

Developments for construction in the first quarter of 2002

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Latest construction trends

The upward trend of production in the EU's construction sector, which started in the third quarter of 2001, continued and increased during the first quarter of 2002. When compared to the same quarter of a year before, production rose by 1.8%. A similar trend was observed in the euro-zone, with a 1.0% increase, although here growth started only in the final quarter of 2001.

Quarter on quarter growth rates for the production index in the EU indicate that the first quarter of 2002 was the fourth consecutive quarter for which an increase was recorded in construction, although growth was lower than in the previous three quarters, with output rising by only 0.1% in both the EU and the euro-zone.

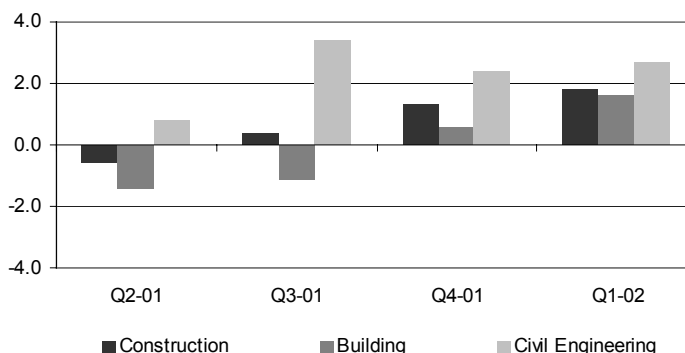


Figure 1: Production volume index for EU construction, building and civil engineering, growth rates, compared to the same quarter of the previous year (%)

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	
Q2-01	0.5	Q2-01	0.2	Q2-01	-0.6	Q2-01	-0.9
Q3-01	0.4	Q3-01	0.2	Q3-01	0.4	Q3-01	-0.4
Q4-01	0.8	Q4-01	0.5	Q4-01	1.3	Q4-01	0.6
Q1-02	0.1	Q1-02	0.1	Q1-02	1.8	Q1-02	1.0

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

Statistics in focus

INDUSTRY, TRADE AND SERVICES

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Production indices for construction

Among the ten Member States for which data is available the highest output growth was recorded in Luxembourg, where production in the construction sector grew by 9.6% between the first quarter of 2001 and the first quarter of 2002.

Of the largest Member States a similar year on year growth was recorded in Spain and in the United Kingdom, with rates of 8.3% and 8.2% respectively. Based on a quarter on quarter comparison, the Spanish construction sector has recorded an unbroken series of positive growth rates for at least five years, whilst the United Kingdom last recorded negative rates of change in the middle of 2000.

In Germany, the decline of production in construction has steadily diminished since the 12.9% fall in the year to the first quarter of 2001 - in the first quarter of 2002 the index of production in construction was only 0.9% lower compared with the same quarter of the previous year. Nevertheless, on a quarter on quarter comparison, there was a fall of 1.8% in output after two quarters of growth in the second half of 2001.

The French decline in production in construction, which started in the second quarter of 2001, continued through into 2002, with a reduction of 2.0% between the first quarters of 2001 and 2002. Based on a quarter on quarter comparison, the decline of 1.0% was the fifth consecutive quarterly contraction since the end of 2000.

Comparing the first quarter of 2002 with the first quarter of 2001, positive rates of change were also recorded in Belgium and in Finland, with 1.4% and 2.0% respectively, and in both cases this represented a turnaround with respect to the previous quarter. The quarter on quarter comparison displayed the same positive tendency with a growth of 1.3% and 5.0% respectively.

