



Statistics in focus

INDUSTRY, TRADE AND SERVICES

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Developments for construction in the fourth quarter of 2002

Digna Amil

Latest construction trends

While the EU's seasonally adjusted production index for construction recorded no change in its volume during the final quarter of 2002 (compared to the previous quarter), during the same period the index for the euro-zone declined by 0.7%. As such, these figures indicate a stagnation of production when compared to the previous quarter.

When comparing the latest working day adjusted data with that of the fourth quarter of 2001, it appears that the construction sector contracted in both the EU and the euro-zone, as the production index declined respectively by 1.1% and by 2.5%. In the third quarter of 2002 there had been a moderate increase in output (+0.2%), while in the euro-zone the decline was less rapid (-1.0%).

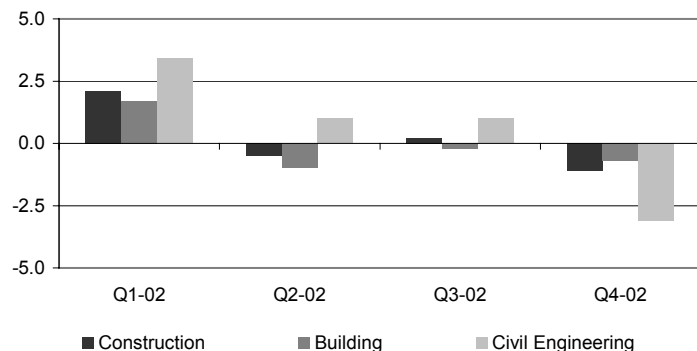


Figure 1: Production volume index for EU construction, building and civil engineering, growth rates, compared to the same quarter of the previous year (%)

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	
Q1-02	-0.3	Q1-02	-0.6	Q1-02	2.1	Q1-02	1.3
Q2-02	-1.3	Q2-02	-1.3	Q2-02	-0.5	Q2-02	-1.7
Q3-02	0.4	Q3-02	0.0	Q3-02	0.2	Q3-02	-1.0
Q4-02	0.0	Q4-02	-0.7	Q4-02	-1.1	Q4-02	-2.5

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



Production indices for construction

The fourth 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 three of the Member States reported positive results. In the United Kingdom the production index for construction increased by 2.1%, in Luxembourg by 1.6% and in Germany by 1.5%. As such, this halted a series of three consecutive negative rates in the German construction sector.

Among the remaining Member States, the largest decrease in construction output was observed in Belgium (-5.2%). Reductions of between 1% and 4% were recorded in Finland, Sweden, the

Netherlands, Austria and Denmark, while Spain and France registered modest reductions, in both cases down by 0.2%.

When comparing the fourth quarter of 2002 with the same quarter of a year before, declines in output were once again prevalent in most Member States.

The German construction sector experienced its twelfth consecutive quarterly decrease in production, losing 7.0%, which was the largest decrease recorded in the EU in the fourth quarter of 2002.

Belgium and the Netherlands also registered considerable declines in construction activity. In Belgium, output fell by 5.9% between the final quarters of 2001 and 2002. This marked the end of a series of three

consecutive positive rates. In the Netherlands the loss registered was equal to 4.9%. As such, the negative trend which started in the second quarter of 2002 was continued and became more pronounced.

Among the remaining Member States, the variations in the fourth quarter of 2002 were mainly negative, with just three Member States reporting a positive evolution.

