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# Developments for construction in the second quarter of 2002

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## Latest construction trends

After no change in the first quarter of 2002, the EU's construction index declined by 0.8% in the second quarter, when compared to the previous quarter. The corresponding rates in the euro-zone were a 0.2% reduction in the first quarter and a 1.2% decline in the second quarter of 2002.

This slowdown in construction activity fed through into the latest data on the basis of a comparison with the same quarter of the previous year, as EU construction output fell by 0.2% between the second quarters of 2001 and 2002, whilst production in the euro-zone was down by 1.2%.

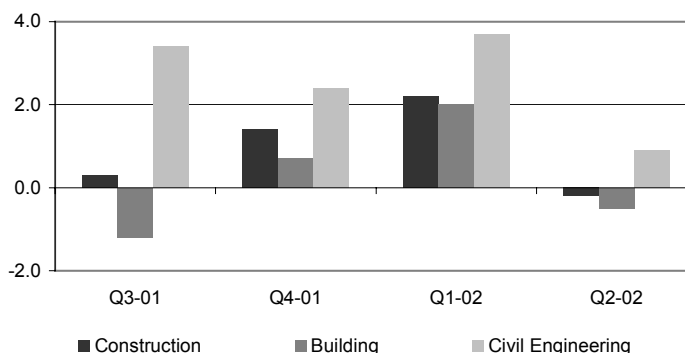


Figure 1: Production volume index for EU construction, building and civil engineering, growth rates, compared to the same quarter of the previous year (%)

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	
Q3-01	0.2	Q3-01	-0.1	Q3-01	0.3	Q3-01	-0.4
Q4-01	0.7	Q4-01	0.5	Q4-01	1.4	Q4-01	0.7
Q1-02	0.0	Q1-02	-0.2	Q1-02	2.2	Q1-02	1.5
Q2-02	-0.8	Q2-02	-1.2	Q2-02	-0.2	Q2-02	-1.2

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



## Production indices for construction

The downturn in EU construction activity between the first and second quarters of 2002 could be largely attributed to the performance of the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany, where output fell by 0.8%, 4.1% and 7.1% respectively.

On the other hand, there was growth in the latest quarter on quarter rates in all of the remaining Member States for which data are available, other than France, where a slight contraction of 0.2% was registered.

The largest gains in construction output between the first and second quarters of 2002 were registered in Finland (2.7%) and Luxembourg (2.6%).

Turning to the latest figures for the comparison between one quarter and the same quarter of the previous year, there was a similar picture with the majority of Member States reporting growth in construction output.

The largest gains were recorded in Luxembourg (10.7%) and the United Kingdom (7.4%), in keeping with the high growth rates that have been registered in both of these economies since the second quarter of 2001.

There were also significant increases in output in Spain (4.3%) and Austria (3.5%). The former continued a pattern of growth that started in the third quarter of 1996, whilst the latter followed four consecutive falls in output.

There was little or no change between the second quarter of 2001 and the second quarter of 2002 in the level of construction output in Belgium, Denmark or Sweden.

However, there were moderate reductions in output in the Netherlands (-0.3%) and France (-0.8%), with a considerably more substantial loss recorded in Germany (-5.9%).

These latest figures for two of the largest EU economies continued a series of disappointing results. In France, the reduction was the fifth consecutive fall, whilst in Germany falls have been recorded (using this measure) since the second quarter of 2000.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted series					
	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q2-02
EU-15	-0.8	0.9	0.2	0.7	0.0	-0.8	-1.7	-0.6	0.3	1.4	2.2	-0.2
Euro-zone	-1.0	0.8	-0.1	0.5	-0.2	-1.2	-1.6	-1.0	-0.4	0.7	1.5	-1.2
B	-2.6	-3.2	-0.8	4.0	1.1	-4.1	-0.8	0.7	-0.3	-2.5	2.4	0.1
DK	3.3	0.3	-0.8	-1.6	0.6	1.9	-8.5	-5.7	-1.4	1.1	-1.7	0.0
D	-4.4	-1.9	1.9	0.8	-1.8	-7.1	-12.9	-8.4	-4.3	-3.4	-0.8	-5.9
EL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	2.4	2.5	0.1	3.2	1.1	0.0	7.6	8.4	6.2	8.5	7.1	4.3
F	-0.6	-0.8	-0.3	0.2	-0.7	-0.2	0.7	-0.8	-1.9	-1.4	-1.9	-0.8
IRL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
L	-0.3	2.8	3.5	2.5	1.6	2.6	-3.6	3.3	8.4	10.1	9.6	10.7
NL	0.0	0.5	0.9	-0.2	0.1	-0.8	1.7	-0.5	3.5	0.2	3.1	-0.3
A	0.2	-4.8	0.9	-0.3	1.1	1.6	4.6	-2.9	-1.7	-4.2	-2.8	3.5
P (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	2.9	-3.2	-1.5	-0.1	0.5	2.7	4.0	1.4	2.2	-3.3	-3.0	1.4
S	0.9	-0.4	0.0	0.8	-1.9	1.0	0.6	0.1	1.6	2.3	-2.7	-0.1
UK	1.9	1.3	1.0	2.1	3.0	1.2	-1.2	3.0	5.8	6.5	8.2	7.4

