

Statistics in focus

INDUSTRY, TRADE AND SERVICES

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Developments for the construction sector in the third quarter of 2003

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Latest trends

In the third quarter of 2003, the seasonally adjusted production index for construction remained relatively unchanged (+0.1 %) in the EU compared to the previous quarter, as it did in the euro-zone (-0.2 %).

Compared to the third quarter of 2002 the EU's index of production for the construction sector grew by 1.2 % (see the figure below). As in the previous quarters, production contracted in civil engineering (-3.3 %), while building activities grew by 2.3 % in the year to the third quarter, maintaining the growth recorded in the second quarter.

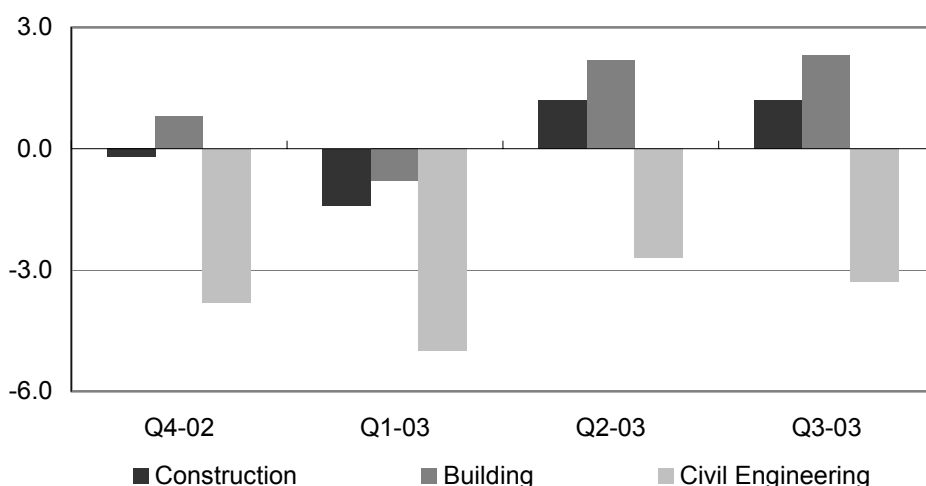


Figure 1: Production index for EU construction, building and civil engineering, growth rates, compared to the same quarter of the previous year (%)

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	
Q4-02	0.2	Q4-02	0.5	Q4-02	-0.2	Q4-02	-1.0
Q1-03	-0.6	Q1-03	-0.8	Q1-03	-1.4	Q1-03	-2.2
Q2-03	1.4	Q2-03	0.9	Q2-03	1.2	Q2-03	0.5
Q3-03	0.1	Q3-03	-0.2	Q3-03	1.2	Q3-03	0.4

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

Production indices for construction

The third quarter of 2003 reflected a level of stability in the output of the EU's construction sector after a downturn in the first quarter and growth in the second quarter.

Compared to the previous quarter, eight out of the twelve Member States for which data are available, reported growth in the third quarter of 2003, with three of the large Member States, the United Kingdom, Spain and France, among them. The position of the United Kingdom is particularly interesting as it reflects, in a stronger manner, the position seen for the EU as a whole, with a large negative rate of change in the first quarter of the year, strong growth in the second quarter, and then a lower growth rate in the third quarter. The position of Germany was quite similar, except that the third quarter posted a negative rate of change of -0.6 %.

Among the remaining Member States, Denmark, the Netherlands and Sweden reported a contraction in output in the third quarter of 2003 compared to the second quarter, while Austria, Finland, Portugal and Belgium reported growth exceeding 2 %.

Analysing a longer period, Spain maintained its sequence of positive quarter on quarter growth rates, extending this to five successive quarters. In contrast only France, Finland and the United Kingdom reported two successive quarters of quarterly growth in the third quarter of 2003.

Growth rates based on an annual comparison confirmed the strength of Spanish production in construction, with growth in the year to the third quarter of 2003 reaching 4.5 %. This was however below the annual growth rates in the third

quarter of 2003 for Austria (+10.6 %) and the United Kingdom (+5.3 %). Finland and Luxembourg also reported strong growth between the third quarters of 2002 and 2003, and more moderate growth was recorded in Belgium and France.

