

Statistics in focus

INDUSTRY, TRADE AND SERVICES

THEME 4 – 33/2003

Contents

Latest trends	1
Production indices for construction	2
Production indices for building and civil engineering	3
New orders and employment	4
Hours worked and wages and salaries	5
Construction costs and building permits	6
Building permits in square metres	7
Definitions	7



Manuscript completed on: 14.10.2003
ISSN 1561-4840
Catalogue number: KS-NP-03-033-EN-N
© European Communities, 2003

Developments for the construction sector in the second quarter of 2003

Digna Amil

Latest trends

In the second quarter of 2003, the seasonally adjusted production index for construction increased by 1.0 % in the EU (compared to the previous quarter), and by 0.2 % in the euro-zone.

On the basis of a working day adjusted comparison, there was also annual growth in the EU's construction sector (see the figure below), where production rose by 0.8 % during the year to the second quarter of 2003. Activity was, however, reduced within civil engineering, as a decline of 3.9 % was registered in the EU, compared to a 1.6 % increase for building.

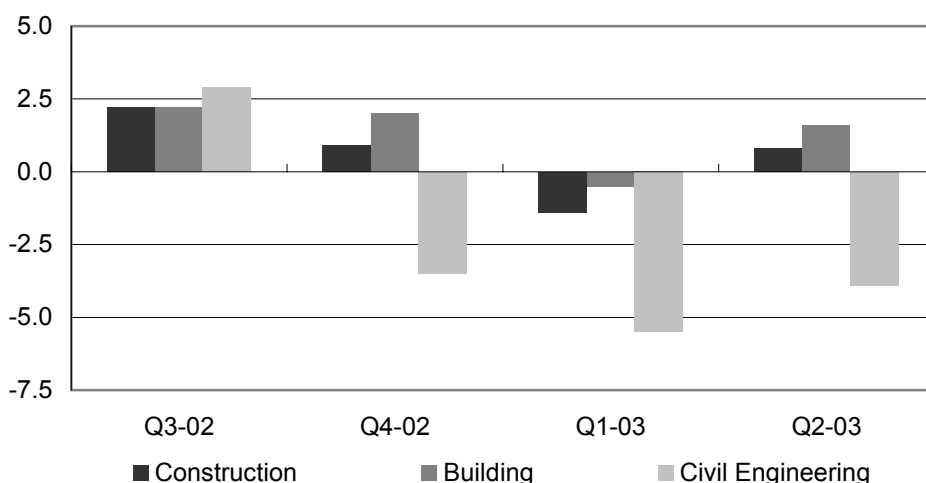


Figure 1: Production index for EU construction, building and civil engineering, growth rates, compared to the same quarter of the previous year (%)

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	
Q3-02	0.5	Q3-02	0.1	Q3-02	2.2	Q3-02	0.5
Q4-02	0.1	Q4-02	0.0	Q4-02	0.9	Q4-02	-0.6
Q1-03	-0.9	Q1-03	-1.0	Q1-03	-1.4	Q1-03	-2.4
Q2-03	1.0	Q2-03	0.2	Q2-03	0.8	Q2-03	-0.7

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

Data extracted: 13.10.2003

Production indices for construction

After the downturn experienced in the construction sector in the first quarter of 2003, there was an increase in construction activity in the EU in the second quarter of 2003.

On the basis of a comparison with the previous quarter, eight out of the ten Member States for which data are available, reported that their quarter on quarter rates of change for the second quarter of 2003 were an improvement on those registered in the first quarter.

Growth of the production index in the construction sector for a majority of countries ranged between 0.2 % in the Netherlands and 2.6 % in Sweden. However, the United Kingdom (5.3 %) reported far higher increases in construction output, while the only negative rates were registered in Luxembourg (-0.5 %) and Belgium (-4.8 %).

Spain was the only Member State to report a consistent pattern of increasing output in the construction sector. The second quarter of 2003 was the fourth consecutive quarter without a decrease in output in Spain, as production rose by 1.2 %. In the second quarter of 2003, no other country was able to report two successive, quarter on quarter increases in output.

There was also an improvement in growth rates for the production index based on an annual comparison between the second quarter of 2003 and the same quarter of a year before. In the EU there had been a reduction in construction output of 1.4 % in the first quarter of 2003, which was reversed, such that production rose by 0.8 % in the second quarter of 2003.

