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# Developments for construction in the third quarter of 2001

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## Latest construction trends

EU-15 construction output increased by 1.0% in the third quarter of 2001, when compared to the previous quarter. As such the first positive quarter on quarter growth rate was recorded for 2001. A similar trend was observed in the euro-zone<sup>1</sup>, although declining output in the first two quarters of 2001 was even more pronounced. In the third quarter of 2001, euro-zone output grew at an identical rate to that observed in the EU (1.0%).

EU construction output in third quarter of 2001 was almost unchanged with respect to the same quarter of 2000 (+0.1%), whilst a decline of 0.6% was observed for the euro-zone.

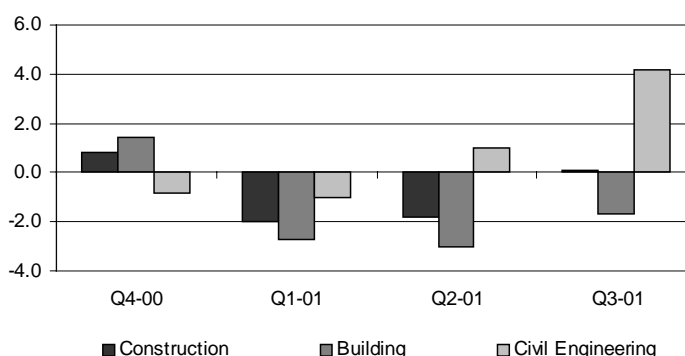


Figure 1: Production volume index for EU-15 construction, building and civil engineering, growth rates, compared to the same quarter of the previous year (%)

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	
Q4-00	0.6	1.1	Q4-00	0.8	1.1
Q1-01	-0.9	-1.9	Q1-01	-2.0	-2.1
Q2-01	-0.4	-0.7	Q2-01	-1.8	-2.5
Q3-01	1.0	1.0	Q3-01	0.1	-0.6

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



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.

## Production indices for construction

Amongst the Member States the highest output growth was recorded in Luxembourg, where production in the construction sector grew by 2.7% between the second and third quarters of 2001. Construction activity in Luxembourg rose by 8.4% between the third quarters of 2000 and 2001.

In Germany, third quarter construction output was 0.4% higher than in the previous quarter. This figure marked the first positive rate (using this measure) since the first quarter of 2000. The effects of five negative quarter on quarter rates could be seen when comparing output with the same quarter of a year before, as German production fell by 9.7%, the sixth consecutive decline using this measure.

In France, the index of production for construction fell by 0.6% between the second and the third quarters of 2001 - this marked the third consecutive quarter that a negative rate was recorded. These negative rates resulted in French

output declining by 1.9% between the third quarters of 2000 and 2001.

Italian data is only available for the second quarter of 2001, when an expansion of 0.5% in construction activity was recorded, re-enforcing the positive rate recorded in the first quarter of 2001. The Italian construction sector reported a 3.0% growth in activity between the second quarters of 2000 and 2001 (the ninth consecutive month of rising output using this measure).

In the United Kingdom there was also an expansion in construction activity, with growth of 1.2% in the third quarter of 2001 (on the basis of a quarter on quarter comparison) and an increase of 5.8% in construction activity between the third quarters of 2000 and 2001.

Belgian output in the construction sector contracted, on the basis of a quarter on quarter comparison by 0.5%, and declined by the same amount (0.5%) when compared to a year before.

In Finland, construction activity was down by 2.9% in the third quarter of 2001 (compared to the second quarter), but comparing with the same quarter of the previous year Finnish output continued to grow (1.3%), with positive rates since the first quarter of 1996. Sweden likewise experienced continued growth, on the basis of a comparison with the same quarter of a year before, with output rising by 1.3% in the third quarter of 2001, the 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive positive rate.

