-1.4	1.7	0.6	0.4	3.1	:	-0.8	1.1	1.4	1.2	5.8	:
IRL (1)(4)	1.9	1.0	0.5	0.5	12.0	:	6.8	7.7	4.8	3.8	14.1	:
I	0.5	1.3	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.9	1.7	3.0	2.7	3.0	3.1	2.7
L (2)	0.9	0.7	0.6	1.3	0.7	1.4	2.4	3.1	2.7	3.7	3.4	4.1
NL	0.6	1.5	0.5	1.4	0.3	2.0	2.7	3.8	3.7	4.1	3.8	4.3
A	0.2	0.2	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.4	3.1	3.1	2.2	1.8	2.1	2.3
P (5)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN (4)	0.4	0.7	1.2	0.7	0.6	0.9	1.9	2.5	3.1	3.0	3.3	3.5
S	0.8	1.1	1.6	0.8	0.7	1.4	2.6	3.3	3.9	4.3	4.2	4.5
UK (2)	0.8	1.1	0.8	1.7	0.8	0.8	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.5	4.5	4.2

Table 9: Construction costs index for residential buildings, growth rates (%)

Building permits

Growth of 4.5% in the number of building permits issued in the EU in the first quarter of 2001 (compared to the previous quarter) almost made-up for the reduction of 5.3% registered in the final quarter of 2000. The number of building permits issued in the EU in the first quarter of 2001 was 5.7% less than during the same quarter of 2000.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q4-99	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q4-99	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01
EU-15	0.6	1.0	-4.2	-0.6	-5.3	4.5	-6.8	1.0	-4.6	-3.2	-8.9	-5.7
Euro-zone	0.6	-1.5	-2.3	-1.1	-2.8	-0.2	-8.2	0.8	-5.4	-3.6	-9.1	-5.8
B	6.7	-2.1	-13.6	0.7	-3.1	14.5	29.2	5.6	-8.7	-8.9	-19.3	-3.1
DK	-12.9	-2.9	4.1	-15.4	14.9	10.9	-1.4	-0.6	-0.8	-25.9	-1.9	12.4
D	-3.5	-13.3	-17.1	-2.9	-11.7	6.1	-10.6	-16.8	-32.9	-32.5	-38.8	-24.1
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	18.6	-0.1	0.8	1.0	3.1	:	9.5	14.1	-2.0	20.7	4.9	:
F	5.1	4.7	6.1	-0.4	-2.0	0.0	-29.8	-8.5	20.9	16.2	8.4	3.6
IRL	8.7	-1.6	0.7	-1.9	:	:	-44.1	27.5	16.3	5.6	:	:
I (6)	10.2	:	:	:	:	:	17.3	:	:	:	:	:
L	33.8	-28.5	41.3	8.0	:	:	26.8	-40.1	38.2	54.6	:	:
NL	-13.3	13.1	-4.4	-14.2	-11.7	:	-17.0	19.6	-3.1	-18.8	-18.0	:
A (7)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
P	-2.3	5.7	-11.2	-2.6	-2.5	-5.0	6.3	8.4	-7.0	-10.8	-10.9	-19.8
FIN	1.4	1.6	-8.8	-14.9	17.0	-32.2	19.4	23.6	3.7	-26.6	-15.3	-38.8
S (8)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK (9)	2.7	2.2	-3.0	-1.6	-7.5	6.9	6.1	3.8	-0.7	0.7	-12.1	-6.0

Table 10: Number of residential building permits issued, growth rates (%)

¹ Derogation until end 2001; ² Output prices for new residential buildings are used as a proxy for construction costs; ³ Input prices for new residential building construction; ⁴ Input prices for 1-dwelling residential buildings; ⁵ Derogation until June 2002; ⁶ 3 month delay permitted until June 2003; data available for later periods, but not entered for technical reasons; ⁷ Data available from Q1-00 onwards; ⁸ Data available from 1996 onwards as a gross series; ⁹ Building starts for houses.

Building permits in square metres

Whilst the number of permits issued rose in Germany by 6.1% in the first quarter of 2001 (compared to the previous quarter) - see table 10 on the previous page - it was interesting to note that the area covered by these permits grew by just 0.5%. When compared to the same quarter in 2000, the area covered by new building permits was 24.5% less in Germany (and 34.1% less in Finland).

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q4-99	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q4-99	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01
EU-15	2.5	5.1	-8.3	-1.4	:	:	3.6	12.6	-3.4	-2.6	:	:
Euro-zone	0.9	11.7	-12.8	-0.4	:	:	3.8	13.3	-3.8	-2.7	:	:
B	4.0	-3.1	-10.8	-1.2	-5.0	11.4	18.2	-0.6	-8.6	-11.0	-19.9	-6.7
DK	-7.8	-4.8	-1.1	-6.0	-0.7	9.9	-14.2	-5.6	-8.0	-18.8	-12.6	1.9
D	-1.2	6.6	-17.7	-1.6	-7.5	0.5	-5.0	12.6	-12.9	-14.7	-20.4	-24.5
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	13.8	0.5	0.7	1.8	:	:	10.1	14.9	-1.6	17.1	:	:
F (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IRL	2.3	8.7	:	:	:	:	7.0	7.0	:	:	:	:
I (2)	12.5	:	:	:	:	:	18.9	:	:	:	:	:
L	91.1	-41.8	24.8	-18.4	:	:	98.8	-16.8	26.3	14.9	:	:
NL	-7.4	3.0	-2.5	-17.9	-9.2	:	-8.2	9.4	-5.3	-23.7	-25.4	:
A (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
P	1.1	2.6	-6.6	-2.7	-3.4	-5.4	9.0	9.7	-4.4	-6.3	-9.7	-16.9
FIN	-4.4	19.0	-9.1	-15.3	0.4	-13.8	17.6	27.4	14.2	-15.4	-9.3	-34.1
S (4)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Table 11: Total area for which residential building permits were granted, growth rates (%)

¹ Data available from 1998 onwards – however, due to the lack of a value in the base year it is impossible to compute an index;

² Data available for later periods, but not entered for technical reasons; ³ Derogation until June 2003; ⁴ Data available from 1996 onwards - hence, due to the lack of a value in the base year it is impossible to compute an index.

Definitions

Production: measures output volume through the trend in value added at factor costs.

Building and civil engineering production: the two main Sections in the classification of types of construction (CC).

New orders: an indication of future production. An order is the value of the contract linking a producer and a third party for the provision of goods and services. The order is accepted if there is sufficient evidence for a valid agreement.

Employment: number of persons employed is the total number of persons working within and outside the observation unit (including working proprietors, sales representatives and so on). It also includes persons absent for a short, definite period or persons on strike. Part time, trainee and seasonal workers are also included.

Hours worked: aggregate number of hours worked, excluding hours paid but not actually worked such as for meals, holidays and sick leave.

Wages and salaries: total remuneration, in cash or in kind, payable to all persons counted on the payroll, in return for work done during the reference period. Includes taxes and social contributions paid by the employee.

Construction costs: measure the evolution of the costs of the factors employed in the activity of construction and incurred by the contractor. These factors include, amongst others, materials, wages and salaries, plant and equipment hire; **output prices:** show the evolution of prices paid by the client to the contractor.

Building permits: show the future development of construction activity. A building permit is an authorisation to start work on a building project.

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