With a growth rate of 8.5%, the United Kingdom continued to report a positive evolution to construction output, while Spain (+2.4%) and Finland (+1.8%) also registered growth.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted 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	-0.2	1.5	-0.3	-1.3	0.4	0.0	0.4	1.9	2.1	-0.5	0.2	-1.1
Euro-zone	-0.2	0.8	-0.6	-1.3	0.0	-0.7	-0.2	1.3	1.3	-1.7	-1.0	-2.5
B	-1.9	4.9	0.3	-3.0	2.1	-5.2	-2.6	-2.7	1.2	0.2	4.5	-5.9
DK	-2.3	-1.4	2.5	-3.2	-2.9	-1.0	-5.1	-3.9	0.4	-0.6	-2.4	-1.2
D	1.3	0.7	-1.5	-6.5	-0.9	1.5	-4.3	-3.4	-0.7	-5.8	-7.5	-7.0
EL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	-0.3	3.9	3.1	-0.3	1.3	-0.2	4.9	8.0	7.7	5.4	8.3	2.4
F	-0.9	-0.4	-2.2	-0.1	-0.7	-0.2	0.0	-0.4	-4.6	-3.6	-3.2	-2.9
IRL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
L	4.3	1.3	1.0	0.7	-2.5	1.6	8.4	10.1	9.6	10.7	-3.6	-0.5
NL	0.8	0.7	-1.4	-1.1	-0.3	-1.7	4.6	1.3	3.4	-1.6	-2.0	-4.9
A	2.9	-0.8	1.0	-0.2	-2.4	-1.2	-0.3	-3.4	1.8	3.4	-2.8	-3.4
P (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	-1.7	0.0	0.2	4.8	-0.3	-3.2	2.1	-3.2	-2.7	3.3	3.3	1.8
S	-1.4	4.4	-2.3	0.7	2.9	-2.4	2.5	6.2	-2.2	3.2	6.2	-1.3
UK	1.0	2.2	3.0	1.2	1.8	2.1	5.2	6.4	8.2	7.3	8.1	8.5

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

¹ Derogation until end 2001; ² Confidential but taken into account in order to compute European aggregates; ³ Derogation until end 2002.

Production indices for building

In the fourth quarter of 2002 (compared to the previous quarter), the production index of the building sector registered positive growth of 0.2% in the EU, while in the euro-zone there was a decline of 0.3%. When comparing with the same quarter of a year before declines were observed both in the EU and in the euro-zone (-0.7% and -2.2% respectively).

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted 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	-0.3	1.0	-0.4	-0.9	0.3	0.2	-0.8	1.4	1.7	-1.0	-0.2	-0.7
Euro-zone	-0.5	0.8	-0.6	-1.3	-0.1	-0.3	-1.6	0.9	0.9	-2.1	-1.5	-2.2
B	-4.6	4.0	-0.6	-0.5	-3.7	-1.2	-1.0	-3.4	2.1	-0.8	-3.0	-5.2
DK	-1.3	-2.3	0.7	1.7	-2.5	-0.6	-3.8	-2.1	0.0	-1.1	-2.4	-0.7
D	1.0	0.4	-2.1	-6.9	-0.9	1.9	-6.9	-5.2	-2.2	-7.1	-8.8	-7.6
EL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	0.6	2.5	2.4	1.1	1.9	2.1	4.0	9.3	9.8	6.5	9.1	6.2
F	-1.0	-0.5	-1.5	-0.7	-0.7	-0.7	0.6	0.6	-4.3	-4.0	-3.1	-2.8
IRL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
L	5.1	0.5	0.6	2.3	-4.6	0.5	16.5	11.8	6.7	11.0	-1.5	-2.3
NL	-0.5	0.5	-1.0	-0.5	-0.1	-0.6	1.3	-0.9	1.2	-1.8	-2.3	-4.7
A	1.3	0.6	-0.1	-0.8	-2.6	-2.7	-3.1	-4.6	-0.7	2.0	-2.7	-7.3
P (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	-2.6	-0.8	0.8	5.7	-1.1	-3.9	1.6	-4.6	-3.2	3.2	3.1	1.4
S	-0.9	0.1	2.2	0.4	1.5	-1.1	-0.9	-1.9	-1.2	3.7	6.3	1.5
UK	0.0	3.5	1.0	1.6	0.9	4.1	5.1	6.3	7.6	6.6	7.9	9.5