This trend was repeated in seven of the ten Member States for which data are available. The most significant changes were reported in Denmark and Germany where contractions of about 14 % in the first quarter of 2003 were reduced to losses of 3.6 % and 6.5 % respectively in the second quarter. Further declines in activity were recorded in Luxembourg (-5.5 %), Belgium (-4.2 %), the Netherlands (-1.3 %) and France (-0.2 %). On the other hand, the highest increases were registered in Spain (4.5 %) and the United Kingdom (6.6 %).

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted series					
	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03
EU-15	0.9	-0.8	0.5	0.1	-0.9	1.0	3.6	1.8	2.2	0.9	-1.4	0.8
Euro-zone	0.3	-1.1	0.1	0.0	-1.0	0.2	2.4	0.4	0.5	-0.6	-2.4	-0.7
BE	-0.5	-3.6	-4.0	3.1	1.2	-4.8	-0.3	-1.2	-4.3	-5.0	-3.5	-4.2
DK	5.6	-3.6	0.2	-5.2	-1.0	2.5	10.4	1.9	0.7	2.2	-14.2	-3.6
DE	0.7	-4.3	-1.1	-1.7	-5.2	1.0	1.1	-1.7	-3.8	-6.1	-14.0	-6.5
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	3.1	-0.1	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.2	7.6	5.4	7.8	3.7	2.2	4.5
FR	0.0	0.5	-0.6	0.3	-0.4	0.5	-1.0	0.2	0.2	0.1	-0.1	-0.2
IE	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IT (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
LU	1.9	-0.3	-4.0	0.3	-1.8	-0.5	10.0	9.8	-4.1	-1.9	-5.9	-5.5
NL	-1.6	-2.1	-0.6	-2.0	-0.1	0.2	1.6	-2.8	-3.9	-7.8	-5.2	-1.3
AT	0.4	1.9	-1.4	-0.6	:	:	-1.9	4.0	0.0	-0.6	:	:
PT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FI	0.6	1.8	1.2	-0.6	-0.8	2.1	-1.8	2.5	1.6	3.3	2.1	1.9
SE	-0.6	0.9	1.2	0.0	-1.1	2.6	-3.1	3.2	7.2	-1.4	-2.4	1.6
UK	3.0	1.2	1.8	2.1	-2.6	5.3	8.4	7.3	7.9	6.9	3.7	6.6

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

¹ Confidential, but taken into account to compute European aggregates.

Production indices for building

In the second quarter of 2003, the EU production index for building showed positive growth of 1.6% (compared to a year before) and 1.2% (compared to the quarter before), after declines had been recorded in the first quarter of 2003. Much of the change could be accounted for by the improvement in building output in the United Kingdom and Germany. In Germany, four consecutive quarter on quarter losses came to an end, as output rose by 1.2%, while in the United Kingdom, a decline of 2.9% in the first quarter of 2003 turned into growth of 5.9% in the second quarter.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted series					
	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03
EU-15	1.1	-0.5	0.5	0.6	-0.6	1.2	3.2	1.7	2.2	2.0	-0.5	1.6
Euro-zone	0.6	-0.7	0.0	0.0	-0.5	0.4	2.2	0.5	0.7	0.1	-1.7	-0.1
BE	-4.3	-1.5	-3.3	1.2	-0.5	-3.8	-1.3	-2.5	-5.3	-7.6	-3.9	-5.8
DK	1.9	1.2	-1.5	0.3	-5.2	3.1	-0.3	0.8	-0.2	2.0	-5.7	-3.4
DE	0.1	-3.9	-0.9	-1.9	-6.3	1.2	0.0	-2.1	-4.1	-6.2	-14.5	-7.3
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	2.1	1.1	1.4	2.3	0.9	1.7	9.6	6.5	8.0	5.8	3.7	6.4
FR	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.1	-0.2	0.3	0.5	1.1	1.7	1.5	0.4	0.5
IE	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IT (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
LU	2.6	1.0	-6.3	-2.0	-3.8	-0.6	6.9	10.4	-1.9	-4.3	-12.3	-12.1
NL	-1.3	-1.8	-0.5	-1.4	-0.5	0.6	-0.1	-2.6	-3.9	-7.4	-3.5	-0.6
AT	-0.9	1.3	-1.2	-2.1	:	:	-4.4	2.3	0.3	-3.9	:	:
PT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FI	1.1	2.3	-0.4	0.4	0.1	2.3	-1.9	3.4	0.9	3.6	3.0	2.5
SE	2.7	-0.6	1.2	-1.5	-0.6	3.0	-1.1	3.7	6.2	1.5	-2.5	1.5
UK	1.1	1.5	0.9	4.0	-2.9	5.9	7.8	6.6	7.7	9.5	4.3	8.9