The sequence of negative quarter on quarter rates of change interspersed with an unchanged level of production in the Netherlands resulted in an overall contraction of construction production between the third quarters of 2002 and 2003 of 4.5 %, the largest contraction of any Member State. Relatively large negative rates of change for the year to the third quarter of 2003 were also reported for Sweden, Denmark, Portugal and Germany.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted series					
	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03
EU-15	-1.0	0.2	0.2	-0.6	1.4	0.1	1.4	1.2	-0.2	-1.4	1.2	1.2
Euro-zone	-1.5	-0.1	0.5	-0.8	0.9	-0.2	0.5	0.3	-1.0	-2.2	0.5	0.4
BE	-3.6	-4.1	3.3	1.1	-4.9	2.1	-1.2	-4.3	-5.0	-3.5	-4.2	1.5
DK	2.0	-1.6	-2.8	0.3	1.1	-2.0	1.9	1.4	-0.3	-2.1	-3.0	-3.4
DE	-4.7	-1.4	-0.7	-3.2	1.8	-0.6	-2.3	-4.6	-7.1	-12.3	-3.2	-2.4
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	-0.2	1.8	0.1	0.9	2.0	1.2	5.4	7.8	3.6	2.3	4.9	4.5
FR	0.0	-0.5	-0.3	-0.2	0.2	0.5	1.8	0.8	-0.9	-1.6	-0.6	0.8
IE	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IT (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
LU	0.0	-5.3	1.3	-1.2	-0.1	1.9	9.8	-4.1	-1.9	-5.8	-5.8	3.4
NL	-2.1	-0.2	-2.6	-0.1	0.1	-1.3	-2.8	-3.9	-7.8	-5.2	-1.3	-4.5
AT	4.4	-1.5	1.9	7.6	-0.9	4.2	4.0	-0.1	-0.5	16.5	6.7	10.6
PT	-0.4	-4.7	-1.0	-3.7	-1.0	2.9	-0.6	-2.6	-5.6	-9.4	-10.0	-3.2
FI	2.1	0.5	-0.2	-0.9	1.8	3.2	2.6	1.4	3.6	2.0	1.1	4.1
SE	1.8	1.8	-2.9	-1.5	0.8	-0.7	3.2	6.0	-1.3	-1.1	-1.7	-4.2
UK	0.7	0.7	1.3	-2.6	5.6	1.9	4.5	4.1	3.1	1.4	5.0	5.3

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

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

Production indices for building

In the third quarter of 2003, the EU production index for building showed a positive growth rate of 0.3 % compared to the quarter before, notably less than in the second quarter, when it had reached 1.7 %. The slower rate of growth reflects the position in the largest Member States, where the quarter on quarter rate of change was lower in the third quarter of 2003 than in the second quarter, or even negative.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted series					
	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03
EU-15	-1.1	0.2	1.0	-0.7	1.7	0.3	1.2	1.2	0.8	-0.8	2.2	2.3
Euro-zone	-1.5	0.0	1.0	-0.6	0.9	-0.3	0.5	0.4	-0.4	-1.3	1.4	1.0
BE	-1.6	-3.0	1.1	1.0	-1.6	0.3	-2.6	-5.4	-7.8	-2.4	-2.3	0.9
DK	1.4	-1.7	0.4	-5.1	3.4	-0.1	0.8	-0.2	2.1	-5.5	-3.1	-1.6
DE	-4.7	-1.6	-0.6	-3.0	2.3	-0.5	-3.0	-5.2	-7.3	-12.1	-2.7	-1.7
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	-0.1	1.9	1.4	0.5	2.1	1.2	6.5	8.0	5.9	3.7	6.1	5.4
FR	-0.2	-0.2	0.0	-0.7	0.7	0.3	2.7	1.9	0.1	-1.5	-0.1	0.5
IE	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IT (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
LU	1.0	-6.9	-1.8	-3.2	0.3	1.0	10.4	-1.9	-4.3	-12.2	-11.1	-2.2
NL	-1.8	-0.3	-1.7	-0.7	0.5	-1.1	-2.6	-3.9	-7.4	-3.6	-0.6	-5.0
AT	4.6	-0.6	-0.7	9.7	-2.4	2.2	2.3	0.3	-3.9	15.9	5.3	8.8
PT	-0.1	-4.3	-0.3	-3.6	-0.7	3.8	-1.7	-2.2	-4.5	-8.2	-8.7	-1.3
FI	2.8	-0.9	0.4	-0.3	2.3	2.3	3.4	0.8	3.5	2.7	1.5	4.6
SE	-0.6	1.7	-2.6	-2.8	1.2	-2.4	3.7	5.1	1.2	-4.5	-2.9	-6.4
UK	-0.9	1.1	2.9	-1.8	5.4	2.1	3.8	3.8	5.2	1.8	7.0	8.8