Concerning the remaining Member States for which data was available, in the first quarter of 2002, compared to the same quarter a year before, a decline in production in construction was recorded in Denmark (-3.8%), Austria (-2.8%) and Sweden (-2.7%), though Denmark recorded an increase in production (0.6%) compared with the last quarter of 2001.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted series					
	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q1-02
EU-15	0.3	-0.6	0.5	0.4	0.8	0.1	0.7	-1.7	-0.6	0.4	1.3	1.8
Euro-zone	0.2	-0.7	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.9	-1.7	-0.9	-0.4	0.6	1.0
B	4.6	-2.3	-3.1	-1.5	4.3	1.3	2.6	0.1	0.7	-0.3	-3.1	1.4
DK	-4.1	3.2	0.5	-1.2	-3.2	0.6	-2.9	-8.5	-5.7	-1.8	-0.9	-3.8
D	-0.3	-4.4	-1.9	1.9	0.8	-1.8	-5.6	-12.9	-8.4	-4.3	-3.4	-0.9
EL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	1.3	2.3	2.2	0.5	3.2	2.0	7.0	7.6	8.4	6.2	8.5	8.3
F	0.0	-0.7	-0.2	-0.8	-0.4	-1.0	4.0	0.4	-0.5	-1.8	-1.7	-2.0
IRL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
L	1.0	-0.3	3.2	3.1	2.3	1.3	4.1	-3.6	3.3	8.4	10.1	9.6
NL (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
A	0.7	-0.1	-1.4	-0.6	-1.1	-0.7	1.4	4.6	-2.9	-1.7	-4.2	-2.8
P (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	3.7	2.5	-2.3	-1.7	-0.7	5.0	6.6	4.1	1.4	2.1	-3.3	2.0
S	1.3	0.9	-0.4	0.0	0.8	-1.9	4.5	0.6	0.1	1.6	2.3	-2.7
UK	1.5	1.9	1.3	1.0	2.1	3.0	-0.3	-1.2	3.0	5.8	6.5	8.2

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

¹ Derogation until end 2001; ² Confidential data; ³ Derogation until end 2002.

Production indices for building

In the first quarter of 2002, building construction in the EU did not show any significant change in output, with a -0.1% rate compared to the last quarter of 2001. When compared with the first quarter of 2001 though, a positive rate of 1.6% confirmed the growth which was already present in the last quarter of 2001.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted series					
	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q1-02
EU-15	0.2	-1.3	0.4	-0.1	1.3	-0.1	1.2	-2.8	-1.4	-1.1	0.6	1.6
Euro-zone	-0.1	-1.5	0.1	-0.2	0.9	0.1	1.3	-2.8	-1.9	-2.0	-0.2	1.0
B	6.2	-4.5	2.1	-3.7	1.4	-1.8	9.2	-3.1	3.0	-1.0	-4.1	-2.6
DK	-5.6	2.4	3.2	-2.0	-3.9	-3.1	-4.9	-11.1	-5.9	-2.2	-0.5	-5.9
D	-1.6	-5.8	-1.8	1.8	0.7	-3.0	-6.2	-14.2	-10.9	-6.9	-5.1	-2.3
EL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	0.1	1.3	3.0	0.7	4.0	4.3	5.9	5.1	6.7	5.0	9.2	12.8
F	0.8	-1.3	-0.3	-0.8	-0.3	-0.5	5.0	0.1	-0.3	-2.3	-2.1	-1.9
IRL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
L	4.7	4.0	3.2	1.9	2.1	-0.8	11.3	9.4	15.0	16.5	11.8	6.7
NL	0.5	-0.6	-0.2	0.6	0.1	1.0	3.0	0.7	-1.7	1.6	-1.6	2.5
A	0.4	-0.9	-1.8	-1.1	-1.2	-0.9	2.8	2.7	-4.2	-4.2	-5.5	-3.8
P (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	3.2	3.4	-1.8	-3.0	-2.1	8.2	6.7	4.9	1.4	1.3	-4.9	2.5
S	2.6	0.2	0.1	-0.6	-1.0	-2.1	7.8	3.1	3.1	2.5	-0.5	-4.5
UK	1.0	0.0	2.9	1.1	2.3	0.9	0.4	-1.7	2.8	5.1	6.5	7.4

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

Production indices for civil engineering

In the first quarter of 2002, the growth in civil engineering reported in the EU (2.7%) was higher than the growth in the euro-zone (0.6%) on the basis of a comparison with the same quarter of a year before, due to above average increases recorded in the United Kingdom (15.0%), Denmark (6.1%) and Sweden (4.4%).

