

# Developments for the construction sector

during the second quarter of 2004

## Statistics in focus

### INDUSTRY, TRADE AND SERVICES

43/2004

Author  
Digna Amil

## 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: 19.10.2004  
ISSN 1561-4840  
Catalogue number: KS-NP-04-043-EN-N  
© European Communities, 2004

### Latest trends

Having shown signs of accelerating growth in the final quarter of 2003 and the first quarter of 2004, there was almost no change in the volume of production in the EU-25's construction sector in the second quarter of 2004 (compared with the same quarter of a year before) - see Figure 1. As in the previous six quarters, the rate of change for output for the EU-25's civil engineering sector was considerably below that recorded for the building sector, as civil engineering production fell by 4.1 %, compared with a 0.9 % increase for the building sector.

Output in the EU-25's construction sector fell by 0.8 % in the second quarter of 2004, on the basis of a comparison with the previous quarter. This was the first decline in production, using this measure, since the first quarter of 2003. An identical quarter-on-quarter rate of change was registered for the euro-zone (-0.8 %), while production fell by 0.9 % in the EU-15.

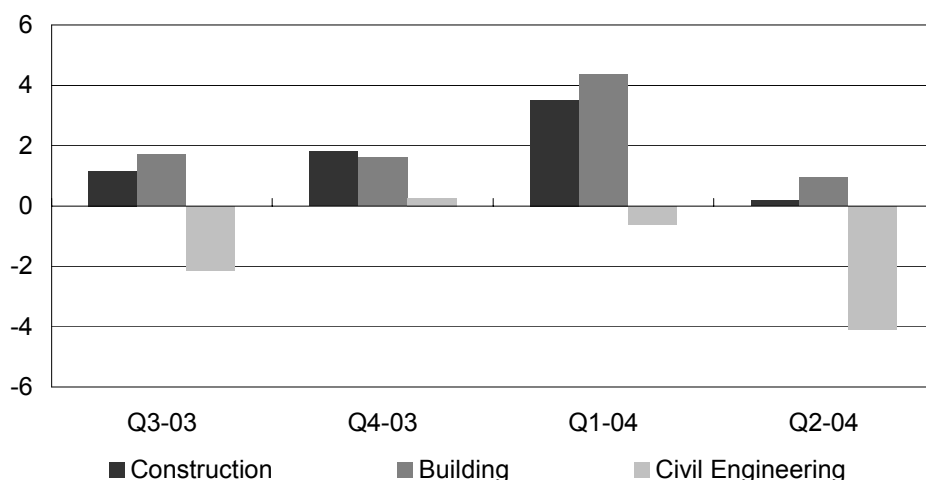


Figure 1: Production volume index, working day adjusted, growth rates compared to the same quarter of the previous year, EU-25 (%)

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series			Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted series			
	EU-25	EU-15	Euro-zone	EU-25	EU-15	Euro-zone	
Q3-03	0.0	-0.2	-0.5	Q3-03	1.2	1.0	0.1
Q4-03	0.7	0.9	0.3	Q4-03	1.8	1.8	0.4
Q1-04	0.3	0.4	-0.2	Q1-04	3.5	3.5	1.0
Q2-04	-0.8	-0.9	-0.8	Q2-04	0.2	0.2	-1.1

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

Source: Eurostat STS

## Production indices for construction

The most rapid production growth in the second quarter of 2004 (compared with the previous quarter) was registered in Estonia (8.7 %), while the Czech Republic recorded gains of 5.5 %. Cyprus and Finland were the only other Member States to report increases in excess of 3 %, while a further 10 of the remaining 16 Member States for which data are available posted positive rates of growth. Of these, perhaps the most interesting was the 2.5 % quarter-on-quarter increase recorded in Poland: the first time a positive figure had been recorded in this country since the end of 1999.

The largest downturn in construction activity in the second quarter of 2004 was recorded in Belgium, where output fell by 8.3 %, while reductions were equal to 5.8 % in Germany, 4.7 % in Slovenia, 3.2 % in Denmark, 1.6 % in the Netherlands and 0.5 % in Spain. Among these six Member States, Germany was the only country to record successive quarter-on-

quarter reductions in the first (-4.2 %) and second quarters of 2004. The seasonally adjusted production index for Germany was, in the second quarter of 2004, almost 23 % below its average level during 2000.

On the basis of a comparison with the same quarter of the previous year, construction output rose by upwards of 10 % in the second quarter of 2004 in Estonia (16.8 %), the Czech Republic (13.2 %) and Latvia (12.1 %). The largest decline in activity was registered in Germany (-8.7 %), followed by Slovenia (-5.8 %) and Belgium (-3.2 %). There were two other Member States that reported decreasing construction activity between the second quarters of 2003 and 2004, Portugal (-2.8 %) and Poland (-2.7 %).