In the Netherlands, construction activity rose by 0.4%, continuing a pattern of alternating positive and negative quarter on quarter growth rates. Dutch construction activity rose by 2.5% between the third quarters of 2000 and 2001, returning to positive rates after a reduction in activity in the second quarter.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted series					
	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01
EU-15	-0.5	-1.0	0.6	-0.9	-0.4	1.0	2.4	0.8	0.8	-2.0	-1.8	0.1
Euro-zone	0.0	-1.0	1.1	-1.9	-0.7	1.0	2.3	1.0	1.1	-2.1	-2.5	-0.6
B	-1.9	-1.4	5.2	-1.8	-2.6	-0.5	4.2	1.2	2.6	0.1	0.7	-0.5
DK	-1.6	-4.8	-4.6	3.3	0.4	-2.1	9.8	3.1	-2.9	-8.5	-5.8	-3.0
D	-3.7	-2.7	-0.2	-6.0	-4.9	0.4	-2.7	-5.2	-5.5	-14.3	-12.3	-9.7
EL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	1.1	1.5	2.3	2.8	3.3	:	6.3	7.2	7.1	7.8	10.5	:
F	1.0	0.5	0.5	-0.8	-0.5	-0.6	4.0	2.5	4.0	0.8	-0.6	-1.9
IRL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I (2)	1.5	3.3	-2.8	2.0	0.5	:	8.6	10.0	3.2	4.0	3.0	:
L	-1.9	0.0	2.0	-1.1	2.8	2.7	2.2	3.6	4.1	-3.6	3.3	8.4
NL	0.9	-0.3	0.7	-0.4	-0.1	0.4	3.7	0.5	3.8	0.4	-0.9	2.5
A	1.1	-0.3	2.0	0.6	-4.2	0.5	-2.4	-2.4	1.4	4.6	-2.9	-1.7
P (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	-1.3	-3.0	3.5	4.5	-3.6	-2.9	6.1	3.8	6.6	4.0	1.4	1.3
S	0.7	1.3	0.9	1.6	0.8	-0.1	2.1	1.1	2.1	6.4	4.8	2.4
UK	-2.5	-1.7	1.5	1.9	1.3	1.2	2.2	-1.1	-0.3	-1.2	3.1	5.8

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

<sup>1</sup> Derogation until end 2001; <sup>2</sup> 4 month delay permitted until end 2001; <sup>3</sup> Derogation until end 2002.

## Production indices for building

Production in the EU's building sector grew by 0.3% in the third quarter of 2001 (compared to the previous quarter), reversing a downward trend that started in Q1-2001. On a year on year basis, there was a 1.7% decline in output.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted series					
	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01
EU-15	-0.3	-1.1	0.5	-1.6	-0.8	0.3	3.3	1.3	1.4	-2.7	-3.0	-1.7
Euro-zone	0.1	-1.0	0.2	-2.0	-0.9	0.0	3.3	1.6	1.6	-3.1	-3.8	-2.8
B	-4.3	-1.8	14.1	-9.7	1.7	-5.6	6.3	-3.2	9.2	-3.1	3.0	-1.1
DK	-2.1	-5.5	-6.0	2.1	3.6	-2.8	11.9	3.8	-4.9	-11.3	-6.1	-3.4
D	-2.3	-2.8	-1.4	-7.6	-5.4	0.1	-2.5	-5.0	-6.1	-15.7	-15.3	-12.8
EL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	1.4	1.1	0.8	2.1	3.2	:	9.7	8.4	6.1	5.4	7.5	:
F	0.5	0.5	0.8	-1.4	-0.5	-0.9	4.5	3.4	4.8	0.3	-0.6	-2.8
IRL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I (2)	1.8	3.9	-5.1	4.1	0.3	0.1	11.3	12.4	5.4	4.5	3.0	-0.9
L	-4.4	4.6	5.7	2.8	3.4	1.9	0.1	9.4	11.3	9.4	15.0	16.5
NL	0.9	0.0	0.3	-0.6	-0.7	-0.5	2.5	2.1	3.6	0.2	-1.8	0.7
A	0.2	-0.1	0.3	-0.6	-1.7	-1.1	-2.1	-2.1	2.8	2.7	-4.2	-4.2
P (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	-0.1	-3.6	2.6	5.7	-3.1	-3.9	9.4	6.0	6.7	4.7	1.4	1.2
S	5.7	-1.1	2.3	8.3	-2.6	3.2	2.8	1.8	2.9	18.2	5.6	12.0
UK	-1.4	-1.4	1.3	-0.1	2.0	0.9	1.9	-1.0	0.4	-1.7	1.8	4.1

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

## Production indices for civil engineering

Civil engineering output grew in the third quarter of 2001 (on the basis of a comparison with the previous quarter) by 1.9% in the EU and 1.6% in the euro-zone. However, large reductions in activity were observed in Belgium (-4.5%) and Sweden (-13.2%).