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted series					
	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q1-02
EU-15	2.2	0.5	0.2	0.6	1.2	0.3	-0.7	0.1	0.8	3.4	2.4	2.7
Euro-zone	1.7	0.6	-0.1	0.3	1.1	-0.7	-0.2	-0.5	0.5	2.4	1.9	0.6
B	8.4	-11.6	-2.8	-6.0	1.5	-3.6	-2.4	-14.5	-13.4	-12.7	-17.8	-10.6
DK	3.8	1.2	-5.0	1.7	0.5	8.4	7.6	7.1	-4.7	1.1	-2.3	6.1
D	2.0	-1.8	-1.9	1.8	1.2	0.0	-4.6	-10.6	-4.0	0.1	-0.6	2.0
EL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	4.7	5.0	0.2	-0.9	5.6	-2.5	5.8	11.2	11.3	9.0	10.1	2.2
F	1.2	0.7	-1.4	-0.9	1.0	-0.9	1.4	1.5	-1.0	-0.4	-0.5	-2.3
IRL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
L	-0.3	-2.5	-0.8	4.3	7.2	0.4	-2.7	-16.0	-7.5	0.6	8.2	13.3
NL	3.9	2.1	-0.2	2.4	0.9	2.3	3.7	6.2	2.8	8.6	4.1	6.4
A	3.9	3.9	-7.4	3.8	-0.4	5.9	-3.1	12.0	0.7	5.0	-0.1	1.2
P (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	6.0	-0.6	-4.3	3.4	4.6	-5.9	6.5	0.0	1.1	4.0	1.9	-1.8
S	-1.3	-0.5	-0.4	2.0	2.8	-0.2	-3.0	-7.5	-9.1	-1.3	9.0	4.4
UK	2.8	3.6	1.6	3.5	-2.4	11.6	-5.4	3.8	4.8	12.0	5.9	15.0

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

¹ Derogation until June 2003; ² Confidential data; ³ Derogation until June 2002.

New orders

A large increase in new orders in construction was observed in Austria and the United Kingdom (13.8% and 13.9% respectively) between the last quarter of 2001 and the first of 2002. Overall however, a large decline in orders was observed in the EU and the euro-zone in the last quarter of 2001 when comparing to both the previous quarter and the same quarter of a year before.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q1-02
EU-15	3.5	-1.6	-2.0	2.7	-5.0	:	2.3	-1.2	-7.3	4.1	-6.6	:
Euro-zone	5.7	-4.3	0.4	2.1	-6.1	:	2.9	-5.0	-7.0	3.9	-8.1	:
B	2.4	-9.2	6.8	-4.3	-3.7	-2.7	5.4	-2.5	10.9	-5.1	-10.7	-4.3
DK (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
D	2.5	-2.0	2.4	-7.1	0.2	2.7	-10.6	-9.9	-1.5	-4.3	-7.2	-2.2
EL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	7.2	-5.1	-1.3	9.2	-9.6	-1.4	12.3	-3.4	-13.5	10.9	-7.8	-4.3
F (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IRL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
L	40.4	2.6	-6.6	24.1	-15.3	-0.8	73.2	26.4	8.9	75.4	-2.5	-4.9
NL	4.5	2.1	-2.3	10.5	-4.8	:	1.8	-2.3	-8.5	15.6	4.7	:
A	1.8	-6.4	0.6	-0.5	-30.6	13.8	5.3	-4.1	-6.9	-5.3	-35.3	-19.6
P (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	13.6	-5.9	-8.6	-4.2	-2.0	-10.5	18.4	-2.8	-9.7	-6.3	-19.8	-24.2
S (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	-5.2	12.1	-9.4	9.0	-9.7	13.9	-0.2	13.6	-8.4	5.0	-0.1	1.5

