

Developments for construction in the third quarter of 2002

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Latest construction trends

The EU's construction index continued its negative trend that started in the first quarter of 2002, losing 0.3% compared to the previous quarter. In the same period the index for the euro-zone declined by 0.6%. Nevertheless, these figures indicate a slowdown in the decrease of production when compared to the previous quarter.

Compared to the third quarter of 2001, it appears that the contraction of the EU's construction sector increased in both the EU and the euro-zone, with the production construction index falling by 1.2% and 2.6%, respectively. In both cases these reductions were greater than those observed in the previous quarter.

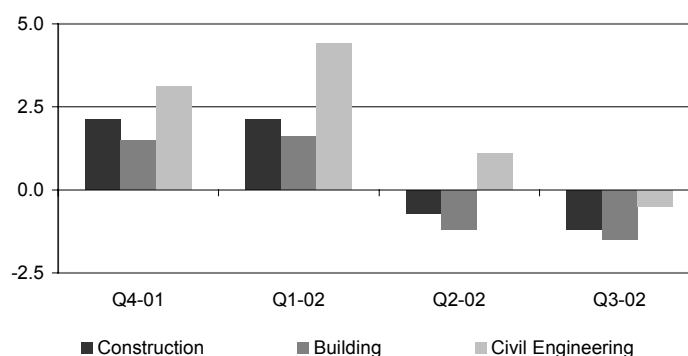


Figure 1: Production volume index for EU construction, building and civil engineering, growth rates, compared to the same quarter of the previous year (%)

| 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 | |
| Q4-01 | 0.9 | Q4-01 | 0.4 | Q4-01 | 2.1 | Q4-01 | 1.4 |
| Q1-02 | -0.5 | Q1-02 | -0.6 | Q1-02 | 2.1 | Q1-02 | 1.3 |
| Q2-02 | -1.2 | Q2-02 | -1.4 | Q2-02 | -0.7 | Q2-02 | -1.8 |
| Q3-02 | -0.3 | Q3-02 | -0.6 | Q3-02 | -1.2 | Q3-02 | -2.6 |

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

Statistics in focus

INDUSTRY, TRADE AND SERVICES

THEME 4 – 4/2003

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Production indices for construction

The third quarter of 2002 showed a general reduction of the production index for construction, compared with the previous quarter. Almost all the Member States for which data are available experienced a decline in output.

Indeed, only two of the Member States reported positive results. The Swedish production index for construction increased by 0.9%, after an increase of 2.4% in the previous quarter, and in the United Kingdom output rose by 1.8%, the eighth consecutive increase using this measure.

Among the remaining Member States, the largest decrease in construction output was observed in Denmark (-3.9%). Reductions between -1% and -3% were recorded in Belgium, Luxembourg, Austria, Finland and Spain, while

Germany and France registered more limited declines (-0.3% and -0.7% respectively).

When comparing the third quarter 2002 with the same quarter of the previous year, the picture was similar.

The German construction sector recorded its tenth consecutive quarterly decrease in production, losing 7.6%, the largest decrease recorded in the EU.

Among the other large EU industrial economies, a negative result was also observed in France (-2.8%). This value was in line with the decrease recorded in the previous quarter.

Luxembourg experienced a decline of 3.7% in its output, after an increase of 10.7% in the previous

quarter, thus ending a period of five consecutive positive results.

On the other hand, United Kingdom reported an 8.1% yearly increase in output for the third quarter of 2002, which represented the sixth consecutive positive result for this country, and the highest increase in over five years. Spain recorded growth of 1.6%, which was well below the average recorded during the last 5 years, when growth of between 5% and 10% was not uncommon.