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

<sup>1</sup> Derogation until end 2001; <sup>2</sup> Confidential data; <sup>3</sup> 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, with a reduction of 0.2% in output (-0.1% in the euro-zone). Latest data, for the second quarter, saw this negative trend worsen, as the production index for building fell by 1.0% in the EU (1.3% in the euro-zone) when compared to the previous quarter.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted series					
	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q2-02
EU-15	-1.6	1.0	-0.3	1.1	-0.2	-1.0	-3.0	-1.5	-1.2	0.7	2.0	-0.5
Euro-zone	-1.8	0.8	-0.4	0.7	-0.1	-1.3	-3.1	-2.0	-2.1	0.0	1.5	-1.4
B	-7.4	4.6	-3.7	3.1	-1.4	1.1	-7.3	2.0	-1.0	-3.4	2.1	-1.0
DK	2.8	2.8	-1.5	-2.5	-1.9	4.8	-11.1	-5.9	-1.8	1.5	-3.2	-1.4
D	-5.8	-1.8	1.8	0.7	-2.9	-7.5	-14.2	-10.9	-6.9	-5.1	-2.2	-7.5
EL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	1.6	3.4	0.3	3.5	2.2	0.3	5.1	6.7	5.0	9.2	9.9	6.3
F	-1.0	-0.4	-0.7	0.0	-0.4	-0.1	0.1	-0.6	-2.7	-1.5	-1.5	-0.9
IRL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
L	4.0	1.8	3.2	2.4	-0.5	6.6	9.4	15.0	16.5	11.8	6.7	11.0
NL	-0.6	0.0	0.5	-0.2	0.4	-0.3	0.7	-1.7	1.6	-1.6	2.5	0.2
A	-0.9	-2.3	-0.7	-0.5	0.3	1.0	2.7	-4.2	-4.2	-5.5	-3.8	1.8
P (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	3.5	-2.9	-2.5	-1.2	1.6	3.5	4.7	1.5	1.6	-4.7	-3.4	1.3
S	0.4	-0.4	-0.6	-0.3	-2.2	2.8	3.1	3.1	2.5	-0.5	-4.6	0.0
UK	0.1	2.7	1.2	2.3	1.1	1.8	-1.7	2.8	5.1	6.5	7.4	6.6

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

## Production indices for civil engineering

In the civil engineering sector there was also a decline in activity in the second quarter of 2002, as output fell by 1.3% in both the EU and the euro-zone (when compared to the previous quarter). By far the largest contraction was in Germany where output was reduced by 6.5% (after having recorded no change in the first quarter of 2002) - this figure was of a similar magnitude to that recorded by the German building sector (-7.5%).

