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Developments for construction in the fourth quarter of 2001

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Latest construction trends

Output of the EU's construction sector continued its upward trend during the fourth quarter of 2001. Production rose by 0.7% compared to the same quarter of 2000, marking the third consecutive improvement on the previous quarter's figure. A similar, improving trend was observed in the euro-zone, although negative rates continued to be posted throughout 2001; in the final quarter of 2001 there was almost no change in output in the euro-zone, as production fell by 0.1% compared to a year before.

Quarter on quarter growth rates for the production index in the EU have been positive since the second quarter of 2001. Comparing the fourth quarter with the third, construction output rose by 1.2%, whilst the corresponding rate in the euro-zone was 0.9%.

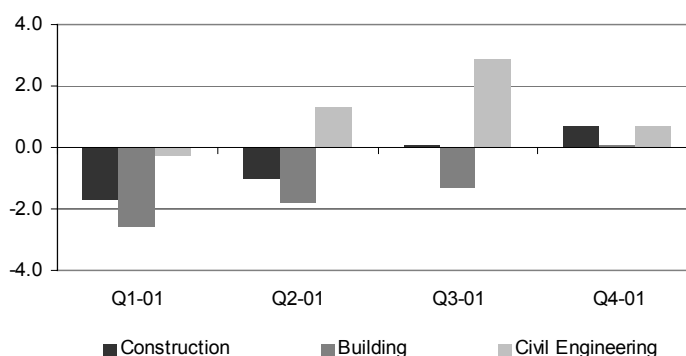


Figure 1: Production volume index for EU-15 construction, building and civil engineering, growth rates, compared to the same quarter of the previous year (%)

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	
Q1-01	-1.2	Q1-01	-1.3	Q1-01	-1.7	Q1-01	-1.6
Q2-01	0.3	Q2-01	0.0	Q2-01	-1.0	Q2-01	-1.4
Q3-01	0.3	Q3-01	0.3	Q3-01	0.1	Q3-01	-0.6
Q4-01	1.2	Q4-01	0.9	Q4-01	0.7	Q4-01	-0.1

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



Production indices for construction

The EU's Member States displayed a varied pattern of development in their construction sectors. Comparing the fourth quarter of 2001 with the same quarter of 2000, growth rates were as high as 10.1% in Luxembourg, 6.5% in the United Kingdom and 5.4% in Spain, while declines of 3.7% in Germany and 4.2% in Austria were also observed.

Two quarter on quarter positive growth rates (1.7% in the third quarter and by 0.8% in the fourth quarter of 2001) for the German construction sector had a marked effect on the year on year rate which improved at a rapid pace, but remained negative, at -3.7% between the final quarters of 2000 and 2001.

In the United Kingdom quarter on quarter growth rates of 1.0% and 2.1% respectively in the second half of 2001 meant that construction output grew for five consecutive quarters, leading to a year on year growth rate of 6.5% in the fourth quarter of 2001, which was considerably higher than the two preceding quarters (3.1% followed by 5.7%).

The Spanish construction sector displayed the opposite picture, with a slowing of year on year growth rates. Nevertheless, in the fourth quarter of 2001, Spanish construction output rose by 5.4% compared to a year before. There was a slowdown in the rate of growth of construction output on the basis of quarter on quarter rates in Spain, with output rising by 0.2% in the third quarter of 2001 and 1.1% in the fourth quarter; both of these rates were significantly lower than those witnessed during the second half of 2000 and first half of 2001 (at around 2%).

At the opposite end of the spectrum, Denmark reported the lowest growth rate compared the previous quarter, -3.0% during the last quarter of 2001. Danish construction output declined by 0.9% on the basis of a comparison with the previous year, while the corresponding rate at the beginning of the year had been much lower (-8.4%).