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

Production indices for civil engineering

In contrast to the positive evolution recorded for building activity, there was stagnation in the civil engineering sector, as output was almost unchanged in both the EU (-0.1%) and the euro-zone (0.1%) between the first and second quarters of 2003. In terms of a comparison with the same quarter of a year before, the EU registered a reduction of 3.9% in civil engineering output, while the corresponding growth rate in the euro-zone was -2.1%.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted series					
	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03
EU-15	0.2	-0.4	0.0	-3.1	-1.0	-0.1	3.8	2.7	2.9	-3.5	-5.5	-3.9
Euro-zone	-0.4	-1.4	0.4	-1.8	-0.9	0.1	2.1	-0.1	0.3	-2.9	-4.4	-2.1
BE	-8.6	-3.8	-2.6	-0.3	-2.3	-11.8	-13.3	-12.2	-12.4	-14.0	-9.5	-14.4
DK	6.0	-0.9	-1.9	-2.5	2.9	-2.6	3.2	7.0	5.5	2.2	-4.4	-4.3
DE	1.6	-4.9	-1.5	-1.6	-3.3	0.7	3.2	-0.8	-3.2	-6.0	-13.1	-5.2
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	-0.4	-0.8	2.4	-1.6	2.8	-0.1	3.0	4.0	9.1	-2.6	0.7	2.1
FR	-1.6	0.5	-1.7	-0.5	0.1	0.0	-4.9	-1.7	-2.9	-3.3	-1.6	-2.0
IE	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IT (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
LU	1.5	-2.3	-7.7	9.9	0.5	0.4	14.0	9.1	-6.7	0.7	-0.3	2.3
NL	2.7	-5.5	-1.2	-2.4	-2.1	0.5	11.3	-1.3	-2.2	-7.0	-12.6	-4.7
AT	2.3	0.9	-0.3	9.1	:	:	9.3	8.6	-1.0	11.1	:	:
PT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FI	-0.6	-0.7	6.7	-3.3	-3.7	0.7	-0.8	-1.2	3.3	3.1	-2.4	-0.8
SE	-5.3	-1.1	1.3	2.1	-1.1	4.6	-10.2	-0.8	5.8	-8.3	6.7	7.0
UK	6.1	0.1	-1.1	-7.6	3.4	-0.3	11.5	14.0	12.4	-5.5	-10.4	-11.9

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

¹ Data estimated by Eurostat and taken into account to compute European aggregates.

New orders

In the second quarter of 2003 new orders in the construction sector declined by 3.4 % in the EU and by 4.4 % in the euro-zone, when compared to the same quarter of a year before. Using the same growth rate, by far the highest contraction was recorded in Luxembourg (-22.5%), although a double-digit decrease was also registered in Germany (-12.1 %) and declines of more than 9 % in Belgium and Finland.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03
EU-15	5.9	0.8	1.6	1.4	-2.4	-3.5	5.3	5.8	5.9	10.3	1.4	-3.4
Euro-zone	1.7	4.7	-1.0	0.7	-0.5	-3.7	5.1	7.5	3.9	7.9	2.3	-4.4
BE	-3.2	4.8	-5.5	10.2	-2.7	-10.6	-10.4	-9.2	-7.3	5.8	6.4	-9.3
DK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
DE	2.2	-4.9	-1.2	-2.7	-6.6	-2.0	-2.3	-9.8	-5.8	-6.1	-15.1	-12.1
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	5.4	20.0	-3.7	-2.2	13.1	-4.7	6.5	33.8	14.6	17.8	28.6	1.5
FR (1)	3.7	2.1	-0.1	0.2	0.3	:	18.2	14.6	9.3	6.0	3.0	:
IE	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
LU	0.0	22.6	-4.8	5.4	-11.0	-11.3	-4.9	24.3	-12.5	36.4	7.0	-22.5
NL	1.4	1.3	0.2	0.8	0.6	:	5.0	11.8	4.7	19.7	-10.9	:
AT	4.8	-0.3	-0.1	3.8	:	:	-0.5	0.8	-1.6	8.3	:	:
PT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FI	0.9	15.9	7.2	29.2	-2.5	-35.8	-20.6	-1.3	14.4	66.2	63.7	-9.7
SE	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	22.9	-16.7	23.9	-7.1	2.2	-13.0	5.8	-0.1	12.1	18.5	-0.8	0.3