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted series					
	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q2-02
EU-15	0.0	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.6	-1.3	-0.2	0.7	3.4	2.4	3.7	0.9
Euro-zone	-0.1	0.9	0.4	0.6	-0.5	-1.3	-0.9	0.4	2.4	1.9	1.8	-0.9
B	-14.0	1.8	-3.4	1.1	-0.4	0.8	-22.6	-15.7	-12.9	-14.2	-1.3	-1.7
DK	0.8	-3.8	1.3	1.6	5.8	-1.9	7.1	-4.7	0.6	-0.5	5.9	6.5
D	-1.8	-1.9	1.8	1.2	0.0	-6.5	-10.6	-4.0	0.1	-0.6	2.0	-3.4
EL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	4.8	0.1	-0.8	5.8	-1.2	-2.1	11.2	11.3	9.0	10.1	3.7	1.4
F	0.6	-1.7	-0.8	0.6	-0.8	0.3	2.2	-1.0	-0.3	-1.4	-2.9	-0.7
IRL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
L	-2.4	-0.9	4.2	7.4	0.5	-0.1	-16.0	-7.5	0.6	8.2	13.3	10.4
NL	1.9	2.1	0.1	0.0	0.6	-2.0	6.2	2.8	8.6	4.1	4.7	-3.4
A	4.0	-7.2	3.6	-0.3	6.0	-0.2	12.0	0.7	5.0	-0.1	1.2	8.2
P (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	0.2	-4.1	2.4	4.3	-3.8	-0.3	-0.1	1.3	4.2	1.7	-0.4	1.8
S	-0.7	0.3	1.6	2.2	-0.9	-0.9	-7.5	-9.1	-1.3	9.0	4.4	-0.7
UK	3.6	1.4	3.6	-2.4	11.7	1.1	3.8	4.8	12.0	5.9	15.0	14.1

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

<sup>1</sup> Derogation until June 2003; <sup>2</sup> Data estimated by Eurostat; <sup>3</sup> Derogation until June 2002.

## New orders

There were large increases in new orders in Spain (24.5%) and Luxembourg (21.6%) between the first and second quarters of 2002, after less spectacular growth in the first quarter (8.3% and 3.9% respectively). On the other hand, there were substantial reductions in the number of new orders in both Germany (-6.2%) and the United Kingdom (-12.2%) in the second quarter of 2002, following positive rates the quarter before (2.8% and 16.1% respectively).

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q2-02
EU-15	-1.7	-1.4	2.8	-6.1	:	:	-1.2	-7.3	4.1	-6.6	:	:
Euro-zone	-4.1	0.1	2.2	-6.0	:	:	-5.0	-7.0	3.9	-8.1	:	:
B	-9.1	6.8	-4.4	-3.8	-2.5	1.2	-2.5	10.9	-5.1	-10.7	-4.3	-9.3
DK (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
D	-2.0	3.1	-7.7	0.1	2.8	-6.2	-9.9	-1.5	-4.3	-7.2	-2.2	-9.9
EL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	-6.1	-5.9	14.5	-7.8	8.3	24.5	-3.4	-13.5	10.9	-7.8	6.5	44.6
F (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IRL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
L	5.7	-10.7	29.3	-18.2	3.9	21.6	26.4	8.9	75.4	-2.5	-4.9	34.2
NL	2.1	-2.3	10.5	-4.8	:	:	-2.3	-8.5	15.6	4.7	:	:
A	-6.4	2.4	-1.2	-32.6	12.6	0.6	-4.1	-6.9	-5.3	-35.3	-19.6	-25.8
P (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	-8.7	-5.2	-4.5	-2.3	-10.0	2.4	-2.7	-9.9	-6.5	-19.8	-21.2	-14.5
S (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	9.9	-6.3	6.2	-8.4	16.1	-12.2	13.6	-8.4	5.0	-0.1	5.8	-1.2