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

Employment

On the basis of a quarter on previous quarter comparison, the number of persons employed in the EU's construction sector increased by 0.8% in the first quarter of 2002, the sixth consecutive positive rate of change, contributing to a year on year growth rate of 2.3% in the first quarter of 2002.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q1-02
EU-15	0.3	0.7	1.0	0.3	0.2	0.8	1.6	0.8	2.0	2.2	2.1	2.3
Euro-zone	0.5	0.4	0.8	0.0	0.2	1.0	1.7	0.9	2.0	1.7	1.4	2.0
B	1.2	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.1	4.3	3.0	3.0	2.8	2.0	1.3
DK	0.2	0.6	-1.4	-0.6	-0.6	0.9	1.6	-1.6	-2.3	-1.3	-2.0	-1.5
D	-2.3	-7.9	3.2	-2.2	-2.4	-2.4	-7.3	-14.0	-9.5	-9.0	-9.0	-3.9
EL (4)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	1.6	2.7	2.1	0.6	1.7	2.2	6.9	7.9	9.1	7.2	7.2	6.7
F	1.0	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.1	4.5	3.5	3.3	2.7	2.0	1.5
IRL	1.2	0.1	0.6	-0.8	-1.3	-0.3	5.1	3.2	3.8	1.5	-1.8	-2.3
I	1.5	2.0	1.3	0.9	0.4	0.3	3.2	5.5	5.9	6.0	4.7	3.0
L	0.3	1.0	1.1	0.8	1.1	0.7	1.3	2.0	2.9	3.3	4.4	3.8
NL (5)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
A	-1.1	-2.0	-1.7	-0.8	-0.7	-0.4	-1.2	-4.7	-5.9	-5.3	-4.9	-3.5
P (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	0.4	-1.0	-2.1	1.8	1.3	0.1	-1.2	-3.6	-5.6	-1.0	0.2	1.3
S (6)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK (7)	:	:	:	:	:	:	0.7	1.0	2.4	6.2	7.4	4.5

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

¹ Derogation until end 2002; ² Derogation until June 2002; ³ Derogation until April 2002; ⁴ Derogation until June 2003; ⁵ Data not published due to unreliable quality; ⁶ Derogation until end 2001; ⁷ Seasonal adjustment not calculated due to lack of information in the base year.

Hours worked

The reduction observed in the number of hours worked in the construction sector has continued in the first quarter of 2002 in both the EU and the euro-zone. However, the reduction in the EU continued to be smaller than in the euro-zone, due to the increased number of hours worked recorded in the United Kingdom.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q1-02
EU-15	-0.2	-0.6	-0.3	-0.5	-0.3	-0.5	1.1	-1.8	-1.1	-1.8	-1.3	-1.9
Euro-zone	-0.1	-1.3	-0.3	-0.9	-0.5	-0.7	0.8	-3.1	-1.8	-2.6	-2.5	-3.0
B	2.1	-0.8	0.2	-0.4	0.2	-0.7	6.4	0.5	1.3	0.8	-0.2	-1.3
DK	0.1	0.2	-1.4	-0.4	-0.2	-1.1	3.7	0.5	-2.1	-1.8	-1.3	-3.2
D	-0.9	-8.0	-1.4	-1.4	0.1	-2.0	-8.5	-21.4	-12.1	-10.1	-10.2	-6.1
EL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	0.5	3.0	-1.1	-2.3	0.4	-3.5	8.9	6.2	5.1	0.1	-0.1	-6.4
F	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.0	3.3	3.1	2.7	2.3	1.6	0.9
IRL	-0.8	-1.1	0.1	-0.6	-0.2	-0.4	-1.7	-2.6	-2.9	-2.4	-1.8	-1.1
I (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
L	1.1	1.0	3.0	2.4	2.6	-0.9	3.1	-4.3	3.5	9.1	12.0	6.0
NL (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
A	-0.1	-2.9	-1.6	-0.9	-1.4	-0.5	0.3	-5.2	-7.4	-5.6	-6.9	-3.5
P (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	-3.7	-0.3	1.1	-1.3	3.0	-0.2	-8.3	-8.8	-4.0	-5.2	3.0	2.7
S	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	-1.7	2.3	0.6	1.1	1.4	0.3	2.2	5.3	2.8	2.3	5.2	3.6