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

Employment

There was almost no change in the level of employment in the EU's construction sector in the second quarter of 2003, as the number of persons employed fell in the EU by 0.1 %, both compared to the previous quarter and the same quarter of a year before. The largest contractions among the Member States were registered in Germany.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03
EU-15	-0.2	-1.0	-0.3	-0.2	0.5	-0.1	2.2	-0.8	-1.6	-1.6	-1.3	-0.1
Euro-zone	0.4	-1.0	-0.4	-0.2	0.6	-0.2	2.5	-0.4	-1.0	-1.2	-1.0	-0.3
BE	-0.2	-0.4	-0.5	-0.7	-0.8	-0.6	-0.1	-0.3	-1.0	-2.2	-2.6	-2.6
DK	0.9	-0.9	-1.5	-0.7	-0.1	-0.9	-1.5	-1.0	-2.7	-2.4	-3.1	-3.1
DE	-1.1	-2.7	-1.7	-3.2	-2.4	-3.9	0.3	-7.2	-7.8	-7.9	-10.1	-10.8
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	1.9	-0.1	-1.4	0.7	3.1	1.7	6.7	4.2	1.9	1.0	2.2	4.1
FR	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.4	1.7	1.1	1.3	0.4	0.7	1.2
IE	-0.1	-0.7	-0.3	0.5	0.2	0.1	-2.3	-3.4	-2.7	-1.0	0.3	0.5
IT	0.2	0.0	1.8	1.1	0.7	1.4	3.0	1.4	2.2	2.8	4.3	6.5
LU	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.0	3.8	2.6	2.2	1.7	1.3	0.6
NL (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
AT	-0.5	-1.0	-0.9	-0.7	:	:	-3.7	-4.0	-3.7	-2.7	:	:
PT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FI	-0.1	1.3	-1.6	2.9	0.9	1.4	1.3	4.5	-1.9	3.3	3.0	4.2
SE (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	-0.6	-3.2	-0.9	1.0	0.3	1.2	0.7	-3.8	-5.4	-3.7	-2.8	1.6

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

¹ Data confidential for the last observation. ² Data not published due to unreliable quality. ³ Information from 2002 onwards; index not computable.

Hours worked

The volume of work done in the second quarter of 2003, as measured by the number of hours worked, declined at a faster pace than the employment index, suggesting a cut-back in over time. The number of hours worked in the construction sector in the EU was 1.1 % lower in the second quarter of 2003 than it had been a year before.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03
EU-15	-1.3	-0.3	-1.1	-0.4	1.0	-0.6	-0.6	-1.6	-3.7	-3.7	0.0	-1.1
Euro-zone	-1.4	-0.5	-1.3	-0.7	1.3	-0.9	-0.7	-2.4	-4.0	-4.8	-0.1	-1.6
BE	-1.1	-0.6	-0.8	-1.6	-0.8	-0.5	-2.0	-1.2	-1.2	-5.4	-3.4	-3.6
DK	-0.6	-0.4	-0.4	:	:	:	-4.2	0.4	-3.5	:	:	:
DE	-0.7	-4.5	-2.1	-5.6	-2.2	-0.5	-0.3	-7.8	-8.3	-11.2	-15.2	-9.9
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	-1.3	0.8	-0.9	1.6	2.6	0.0	-2.6	-0.1	-4.6	-4.6	12.8	5.1
FR	0.4	-0.2	0.3	-0.1	0.1	0.2	1.0	0.6	0.5	0.2	-0.1	0.7
IE	0.2	-1.2	1.8	-1.6	0.3	:	-0.4	-1.6	0.9	-0.9	-0.7	:
IT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
LU	0.6	0.5	-3.9	-0.1	-0.6	-0.4	6.4	9.5	-1.8	-2.9	-4.2	-5.6
NL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
AT	-0.4	-0.7	-0.7	-0.2	:	:	-5.5	-4.1	-3.5	-1.0	:	:
PT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FI	0.2	-1.0	-2.1	1.9	0.8	1.2	2.7	1.8	-2.7	-1.1	-0.1	2.5
SE (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	-1.8	1.5	-3.0	1.5	-0.1	:	1.0	1.0	-3.3	-0.3	0.0	:

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

Wages and salaries

There was no change in EU wages and salaries in the construction sector between the first and second quarters of 2003, while on the basis of a comparison with the same quarter of a year before, EU wages and salaries also remained almost unchanged (-0.1 %). The corresponding euro-zone figures, showed there was an annual reduction of 0.6 % in wages and salaries and a slight quarter on quarter decrease of 0.1%.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03
EU-15	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.0	-0.1	0.0	1.8	1.3	1.2	0.5	-0.3	-0.1
Euro-zone	0.2	-0.3	-0.1	-0.3	-0.2	-0.1	1.8	-0.2	0.1	-1.1	-1.3	-0.6
BE	-0.5	3.7	1.8	6.1	4.6	3.8	0.2	3.4	-0.1	15.3	18.0	17.4
DK	-0.3	-1.3	-0.7	-0.6	-0.6	0.2	-1.7	3.5	-3.2	-2.6	-1.3	-3.9
DE	-0.5	-3.0	-1.3	-2.4	-3.2	-0.5	-7.0	-6.3	-5.1	-7.0	-10.6	-6.8
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	1.6	-0.4	0.9	-0.3	1.0	0.9	16.4	5.0	3.9	-1.8	2.1	3.6
FR	1.6	0.7	1.0	0.9	-0.4	0.2	5.6	5.0	5.0	4.3	2.3	1.6
IE	3.3	2.1	2.3	-1.6	1.9	:	11.0	11.8	11.6	5.4	5.4	:
IT	-1.2	-0.8	1.0	0.4	-0.4	:	-4.8	-6.1	-0.9	-0.2	0.6	:
LU	5.5	3.1	-0.6	3.9	-2.5	0.1	6.0	8.3	4.5	13.3	3.5	0.4
NL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
AT	0.7	-0.5	0.2	-0.1	:	:	-0.2	-0.9	0.0	-0.5	:	:
PT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FI	1.3	1.3	-1.4	-0.4	2.5	0.8	0.3	2.1	1.2	0.6	1.9	1.4
SE (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	2.4	2.6	0.5	1.3	-2.0	2.0	2.4	6.8	5.3	7.0	2.2	1.7

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

¹ Data not published due to unreliable quality. ² Data confidential, but taken into account to compute EU-15 aggregate.

Construction costs

Comparing to the same quarter of a year before, construction costs in the EU increased by 2.5 % in the second quarter of 2003. There were price increases reported within all of the Member States for which data are available, although the 0.1 % increase in Germany was well below the next lowest rise, 1.9 % in the Netherlands and Finland.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, gross series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03
EU-15	1.3	0.5	0.8	0.4	0.7	0.7	3.2	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.3	2.5
Euro-zone	1.2	0.5	0.6	0.1	0.8	0.5	2.3	2.1	2.3	2.4	2.0	2.0
BE	1.1	0.7	0.5	:	:	:	2.7	3.5	3.1	:	:	:
DK	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.7	1.4	0.3	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.8	2.6
DE (1)	0.1	0.1	0.1	-0.1	0.1	0.0	-0.2	-0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1
EL	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.4	0.9	0.9	2.3	2.1	2.4	2.2	2.7	3.1
ES (2)	1.1	0.4	0.6	0.4	1.0	0.2	1.3	1.2	1.6	2.5	2.4	2.3
FR	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.3	1.4	0.8	3.0	2.9	3.4	3.5	3.8	3.6
IE (3)	0.3	-0.1	2.5	0.1	0.2	1.7	9.6	7.6	5.8	2.8	2.7	4.6
IT	2.9	0.4	0.5	0.2	:	:	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.0	:	:
LU (1)	0.5	1.1	0.8	0.3	0.5	0.6	2.9	2.5	2.5	2.8	2.8	2.2
NL	1.5	0.5	1.1	-0.1	0.7	0.2	4.5	2.9	3.2	3.0	2.2	1.9
AT	0.5	1.1	0.2	0.1	0.9	1.1	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.8	2.2	2.2
PT	1.5	0.9	0.4	0.2	:	:	3.5	3.5	3.0	3.0	:	:
FI	0.2	1.0	0.2	0.0	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.4	0.6	1.4	2.1	1.9
SE	0.8	1.7	0.7	0.3	1.8	0.7	3.7	3.9	3.3	3.5	4.5	3.4
UK (1)	1.7	0.4	1.5	1.2	0.0	1.3	6.9	5.6	5.3	4.8	3.1	4.1