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

## Employment

After having recorded growth of almost 1% in both the EU and the euro-zone in the first quarter of 2002, the number of persons employed in the construction sector fell in the second quarter, down by 1.9% in the EU and by 1.6% in the euro-zone, as compared with the previous quarter.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q2-02
EU-15	0.6	1.0	0.3	0.2	0.8	-1.9	0.7	1.8	2.1	2.1	2.2	-0.7
Euro-zone	0.3	0.8	0.0	0.2	0.9	-1.6	0.8	2.0	1.6	1.3	1.9	-0.5
B	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.0	3.0	3.0	2.8	2.0	1.3	0.3
DK	0.4	-1.0	-0.6	-0.8	0.8	-0.6	-1.6	-2.3	-1.3	-2.0	-1.5	-1.0
D	-8.1	3.6	-2.5	-2.5	-2.6	-3.0	-14.0	-9.5	-9.0	-9.0	-3.9	-10.7
EL (4)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	2.6	2.4	0.6	1.5	2.1	0.0	7.9	9.1	7.2	7.2	6.7	4.2
F	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	3.4	3.1	2.5	1.7	1.2	0.8
IRL	0.1	0.8	-0.8	-1.5	-0.5	-0.7	3.2	3.8	1.5	-1.8	-2.3	-3.4
I	2.0	1.3	0.9	0.4	0.3	0.1	5.5	5.9	6.0	4.7	3.0	1.4
L	1.0	1.2	0.8	1.0	0.6	0.5	2.0	2.9	3.3	4.4	3.8	2.6
NL (5)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
A	-2.0	-1.5	-1.0	-0.7	-0.4	-1.3	-4.7	-5.9	-5.3	-4.9	-3.5	-3.5
P (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	-0.8	-2.8	2.3	1.5	0.2	0.5	-3.6	-5.6	-1.0	0.2	1.3	4.5
S (6)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK (7)	:	:	:	:	:	:	0.0	1.4	5.3	7.4	4.5	-1.3

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

<sup>1</sup> Derogation until end 2002; <sup>2</sup> Derogation until June 2002; <sup>3</sup> Derogation until April 2002; <sup>4</sup> Derogation until June 2003; <sup>5</sup> Data not published due to unreliable quality; <sup>6</sup> Information from 2002 onwards; index not computable; <sup>7</sup> Seasonal adjustment not calculated due to lack of information in the base year.

## Hours worked

For the fourth consecutive quarter there was a reduction in the number of hours worked in the construction sector. The latest figures reveal that the number of hours worked in the EU's construction sector in the second quarter of 2002 was 0.7% lower than in the quarter before (the corresponding figure for the euro-zone was -1.0%).

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q2-02
EU-15	-1.0	0.2	-0.7	-0.2	-0.4	-0.7	-1.8	-1.1	-1.8	-1.3	-1.0	-2.1
Euro-zone	-1.6	0.2	-1.0	-0.5	-0.5	-1.0	-3.1	-1.8	-2.6	-2.5	-1.8	-3.1
B	-0.8	0.2	-0.4	0.2	-0.7	0.3	0.5	1.3	0.8	-0.2	-1.3	-0.8
DK	-0.5	-0.8	-0.6	-0.4	-0.3	0.1	0.5	-2.1	-1.8	-1.3	-4.2	0.0
D	-8.2	-0.3	-1.8	-0.5	-2.3	-9.0	-21.4	-12.1	-10.1	-10.2	-6.1	-12.1
EL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	2.5	-1.0	-2.1	0.6	-0.1	1.8	6.2	5.1	0.1	-0.1	-2.6	0.2
F	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.0	3.1	2.7	2.3	1.6	1.0	0.6
IRL	-1.2	0.0	-0.4	-0.1	0.1	-1.4	-2.6	-2.9	-2.4	-1.8	-0.4	-1.8
I (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
L	1.1	1.8	3.7	2.9	-0.2	3.6	-4.3	3.5	9.1	12.0	6.0	10.5
NL (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
A	-3.1	-1.9	-0.8	-1.2	-0.3	-1.3	-5.2	-7.4	-5.6	-6.9	-3.5	-3.5
P (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	-0.3	1.0	-1.3	3.0	-0.1	0.1	-8.8	-4.0	-5.2	3.0	2.7	1.8
S (4)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	2.3	1.0	0.8	1.2	0.4	0.8	4.9	2.7	2.1	5.1	3.6	2.8

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

## Wages and salaries

There was a diverging trend to the latest development of wages and salaries between the EU and the euro-zone. In the EU, wages and salaries in the construction sector rose by 0.2% between the first and second quarters of 2002, continuing a pattern of modest increases that started back in the second quarter of 1997. On the other hand, in the euro-zone wages and salaries fell by 0.6%, with reductions in Germany (2.9%), Spain (1.2%) and Austria (0.2%).