The highest positive at quarter on quarter growth rate the end of 2001 was posted in Belgium (4.2%). This figure, however, could not avert a decline of 3.1% in output in comparison with the fourth quarter of 2000, as three consecutive negative quarter on quarter growth rates were recorded in the first three quarters of 2001.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted series					
	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01
EU-15	-0.8	0.7	-1.2	0.3	0.3	1.2	0.7	0.8	-1.7	-1.0	0.1	0.7
Euro-zone	-0.6	0.6	-1.3	0.0	0.3	0.9	0.9	1.0	-1.6	-1.4	-0.6	-0.1
B	0.3	5.0	-2.4	-3.8	-1.1	4.2	1.2	2.6	0.1	0.7	-0.3	-3.1
DK	-5.0	-4.1	3.1	0.4	-1.3	-3.0	3.0	-2.9	-8.4	-5.7	-1.9	-0.9
D	-2.8	-0.2	-4.4	-1.8	1.7	0.8	-5.3	-5.7	-12.8	-8.3	-4.3	-3.7
EL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	1.9	1.8	2.2	1.9	0.2	1.1	7.2	7.0	7.5	8.4	6.1	5.4
F	0.5	0.3	-1.0	-0.2	-0.4	0.1	2.5	4.0	0.7	-0.6	-1.6	-0.9
IRL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I (2)	3.3	-2.8	2.0	0.5	:	:	10.0	3.2	4.0	3.0	:	:
L	0.1	1.0	-0.1	3.1	3.0	2.2	3.6	4.1	-3.6	3.3	8.4	10.1
NL	0.0	0.7	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.5	3.8	1.0	-0.2	3.3	0.5
A	-0.3	2.2	0.4	-4.3	0.4	-0.8	-2.4	1.4	4.6	-2.9	-1.7	-4.2
P (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	-2.8	3.3	4.4	-3.6	-2.0	0.6	3.8	6.6	4.0	1.4	2.1	-2.1
S	-1.7	1.5	-0.3	0.4	0.5	1.3	0.8	4.4	0.8	0.1	1.7	2.2
UK	-1.7	1.5	1.9	1.3	1.0	2.1	-1.1	-0.3	-1.2	3.1	5.7	6.5

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

¹ Derogation until end 2001; ² 4 month delay permitted until end 2001; ³ Derogation until end 2002.

Production indices for building

In the last quarter of 2001, the euro-zone's building construction sector displayed its first positive growth rate (0.7%, compared to the previous quarter) in the last six quarters. Developments in the EU were even more positive (1.1%) and fed through such that compared to a year before, there was a slight increase in output of 0.1%.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted series					
	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01
EU-15	-0.7	0.1	-1.5	0.3	0.0	1.1	1.3	1.4	-2.6	-1.8	-1.3	0.1
Euro-zone	-0.4	-0.1	-1.6	-0.1	-0.2	0.7	1.5	1.6	-2.6	-2.3	-2.3	-0.7
B	-1.0	7.3	-5.8	2.7	-3.9	2.9	-3.2	9.2	-3.1	3.0	-1.0	-4.2
DK	-5.5	-5.1	1.5	3.1	-1.6	-3.4	3.8	-5.0	-10.8	-5.9	-2.1	-0.6
D	-2.9	-1.5	-6.0	-1.6	1.8	0.5	-5.0	-6.4	-14.1	-10.7	-6.9	-5.3
EL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	1.8	0.0	2.0	2.5	0.6	3.3	8.4	5.9	5.4	6.7	5.0	8.6
F	0.7	1.4	-2.0	-0.1	-1.0	0.9	3.4	5.2	0.3	-0.1	-2.3	-2.0
IRL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I (2)	3.9	-5.1	4.1	0.3	0.1	:	12.4	5.4	4.5	3.0	-0.9	:
L	4.7	4.8	3.3	3.8	2.0	2.2	9.4	11.3	9.4	15.0	16.5	11.8
NL	-0.1	0.5	-0.2	-0.4	-0.1	-0.8	2.1	3.6	-0.4	-1.5	1.5	-0.9
A	-0.1	0.4	-0.7	-1.9	-1.3	-1.6	-2.1	2.8	2.7	-4.2	-4.2	-5.5
P (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	-3.5	2.8	5.4	-3.1	-3.3	1.0	6.0	6.6	4.8	1.5	1.5	-1.7
S	-0.2	3.0	-1.0	0.8	-0.1	-0.1	4.3	7.8	3.6	3.1	2.5	-0.5
UK	-1.4	1.0	0.0	2.2	1.8	2.3	-1.0	0.4	-1.7	1.8	5.1	6.5