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted series					
	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01
EU-15	-1.1	-1.3	1.3	0.3	0.9	1.9	0.9	-1.6	-0.8	-1.0	1.0	4.2
Euro-zone	-1.1	-1.3	2.3	-1.4	-0.1	1.6	0.4	-1.6	-0.4	-1.5	-0.6	2.4
B	-2.5	-6.5	2.1	-7.8	-2.1	-4.5	6.8	-9.5	-2.4	-14.5	-13.4	-12.8
DK	3.4	-5.1	3.8	4.2	-6.7	1.1	1.7	-0.9	7.7	6.6	-4.4	1.8
D	-6.2	-2.5	2.0	-3.1	-3.9	0.6	-2.9	-5.5	-4.4	-11.7	-6.9	-4.0
EL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	-0.8	1.1	6.1	4.8	2.6	:	-2.1	2.0	5.9	11.5	15.4	:
F	1.3	-0.3	0.7	-0.2	-0.6	-0.1	2.9	0.9	2.6	2.0	-0.5	-0.4
IRL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I (4)	0.0	4.1	0.4	-1.8	0.7	:	2.5	4.8	-1.5	2.5	3.3	:
L	-7.0	-5.7	0.4	-2.5	-1.3	4.1	4.3	-1.4	-2.7	-16.0	-7.5	0.6
NL	0.2	-2.6	2.3	0.4	1.2	1.5	8.9	-2.9	4.3	0.7	1.1	7.4
A	1.7	-0.2	2.5	5.7	-7.3	3.7	-3.2	-3.2	-3.1	12.0	0.7	5.0
P (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	-5.9	-0.2	6.6	-0.2	-5.5	1.3	-6.1	-2.6	5.6	0.0	1.3	2.1
S	-8.9	4.4	-3.5	-10.7	9.4	-13.2	0.3	-0.7	0.5	-21.3	3.2	-20.1
UK	-3.1	-3.3	2.7	7.3	7.2	3.2	5.2	-1.9	-5.3	3.5	14.2	21.7

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

<sup>1</sup> Derogation until June 2003; <sup>2</sup> 2 month delay permitted until 2003; <sup>3</sup> Derogation until June 2002; <sup>4</sup> 4 month delay permitted until 2003.

## New orders

In the United Kingdom, new orders for construction continued to follow an alternating trend, with a growth of 9.5% in the third quarter (compared to the previous quarter) after a decrease of 9.4% in the second quarter. There was rapid growth in new orders in Luxembourg (22.5%) over the same period.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01
EU-15 (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Euro-zone (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
B	-5.8	11.8	0.8	-8.1	7.0	-4.2	6.1	14.9	5.4	-2.5	10.9	-5.1
DK (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
D	-5.6	-4.3	2.5	-1.4	1.3	-6.5	-13.5	-16.4	-10.6	-9.9	-1.5	-4.3
EL (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	10.0	-10.1	3.8	-5.3	:	:	23.4	12.2	12.3	-3.4	:	:
F (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IRL (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
L	11.8	-18.3	32.4	3.4	0.8	22.5	2.4	-11.8	73.2	26.4	8.9	75.4
NL (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
A	2.3	-2.1	0.4	-3.9	-1.1	-0.6	8.2	0.1	5.3	-4.1	-6.9	-5.3
P (4)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	-3.7	-5.1	16.2	-13.2	-4.5	0.7	9.5	-7.6	16.6	-8.0	-9.1	-3.5
S (5)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	12.9	-4.9	-6.6	13.8	-9.4	9.5	8.7	9.8	-0.2	13.6	-8.4	5.4