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

Production indices for civil engineering

In contrast to the subdued but nevertheless upward direction of building activity, civil engineering recorded a quarter on quarter contraction of output in the third quarter of 2003, continuing a series of negative rates of change or very low growth for the EU. The euro-zone however recorded a second successive quarter of growth, 0.6 % in the third quarter 2003 following on from 0.9 % in the second quarter.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted series					
	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03
EU-15	-0.8	0.1	-2.8	-0.5	0.2	-0.6	2.2	1.9	-3.8	-5.0	-2.7	-3.3
Euro-zone	-1.5	0.6	-1.6	-0.1	0.9	0.6	0.2	0.4	-3.0	-3.2	-0.3	-0.2
BE	-8.5	0.1	0.8	33.7	-8.6	2.7	-13.5	-11.5	-15.0	25.7	20.2	28.4
DK	-0.8	-0.6	-1.8	4.1	-1.3	-1.0	7.0	4.7	0.5	2.1	0.6	-0.5
DE	-4.5	-1.0	-1.0	-3.2	0.7	-0.8	-1.1	-3.6	-6.6	-12.7	-3.9	-3.6
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	0.0	3.2	-3.8	1.4	2.7	1.7	4.0	9.1	-2.6	0.7	3.4	1.9
FR	0.3	-1.3	-0.9	0.4	0.3	1.2	0.1	-1.5	-3.2	-1.8	-1.8	1.4
IE	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IT (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
LU	-1.9	-8.0	9.7	0.5	-1.2	1.0	9.1	-6.7	0.7	-0.2	0.2	9.9
NL	-5.7	-1.4	-2.9	-1.0	1.2	0.1	-1.3	-2.2	-7.0	-12.5	-4.7	-3.0
AT	1.9	-0.8	9.5	4.4	-2.3	5.1	8.6	-0.9	11.1	18.8	11.0	15.6
PT	-1.1	-5.4	-2.3	-4.0	-1.6	0.7	2.1	-3.4	-7.9	-12.4	-12.8	-7.2
FI	0.3	4.1	-1.0	-3.7	0.7	5.8	-0.9	3.6	4.3	-1.8	-0.6	3.1
SE	0.2	1.1	2.4	-0.9	-0.7	6.7	-0.8	-6.4	-2.4	2.8	1.9	7.5
UK	0.3	0.5	-11.4	-1.4	-0.9	-3.7	10.5	9.1	-7.5	-12.1	-12.7	-16.4

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

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

New orders

New orders in construction declined by 1.8 % in the EU in the third quarter of 2003, the third successive quarter on quarter fall. Between the third quarters of 2002 and 2003 the index of new orders fell by 4.5 %. The euro-zone however registered a quarter on quarter increase of 0.8 % in third quarter, reversing slightly the declines in the two previous quarters.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03
EU-15	0.7	1.8	1.2	-1.4	-2.5	-1.8	5.0	5.8	10.0	2.3	-0.9	-4.5
Euro-zone	2.0	-1.4	2.6	-1.5	-2.5	0.8	7.5	3.9	7.9	2.7	-3.1	-1.5
BE	5.4	-3.6	6.9	-2.2	-9.2	-0.1	-9.2	-7.3	5.8	6.4	-8.8	-5.5
DK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
DE	-4.6	-2.9	-1.6	-6.1	-1.5	1.0	-9.8	-5.8	-6.1	-15.1	-12.1	-7.3
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	19.7	-2.6	-2.9	12.8	-4.5	-0.9	33.8	14.6	17.8	28.6	2.0	3.2
FR	1.3	0.8	0.7	0.1	0.4	0.2	14.6	9.3	6.0	3.0	2.5	2.2
IE	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
LU	22.6	-2.3	3.5	-12.0	-8.8	-0.6	24.3	-12.5	36.4	13.1	-20.2	-20.3
NL	1.3	0.2	0.8	0.6	:	:	11.8	4.7	19.7	-10.9	:	:
AT	0.6	-1.0	4.1	4.0	-2.3	8.9	0.8	-1.6	8.3	7.8	4.7	15.3
PT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FI	15.4	10.0	27.5	-3.3	-36.0	-11.3	-1.3	14.4	66.2	63.7	-9.7	-27.7
SE	5.3	1.8	4.1	-1.5	-0.6	6.2	-13.7	3.9	1.3	27.7	14.0	11.7
UK	-16.7	23.9	-7.1	2.2	-9.0	-4.5	-0.1	12.1	18.5	-0.8	4.7	-14.6