Among the remaining Member States variations in the third quarter of 2002 were mainly negative; only Finland and Sweden reported increases in output compared to the same quarter of 2001 (0.6% and 2.8% respectively).

| | Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series | | | | | | Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted series | | | | | |
|-----------|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Q2-01 | Q3-01 | Q4-01 | Q1-02 | Q2-02 | Q3-02 | Q2-01 | Q3-01 | Q4-01 | Q1-02 | Q2-02 | Q3-02 |
| EU-15 | 1.0 | 0.3 | 0.9 | -0.5 | -1.2 | -0.3 | -0.2 | 0.7 | 2.1 | 2.1 | -0.7 | -1.2 |
| Euro-zone | 0.9 | 0.1 | 0.4 | -0.6 | -1.4 | -0.6 | -0.5 | 0.1 | 1.4 | 1.3 | -1.8 | -2.6 |
| B | -3.1 | -1.9 | 5.1 | 1.0 | -3.8 | -2.9 | -0.8 | -1.1 | -3.4 | 2.4 | 0.2 | -1.9 |
| DK | 0.3 | -0.4 | -1.7 | 0.9 | 1.0 | -3.9 | -5.8 | -1.6 | 1.2 | -1.1 | -0.3 | -3.6 |
| D | -1.9 | 1.9 | 0.8 | -1.8 | -7.0 | -0.3 | -8.4 | -4.3 | -3.4 | -0.8 | -5.9 | -7.6 |
| EL (1) | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| E | 2.0 | 1.3 | 2.8 | 0.6 | 0.3 | -1.7 | 8.4 | 6.2 | 8.5 | 7.1 | 5.5 | 1.6 |
| F | -0.7 | -0.6 | 0.0 | -2.3 | -0.1 | -0.6 | 1.4 | -0.1 | -0.1 | -3.9 | -2.8 | -2.8 |
| IRL (1) | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| I (2) | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| L | 2.6 | 5.9 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 1.4 | -2.8 | 3.3 | 8.4 | 10.1 | 9.6 | 10.7 | -3.7 |
| NL | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.0 | -0.1 | -0.9 | -0.7 | 0.5 | 4.6 | 1.3 | 2.7 | -1.4 | -1.9 |
| A | -2.1 | 2.8 | -0.9 | 1.6 | -0.4 | -2.7 | -2.8 | -0.3 | -3.4 | 1.8 | 3.4 | -2.8 |
| P (3) | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| FIN | -3.0 | -1.1 | -0.7 | 0.6 | 4.3 | -2.1 | 1.4 | 2.1 | -3.2 | -2.7 | 3.1 | 0.6 |
| S | -2.3 | -0.5 | 3.3 | -3.7 | 2.4 | 0.9 | 3.0 | 2.5 | 7.0 | -3.6 | 1.4 | 2.8 |
| UK | 1.3 | 1.0 | 2.1 | 3.0 | 1.2 | 1.8 | 3.0 | 5.8 | 6.5 | 8.2 | 7.3 | 8.1 |

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 third quarter of 2002 the production index for the building industry decreased in both the EU (-0.3%) and the euro-zone (-0.7%), when compared to the previous quarter, although the decline was less pronounced than the one observed in the second quarter of 2002.

| | Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series | | | | | | Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted series | | | | | |
|-----------|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Q2-01 | Q3-01 | Q4-01 | Q1-02 | Q2-02 | Q3-02 | Q2-01 | Q3-01 | Q4-01 | Q1-02 | Q2-02 | Q3-02 |
| EU-15 | 1.1 | -0.2 | 0.9 | -0.6 | -1.2 | -0.3 | -0.9 | -0.7 | 1.5 | 1.6 | -1.2 | -1.5 |
| Euro-zone | 0.9 | -0.4 | 0.4 | -0.6 | -1.5 | -0.7 | -1.3 | -1.5 | 0.9 | 0.9 | -2.3 | -2.9 |
| B | 4.0 | -1.7 | 1.2 | -1.1 | 0.3 | -2.8 | 2.0 | -1.0 | -3.4 | 2.1 | -0.8 | -3.1 |
| DK | 2.5 | -0.7 | -2.3 | -1.9 | 3.0 | -4.0 | -5.9 | -1.9 | 1.5 | -2.5 | -1.9 | -5.2 |
| D | -1.8 | 1.8 | 0.7 | -2.9 | -7.2 | -0.1 | -10.9 | -6.9 | -5.1 | -2.2 | -7.2 | -8.8 |
| EL (1) | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| E | 3.0 | 1.3 | 3.2 | 1.8 | -0.1 | -1.3 | 6.7 | 5.0 | 9.1 | 9.9 | 6.5 | 3.2 |
| F | -0.1 | -1.0 | -0.3 | -1.6 | -0.7 | -0.7 | 2.5 | -0.1 | 0.4 | -4.2 | -3.7 | -3.4 |
| IRL (1) | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| I (2) | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| L | 1.3 | 5.4 | 0.8 | -0.9 | 6.2 | -6.3 | 15.0 | 16.5 | 11.8 | 6.7 | 11.0 | -1.6 |
| NL | -0.1 | 0.1 | -0.2 | -0.3 | -0.9 | -1.0 | -0.8 | 1.3 | -0.9 | 0.5 | -1.3 | -2.4 |
| A | -2.8 | 1.5 | -0.4 | 0.6 | -0.2 | -2.2 | -4.3 | -3.1 | -4.6 | -0.7 | 2.0 | -2.7 |
| P (3) | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| FIN | -2.6 | -1.9 | -1.7 | 1.6 | 5.5 | -3.3 | 1.5 | 1.6 | -4.5 | -3.2 | 3.4 | 0.3 |
| S | -2.0 | -1.7 | 0.0 | 0.8 | 2.6 | 1.1 | 2.0 | -0.9 | -2.0 | -2.9 | 2.1 | 4.6 |
| UK | 2.8 | 0.9 | 2.4 | 1.2 | 1.9 | 2.3 | 2.8 | 5.1 | 6.5 | 7.4 | 6.6 | 8.0 |

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

Production indices for civil engineering

The picture for the civil engineering sector was similar to the one observed in the building sector, with a general decline in both the EU and the euro-zone. The decline observed on a quarter on quarter basis was again less important than the one reported in the second quarter of 2002 (-0.6% vs. -1.4% in the EU). Compared to the third quarter of 2001, output decreased by 0.5% and 1.9% respectively for both the EU and the euro-zone.

| | Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series | | | | | | Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted series | | | | | |
|-----------|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Q2-01 | Q3-01 | Q4-01 | Q1-02 | Q2-02 | Q3-02 | Q2-01 | Q3-01 | Q4-01 | Q1-02 | Q2-02 | Q3-02 |
| EU-15 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 0.3 | -1.4 | -0.6 | 0.9 | 3.9 | 3.1 | 4.4 | 1.1 | -0.5 |
| Euro-zone | 1.2 | 0.8 | 0.7 | -0.5 | -1.7 | -0.4 | 0.4 | 2.8 | 2.4 | 2.8 | -0.8 | -1.9 |
| B | 1.8 | -3.3 | 1.1 | -0.5 | 0.7 | -1.4 | -15.7 | -12.9 | -14.2 | -1.3 | -1.8 | -0.2 |
| DK | -5.1 | 0.0 | 3.9 | 7.6 | -4.5 | -2.1 | -5.2 | -0.1 | -0.2 | 6.1 | 6.8 | 4.5 |
| D | -1.9 | 1.8 | 1.2 | 0.0 | -6.6 | -0.5 | -4.0 | 0.1 | -0.6 | 2.0 | -3.5 | -5.4 |
| EL (1) | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| E | -0.6 | -0.6 | 6.6 | -1.5 | -0.3 | -4.9 | 11.3 | 9.0 | 10.1 | 3.7 | 4.0 | -0.5 |
| F | -1.8 | -0.3 | 0.2 | -1.1 | 0.6 | -1.0 | -1.1 | -0.2 | -1.4 | -3.3 | -0.6 | -1.4 |
| IRL (1) | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| I (2) | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| L | -0.5 | 5.7 | 6.1 | -0.1 | 0.3 | -11.3 | -7.5 | 0.6 | 8.2 | 13.3 | 10.4 | -6.2 |
| NL | 3.9 | 2.2 | -1.6 | 2.4 | -3.5 | 2.0 | 2.7 | 11.6 | 4.6 | 10.9 | -2.4 | -1.5 |
| A | -1.0 | 5.8 | -0.1 | 5.0 | -5.1 | -4.0 | 1.7 | 7.2 | 0.5 | 11.2 | 7.2 | -3.1 |
| P (3) | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| FIN | -4.0 | 2.2 | 3.5 | -3.0 | -0.2 | 2.8 | 1.2 | 4.2 | 1.7 | -0.6 | 1.7 | 1.5 |
| S | -2.1 | 2.7 | 16.3 | -18.7 | 2.3 | 1.2 | 5.9 | 12.4 | 27.1 | -5.6 | -0.7 | -2.2 |
| UK | 1.3 | 3.9 | -2.5 | 11.6 | 0.9 | -0.8 | 4.8 | 12.0 | 5.9 | 15.0 | 14.1 | 8.9 |