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

Production indices for civil engineering

In civil engineering sector, the EU as a whole (0.7%) reported higher output growth in the final quarter of 2001 than the euro-zone (-0.1%) on the basis of a comparison with the same quarter of a year before; this was despite a moderate quarter on quarter decline of 0.1% at the end of 2001.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted series					
	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01
EU-15	-1.3	2.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	-0.1	-1.7	-1.0	-0.3	1.3	2.9	0.7
Euro-zone	-1.2	2.3	-0.9	-0.2	0.7	0.3	-1.6	-0.5	-0.9	-0.1	1.9	-0.1
B	-7.0	8.6	-11.9	-2.7	-6.0	1.4	-9.5	-2.4	-14.5	-13.4	-12.7	-18.1
DK	-5.1	4.0	4.1	-7.1	0.6	-0.3	-1.5	7.6	5.4	-4.7	1.1	-3.0
D	-2.7	2.1	-1.4	-2.2	1.7	1.2	-5.5	-4.7	-10.4	-4.0	0.2	-0.7
EL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	1.1	6.0	4.4	-0.5	-0.9	-0.5	2.0	5.8	11.3	11.3	9.1	2.5
F	-0.7	0.6	0.2	-0.8	0.2	0.6	0.5	2.3	2.2	-1.0	-0.2	0.5
IRL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I (4)	4.1	0.4	-1.8	0.7	:	:	4.8	-1.5	2.5	3.3	:	:
L	-5.6	0.0	-2.2	-1.2	4.1	7.6	-1.4	-2.7	-16.0	-7.5	0.6	8.2
NL	-2.7	4.0	1.1	1.0	2.3	1.5	-2.9	4.3	5.1	3.1	8.4	4.7
A	-0.3	3.6	4.7	-7.7	3.7	-0.6	-3.2	-3.1	12.0	0.7	5.0	-0.1
P (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	-0.5	6.9	-0.2	-5.5	3.8	-1.1	-2.8	6.5	-0.1	1.2	4.2	-3.5
S	-3.5	-1.1	-1.1	0.0	2.5	3.4	-8.9	-2.9	-7.6	-9.1	-1.3	9.1
UK	-2.4	2.9	5.4	8.0	-4.3	-2.7	-1.9	-5.4	3.8	14.2	12.1	5.9

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

¹ Derogation until June 2003; ² 2 month delay permitted until 2003; ³ Derogation until June 2002; ⁴ 4 month delay permitted until 2003.

New orders

The decline in German new orders for construction picked up speed again during the last two quarters of 2001 (-7.2% after -4.3%, compared to the respective quarters in 2000). Larger declines were reported in Austria (-35.3%) and Finland (-20.0%).

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01
EU-15 (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Euro-zone (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
B	11.9	2.6	-9.8	7.0	-4.1	-3.5	14.9	5.4	-2.5	10.9	-5.1	-10.7
DK (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
D	-4.9	2.3	-1.0	1.9	-7.4	-0.1	-16.4	-10.6	-9.9	-1.5	-4.3	-7.2
EL (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	-12.8	6.9	-6.5	-0.7	6.4	-8.8	12.2	12.3	-3.4	-13.5	6.5	-10.3
F (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IRL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
L	-23.5	38.9	12.4	-7.4	19.2	-21.3	-11.8	73.2	26.4	8.9	75.4	-2.5
NL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
A	-2.3	0.8	-3.6	-1.1	-1.0	-32.5	0.1	5.3	-4.1	-6.9	-5.3	-35.3
P (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	-7.6	14.1	-11.6	-3.8	-2.1	-3.1	-8.6	18.4	-8.2	-10.8	-5.3	-20.0
S (4)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	-5.1	-4.9	12.0	-9.4	8.7	-9.3	9.8	-0.2	13.6	-8.4	5.0	-0.1