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

Employment

Despite the relatively stable output in the third quarter in the construction sector, the employment index in the EU's construction sector fell by 0.4 %. In the euro-zone the contraction in employment was stronger (-0.7 %), cancelling out the expansion of the first two quarters of 2003. In Germany the index of employment in construction fell by 1.4 % in the third quarter of 2003, extending a sequence of negative growth since the first quarter of 2002.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03
EU-15	-1.1	-0.1	-0.3	0.5	0.2	-0.4	-0.8	-1.6	-1.6	-1.2	0.4	0.2
Euro-zone	-1.1	-0.2	-0.3	0.6	0.1	-0.7	-0.4	-1.0	-1.4	-1.0	0.2	-0.3
BE	-0.4	-0.5	-0.8	-0.7	-0.7	-0.9	-0.3	-1.0	-2.2	-2.6	-2.5	-3.2
DK	-1.0	-1.0	-0.8	-0.5	-0.9	-0.9	-1.5	-2.8	-2.6	-3.2	-3.1	-3.0
DE	-3.0	-1.6	-2.8	-1.2	-2.1	-1.4	-7.2	-7.8	-7.9	-8.9	-7.6	-6.6
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	-0.2	-0.9	0.8	2.5	1.5	-0.6	4.2	1.9	1.0	2.2	4.1	4.3
FR	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.3	1.1	1.3	0.4	0.7	1.2	1.0
IE	-0.7	-0.3	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.2	-3.4	-2.7	-1.0	0.3	0.5	0.7
IT	0.0	1.9	1.2	0.6	1.4	-0.4	1.4	2.2	2.8	4.3	6.5	2.6
LU	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.4	2.6	2.2	1.7	1.2	0.6	0.9
NL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
AT	-0.8	-0.2	0.3	0.8	1.1	1.0	-3.7	-3.5	-2.9	0.0	3.1	3.5
PT	-0.9	-1.3	-2.3	-2.6	-1.7	-1.9	1.0	-1.1	-4.0	-6.9	-7.7	-8.2
FI	0.9	-0.5	2.5	0.2	0.7	-1.6	4.5	-1.9	3.3	3.0	4.2	1.1
SE (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	0.1	-1.3	1.2	-0.3	2.7	2.3
UK	-3.2	-0.9	1.0	0.3	1.4	1.6	-3.8	-5.4	-3.7	-2.8	1.6	4.5

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

¹ Data not published due to unreliable quality. ² Information from 2002 onwards; index not computable.

Hours worked

Despite the fall in the employment index, the index of the number of hours worked rose by 0.6 % in the third quarter of 2003 in the EU, and by 0.4 % in the euro-zone. In both cases this was a return to growth after a decline in the second quarter. Spain recorded the largest increase (+4.2 %).