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

## Employment

There were 0.2% less persons employed in the EU construction sector in the third quarter of 2001 (compared to the previous quarter). The largest decrease was observed in Germany (-2.2%). Luxembourg (0.8%), Belgium, France (both 0.7%) and the Netherlands (0.3%) all recorded an expansion in the number of persons employed in Q3-2001.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01
EU-15	0.2	-0.7	-0.1	0.2	-0.2	-0.2	1.1	-0.1	0.0	-0.5	-0.8	-0.3
Euro-zone (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
B	0.8	0.7	1.0	0.4	0.8	0.7	6.2	4.1	4.3	3.0	3.0	2.8
DK	-0.9	-1.5	0.4	0.4	-1.6	-0.5	4.0	0.7	1.6	-1.6	-2.3	-1.3
D	-1.8	-2.3	-2.5	-2.1	-2.8	-2.2	-4.9	-6.3	-7.3	-8.7	-9.5	-9.0
EL (6)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
F	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.7	3.7	4.1	4.6	5.0	4.3	3.3
IRL	1.1	0.9	0.7	0.7	1.5	:	6.9	5.7	5.1	3.2	3.8	:
I	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
L	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.9	0.8	1.7	1.6	1.3	2.0	2.9	3.3
NL	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.3	2.4	2.2	2.3	1.6	1.7	1.5
A	-0.4	-0.9	-1.3	-1.6	-1.7	-0.9	-1.5	-1.1	-1.0	-4.4	-5.7	-5.3
P (4)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN (7)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
S (5)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK (8)	:	:	:	:	:	:	5.3	1.0	0.7	0.9	2.1	6.2

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

<sup>1</sup> Data available present less than 60% of the weight of all Member States, thus these aggregates are not calculated; <sup>2</sup> Derogation until end 2002; <sup>3</sup> Derogation until mid-2001; <sup>4</sup> Derogation until June 2002; <sup>5</sup> Derogation until April 2002; <sup>6</sup> Derogation until June 2003; <sup>7</sup> Derogation until end 2001; <sup>8</sup> Seasonal adjustment not calculated due to lack of information in the base year.

## Hours worked

The latest EU-15 data shows that the number of hours worked in the third quarter of 2001 in the construction sector fell by 0.6% compared to the quarter before, in line with the reductions observed in the last six quarters. The largest decrease occurred in Germany (-2.2%), whilst increases were observed in Luxembourg (2.1%), the Netherlands, the United Kingdom (both 0.4%) and France (0.3%).

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01
EU-15	-0.5	-0.6	-0.5	-0.7	-0.6	-0.6	-0.6	-1.6	-1.0	-2.6	-2.5	-2.3
Euro-zone (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
B	0.1	-0.4	2.2	-1.4	0.8	-0.3	8.1	2.7	6.4	0.5	1.3	0.8
DK (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
D	-4.2	-3.9	-1.3	-4.0	-4.3	-2.2	-6.4	-8.6	-8.5	-15.7	-12.1	-10.1
EL (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
F	0.5	1.2	1.2	0.9	0.5	0.3	2.0	2.4	3.1	3.9	3.9	3.0
IRL	0.0	-0.7	-0.8	-1.1	0.4	:	1.6	-0.9	-1.7	-2.6	-2.2	:
I (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
L	-2.7	-1.3	3.1	-1.3	3.0	2.1	2.5	0.0	3.1	-4.3	3.5	9.1
NL	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.4	2.6	2.4	2.6	1.3	1.9	1.6
A	-0.4	-1.8	-0.5	-2.3	-2.5	-1.4	-1.7	-4.2	0.3	-4.0	-7.4	-7.1
P (4)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	-3.7	-1.9	-2.2	-1.1	0.2	-2.1	-0.1	-5.9	-8.3	-8.8	-4.0	-5.2
S (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	2.5	1.4	-1.1	2.0	0.4	0.4	2.5	3.9	2.1	5.1	2.9	1.8

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

## Wages and salaries

Wages growth continued to contract at a rapid pace in Germany, falling by 1.7% between the second and the third quarters of 2001 - marking the sixth consecutive negative rate in excess of 1.5%. The only other reduction was observed in Finland (-0.3%).