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

Production indices for civil engineering

Compared to the previous quarter there was also a reduction in the production of the civil engineering sector in the EU, as output declined by 1.7%, while a loss of 0.7% was recorded in the euro-zone. When comparing with the same quarter of a year before, output decreased by 3.1% and 2.7% respectively in the EU and the euro-zone.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted 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	0.8	1.7	-0.7	-0.7	0.5	-1.7	3.4	3.0	3.4	1.0	1.0	-3.1
Euro-zone	0.2	1.6	-0.7	-1.8	0.4	-0.7	2.5	2.2	2.2	-0.7	-0.5	-2.7
B	-8.4	3.5	0.8	1.8	-2.0	0.3	-12.9	-14.2	-1.3	-1.8	-0.4	-3.3
DK	-0.2	1.9	5.0	-4.9	-3.7	-3.8	-10.8	-11.0	1.9	1.8	-2.4	-3.5
D	1.6	1.3	-0.6	-5.8	-0.9	0.8	0.2	-0.4	1.8	-3.5	-5.4	-6.2
EL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	-0.3	8.4	-0.5	-1.0	2.6	-4.9	9.0	10.9	3.0	4.0	9.7	-5.7
F	-0.7	-0.4	-1.8	0.0	-1.2	-0.2	-1.0	-2.9	-5.2	-2.7	-3.4	-3.2
IRL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
L	8.1	1.6	1.7	-1.3	-8.2	9.8	0.6	8.2	13.3	10.4	-5.9	1.4
NL	2.5	-0.1	0.2	-2.9	0.0	-0.2	11.6	4.6	11.7	-1.6	-2.0	-5.1
A	5.0	0.7	2.0	-0.8	-0.9	9.0	7.2	0.5	11.2	7.2	-3.1	8.5
P (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	1.7	2.9	-1.9	1.2	3.1	0.0	4.1	1.7	-0.4	3.1	3.7	3.2
S	7.3	-1.5	-6.1	-0.1	1.5	3.1	12.4	23.7	-7.8	-0.8	2.9	-8.3
UK	1.2	-1.4	5.8	-0.1	-1.3	-7.6	11.4	9.3	11.5	14.0	12.4	-5.2

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

¹ Derogation until June 2003; ² Data estimated by Eurostat and considered to compute European aggregates; ³ Derogation until June 2002.

New orders

Data concerning the new orders index in the construction sector are only available for six Member States for the fourth quarter of 2002. Compared with the last quarter of the previous year, only Germany displayed a negative rate.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted 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	4.3	-3.7	4.5	2.2	-1.1	:	4.2	-5.9	2.1	7.8	1.9	:
Euro-zone	4.8	-3.4	2.6	4.0	-3.9	:	4.0	-7.2	0.9	9.7	-0.8	:
B	-7.6	-2.1	-2.7	3.1	-4.6	10.5	-10.4	-9.3	-10.4	-9.2	-7.3	5.8
DK (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
D	-4.1	-3.4	2.1	-4.9	-1.5	-1.6	-4.3	-7.2	-2.2	-9.9	-5.8	-6.1
EL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	16.1	-9.0	7.6	15.7	-9.6	-0.3	10.9	-7.8	6.5	33.8	4.4	11.3
F (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IRL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
L	24.5	-14.8	0.8	21.2	-1.3	16.8	75.4	-2.5	-4.9	34.2	-12.4	57.2
NL	12.3	-3.3	1.7	1.2	1.8	:	15.6	10.9	4.9	11.8	4.7	:
A	-5.1	-16.5	0.3	-6.7	-4.5	:	-5.3	-35.3	-19.6	-25.8	-25.6	:
P (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	-5.7	-7.7	1.5	6.1	7.6	24.2	-6.7	-23.4	-19.6	-5.6	8.2	45.9
S (4)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	7.6	-9.4	17.9	-13.1	20.7	-6.0	5.0	-0.1	5.8	-0.1	12.1	16.3