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03
EU-15	-0.4	-1.3	-0.2	1.2	-0.2	0.6	-1.5	-3.5	-3.8	-0.1	-0.5	1.4
Euro-zone	-0.7	-1.2	-0.6	1.5	-0.4	0.4	-2.2	-3.8	-4.8	-0.2	-0.6	0.9
BE	-2.4	-1.2	-0.3	1.2	-3.5	1.0	-1.2	-1.2	-5.4	-3.4	-3.6	-0.7
DK	3.2	-4.7	-0.3	1.2	-1.1	-3.7	1.2	-2.6	-1.1	-0.8	-5.0	-4.0
DE	-4.7	-2.2	-5.2	-0.7	1.0	-1.5	-7.8	-8.3	-11.2	-13.9	-6.8	-4.4
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	1.2	-1.2	2.1	3.4	2.0	4.2	-0.1	-4.6	-4.6	12.8	6.7	8.0
FR	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.8	0.7	0.4	0.1	0.7	1.0
IE	-1.2	1.8	-1.6	0.3	:	:	-1.6	0.9	-0.9	-0.7	:	:
IT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
LU	0.8	-4.8	0.6	-0.3	-0.2	2.5	9.5	-1.8	-2.9	-4.1	-6.0	4.4
NL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
AT	-0.7	-0.4	0.9	1.0	1.7	1.9	-3.5	-3.3	-1.5	0.0	3.8	6.7
PT	-0.9	-2.4	-1.0	-2.3	-2.0	-0.6	-0.4	-0.5	-4.5	-8.0	-9.0	-2.9
FI	-0.9	-2.7	2.1	1.1	1.6	1.3	1.8	-2.7	-1.1	-0.1	2.5	6.0
SE (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	1.5	-3.0	1.5	-0.1	:	:	1.0	-3.3	-0.3	0.0	:	:

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

Wages and salaries

In the third quarter of 2003 wages and salaries in the EU increased by 0.4%, compared to the second quarter, confirming a positive trend. The Belgian index of wages and salaries continued to record high quarterly growth as it has done for six consecutive quarters, leading to a 19.4 % increase between the third quarters of 2002 and 2003.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03
EU-15	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	1.4	1.2	0.5	0.0	0.6	1.7
Euro-zone	-0.3	-0.1	-0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.2	-1.0	-0.9	0.3	1.3
BE	3.6	2.0	6.0	4.6	4.0	4.6	3.4	-0.1	15.3	18.0	18.0	19.4
DK	-1.8	-0.7	-0.3	-0.7	0.8	0.1	3.5	-3.2	-2.6	-1.8	-3.9	1.1
DE	-3.1	-1.2	-2.2	-2.7	0.3	-2.1	-6.3	-5.1	-7.0	-10.0	-5.1	-5.9
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	-0.6	0.9	-0.2	1.4	1.3	1.1	5.0	3.9	-1.8	2.1	4.3	5.1
FR	0.7	1.0	0.9	-0.1	0.9	1.1	5.0	5.1	4.3	2.6	2.7	2.8
IE	2.1	2.3	-1.6	1.9	:	:	11.8	11.6	5.4	5.4	:	:
IT	-0.8	1.0	0.4	-0.4	:	:	-6.1	-0.9	-0.2	0.6	:	:
LU	3.1	-0.9	4.1	-2.3	0.3	2.9	8.3	4.5	13.3	3.6	0.6	5.1
NL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
AT	0.3	0.2	1.2	1.6	1.6	1.6	-0.2	-0.3	0.4	4.0	5.0	5.8
PT	0.5	-0.8	-1.3	-0.9	-0.9	-0.8	5.3	2.4	-0.4	-2.4	-3.9	-4.2
FI	1.6	-1.5	-0.3	2.1	0.9	1.9	2.1	1.2	0.6	1.8	1.0	4.7
SE (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	2.6	0.5	1.3	-2.0	2.0	:	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

Construction costs in the EU increased by 0.4 % in the third quarter of 2003 compared to the second quarter. Compared to one year earlier the costs index rose by 2.1 %; in the euro-zone both growth rates were slightly lower. In all countries quarter on quarter growth rates were below 1 %, with the Netherlands and Sweden recording the highest rates (+0.7 %).