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01
EU-15	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	4.0	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.5	0.5
Euro-zone	-0.8	-0.8	-0.6	-0.9	-0.6	-0.4	0.0	-1.6	-1.3	-3.0	-2.9	-2.4
B	-0.4	1.0	2.1	0.4	1.9	1.7	7.8	5.5	6.7	3.3	5.4	6.0
DK	1.8	0.3	1.2	0.8	1.9	1.5	11.9	4.7	7.2	4.3	4.6	4.4
D	-2.7	-2.5	-2.0	-2.5	-1.9	-1.7	-4.5	-6.0	-6.1	-9.4	-8.7	-7.8
EL (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
F	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IRL	2.3	1.9	7.5	-1.3	5.9	:	14.0	7.4	13.6	10.6	14.6	:
I	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	:	2.7	2.9	2.4	1.5	1.1	:
L	1.3	1.8	0.6	4.9	2.1	2.5	5.0	5.4	1.1	9.4	9.9	10.8
NL	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.7	7.3	5.9	7.3	8.1	7.8	7.0
A	1.3	-1.6	0.1	-0.5	-1.4	1.3	1.6	0.9	1.0	-0.3	-4.8	0.5
P (4)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	4.1	0.3	0.4	7.5	-0.2	-0.3	17.1	8.1	8.4	13.0	8.0	7.4
S (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	2.3	3.2	1.1	5.5	1.6	1.3	19.3	11.2	9.0	12.7	11.9	9.8

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

<sup>1</sup> Data available present less than 60% of the weight of all Member States, thus European aggregates are not calculated; <sup>2</sup> Derogation until end 2001; <sup>3</sup> Derogation until June 2003; <sup>4</sup> Derogation until June 2002.

## Construction costs

Construction costs for residential buildings in the EU rose by 2.3% between the second quarters of 2000 and 2001. As such, the gradual slowdown in the rate at which costs were rising continued, with a high of 3.0% being recorded in the final quarter of 2000.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, gross series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01
EU-15	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.5	2.8	2.9	3.0	2.6	2.6	2.3
Euro-zone	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.7	0.5	0.3	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.2	2.1	2.0
B (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
DK	2.0	0.9	1.2	0.9	0.5	0.3	2.1	2.4	4.8	5.1	3.5	2.9
D (2)	0.2	0.0	0.0	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.1	-0.1	-0.2
EL	0.8	0.7	1.1	0.4	0.7	:	2.4	2.5	3.0	3.0	2.9	:
E (3)	0.7	0.6	0.4	1.3	0.0	:	4.5	4.3	4.3	3.1	2.3	:
F (2)	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.7	1.1	0.5	3.7	3.4	3.4	2.6	2.9	2.8
IRL (4)	0.5	0.5	12.0	0.7	1.7	:	4.8	3.8	14.1	13.8	15.2	:
I	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.3	0.6	2.7	3.0	3.1	2.7	2.5	2.4
L (2)	0.6	1.3	0.7	1.2	1.6	0.7	2.7	3.7	3.4	3.9	4.9	4.3
NL	0.5	1.4	0.3	2.3	1.9	0.9	3.7	4.1	3.8	4.6	6.1	5.5
A	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.4	1.1	0.2	2.2	1.8	2.1	2.3	2.6	2.2
P (5)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN (4)	1.2	0.7	0.6	0.9	1.3	0.1	3.1	3.0	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.0
S	1.6	0.8	0.7	1.4	1.4	1.3	3.9	4.3	4.2	4.5	4.4	4.9
UK (2)	0.8	1.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	4.1	4.5	4.5	4.2	4.2	3.3