Other indicators confirmed the subdued output figures for the second quarter of 2004, as the EU-25's seasonally adjusted index of new orders for construction fell by

0.7 %, having previously posted three consecutive quarter-on-quarter increases. Employment also decreased, with 1.9 % fewer persons employed in the EU-25, cancelling out almost all of the gains that had been made in the first quarter of 2004 (+2.0 %). The number of permits issued for residential buildings in the EU-25 fell in the second quarter of 2004 by 0.6 %, following two quarter-on-quarter increases in excess of 3.0 %. Growth of 1.3 % was however maintained in the euro-zone, largely as a result of double-digit gains in France and the Netherlands.

Despite the general slowdown in construction activity in the second quarter of 2004, there was no evidence that price increases were abating. Construction costs rose by 1.9 % in both the EU-25 and EU-15 and by 2.0 % in the euro-zone, when compared with the previous quarter.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted series					
	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04
EU-25	-1.0	2.0	0.0	0.7	0.3	-0.8	-1.8	1.3	1.2	1.8	3.5	0.2
EU-15	-0.9	1.9	-0.2	0.9	0.4	-0.9	-1.5	1.4	1.0	1.8	3.5	0.2
Euro-zone	-0.7	1.2	-0.5	0.3	-0.2	-0.8	-2.1	0.8	0.1	0.4	1.0	-1.1
BE	-0.3	-3.6	2.5	-2.4	5.0	-8.3	-4.2	-4.5	1.3	-3.7	1.1	-3.2
CZ	-0.8	5.3	9.7	-2.0	-0.6	5.5	-4.1	2.4	16.0	11.4	12.9	13.2
DK	1.5	2.2	-0.1	4.8	0.5	-3.2	-8.9	-5.6	-3.3	8.6	7.6	2.0
DE	-2.5	1.2	-0.7	1.0	-4.2	-5.8	-12.3	-3.3	-2.5	-0.8	-4.2	-8.7
EE	-7.7	13.9	1.3	3.1	1.5	8.7	1.4	5.5	7.8	5.6	28.1	16.8
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	0.9	2.2	0.9	0.3	0.1	-0.5	2.3	4.8	4.2	4.4	3.5	0.7
FR	-0.8	1.0	0.7	0.5	1.2	0.1	-0.9	-0.1	1.0	1.4	4.1	2.6
IE	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IT	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
CY	1.8	3.0	2.2	4.9	-5.4	4.6	3.3	-0.6	12.8	12.5	4.5	6.1
LV	0.5	0.9	5.7	1.6	2.8	2.9	17.5	10.3	20.4	6.5	14.6	12.1
LT	8.2	7.8	3.2	2.6	-0.6	0.5	19.2	29.4	31.1	26.9	12.7	4.3
LU	1.9	-5.1	3.4	9.0	:	:	-5.8	-5.8	3.4	9.3	:	:
HU	-5.4	12.6	-2.1	2.2	2.3	0.5	-14.5	5.7	3.1	6.6	15.4	2.6
MT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
NL	-2.7	1.3	-1.4	0.9	2.8	-1.6	-5.6	-3.2	-8.2	-3.6	2.8	0.0
AT	9.2	-0.7	3.4	0.2	-0.5	0.7	18.3	8.8	11.9	12.7	-0.4	3.4
PL	-2.1	-0.3	-0.4	-1.4	-0.8	2.5	-20.6	-7.2	-1.7	-3.6	-6.1	-2.7
PT	-4.2	-1.5	2.4	-5.7	0.4	0.3	-9.8	-10.3	-3.4	-9.0	-4.4	-2.8
SI	-2.3	10.1	-3.4	-1.3	4.2	-4.7	8.6	17.6	6.4	1.7	8.8	-5.8
SK	-1.6	2.7	5.0	2.4	-7.1	2.1	3.4	1.1	9.3	8.8	1.9	1.9
FI	-0.4	1.8	3.7	1.6	-1.8	3.6	1.7	1.0	4.6	6.9	4.1	6.8
SE	-1.1	0.6	-1.2	0.0	1.4	2.4	0.0	-0.2	-4.1	-2.0	0.7	2.8
UK	-2.7	4.6	2.8	0.8	-0.4	0.7	1.0	5.4	5.6	7.0	12.1	4.5
BG	-13.5	-3.0	1.2	8.3	15.2	7.2	-7.2	-17.0	-22.4	-16.5	51.6	29.3
RO	-1.5	4.1	1.1	6.9	11.5	9.4	5.3	5.6	6.1	7.8	6.9	8.1
TR	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Table 2: Production volume index for construction, growth rates (%); Source: Eurostat STS