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

Building permits

Building permits issued in the euro-zone in the second quarter of 2003 fell by 1.7 % compared to the previous quarter. This was the first decrease since the second quarter of 2002. Belgium, France and Finland were the only Member States to report that the number of permits increased between the first and second quarters of 2003.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03
EU-15	2.0	-2.2	3.4	0.8	3.4	:	-3.1	1.1	1.9	3.7	8.5	:
Euro-zone	1.1	-1.2	2.9	2.3	3.9	-1.7	-5.7	-0.2	0.0	4.5	11.6	5.2
BE	-3.3	2.6	5.2	-2.6	2.1	6.1	-14.4	0.5	12.7	1.5	7.0	11.2
DK	51.4	-4.6	1.7	-18.9	-12.2	-3.1	33.3	64.9	42.2	19.0	-31.0	-29.8
DE	-5.4	7.7	-2.2	7.2	17.9	-19.7	-8.1	-11.1	-10.3	6.3	39.1	-1.9
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	-7.6	1.9	9.4	8.4	4.9	:	-9.9	3.7	-0.8	16.0	22.0	:
FR	-0.3	1.6	4.8	-3.1	1.9	0.5	-5.1	-1.1	-0.6	0.9	7.1	4.0
IE	-5.6	17.4	-14.5	-11.7	-5.2	:	-27.7	-2.3	1.4	-15.6	-17.0	:
IT (4)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
LU	-12.1	49.0	-27.5	25.7	-3.5	-12.2	-29.4	50.8	-28.0	17.5	40.2	-20.3
NL	9.7	4.5	0.6	33.6	-11.1	-1.1	-18.4	10.1	-12.9	53.1	38.7	11.2
AT	7.8	12.5	1.2	-28.7	-24.3	:	14.3	23.1	40.8	-12.3	-36.6	:
PT	-9.3	4.0	0.0	-14.3	3.8	-6.6	-12.1	-13.4	-8.4	-20.3	-7.2	-16.9
FI	2.8	1.0	1.4	1.1	-3.9	10.2	1.4	4.4	1.4	9.1	-4.7	8.7
SE	13.1	-2.4	-2.2	-2.2	5.9	-8.2	-31.3	-2.6	4.6	-0.2	25.6	-9.3
UK (5)	-0.6	-5.8	7.3	-1.5	6.5	:	5.9	-2.1	3.6	-1.2	3.8	:

Table 10: Building permits - number of dwellings in residential buildings, growth rates (%)

¹ Output prices for new residential buildings are used as a proxy for construction costs. ² Input prices for building construction. ³ Input prices for 1-dwelling residential buildings. ⁴ Data confidential, but taken into account to compute European aggregates. ⁵ Building starts for houses.

Building permits in square metres

In the second quarter of 2003 there was a 2.0 % decrease in the area for which residential building permits were granted in the euro-zone. This was the first negative rate registered in the euro-zone since the first quarter of 2002. In terms of a comparison with the second quarter of 2002, the total area for which permits were granted in the euro-zone increased by 3.2%, considerably down on the 15.7 % increase recorded in the first quarter of 2003.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03
EU-15	-0.1	2.7	0.4	2.0	1.7	:	-6.1	1.6	-0.2	5.0	13.8	:
Euro-zone	-2.3	4.9	0.0	3.1	3.7	-2.0	-6.3	0.1	-1.7	5.5	15.7	3.2
BE	-3.8	-0.7	3.9	-4.7	7.9	1.2	-19.7	-11.8	2.7	-4.9	5.3	8.4
DK	24.3	-4.9	3.8	-20.4	-13.8	-2.3	31.1	54.5	36.6	-2.8	-29.7	-33.5
DE	-2.6	8.9	-2.9	13.1	17.1	-21.6	-3.3	-8.7	-10.1	16.8	46.8	-1.0
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	-2.8	-2.1	13.2	6.2	3.5	:	-7.8	1.3	1.6	14.4	21.9	:
FR	-0.8	2.1	-0.2	1.5	1.9	2.3	-3.5	1.2	-1.2	2.5	5.5	5.6
IE	-15.4	15.1	-16.9	-1.7	-4.9	:	-28.1	-10.0	-7.4	-18.1	-14.3	:
IT (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
LU	-11.5	50.3	-29.2	33.1	-4.2	-20.4	-22.7	51.7	-33.6	26.8	48.4	-26.4
NL	-2.2	6.5	-1.0	33.6	-1.6	-6.9	-21.9	8.3	-13.9	42.8	45.9	11.4
AT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
PT	-2.6	-0.8	-1.3	-7.7	-3.6	-5.6	-19.1	-12.8	0.7	-16.0	-10.4	-17.6
FI	5.1	3.2	2.8	0.1	-3.7	4.6	0.2	6.6	5.2	9.7	3.6	3.8
SE	10.2	-3.3	-1.2	0.1	9.8	-13.7	-29.4	-7.3	6.6	-1.4	20.4	-4.8
UK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

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

¹ Data confidential, but taken into account to compute European aggregates.