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

## Building permits

The number of permits issued in the EU grew by 0.4% in the third quarter of 2001. Comparing with the same quarter of the previous year the number of permits issued decreased by 6.3%, the sixth consecutive decline.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01
EU-15	-3.9	-2.0	-4.0	0.9	-3.6	0.4	-4.7	-3.4	-9.6	-8.7	-8.5	-6.3
Euro-zone	-4.2	-1.1	-4.0	-1.6	-2.3	-0.9	-5.4	-3.7	-9.8	-9.2	-9.5	-7.2
B	-12.7	2.5	-7.7	17.7	-11.0	-4.5	-8.9	-8.9	-19.4	-2.7	-0.9	-7.6
DK	16.9	-21.8	18.2	21.8	-27.8	19.1	4.7	-26.1	1.3	32.8	-19.1	23.7
D	-20.3	-2.5	-12.5	14.4	-9.1	-6.4	-32.9	-32.5	-38.8	-24.1	-10.7	-13.9
EL (6)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	1.9	1.7	0.1	-7.9	-13.0	:	-2.0	20.7	4.9	-4.5	-18.5	:
F	5.0	-0.7	-2.5	1.6	-2.1	1.6	20.6	15.1	4.2	3.3	-3.7	-1.5
IRL	0.8	-2.0	:	:	:	:	16.3	5.8	:	:	:	:
I (7)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
L (8)	41.3	8.0	:	:	:	:	38.2	54.6	:	:	:	:
NL	-5.7	-15.6	-12.0	-4.9	:	:	-3.1	-18.8	-18.0	-34.2	:	:
A (9)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
P	-14.9	-0.8	-2.8	-1.9	3.0	-2.1	-6.3	-9.5	-9.2	-19.4	-2.5	-3.7
FIN	-10.9	-18.9	5.0	-16.0	5.9	8.3	3.7	-26.6	-15.3	-36.8	-23.2	4.5
S (10)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK (11)	-5.0	-1.8	-4.7	4.9	0.0	0.0	-2.4	-0.6	-14.1	-7.5	1.5	0.0

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

<sup>1</sup> Derogation until end 2001; <sup>2</sup> Output prices for new residential buildings are used as a proxy for construction costs; <sup>3</sup> Input prices for building construction; <sup>4</sup> Input prices for 1-dwelling residential buildings; <sup>5</sup> Derogation until June 2002; <sup>6</sup> 1 month delay permitted until June 2003; <sup>7</sup> 3 month delay permitted until June 2003; data available for later periods, but not entered for technical reasons; <sup>8</sup> data available, but not entered for technical reasons; <sup>9</sup> Data available from Q1-00 onwards; <sup>10</sup> Data available from 1996 onwards as a gross series; <sup>11</sup> Building starts for houses.

## Building permits in square metres

In the euro-zone the total area of floor space for which permits were issued decreased by 3.8% in the second quarter of 2001 (compared to the previous quarter). This was in line with the decline of 2.3% in terms of the number of permits issued (see previous page). There were large increases in the floor space for which permits were issued in Denmark (6.0%) and Finland (3.9%) in the third quarter of 2001 (compared to the second quarter).

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01
EU-15	-8.2	-1.4	:	:	:	:	-3.2	-2.5	:	:	:	:
Euro-zone	-8.5	-1.6	-2.6	-0.8	-3.8	:	-3.8	-2.6	-8.2	-12.5	-8.4	:
B	-10.7	-1.1	-5.2	11.6	-2.8	-9.3	-8.3	-11.0	-20.0	-6.5	1.7	-6.6
DK	8.7	-10.9	0.3	19.1	-18.0	6.0	-4.0	-19.5	-11.1	18.0	-11.9	5.3
D	-20.7	-1.0	-6.7	6.1	-7.4	-2.7	-12.9	-14.7	-20.4	-24.5	-8.6	-10.2
EL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	2.1	-0.1	3.3	-7.0	-9.3	:	-1.6	17.1	5.6	-2.0	-12.9	:
F (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IRL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
L	24.8	-18.4	:	:	:	:	26.3	14.9	:	:	:	:
NL	-3.4	-18.3	-9.3	-1.4	:	:	-5.3	-23.7	-25.4	-29.8	:	:
A (4)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
P	-10.6	0.2	-2.8	-3.3	3.8	-3.6	-3.7	-4.8	-7.8	-16.1	-1.9	-6.0
FIN	-7.9	-15.4	2.1	-12.8	3.8	3.9	14.2	-15.4	-9.3	-30.9	-20.6	-1.5
S (5)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK (4)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

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

<sup>1</sup> 1 month delay permitted until June 2003; <sup>2</sup> Data available from 1998 onwards – however, due to the lack of a value in the base year it is impossible to compute an index; <sup>3</sup> Data available for later periods, but not entered for technical reasons; <sup>4</sup> Derogation until June 2003;

<sup>5</sup> Data available from 1996 onwards - however, 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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