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

Employment

The employment index of the construction sector continued its negative trend in the fourth quarter of 2002. Employment in the EU declined by 0.2% compared to the third quarter of 2002 and by 1.1% compared to the fourth quarter of 2001. This picture was similar in the euro-zone with a quarterly decline of 0.1% and a year on year reduction of 0.7%.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted 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	0.0	0.5	0.0	-0.8	-0.3	-0.2	1.4	1.3	1.9	-0.5	-1.2	-1.1
Euro-zone	0.1	0.2	0.6	-0.8	-0.4	-0.1	1.5	1.3	2.2	0.1	-0.5	-0.7
B	0.1	0.0	-0.3	-0.2	-0.4	-0.5	1.0	0.2	-0.2	-0.3	-1.1	-2.2
DK	0.0	-1.1	1.1	-1.1	-1.3	-0.9	-1.3	-2.0	-1.5	-1.0	-2.7	-2.4
D	-3.1	-0.4	-1.2	-2.8	-1.8	-2.9	-9.0	-9.0	-2.7	-7.2	-7.8	-7.9
EL (5)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	0.9	1.5	2.0	-0.2	-1.5	0.8	7.2	7.2	6.7	4.2	1.9	1.0
F	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.2	-0.1	2.0	2.0	1.5	0.9	1.1	0.3
IRL	-0.6	-2.0	-0.1	-0.7	-0.3	0.5	1.5	-1.8	-2.3	-3.4	-2.7	-1.0
I	0.9	0.7	0.1	0.5	1.4	0.6	6.0	4.7	3.0	1.4	2.2	2.8
L	0.9	1.0	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.3	3.3	4.4	3.8	2.6	2.1	1.5
NL	0.4	0.3	-0.1	-0.2	-0.3	-0.4	2.5	2.3	1.0	0.4	-0.3	-1.2
A	-1.1	-1.3	-0.5	-1.0	-0.9	-0.7	-5.1	-5.1	-3.7	-4.0	-3.7	-2.7
P (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	2.7	0.0	-0.1	1.5	-1.7	2.7	-1.0	0.2	1.3	4.5	-1.9	3.3
S (6)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	0.7	-0.5	-1.1	-3.0	-0.9	1.0	1.3	2.0	0.7	-3.9	-5.6	-3.7

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 Information from 2002 onwards; index not computable.

Hours worked

There were also a continuation of negative rates for the index of hours worked. When comparing to the previous quarter, hours worked fell by 0.9% in the EU and by 1.1% in the euro-zone. Declines of 3.9% and 4.6% were observed in the EU and the euro-zone on the basis of a comparison with the same quarter of a year before.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted 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	-0.3	-0.4	-0.7	-0.8	-1.3	-0.9	-2.4	-1.8	-1.2	-1.6	-3.6	-3.9
Euro-zone	-0.5	-0.4	-0.7	-1.0	-1.4	-1.1	-2.8	-2.6	-1.5	-2.1	-3.7	-4.6
B	-1.4	1.0	-1.2	-0.5	-0.6	-1.3	-1.1	-0.9	-2.0	-1.2	-1.2	-5.6
DK	-0.6	-0.6	-0.6	-0.4	-0.4	:	-1.8	-1.3	-4.2	0.4	-3.5	:
D	-3.1	-0.8	-1.1	-3.2	-2.9	-5.5	-10.1	-10.2	-4.2	-7.8	-8.3	-11.2
EL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	0.1	-1.0	-0.9	-0.5	-1.6	-0.4	0.1	-0.1	-2.6	-0.1	-4.6	-4.6
F	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.1	-0.1	1.6	1.1	1.0	0.6	0.5	0.2
IRL	-0.7	0.2	0.3	-1.3	1.7	-1.8	-2.4	-1.8	-0.4	-1.6	0.9	-1.1
I (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
L	2.8	1.5	0.4	0.3	-0.2	0.8	9.1	12.0	6.0	10.5	-1.2	-1.1
NL	0.3	0.4	0.0	-0.3	-0.5	-0.6	2.0	1.7	1.2	0.4	-0.5	-1.6
A	-0.7	-1.9	-0.5	-0.8	-0.7	0.0	-5.2	-5.7	-5.5	-4.1	-3.5	-1.0
P (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	0.5	0.7	0.6	-0.7	-2.7	1.4	-5.2	3.0	2.7	1.8	-2.7	-1.1
S (4)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	1.1	0.0	0.0	-0.3	-3.0	1.6	0.0	2.2	1.1	1.1	-3.2	-1.6