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

Wages and salaries

Wages and salaries in the German construction sector continued their negative trend, losing 2.5% compared to the last quarter of 2001 and 7.8% compared to the same quarter of a year before. No changes were observed in the EU as a whole compared to the last quarter of 2001, whilst a decrease of 0.4% (-0.7% in the euro-zone) was reported compared to the first quarter of 2001.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q1-02
EU-15	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.0	3.0	2.8	2.5	2.2	1.6	-0.4
Euro-zone	0.3	0.1	0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.4	1.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	-0.7
B	1.5	0.7	2.3	2.0	3.2	:	6.7	3.3	5.4	6.0	9.4	1.5
DK	2.8	0.8	0.0	1.1	0.2	0.9	7.2	4.3	4.3	5.7	1.3	0.8
D	-2.2	-1.9	-2.3	-1.7	-1.7	-2.5	-6.1	-9.4	-8.7	-7.8	-7.2	-7.8
EL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	3.1	2.4	1.4	1.0	0.4	-0.6	14.6	11.2	12.4	9.6	7.2	-1.6
F	1.5	2.2	1.0	1.3	1.6	0.8	7.2	7.5	7.0	6.1	6.2	4.9
IRL	8.9	-2.3	1.2	2.4	3.9	2.2	44.3	10.6	9.3	10.2	5.2	10.0
I	0.3	0.2	0.2	:	:	:	2.4	1.5	1.1	:	:	:
L	1.9	3.9	1.7	2.0	-1.2	2.5	1.1	9.4	9.9	10.8	5.3	5.0
NL (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
A	0.5	-1.2	-1.4	1.2	-1.3	0.4	1.0	-0.3	-4.8	0.5	-3.0	-0.6
P (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	2.6	6.0	0.4	-0.6	-1.9	4.3	8.4	13.3	8.3	7.6	4.0	1.6
S	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	1.4	6.2	2.3	-0.7	-0.9	:	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

After the slowdown in the rate of increase of construction costs recorded in the EU during 2001, a higher increase was recorded in the first quarter of 2002 (1.1% compared to the previous quarter). This increased rate of change was mainly due to increases in the rate in Spain, France, Italy and the Netherlands.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, gross series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q1-02
EU-15	0.5	0.8	0.7	0.4	0.1	1.1	3.0	2.6	2.7	2.3	2.0	2.3
Euro-zone	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.3	0.0	1.1	2.6	2.2	2.3	2.1	1.6	2.0
B (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
DK	1.2	0.9	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.6	4.8	5.1	3.5	2.9	2.4	2.1
D (2)	0.0	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	-0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	-0.1	-0.2	-0.4	-0.2
EL	0.9	0.4	0.9	0.4	0.4	0.9	2.8	3.2	3.1	2.7	2.2	2.6
E (3)	0.4	1.6	0.5	0.2	-0.5	1.1	4.3	3.4	3.2	2.7	1.7	1.3
F	0.5	0.7	1.1	0.5	0.2	1.1	3.4	2.6	2.9	2.8	2.6	3.0
IRL (4)	12.0	0.7	1.7	4.3	8.0	:	14.1	13.8	15.2	19.6	15.3	:
I	0.6	0.9	0.3	0.6	0.3	2.9	3.1	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.1	4.2
L (2)	0.7	1.2	1.6	0.7	0.1	-8.0	3.4	3.9	4.9	4.3	3.6	-5.8
NL	0.3	1.9	1.9	0.9	0.1	1.1	4.0	4.4	5.8	5.1	4.9	4.1
A	0.5	0.4	1.1	0.2	-0.3	0.5	2.1	2.3	2.6	2.2	1.4	1.4
P (5)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN (4)	0.6	0.9	1.3	0.1	-0.8	0.2	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.0	1.6	0.8
S	0.7	1.4	1.4	1.3	0.1	0.8	4.2	4.5	4.4	4.9	4.2	3.7
UK (2)	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	4.5	4.2	4.2	3.3	3.3	3.3