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

¹ Derogation until June 2003; ² Data estimated by Eurostat; ³ Derogation until June 2002.

New orders

The production indices showed a generalised slowdown of construction activity across the EU. Variations in the available data for new orders in the third quarter 2002, compared to the previous quarter, were generally negative as well. Two of the largest economies, Germany and Spain, recorded declines of 2.6% and 8.9% respectively.

| | Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series | | | | | | Year on year growth rates, gross series | | | | | |
|-----------|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Q2-01 | Q3-01 | Q4-01 | Q1-02 | Q2-02 | Q3-02 | Q2-01 | Q3-01 | Q4-01 | Q1-02 | Q2-02 | Q3-02 |
| EU-15 | -1.8 | 3.6 | -5.3 | 5.8 | 0.7 | : | -7.9 | 4.2 | -5.9 | 2.1 | 4.3 | : |
| Euro-zone | -1.1 | 3.9 | -4.5 | 3.0 | 2.5 | : | -7.8 | 4.0 | -7.2 | 0.9 | 5.4 | : |
| B | 0.9 | -5.8 | -2.6 | -3.1 | 2.1 | -3.9 | 4.7 | -10.3 | -9.4 | -10.4 | -9.3 | -7.4 |
| DK (1) | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| D | 3.1 | -7.4 | -0.1 | 2.6 | -6.2 | -2.6 | -1.5 | -4.3 | -7.2 | -2.2 | -9.9 | -5.8 |
| EL (1) | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| E | -4.7 | 14.8 | -8.8 | 7.4 | 17.2 | -8.9 | -13.5 | 10.9 | -7.8 | 6.5 | 33.8 | 4.4 |
| F (2) | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| IRL | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| I (1) | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| L | -8.7 | 27.3 | -13.6 | -0.7 | 20.3 | -4.6 | 8.9 | 75.4 | -2.5 | -4.9 | 34.2 | -3.5 |
| NL | 3.7 | 1.6 | -1.8 | -4.0 | -6.4 | : | -8.5 | 15.6 | 10.9 | 4.9 | -20.2 | : |
| A | -1.7 | -4.5 | -17.5 | 2.2 | -7.7 | -4.9 | -6.9 | -5.3 | -35.3 | -19.6 | -25.8 | -25.6 |
| P (3) | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| FIN | -7.3 | -7.1 | -6.8 | 1.4 | 1.2 | 13.0 | -9.1 | -6.8 | -23.6 | -19.2 | -11.3 | 9.2 |
| S (4) | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| UK | -0.4 | -0.5 | 0.9 | 3.2 | 0.4 | 4.8 | -8.4 | 5.0 | -0.1 | 5.8 | 0.0 | 12.0 |

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

Employment

The employment index of the construction sector followed a similar trend to the production index in the third quarter of 2002, as EU employment fell by 0.5% compared to the second quarter 2002 and by 1.3% when compared to the third quarter of 2001, whereas for both measures the euro-zone registered a decrease of 0.5%.

| | Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series | | | | | | Year on year growth rates, gross series | | | | | |
|-----------|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Q2-01 | Q3-01 | Q4-01 | Q1-02 | Q2-02 | Q3-02 | Q2-01 | Q3-01 | Q4-01 | Q1-02 | Q2-02 | Q3-02 |
| EU-15 | 1.1 | 0.2 | -0.1 | 0.6 | -1.2 | -0.5 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.3 | 1.8 | -0.5 | -1.3 |
| Euro-zone | 1.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.9 | -0.9 | -0.5 | 1.9 | 1.6 | 1.2 | 2.1 | 0.1 | -0.5 |
| B | 0.1 | 0.1 | -0.2 | -0.2 | -0.2 | -0.4 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 0.2 | -0.2 | -0.3 | -1.1 |
| DK | -1.4 | -0.2 | -1.1 | 1.1 | -1.1 | -1.5 | -2.3 | -1.3 | -2.0 | -1.5 | -1.0 | -2.7 |
| D | 3.1 | -1.9 | -2.3 | -1.8 | -1.8 | -2.2 | -9.5 | -9.0 | -9.0 | -2.7 | -7.2 | -7.8 |
| EL (5) | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| E | 2.1 | 0.8 | 1.6 | 2.0 | -0.3 | -1.5 | 9.1 | 7.2 | 7.2 | 6.7 | 4.2 | 1.9 |
| F | 0.6 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 3.1 | 2.5 | 1.7 | 1.2 | 0.8 | 0.8 |
| IRL | 0.8 | -0.9 | -1.5 | -0.5 | -0.6 | -0.2 | 3.8 | 1.5 | -1.8 | -2.3 | -3.4 | -2.7 |
| I | 1.4 | 0.7 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.2 | 1.1 | 5.9 | 6.0 | 4.7 | 3.1 | 1.4 | 2.2 |
| L | 1.1 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 2.9 | 3.3 | 4.4 | 3.8 | 2.6 | 1.9 |
| NL (6) | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| A | -1.4 | -1.0 | -1.0 | -0.5 | -1.5 | -1.0 | -5.4 | -5.1 | -5.1 | -3.7 | -4.0 | -3.7 |
| P (3) | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| FIN | -2.6 | 3.0 | 1.0 | -0.2 | 0.6 | -3.1 | -5.6 | -1.0 | 0.2 | 1.3 | 4.5 | -1.9 |
| S (7) | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| UK | 1.6 | 0.7 | -0.5 | -1.1 | -3.0 | -1.0 | -1.2 | 1.3 | 2.0 | 0.7 | -3.9 | -5.6 |

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

¹ Derogation until end 2002; ² Information from 1998 onwards; index not computable; ³ Derogation until June 2002; ⁴ Derogation until April 2002; ⁵ Derogation until June 2003; ⁶ Data not published due to unreliable quality; ⁷ Information from 2002 onwards; index not computable.

Hours worked

The index measuring the number of hours worked continued its negative trend in both the EU and the euro-zone. The reductions observed in the third quarter 2002 were larger at EU level than those reported for the previous quarter (-1.3% compared to -0.8% in the second quarter of 2002).

| | Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series | | | | | | Year on year growth rates, gross series | | | | | |
|-----------|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Q2-01 | Q3-01 | Q4-01 | Q1-02 | Q2-02 | Q3-02 | Q2-01 | Q3-01 | Q4-01 | Q1-02 | Q2-02 | Q3-02 |
| EU-15 | -0.2 | -0.2 | -0.6 | -0.5 | -0.8 | -1.3 | -1.5 | -2.3 | -1.8 | -1.3 | -1.6 | -3.7 |
| Euro-zone | -0.2 | -0.4 | -0.6 | -0.5 | -1.0 | -1.5 | -1.9 | -2.7 | -2.6 | -1.6 | -2.2 | -3.8 |
| B | -0.3 | -0.4 | -0.3 | -0.6 | -0.1 | -0.1 | -0.7 | -1.1 | -0.9 | -2.0 | -1.2 | -1.2 |
| DK | -2.1 | 0.4 | -0.4 | -1.3 | 0.5 | -1.8 | -2.1 | -1.8 | -1.3 | -4.2 | 0.4 | -3.5 |
| D | -0.7 | -1.7 | 0.0 | -0.9 | -6.1 | -2.7 | -12.1 | -10.1 | -10.2 | -4.2 | -7.8 | -8.3 |
| EL (1) | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| E | -0.8 | 0.0 | -0.3 | -1.3 | 0.4 | -2.6 | 5.1 | 0.1 | -0.1 | -2.6 | -0.1 | -4.6 |
| F | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 2.5 | 2.0 | 1.3 | 0.7 | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| IRL | -0.1 | -0.6 | 0.1 | 0.1 | -1.2 | 2.1 | -2.9 | -2.4 | -1.8 | -0.4 | -1.6 | 1.1 |
| I (1) | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| L | 1.6 | 5.3 | 1.5 | -0.9 | 3.1 | -2.3 | 3.5 | 9.1 | 12.0 | 6.0 | 10.5 | -1.5 |
| NL (2) | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| A | -2.2 | -1.1 | -1.0 | -1.1 | -0.9 | -1.0 | -6.8 | -5.2 | -5.7 | -5.5 | -4.1 | -3.5 |
| P (3) | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| FIN | 0.7 | -0.1 | 2.2 | -0.6 | -0.5 | -2.7 | -4.0 | -5.2 | 3.0 | 2.7 | 1.8 | -2.7 |
| S (4) | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| UK | -0.4 | 1.1 | 0.3 | 0.0 | -0.4 | -3.1 | 1.3 | 0.0 | 2.2 | 1.1 | 1.1 | -3.2 |