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

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

Building permits

The number of dwellings for which building permits were issued in the EU and in the euro-zone fell in the third quarter of 2003 by 4.2 % and 3.6 % respectively, accelerating the decline started in the second quarter. For the EU this was the largest fall since the first quarter of 1999 and for the euro-zone since the final quarter of 2001.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03
EU-15	-3.0	5.0	0.1	3.2	-0.1	-4.2	0.7	1.4	3.3	8.7	6.2	-1.7
Euro-zone	-2.0	4.3	1.8	3.6	-1.7	-3.6	-0.2	-0.1	4.1	11.5	6.2	-1.2
BE	2.9	5.3	-2.9	1.9	4.4	-0.3	0.5	12.7	1.5	7.0	8.9	3.0
DK	-5.9	0.5	-21.3	-7.7	0.1	-6.3	43.3	22.3	9.6	-31.4	-26.9	-31.9
DE	7.5	-1.3	6.8	17.4	-20.0	-3.9	-11.1	-10.3	6.3	39.1	-1.9	-5.2
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	0.5	11.0	7.6	3.9	4.4	-8.6	3.8	-1.2	13.4	21.0	29.7	10.0
FR	1.7	2.4	-2.0	3.2	0.0	9.9	-1.3	-0.9	0.6	7.0	3.4	9.7
IE	12.6	-12.2	-11.3	-3.1	33.2	:	-2.3	1.4	-15.6	-17.0	1.0	:
IT (4)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
LU	49.4	-29.0	27.8	-2.5	-11.6	11.3	50.8	-28.0	17.5	40.2	-20.3	30.8
NL	4.6	1.6	32.5	-11.6	-1.3	-14.4	10.1	-12.9	53.1	38.7	11.2	1.9
AT	-6.8	7.5	-19.5	-12.9	15.4	-8.6	23.1	40.8	-12.3	-36.6	-9.2	-25.7
PT	6.8	4.4	-22.5	7.4	-2.0	-0.8	-13.4	-8.4	-20.3	-7.2	-14.9	-19.1
FI	-1.4	4.3	2.4	-2.0	12.2	-2.1	4.4	1.4	9.1	-1.5	17.5	11.0
SE	-1.0	-2.2	0.3	7.1	-1.1	3.0	1.0	6.0	4.5	34.4	9.1	-6.6
UK (5)	-5.8	7.3	-1.5	6.5	:	:	-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 third quarter of 2003 the index of the area for which residential building permits were granted in the EU declined by 0.3 %, and in the euro-zone by 2.0 %. This continued the downward pattern started in the second quarter, although for both aggregates the negative rates of change were smaller. These two consecutive negative quarterly rates of changes led to a fall in the index during the year to the third quarter of 2003, the first negative year on year growth rate for four quarters.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03
EU-15	3.2	0.0	1.6	1.5	-1.5	-0.3	1.7	-1.1	4.9	13.9	1.8	-3.2
Euro-zone	4.9	1.2	2.3	3.2	-3.6	-2.0	0.3	-2.3	5.3	15.5	3.1	-1.9
BE	-0.2	3.0	-4.5	8.4	-0.1	-0.7	-11.8	2.7	-4.9	5.4	6.7	4.1
DK	-5.1	3.1	-21.3	-11.4	3.8	-7.7	42.8	22.4	-8.6	-29.3	-28.6	-32.1
DE	8.6	-0.9	11.9	15.8	-21.9	-3.9	-8.7	-10.1	16.8	46.8	-1.0	-4.8
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	-1.8	13.3	7.2	0.7	5.3	-2.6	3.1	-1.9	13.7	20.1	28.9	10.8
FR	3.4	-1.3	0.5	1.7	1.5	6.2	1.0	-1.5	2.2	5.3	1.4	8.8
IE	15.5	-16.2	-2.1	-4.1	28.2	:	-10.0	-7.4	-18.1	-14.3	0.1	:
IT (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
LU	52.1	-32.2	37.4	-1.3	-20.3	24.6	51.7	-33.6	26.8	48.4	-26.4	51.6
NL	5.5	1.9	32.8	-4.5	-6.3	-17.3	8.3	-13.9	42.8	45.9	11.4	-0.3
AT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
PT	0.0	1.4	-13.0	-2.1	-1.5	-4.1	-12.8	0.7	-16.0	-10.4	-15.1	-23.7
FI	2.9	2.7	1.2	-0.4	8.8	5.8	6.6	5.2	9.7	7.6	13.2	14.8
SE	-1.9	-1.4	2.5	10.0	-4.6	4.4	-4.0	9.0	4.0	26.4	15.2	-1.7
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:

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