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

Employment

The number of persons employed in the EU's construction sector increased for the fifth consecutive quarter (compared to a quarter before), contributing to a year on year growth rate of 0.9% in the final quarter of 2001.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01
EU-15	-0.6	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.3	-0.4	0.2	1.0	0.9
Euro-zone	-0.2	0.2	-0.2	0.0	-0.1	-0.3	0.1	0.2	-0.7	-0.2	-0.1	-0.5
B	0.7	1.3	0.2	0.7	0.6	0.5	4.1	4.3	3.0	3.0	2.8	2.0
DK	-1.5	0.3	0.8	-1.7	-0.5	-0.6	0.7	1.6	-1.6	-2.3	-1.3	-2.0
D	-2.4	-2.6	-3.4	-1.6	-2.2	-2.5	-6.3	-7.3	-11.6	-9.5	-9.0	-9.0
EL (5)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E (6)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
F	1.0	1.0	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.3	4.6	4.5	3.5	3.3	2.7	2.0
IRL	1.3	1.2	0.1	0.6	-0.8	-1.4	5.7	5.1	3.2	3.8	1.5	-1.9
I	1.0	1.6	1.9	1.1	1.1	0.7	2.1	3.2	5.5	5.9	6.0	4.7
L	0.5	0.4	0.8	1.1	1.0	1.3	1.6	1.3	2.0	2.9	3.3	4.4
NL (6)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
A	-0.9	-1.2	-1.7	-1.8	-0.9	-0.6	-1.1	-1.0	-4.4	-5.7	-5.3	-4.5
P (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	-2.7	0.4	-1.0	-2.1	1.8	1.3	-4.5	-1.2	-3.6	-5.6	-1.0	0.2
S (7)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK (8)	:	:	:	:	:	:	1.0	0.7	0.9	2.1	6.2	7.4

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 until end 2002; ³ Derogation until June 2002; ⁴ Derogation until April 2002; ⁵ Derogation until June 2003; ⁶ Data not published due to unreliable quality; ⁷ Derogation until end 2001; ⁸ Seasonal adjustment not calculated due to lack of information in the base year.

Hours worked

Between the fourth quarters of 2000 and 2001, the number of hours worked in the construction sector fell by 1.1% in the EU and 2.1% in the euro-zone. These figures were largely influenced by a decline of 10.2% in Germany, while increases were recorded in the majority of the remaining Member States.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01
EU-15	0.1	-0.1	-0.6	-0.4	-0.5	0.0	0.6	1.1	-0.6	-1.1	-2.0	-1.1
Euro-zone	-0.2	-0.4	-0.7	-0.6	-0.7	-0.6	0.0	0.8	-1.6	-1.8	-2.7	-2.1
B	-0.3	2.2	-1.4	0.7	-0.2	0.6	2.7	6.4	0.5	1.3	0.8	-0.2
DK	-0.6	0.4	-0.4	-1.2	-0.5	-0.7	1.4	3.7	0.5	-2.1	-1.8	-2.8
D	-3.7	-1.9	-3.8	-3.9	-1.9	-1.4	-8.6	-8.5	-15.7	-12.1	-10.1	-10.2
EL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	3.1	0.9	1.7	-0.7	-1.7	1.9	8.7	8.9	6.2	5.1	0.1	1.2
F	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.2	3.2	3.3	3.1	2.7	2.3	1.6
IRL	-0.7	-0.8	-1.1	0.4	:	:	-0.9	-1.7	-2.6	-2.2	:	:
I (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
L	-1.1	1.2	0.6	3.5	2.6	3.0	0.0	3.1	-4.3	3.5	9.1	12.0
NL (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
A	-1.7	-0.5	-2.3	-2.4	-1.3	-0.5	-4.2	0.3	-4.0	-7.4	-7.1	-5.6
P (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	-1.5	-3.8	-0.1	0.9	-1.4	2.9	-5.9	-8.3	-8.8	-4.0	-5.2	3.0
S	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	1.6	-1.7	2.2	0.6	0.8	1.1	3.9	2.1	5.1	2.9	1.8	4.5

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

Wages and salaries

Continuing a two-year long trend, wages and salaries in the German construction sector fell, by 1.8% compared to the third quarter of 2001 and by 7.2% compared to the same quarter of a year before. There was relatively high wage growth in Belgium (3.2%) and Spain (2.0%) in the final quarter of 2001 (compared to the preceding quarter).