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

Wages and salaries

Wages and salaries in the construction sector followed a similar trend to that observed in previous quarters, as in EU-15 an increase of 0.2% was registered, when compared to the previous quarter, and of 0.7% when compared to a year before. A reduction was observed in the euro-zone (-0.3%) on the basis of a comparison with the same quarter of the previous year.

| | Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series | | | | | | Year on year growth rates, gross series | | | | | |
|-----------|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Q2-01 | Q3-01 | Q4-01 | Q1-02 | Q2-02 | Q3-02 | Q2-01 | Q3-01 | Q4-01 | Q1-02 | Q2-02 | Q3-02 |
| EU-15 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 1.4 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 0.7 |
| Euro-zone | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.4 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 1.8 | 0.5 | -0.3 |
| B | -0.6 | 1.2 | 1.6 | -1.6 | 1.7 | -1.4 | 1.2 | 0.5 | 3.3 | 0.2 | 3.4 | -0.3 |
| DK | -0.4 | 2.6 | -0.7 | -1.0 | 2.5 | -1.2 | 4.3 | 5.7 | 3.9 | -1.7 | 5.6 | -2.8 |
| D | -2.0 | -1.9 | -1.4 | -1.1 | -1.8 | -1.4 | -8.7 | -7.8 | -7.2 | -7.0 | -6.3 | -5.1 |
| EL (1) | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| E | 2.1 | 2.3 | 0.5 | 10.9 | -9.3 | -1.0 | 12.4 | 9.6 | 7.2 | 16.4 | 5.0 | -1.5 |
| F | 1.0 | 1.1 | 1.6 | 1.2 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 6.8 | 5.8 | 6.0 | 5.1 | 4.5 | 4.0 |
| IRL | 1.4 | 2.4 | 4.0 | 2.7 | 2.2 | 2.9 | 9.3 | 10.2 | 5.2 | 11.0 | 11.8 | 12.3 |
| I | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 1.0 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 1.1 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 |
| L | 1.0 | 2.9 | -1.3 | 2.5 | 2.8 | 0.3 | 9.9 | 10.8 | 5.3 | 5.0 | 7.8 | 4.1 |
| NL (2) | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| A | -0.8 | -0.4 | -0.1 | 0.4 | -0.4 | 0.0 | -3.5 | -2.7 | -2.6 | -0.2 | -0.9 | 0.0 |
| P (3) | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| FIN | -0.3 | 0.5 | -1.9 | 3.3 | 1.6 | -0.9 | 8.3 | 7.6 | 4.1 | 1.2 | 2.9 | 2.4 |
| S (4) | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| UK | -1.0 | 2.3 | -0.3 | 1.4 | 3.3 | 1.0 | 8.2 | 9.3 | 6.5 | 2.4 | 6.8 | 5.4 |

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; ⁴ Information from 2002 onwards; index not computable.