Definitions

Production index: shows output volume through the trend in value added at factor costs at constant prices.

Building and civil engineering: 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 a 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: total 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.

For more information please consult the STS methodology manual at the following web address (note that this is a PDF):

http://forum.europa.eu.int/irc/dsis/bmethods/info/data/new/embs/MM_Eurostat%202002-0507%20vo.2.pdf

e-mail: digna.amil@cec.eu.int

Further information:

➤ Reference publications

Title Quarterly Panorama of European business statistics
 Subscription code VPA000 Price EUR 100

➤ Databases

NewCronos, Theme 4,
 Domain: ebt (European Business Trends)

To obtain information or to order publications, databases and special sets of data, please contact the **Data Shop** network:

DANMARK	DEUTSCHLAND	ESPAÑA	FRANCE	ITALIA – Roma
DANMARKS STATISTIK Bibliotek og Information Eurostat Data Shop Sejrogade 11 DK-2100 KØBENHAVN Ø Tlf. (45) 39 17 30 30 Fax (45) 39 17 30 03 E-mail: bb@dst.dk URL: http://www.dst.dk/bibliotek	STATISTISCHES BUNDESAMT Eurostat Data Shop Berlin Otto-Braun-Straße 70-72 (Eingang: Karl-Marx-Allee) D-10178 BERLIN Tel. (49) 1888-644 94 27/28 (49) 611 75 94 27 Fax (49) 1888-644 94 30 E-Mail: datashop@destatis.de URL: http://www.eu-datashop.de/	INE Eurostat Data Shop Paseo de la Castellana, 183 Despacho 011B Entrada por Estébanez Calderón E-28046 MADRID Tel. (34) 915 839 167/ 915 839 500 Fax (34) 915 830 357 E-mail: datashop.eurostat@ine.es URL: http://www.ine.es/prodyserv/datashop/index.html	INSEE Info Service Eurostat Data Shop 195, rue de Bercy Tour Gamma A F-75582 PARIS CEDEX 12 Tél. (33) 1 53 17 88 44 Fax (33) 1 53 17 88 22 E-mail: datashop@insee.fr	ISTAT Centro di Informazione Statistica Sede di Roma, Eurostat Data Shop Via Cesare Balbo, 11a I-00184 ROMA Tel. (39) 06 46 73 32 28 Fax (39) 06 46 73 31 01/07 E-mail: datashop@istat.it URL: http://www.istat.it/Prodotti-e/Allegati/Eurostatdatashop.html
ITALIA – Milano	NEDERLAND	NORGE	PORTUGAL	SCHWEIZ/SUISSE/SVIZZERA
ISTAT Ufficio Regionale per la Lombardia Eurostat Data Shop Via Fieno 3 I-20123 MILANO Tel. (39) 02 80 61 32 460 Fax (39) 02 80 61 32 304 E-mail: mileuro@tin.it URL: http://www.istat.it/Prodotti-e/Allegati/Eurostatdatashop.html	Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek Eurostat Data Shop-Voorburg Postbus 4000 2270 JM VOORBURG Nederland Tel. (31-70) 337 49 00 Fax (31-70) 337 59 84 E-mail: datashop@cbs.nl URL: www.cbs.nl/eurodatashop	Statistics Norway Library and Information Centre Eurostat Data Shop Kongens gate 6 Boks 8131 Dep. N-0033 OSLO Tel. (47) 21 09 46 42/43 Fax (47) 21 09 45 04 E-mail: Datashop@ssb.no URL: http://www.ssb.no/bibliotek/datashop/	Eurostat Data Shop Lisboa INE/Serviço de Difusão Av. António José de Almeida, 2 P-1000-043 LISBOA Tel. (351) 21 842 61 00 Fax (351) 21 842 63 64 E-mail: data.shop@ine.pt	Statistisches Amt des Kantons Zürich, Eurostat Data Shop Bleichenweg 5 CH-8090 Zürich Tel. (41) 1 225 12 12 Fax (41) 1 225 12 99 E-mail: datashop@statistik.zh.ch URL: http://www.statistik.zh.ch
SUOMI/FINLAND	SVERIGE	UNITED KINGDOM	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	
STATISTICS FINLAND Eurostat Data Shop Helsinki Tilastokirjasto P.O. 23 FIN-00022 Tilastokeskus Työajakatu 13 B, 2. kerros, Helsinki P. (358-9) 17 34 22 21 F. (358-9) 17 34 22 79 Sähköposti: datashop@stat.fi URL: http://tilastokeskus.fi/tilkk/datashop/	STATISTICS SWEDEN Information service Eurostat Data Shop Karlavägen 100 - Box 24 300 S-104 51 STOCKHOLM Tfn (46-8) 50 69 48 01 Fax (46-8) 50 69 48 99 E-post: infoservice@scb.se URL: http://www.scb.se/tjanster/datashop/datashop.asp	Eurostat Data Shop Office for National Statistics Room 1.015 Cardiff Road Newport NP10 8XG South Wales United Kingdom Tel. (44-1633) 81 33 69 Fax (44-1633) 81 33 33 E-mail: eurostat.datashop@ons.gov.uk	HAVER ANALYTICS Eurostat Data Shop 60 East 42nd Street Suite 3310 NEW YORK, NY 10165 USA Tel. (1-212) 986 93 00 Fax (1-212) 986 69 81 E-mail: eurodata@haver.com URL: http://www.haver.com/	