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

Building permits

The decline in the number of building permits issued in the EU, which started in the second quarter of 2000, slowed down in the first quarter of 2002, with a quarter on quarter rate of -0.4%, compared to -1.2% recorded in the previous quarter.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q1-02
EU-15	-2.5	-2.3	-1.5	-0.4	-1.2	-0.4	-6.2	-8.4	-9.1	-4.6	-5.5	-2.8
Euro-zone	-3.8	-2.3	-2.1	-0.8	-2.2	:	-6.1	-9.0	-10.3	-5.4	-6.8	:
B	-8.4	19.5	-12.3	-2.9	2.6	-0.2	-19.4	-1.4	-0.9	-6.6	4.8	-12.9
DK (6)	24.9	20.3	-29.0	23.3	-18.1	:	11.0	40.8	-10.0	32.9	-15.8	-21.2
D	-10.6	3.5	-2.1	-5.1	-5.3	3.9	-38.8	-24.1	-10.7	-13.9	-9.9	-8.1
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	1.8	-8.5	-12.8	18.1	-4.0	:	4.9	-4.5	-18.5	-4.1	-9.5	:
F	-2.2	1.7	-2.1	1.4	-1.9	-0.8	4.0	3.1	-3.7	-1.3	-0.9	-3.4
IRL (6)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I (6)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
L	-22.9	13.6	-20.0	20.0	-8.1	-17.5	-37.1	17.7	-40.4	-13.5	1.7	-29.4
NL	-10.9	-3.0	-11.8	33.4	:	:	-18.0	-34.2	-42.0	-0.8	:	:
A (7)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
P	-2.0	-10.1	10.1	-0.8	-11.7	:	-9.2	-25.8	-2.5	-3.7	-13.3	:
FIN	8.0	-14.7	4.4	7.5	-8.0	-4.2	-15.3	-35.9	-22.5	6.8	-10.4	-1.6
S (8)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK (6) (9)	-4.7	4.9	0.0	0.0	7.0	:	-14.1	-7.5	1.5	0.0	11.8	9.2

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 Missing 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

Despite the decline in the number of residential building permits, the total area for which such permits were issued increased substantially in the first quarter of 2002 in Belgium (20.3% compared to the quarter before) and Germany (9.1%).

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q1-02
EU-15	-2.0	-1.9	-1.4	1.1	:	:	-5.8	-10.4	-8.4	-2.5	:	:
Euro-zone	-2.1	-2.4	-1.4	0.4	-2.4	:	-6.4	-10.7	-8.4	-2.7	-6.0	:
B	-5.0	11.3	-3.9	-9.1	0.7	20.3	-20.0	-5.7	0.7	-7.5	-2.2	5.9
DK (1)	4.9	18.1	-19.1	13.6	-7.3	:	-6.4	19.4	-10.7	13.3	-1.7	-22.7
D	-5.0	2.1	-5.7	-2.2	-4.2	9.1	-20.4	-24.5	-8.6	-10.2	-11.5	-3.3
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	4.1	-7.2	-9.2	14.7	-5.1	:	5.6	-2.0	-12.9	0.7	-8.2	:
F (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IRL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
L	-0.9	-1.3	-17.9	21.1	-7.1	-14.1	-26.6	3.6	-33.6	1.3	-6.7	-22.7
NL	-8.4	-0.3	-14.3	28.5	:	:	-25.4	-29.8	-39.7	0.7	:	:
A (4)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
P	-0.8	-4.8	3.4	-4.2	-5.9	:	-7.8	-16.1	-1.9	-6.0	-11.8	:
FIN	3.7	-10.6	2.2	3.8	-5.3	-4.5	-9.3	-30.0	-20.0	0.9	-8.9	-4.2
S (5)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK (4)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

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

¹ Missing data not entered for technical reasons; ² Impossible to compute an index from 1995 onwards; data available from 1998 onwards;

³ Data available for later periods, but not entered for technical reasons; ⁴ Derogation until June 2003; ⁵ 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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