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

Wages and salaries

The wages and salaries index in the construction sector also registered a negative rate in both in the EU and in the euro-zone when compared to the previous quarter, with reductions of 0.2% and 0.9% respectively. This marked the second successive quarter that wages and salaries had fallen in the EU and the third in the euro-zone.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted 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	0.5	0.4	0.1	-0.2	-0.2	1.8	1.4	1.9	1.8	0.7	-0.2
Euro-zone	0.1	0.4	0.4	-0.6	-0.5	-0.9	-0.1	0.1	1.9	0.5	-0.3	-1.9
B	0.5	2.6	-1.1	0.8	-2.7	-0.8	0.5	3.3	0.2	3.4	-0.1	-4.1
DK	0.8	0.3	-0.4	-0.7	-0.4	-0.4	5.7	3.9	-1.7	3.5	-2.8	-2.8
D	-2.2	-1.4	-1.2	-1.7	-1.5	-2.1	-7.8	-7.2	-7.0	-6.3	-5.1	-7.0
EL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	1.3	2.6	1.1	-1.1	-0.8	-2.4	9.6	7.2	16.4	5.0	-1.5	-4.9
F	1.2	1.7	1.3	0.5	0.7	0.9	5.4	6.0	5.4	4.8	4.3	3.4
IRL	1.6	4.4	3.1	2.2	2.2	-1.0	10.2	5.2	11.0	11.8	11.6	6.3
I	0.4	0.4	0.9	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.9	0.9	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4
L	2.9	-1.8	2.9	3.0	0.6	3.1	10.8	5.3	5.0	7.8	4.5	10.1
NL (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
A	0.3	-0.7	0.7	-0.5	0.2	-0.1	-2.7	-2.6	-0.2	-0.9	0.0	-0.5
P (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	0.0	-0.9	1.9	1.5	-1.6	-0.2	7.9	4.2	0.3	2.1	1.2	1.5
S (4)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	2.7	-0.9	1.7	3.1	0.6	1.6	9.3	6.5	2.4	6.8	5.3	7.2

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 fourth quarter of 2002 increased in the EU by 0.3% and in the euro-zone by 0.1%, when compared to the previous quarter. These figures marked a slowdown in the pace at which costs were rising when compared to the first three quarters of 2002.

	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	0.6	0.3	1.2	0.5	0.7	0.3	2.9	2.6	3.0	2.6	2.7	2.7
Euro-zone	0.3	0.0	1.1	0.5	0.5	0.1	2.6	2.1	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.1
B (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
DK	0.3	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.7	2.9	2.4	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.0
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	0.4	2.7	2.2	2.6	2.2	2.6	2.6
E (3)	0.2	-0.5	1.1	0.4	0.0	0.0	2.7	1.7	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.6
F	0.5	0.2	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.3	2.8	2.6	3.0	2.9	3.4	3.5
IRL (4)	4.3	8.0	:	:	:	:	19.6	15.3	:	:	:	:
I	0.6	0.3	2.9	0.4	0.5	0.2	2.4	2.1	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.0
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	1.1	-0.1	5.1	4.9	4.5	3.0	3.2	3.0
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	0.3	4.9	4.2	3.7	3.9	3.3	3.5
UK (2)	1.8	1.6	1.7	0.4	1.5	1.2	6.2	6.7	6.9	5.6	5.3	4.8