Media Support Eurostat (for professional journalists only):

Bech Building Office A4/017 • L-2920 Luxembourg • Tel. (352) 4301 33408 • Fax (352) 4301 35349 • e-mail: eurostat-mediasupport@cec.eu.int

For information on methodology

Digna Amil, Eurostat/D3, L-2920 Luxembourg, Tel. (352) 4301 32321, Fax (352) 4301 34359,

E-mail: digna.amil@cec.eu.int

ORIGINAL: English

Please visit our web site at www.europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/ for further information!

A list of worldwide sales outlets is available at the **Office for Official Publications of the European Communities**.

2 rue Mercier – L-2985 Luxembourg
 Tel. (352) 2929 42118 Fax (352) 2929 42709
 URL: <http://publications.eu.int>
 E-mail: info-info-opoce@cec.eu.int

BELGIQUE/BELGIË – DANMARK – DEUTSCHLAND – GRECE/ELLADA – ESPAÑA – FRANCE – IRLAND – ITALIA – LUXEMBOURG – NEDERLAND – ÖSTERREICH
 PORTUGAL – SUOMI/FINLAND – SVERIGE – UNITED KINGDOM – ISLAND – NORGE – SCHWEIZ/SUISSE/SVIZZERA – BALGARJA – ČESKÁ REPUBLIKA – CYPRUS
 EESTI – HRVATSKA – MAGYARORSZÁG – MALTA – POLSKA – ROMÂNIA – RUSSIA – SLOVAKIA – SLOVENIA – TÜRKIYE – AUSTRALIA – CANADA – EGYPT – INDIA
 ISRAËL – JAPAN – MALAYSIA – PHILIPPINES – SOUTH KOREA – THAILAND – UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Order form

I would like to subscribe to Statistics in focus (from 1.1.2003 to 31.12.2003):

(for the Data Shop and sales office addresses see above)

All 9 themes (approximately 200 issues)

Paper: EUR 240

Language required: DE EN FR

Statistics in focus can be downloaded (pdf file) free of charge from the Eurostat web site. You only need to register. For other solutions, contact your Data Shop.

Please send me a free copy of 'Eurostat mini-guide' (catalogue containing a selection of Eurostat products and services)

Language required: DE EN FR

I would like a free subscription to 'Statistical References', the information letter on Eurostat products and services

Language required: DE EN FR

Mr Mrs Ms

(Please use block capitals)

Surname: _____ Forename: _____

Company: _____ Department: _____

Function: _____

Address: _____

Post code: _____ Town: _____

Country: _____

Tel.: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Payment on receipt of invoice, preferably by:

Bank transfer

Visa Eurocard

Card No: _____ Expires on: ____/____

Please confirm your intra-Community VAT number:

If no number is entered, VAT will be automatically applied. Subsequent reimbursement will not be possible.