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q2-02
EU-15	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	2.9	2.0	2.2	1.7	1.6	0.7
Euro-zone	-0.1	0.4	0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	1.4	-0.9
B	2.2	1.4	1.1	1.6	-0.6	1.1	3.3	5.4	6.0	9.4	1.5	2.5
DK	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.4	4.3	4.3	5.7	3.9	0.8	5.6
D	-1.9	-2.2	-1.7	-1.8	-2.5	-2.9	-9.4	-8.7	-7.8	-7.2	-7.8	-8.6
EL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	0.5	5.5	0.5	1.7	3.6	-1.2	11.2	12.4	9.6	7.2	16.4	1.2
F	2.2	1.0	1.1	1.6	1.1	0.0	7.4	6.8	5.8	6.0	5.0	3.8
IRL	-2.7	1.4	2.4	4.0	2.7	1.2	10.6	9.3	10.2	5.2	11.0	10.7
I	0.2	0.2	:	:	:	:	1.5	1.1	0.9	0.9	2.4	2.4
L	4.0	1.1	2.4	-0.9	2.6	3.0	9.4	9.9	10.8	5.3	5.0	7.8
NL (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
A	-1.2	-1.5	1.4	-1.2	0.5	-0.2	-0.3	-4.8	0.5	-3.0	-0.6	0.4
P (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	6.1	-0.3	0.3	-2.0	3.8	1.3	13.3	8.3	7.6	4.1	1.2	2.8
S (4)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	5.9	-2.1	2.4	0.5	1.8	2.1	12.5	8.2	9.3	6.5	2.4	6.9

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

<sup>1</sup> Derogation until June 2003; <sup>2</sup> Data not published due to unreliable quality; <sup>3</sup> Derogation until end 2002; <sup>4</sup> Information from 2002 onwards; index not computable.

## Construction costs

After a rapid quarter on quarter increase in construction costs in the first quarter of 2002, costs rose at a more moderate pace in the second quarter, up 0.4% in the EU and 0.5% in the euro-zone. No Member States reported that its construction costs were falling, while the largest increases were registered in Sweden (1.7%) and Austria (1.1%).

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, gross series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q2-02
EU-15	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.1	1.0	0.4	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.0	2.3	2.1
Euro-zone	0.7	0.6	0.3	0.0	1.1	0.5	2.2	2.3	2.1	1.6	2.0	1.9
B	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
DK	0.9	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.6	0.5	5.1	3.5	2.9	2.4	2.1	2.2
D (1)	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	-0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	-0.1	-0.2	-0.4	-0.2	-0.1
EL	0.4	0.9	0.4	0.4	0.9	0.4	3.2	3.1	2.7	2.2	2.6	2.2
E (2)	1.6	0.5	0.2	-0.5	1.1	0.4	3.4	3.2	2.7	1.7	1.3	1.2
F	0.7	1.1	0.5	0.2	1.1	1.0	2.6	2.9	2.8	2.6	3.0	2.9
IRL (3)	0.7	1.7	4.3	8.0	:	:	13.8	15.2	19.6	15.3	:	:
I	0.9	0.3	0.6	0.3	2.9	0.4	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.1	4.2	4.2
L (1)	1.2	1.6	0.7	0.1	-8.0	0.7	3.9	4.9	4.3	3.6	-5.8	-6.7
NL	1.9	1.9	0.9	0.1	1.2	0.5	4.4	5.8	5.1	4.9	4.2	2.7
A	0.4	1.1	0.2	-0.3	0.5	1.1	2.3	2.6	2.2	1.4	1.4	1.5
P (4)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	0.9	1.3	0.1	-0.8	0.2	1.0	3.5	3.6	3.0	1.6	0.8	0.4
S	1.4	1.4	1.3	0.1	0.8	1.7	4.5	4.4	4.9	4.2	3.7	3.9
UK (1)	0.8	0.8	1.0	0.7	0.8	0.0	4.2	3.6	3.6	3.4	3.4	2.6

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

## Building permits

There were signs that the decline in the number of building permits issued in the EU could be coming to an end. Quarter on quarter rates turned positive for the euro-zone (up 0.4% in the second quarter of 2002), whilst year on year rates were improved in both the EU and the euro-zone (-1.1% and -0.8%).