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01
EU-15	0.4	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	2.7	2.9	2.6	2.3	2.0	1.3
Euro-zone	0.0	0.3	-0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.1	1.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2
B	1.2	1.5	0.7	2.3	2.0	3.2	5.5	6.7	3.3	5.4	6.0	9.4
DK	0.0	2.5	-0.5	1.4	1.0	0.9	4.7	7.2	4.3	4.3	4.4	1.3
D	-2.4	-2.3	-2.4	-1.8	-1.6	-1.8	-6.0	-6.1	-9.4	-8.7	-7.8	-7.2
EL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	2.3	3.5	1.9	2.5	1.9	2.0	10.7	14.6	11.2	12.4	9.6	8.1
F	1.9	1.5	2.5	0.9	1.1	0.9	7.3	7.2	7.5	7.0	6.0	5.3
IRL	1.9	7.5	-1.3	5.9	:	:	7.4	13.6	10.6	14.6	:	:
I	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	:	:	2.9	2.4	1.5	1.1	:	:
L	1.6	1.9	3.9	1.7	2.0	-1.2	5.4	1.1	9.4	9.9	10.8	5.3
NL (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
A	-1.7	0.5	-0.9	-1.6	1.1	-1.4	0.9	1.0	-0.3	-4.8	0.5	-3.0
P (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	0.5	0.2	8.0	-0.6	0.2	-1.9	8.1	8.4	13.3	8.3	7.6	3.9
S	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	1.5	1.4	6.2	2.3	-0.7	-0.9	11.2	9.0	12.7	11.9	9.4	6.9

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

¹ Derogation until June 2003; ² Data not published due to unreliable quality; ³ Derogation until end 2002.

Construction costs

The increase in construction costs in the EU slowed towards the end of 2001, as the year on year growth rate was equal to 2.0% (and 1.6% in the euro-zone), after having been above 2% since the final quarter of 1999; there was little or no change in costs in the final quarter of 2001 in the EU or the euro-zone (compared to the quarter before).

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, gross series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01
EU-15	0.7	0.5	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.1	2.9	3.0	2.7	2.7	2.4	2.0
Euro-zone	0.5	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.3	0.0	2.5	2.6	2.2	2.3	2.1	1.6
B (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
DK	0.9	1.2	0.9	0.5	0.3	0.7	2.4	4.8	5.1	3.5	2.9	2.4
D (2)	0.0	0.0	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	-0.2	0.3	0.3	0.1	-0.1	-0.2	-0.4
EL	0.7	1.1	0.4	0.7	0.5	0.6	2.5	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.3
E (3)	0.6	0.4	1.6	0.5	0.2	-0.5	4.3	4.3	3.4	3.2	2.7	1.7
F	0.6	0.5	0.7	1.1	0.5	0.2	3.4	3.4	2.6	2.9	2.8	2.6
IRL (4)	0.5	12.0	0.7	1.7	:	:	3.8	14.1	13.8	15.2	:	:
I	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.3	0.6	0.3	3.0	3.1	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.1
L (2)	1.3	0.7	1.2	1.6	0.7	0.1	3.7	3.4	3.9	4.9	4.3	3.6
NL	1.4	0.3	2.3	1.9	0.9	0.0	4.1	3.8	4.6	6.1	5.5	5.2
A	0.6	0.5	0.4	1.1	0.2	-0.3	1.8	2.1	2.3	2.6	2.2	1.4
P (5)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	0.7	0.6	0.9	1.3	0.1	-0.8	3.0	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.0	1.6
S	0.8	0.7	1.4	1.4	1.3	0.1	4.3	4.2	4.5	4.4	4.9	4.2
UK (2)	1.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	4.5	4.5	4.2	4.2	3.3	3.3