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

Building permits

There was also a decline registered in the number of building permits that were issued in the EU (-2.3%) and the euro-zone (-1.1%) between the third and final quarters of 2002. These negative rates were in contrast to positive growth that was recorded in the third quarter.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted 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	3.6	-4.5	1.5	-4.4	5.2	-2.3	-4.5	-6.3	-6.4	-2.7	-1.4	0.6
Euro-zone	1.6	-4.6	1.8	-2.8	2.4	-1.1	-4.2	-6.2	-7.9	-3.1	-2.0	0.6
B	-4.1	4.8	-3.7	3.9	4.5	-2.8	-6.6	4.8	-14.4	0.5	12.7	1.5
DK	18.9	-19.9	30.7	-0.8	0.7	-7.2	45.2	-12.7	-4.1	23.7	4.2	20.8
D	-4.4	-8.1	5.1	-3.7	-2.9	8.0	-13.9	-9.9	-8.1	-11.1	-10.3	6.3
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	12.9	-2.5	-6.8	1.2	8.1	:	-4.1	-9.5	-9.9	3.7	-0.8	:
F	5.4	-6.6	0.1	0.9	3.7	-2.2	-1.9	-1.5	-4.6	-0.6	-0.4	0.9
IRL	-20.0	:	:	:	:	:	-27.2	:	:	:	:	:
I (6)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
L	39.1	-14.2	-7.5	39.7	-25.9	24.9	-13.5	1.7	-29.4	50.8	-28.0	17.5
NL	17.6	-23.6	11.1	4.4	-0.4	33.5	-4.1	-14.3	-18.4	10.1	-12.9	53.1
A (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
P	-6.2	-3.8	0.3	-4.9	6.3	-14.5	-3.7	-13.3	0.0	-14.1	-0.8	-14.2
FIN	3.5	-3.3	0.1	4.1	1.9	1.1	6.8	-10.4	2.2	4.4	0.3	8.0
S (7)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK (8)	1.3	3.5	-0.6	-5.8	7.3	-1.3	3.7	12.9	6.3	-2.1	3.6	-1.0

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

¹ Data available from 2000 onwards; index not computable; 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

Among the six Member States for which data are available for the final quarter of 2002, only Belgium reported a negative evolution in the number of square metres for which permits were issued (-4.9%) 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					
	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	0.0	-0.2	-0.2	-0.8	-0.7	:	-1.8	-7.5	-4.3	-0.1	-1.4	:
Euro-zone	0.8	1.1	-1.3	-1.8	1.2	:	-0.8	-6.4	-4.4	-0.4	-1.5	:
B	-5.8	-4.2	-1.5	-0.7	2.5	-7.1	-7.5	-2.2	-19.7	-11.8	2.7	-4.9
DK	12.3	-4.5	9.8	-4.1	5.1	-6.1	24.3	5.5	-0.4	18.7	4.6	4.2
D	-1.5	-10.1	8.6	-4.9	-2.4	15.6	-10.2	-11.5	-3.3	-8.7	-10.1	16.8
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	14.6	-6.7	-3.4	-2.0	13.3	:	-2.1	-9.4	-7.8	1.3	1.6	:
F (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IRL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
L	43.6	-15.1	-5.4	33.9	-25.3	29.2	1.3	-6.7	-22.7	51.7	-33.6	26.8
NL	16.0	-17.4	-1.2	6.0	-1.8	32.1	-1.9	-8.6	-21.9	8.3	-13.9	42.8
A (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
P	-5.3	-3.2	:	:	:	:	-6.0	-11.8	:	:	:	:
FIN	4.9	-6.3	2.7	5.0	3.2	1.8	0.9	-8.9	0.5	6.5	4.5	9.1
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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