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q2-02
EU-15	-1.8	-2.6	0.8	-1.6	-0.6	-0.1	-7.8	-9.3	-4.5	-5.4	-4.1	-1.1
Euro-zone	-2.0	-3.6	1.4	-2.3	-0.7	0.4	-8.3	-10.3	-5.3	-6.9	-5.6	-0.8
B	19.7	-12.2	-3.0	2.5	-0.9	0.5	-1.4	-0.9	-6.6	4.8	-13.7	-0.9
DK	13.1	-21.1	12.9	-14.9	13.0	-4.7	42.7	-6.0	32.5	-15.0	-13.8	3.3
D	3.4	-1.8	-5.2	-5.4	3.8	-4.7	-24.1	-10.7	-13.9	-9.9	-8.1	-11.1
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	-7.3	-13.2	17.8	-4.6	-5.4	:	-4.5	-18.5	-4.1	-9.5	-7.7	:
F	1.7	-2.2	1.4	-2.1	-0.6	1.7	2.9	-3.9	-1.4	-1.3	-3.5	0.3
IRL	-5.9	-7.5	-17.8	:	:	:	5.6	-8.8	-27.2	:	:	:
I	-3.3	-9.8	7.9	3.5	0.6	:	11.4	0.6	3.5	-1.3	2.0	:
L	14.2	-27.8	30.1	-5.5	-14.5	42.7	17.7	-40.4	-13.5	1.7	-29.4	50.8
NL	3.9	-14.2	19.4	-18.6	-2.1	:	-26.3	-35.5	-4.1	-14.3	-18.4	:
A (5)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
P	-10.4	10.4	-0.4	-12.0	3.4	-5.2	-25.8	-2.5	-3.7	-13.3	0.0	-14.1
FIN	-14.8	3.8	7.8	-7.5	-2.6	1.0	-35.9	-22.5	6.8	-10.4	0.1	-1.8
S (6)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK (7)	10.3	2.3	-4.5	9.5	0.0	-8.7	-7.5	-0.7	0.0	14.8	9.2	-4.3

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

<sup>1</sup> Output prices for new residential buildings are used as a proxy for construction costs; <sup>2</sup> Input prices for building construction; <sup>3</sup> Input prices for 1-dwelling residential buildings; <sup>4</sup> Base year 2000; impossible to compute an index from 1995 onwards; <sup>5</sup> Impossible to compute an index from 1995 onwards; data available from 1Q2000 onwards; <sup>6</sup> Impossible to compute an index from 1995 onwards; data available from 1996 onwards; <sup>7</sup> Building starts for houses.

## Building permits in square metres

There is a lack of data available for the total area for which residential building permits were granted. Among the five Member States for which data are available for the second quarter of 2002, there was a significant increase in the area for new building in Luxembourg (36.4%), whilst the largest reduction was registered in Germany (-8.3%).

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q2-02
EU-15	-2.3	-2.5	1.5	-2.7	:	:	-9.0	-8.7	-1.9	-5.9	:	:
Euro-zone	-2.9	-2.3	1.9	-2.5	0.2	:	-9.3	-8.7	-2.1	-6.0	-2.5	:
B	12.7	-4.8	-9.1	0.4	-6.4	1.9	-5.7	0.7	-7.5	-2.2	-18.8	-12.2
DK	15.0	-15.2	9.7	-4.7	2.2	-1.8	22.6	-7.0	16.1	2.0	-9.4	4.0
D	1.0	-3.4	-3.1	-4.7	7.2	-8.3	-24.5	-8.6	-10.2	-11.5	-3.3	-8.7
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	-6.3	-9.7	14.5	-5.3	-4.7	:	-2.0	-12.9	0.7	-8.2	-6.7	:
F (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IRL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I	-0.8	-1.8	3.5	-1.6	2.4	:	8.9	-3.3	6.9	-2.1	2.7	:
L	-0.9	-25.2	30.3	-4.4	-11.1	36.4	3.6	-33.6	1.3	-6.7	-22.7	51.7
NL	8.8	-15.6	15.6	-13.8	-7.0	:	-21.6	-33.3	-1.9	-8.6	-21.9	:
A (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
P	-4.8	3.4	-4.2	-5.9	:	:	-16.1	-1.9	-6.0	-11.8	:	:
FIN	-11.0	2.1	4.1	-5.0	-2.6	3.0	-30.0	-20.0	0.9	-8.9	-1.9	-0.5
S (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

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

<sup>1</sup> Impossible to compute an index from 1995 onwards; data available from 1998 onwards; <sup>2</sup> Derogation until June 2003; <sup>3</sup> 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.

**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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