Construction costs

Construction costs in the third quarter increased in all Member States when compared to the previous quarter. However, considering the Member States for which data are available in the last quarter of 2002, a moderate reduction was recorded in Germany.

| | Quarter on quarter growth rates, gross series | | | | | | Year on year growth rates, gross series | | | | | |
|-----------|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Q3-01 | Q4-01 | Q1-02 | Q2-02 | Q3-02 | Q4-02 | Q3-01 | Q4-01 | Q1-02 | Q2-02 | Q3-02 | Q4-02 |
| EU-15 | 0.5 | 0.1 | 1.1 | 0.4 | 0.5 | : | 2.4 | 2.0 | 2.3 | 2.1 | 2.2 | : |
| Euro-zone | 0.3 | 0.0 | 1.2 | 0.5 | 0.4 | : | 2.1 | 1.6 | 2.1 | 1.9 | 2.1 | : |
| B (1) | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| DK | 0.3 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.2 | : | 2.9 | 2.4 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 2.1 | : |
| D (2) | -0.1 | -0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | -0.2 | -0.2 | -0.4 | -0.2 | -0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| EL | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.9 | 0.4 | 0.8 | : | 2.7 | 2.2 | 2.6 | 2.2 | 2.6 | : |
| E (3) | 0.2 | -0.5 | 1.1 | 0.4 | 0.0 | : | 2.7 | 1.7 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1.1 | : |
| F | 0.5 | 0.2 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 1.0 | : | 2.8 | 2.6 | 3.0 | 2.9 | 3.4 | : |
| IRL (4) | 4.3 | 8.0 | : | : | : | : | 19.6 | 15.3 | : | : | : | : |
| I | 0.6 | 0.3 | 2.9 | 0.4 | 0.5 | : | 2.4 | 2.1 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.2 | : |
| L (2) | 0.7 | 0.1 | 0.5 | 1.1 | 0.8 | 0.3 | 4.3 | 3.6 | 2.9 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.8 |
| NL | 0.9 | 0.1 | 1.4 | 0.5 | 1.0 | : | 5.1 | 4.9 | 4.5 | 3.0 | 3.1 | : |
| A | 0.2 | -0.3 | 0.5 | 1.1 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 2.2 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.8 |
| P (5) | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| FIN | 0.1 | -0.8 | 0.2 | 1.0 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 3.0 | 1.6 | 0.8 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 1.4 |
| S | 1.3 | 0.1 | 0.8 | 1.7 | 0.7 | : | 4.9 | 4.2 | 3.7 | 3.9 | 3.3 | : |
| UK (2) | 1.0 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.0 | 0.9 | : | 3.6 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 2.6 | 2.5 | : |

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

Building permits

A reduction (compared to the previous quarter) in the number of building permits issued in the EU was recorded in the third quarter of 2002 (-0.8%), after a pause in the previous period. The variation was higher in the euro-zone as the number of permits issued fell by 1.1%.

| | Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series | | | | | | Year on year growth rates, gross series | | | | | |
|-----------|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Q2-01 | Q3-01 | Q4-01 | Q1-02 | Q2-02 | Q3-02 | Q2-01 | Q3-01 | Q4-01 | Q1-02 | Q2-02 | Q3-02 |
| EU-15 | -2.6 | 0.4 | -1.5 | -0.9 | 0.0 | -0.8 | -9.3 | -4.2 | -5.5 | -5.2 | -1.8 | -2.7 |
| Euro-zone | -3.3 | 0.6 | -1.9 | -1.1 | 0.1 | -1.1 | -10.4 | -5.4 | -6.9 | -6.3 | -1.9 | -3.6 |
| B | -12.2 | -3.8 | 3.3 | -1.7 | 2.8 | 8.4 | -0.9 | -6.6 | 4.8 | -14.4 | 0.4 | 12.8 |
| DK | -19.9 | 12.0 | -15.1 | 15.9 | -1.0 | 1.4 | -3.5 | 34.8 | -14.9 | -11.3 | 9.1 | -0.9 |
| D | -1.8 | -5.2 | -5.4 | 3.8 | -4.7 | -4.2 | -10.7 | -13.9 | -9.9 | -8.1 | -11.1 | -10.3 |
| EL | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| E | -12.9 | 17.4 | -5.5 | -6.7 | 0.2 | : | -18.5 | -4.1 | -9.5 | -9.9 | 3.7 | : |
| F | -2.2 | 1.0 | -2.0 | -1.2 | 2.1 | 1.1 | -4.0 | -1.9 | -1.4 | -4.3 | -0.1 | 0.0 |
| IRL | -7.5 | -17.8 | : | : | : | : | -8.8 | -27.2 | : | : | : | : |
| I (6) | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| L | -28.3 | 37.7 | -9.4 | -16.3 | 41.9 | -28.8 | -40.4 | -13.5 | 1.7 | -29.4 | 50.8 | -28.0 |
| NL | -15.9 | 20.3 | -17.7 | -1.5 | 13.0 | -4.8 | -35.5 | -4.1 | -14.3 | -18.4 | 10.1 | -12.9 |
| A (1) | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| P | 10.6 | -1.7 | -11.5 | 3.9 | -5.0 | 11.6 | -2.5 | -3.7 | -13.3 | 0.0 | -14.1 | -2.6 |
| FIN | 3.5 | 7.7 | -6.9 | -0.8 | 4.0 | 2.3 | -22.5 | 6.8 | -10.4 | 1.9 | 3.6 | -1.1 |
| S (7) | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| UK (8) | 2.7 | 1.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | -4.1 | 8.9 | 1.1 | 3.9 | 12.6 | 5.2 | -1.7 | 5.1 |

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

¹ Data available from 2000 onwards; impossible to compute an index from 1995 onwards; 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 Confidential data; ⁷ Impossible to compute an index from 1995 onwards; data available from 1996 onwards; ⁸ Building starts for houses.

Building permits in square metres

Indices relative to the total area for which building permits were granted are only available for six EU countries for the third quarter of 2002. Among them large reductions were observed in Luxembourg (-31.2%) and, on a more reduced scale, in the Netherlands (-7.2%), Denmark (-5.5%) and Germany (-4.0%).

| | Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series | | | | | | Year on year growth rates, gross series | | | | | |
|-----------|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Q2-01 | Q3-01 | Q4-01 | Q1-02 | Q2-02 | Q3-02 | Q2-01 | Q3-01 | Q4-01 | Q1-02 | Q2-02 | Q3-02 |
| EU-15 | -2.6 | 1.5 | -2.7 | : | : | : | -9.0 | -2.6 | -6.3 | : | : | : |
| Euro-zone | -3.3 | 2.6 | -2.6 | 0.2 | -0.3 | : | -9.1 | -2.8 | -6.3 | -3.3 | -0.1 | : |
| B | -4.8 | -9.7 | 0.8 | -7.1 | 3.4 | 6.7 | 0.7 | -7.5 | -2.2 | -19.7 | -11.9 | 3.2 |
| DK | -15.1 | 11.0 | -5.4 | 3.8 | 1.2 | -5.5 | -5.1 | 17.3 | 1.9 | -7.8 | 9.2 | -7.2 |
| D | -3.5 | -2.7 | -4.8 | 7.0 | -8.5 | -4.0 | -8.6 | -10.2 | -11.5 | -3.3 | -8.7 | -10.1 |
| EL | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| E | -9.3 | 13.7 | -6.0 | -4.9 | -0.3 | : | -14.1 | -2.1 | -9.4 | -7.8 | 1.3 | : |
| F (1) | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| IRL | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| I (2) | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| L | -26.1 | 42.2 | -10.7 | -13.1 | 34.8 | -31.2 | -33.6 | 1.3 | -6.7 | -22.7 | 51.7 | -33.6 |
| NL | -17.0 | 16.6 | -13.6 | -6.5 | 14.8 | -7.2 | -33.3 | -1.9 | -8.6 | -21.9 | 8.3 | -13.9 |
| A (3) | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| P | 3.4 | -4.2 | -5.9 | : | : | : | -1.9 | -6.0 | -11.8 | : | : | : |
| FIN | 1.5 | 4.8 | -5.6 | 0.2 | 5.9 | 0.0 | -20.0 | 0.9 | -8.9 | 0.1 | 5.3 | 0.1 |
| 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 Confidential data; 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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