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

Building permits

The number of building permits issued in the United Kingdom grew by 7.0% between the third and fourth quarters of 2001. This rapid growth could not offset the declines in most other Member States, as the EU figure fell by 0.8%.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01
EU-15	-2.5	-3.5	-0.4	-1.7	0.8	-0.8	-3.2	-9.5	-8.6	-9.0	-3.2	-1.6
Euro-zone	-2.5	-3.4	-1.2	-1.8	0.3	-0.8	-3.7	-9.8	-9.1	-10.1	-3.8	-2.9
B	3.1	-8.2	19.2	-12.2	-2.9	2.8	-8.9	-19.4	-1.4	-0.9	-6.6	4.8
DK	-21.7	24.9	20.3	-29.0	23.3	-18.1	-24.8	5.2	38.6	-16.9	32.0	-14.0
D	-2.6	-11.2	6.0	-2.8	-6.1	-6.4	-32.5	-38.8	-24.1	-10.7	-13.9	-9.9
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	0.4	1.5	-8.3	-12.7	18.1	:	20.7	4.9	-4.5	-18.5	-4.1	:
F	0.6	-3.2	-2.8	1.7	3.1	-2.9	14.8	4.1	3.2	-3.7	-1.3	-1.0
IRL	-2.0	:	:	:	:	:	5.8	:	:	:	:	:
I (6)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
L (6)	8.0	:	:	:	:	:	54.6	:	:	:	:	:
NL	-22.4	-12.2	-0.9	-10.8	32.4	:	-18.8	-18.0	-34.2	-42.0	-0.8	:
A (7)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
P	-1.7	-0.3	-4.4	3.8	-2.9	-9.7	-9.5	-9.2	-19.4	-2.5	-3.7	-13.3
FIN	-19.7	7.8	-15.0	4.6	6.9	-7.4	-26.6	-15.3	-36.1	-22.5	5.7	-10.5
S (8)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK (9)	-1.8	-4.7	4.9	0.0	0.0	7.0	-0.6	-14.1	-7.5	1.5	0.0	14.8

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 building construction; ⁴ Input prices for 1-dwelling residential buildings; ⁵ Base year 2000; impossible to compute an index from 1995 onwards; ⁶ Data not entered for technical reasons; ⁷ Impossible to compute an index from 1995 onwards; data available from Q1-00 onwards; ⁸ Impossible to compute an index from 1995 onwards; data available from 1996 onwards; ⁹ Building starts for houses.

Building permits in square metres

The recent downward trend in the total area for which building permits were issued in the euro-zone (established since the second quarter of 2000) was reversed between the second and third quarters of 2001, as the area for which permits were issued grew by 4.9%. Compared to a year earlier, the total area for which permits were issued was still down 3.0% in the euro-zone (a marked improvement on the two quarters before, -12.4% and -9.0%).

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01
EU-15	4.1	:	:	:	:	:	-2.6	:	:	:	:	:
Euro-zone	-2.4	-2.3	-0.6	-4.5	4.9	:	-2.6	-8.2	-12.4	-9.0	-3.0	:
B	-1.1	-5.1	12.7	-4.8	-9.3	0.6	-11.0	-20.0	-5.7	0.7	-7.5	-2.2
DK	-12.1	4.9	18.1	-19.1	13.6	-7.3	-19.0	-8.1	20.7	-11.4	15.7	1.1
D	-1.5	-6.0	5.9	-7.4	-3.4	-5.9	-14.7	-20.4	-24.5	-8.6	-10.2	-11.5
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	-0.6	3.6	-6.8	-9.2	14.9	:	17.1	5.6	-2.0	-12.9	0.7	:
F (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IRL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
L	-18.4	:	:	:	:	:	14.9	:	:	:	:	:
NL	-23.0	-8.4	-0.3	-14.3	28.5	:	-23.7	-25.4	-29.8	-39.7	0.7	:
A (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
P	-0.5	-0.8	-4.8	3.4	-4.2	-5.9	-4.8	-7.8	-16.1	-1.9	-6.0	-11.8
FIN	-15.8	4.0	-12.3	3.2	3.6	-4.5	-15.4	-9.3	-30.1	-20.0	-0.2	-9.5
S (4)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

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

¹ Impossible to compute an index from 1995 onwards; data available from 1998 onwards; ² Data available for later periods, but not entered for technical reasons; ³ Derogation until June 2003; ⁴ Impossible to compute an index from 1995 onwards; data available from 1996 onwards.

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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