## Production indices for building and civil engineering

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted series					
	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04
EU-25	-1.2	2.1	0.1	0.7	1.0	-0.8	-1.2	2.0	1.7	1.6	4.4	0.9
EU-15	-1.1	2.1	0.0	0.7	1.2	-0.8	-0.9	2.2	1.8	1.5	4.3	0.9
Euro-zone	-0.6	1.1	-0.6	0.2	0.2	-0.5	-1.2	1.5	0.5	0.1	1.2	-0.7
BE	-3.0	-1.7	0.3	-2.3	1.8	-5.2	-6.7	-7.0	-3.3	-6.4	-1.8	-5.1
CZ	-0.3	2.0	7.8	0.4	3.3	3.6	-4.2	-4.3	9.5	10.0	14.0	15.8
DK	-3.3	4.6	2.1	2.5	4.2	-3.6	-10.4	-8.3	-4.5	5.7	14.0	5.1
DE	-2.4	1.9	-0.6	0.2	-3.4	-5.7	-12.1	-2.8	-1.7	-0.8	-3.2	-8.5
EE (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	0.5	1.8	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.7	3.7	6.1	4.6	3.2	2.8	1.8
FR	-1.0	1.2	0.3	0.3	1.0	-0.2	-0.8	0.6	0.9	0.8	3.7	1.3
IE	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IT	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
CY	2.4	1.9	-3.0	4.9	0.7	1.5	4.7	-0.6	7.0	6.2	4.3	3.9
LV	6.5	1.4	4.4	0.6	-0.9	1.2	18.6	14.4	17.6	14.9	6.0	6.7
LT	12.6	12.4	4.7	1.3	2.2	-3.6	36.5	41.1	47.4	34.0	25.6	4.8
LU	-2.3	1.2	3.8	4.1	:	:	-12.2	-11.1	-2.2	11.2	:	:
HU	-3.3	10.2	-1.4	5.4	-5.6	2.7	-11.2	8.5	2.2	12.6	6.6	0.9
MT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
NL	-3.0	2.3	-1.5	1.4	3.5	-1.7	-2.4	-1.6	-9.1	-4.4	2.0	0.6
AT	12.1	-3.1	2.3	1.7	-1.0	2.8	16.8	6.7	9.7	13.1	1.5	6.1
PL	-1.9	-3.8	0.4	1.2	1.2	5.5	-22.0	-14.5	-12.5	-5.8	-7.6	12.9
PT	-4.4	-1.6	2.9	-6.0	-0.2	-0.1	-8.6	-9.4	-2.6	-9.3	-4.9	-3.6
SI	-10.6	17.4	-5.7	11.5	3.0	-8.8	-8.8	2.3	-4.0	10.4	27.0	-1.5
SK	-1.2	-1.1	7.9	-0.7	-2.4	3.9	3.7	-2.1	10.5	4.6	3.3	8.7
FI	1.2	0.9	3.1	1.8	-1.4	3.4	2.6	1.3	5.2	7.3	2.9	6.7
SE	-2.1	1.3	-1.3	1.3	1.4	2.5	-3.3	-1.1	-4.3	-1.1	2.2	4.6
UK	-3.1	6.3	2.1	1.6	4.5	-2.0	1.6	7.2	8.4	6.9	15.2	6.2
BG (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
RO	-1.9	6.0	-1.3	-0.3	0.4	-1.3	9.5	11.5	3.2	2.8	4.8	-1.0
TR	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Table 3: Production volume index for building, growth rates (%); Source: Eurostat STS

(1) Gross series supplied: currently too short to calculate other forms of data presentation.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted series					
	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04
EU-25	-0.8	1.0	-0.9	0.0	-0.8	-1.4	-5.0	-1.7	-2.2	0.3	-0.6	-4.1
EU-15	-0.7	0.9	-1.1	0.1	-0.9	-1.5	-4.7	-1.9	-2.8	0.2	-0.8	-4.1
Euro-zone	-0.5	1.4	0.2	0.0	-0.8	-1.5	-3.5	-0.3	-0.4	1.1	1.0	-2.1
BE	1.9	-4.5	3.1	-4.8	6.9	-11.4	-2.3	-4.1	1.2	-4.4	0.4	-6.2
CZ	2.4	4.0	9.2	-3.2	-3.5	5.5	4.5	15.2	21.9	11.9	6.8	8.7
DK	11.2	1.8	-3.9	4.1	-7.8	0.9	-5.3	11.7	7.6	13.9	-6.5	-7.0
DE	-2.5	0.1	-0.9	2.5	-5.6	-6.1	-12.6	-4.0	-3.7	-0.7	-6.4	-8.8
EE (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	1.0	3.1	2.4	-1.5	3.4	-6.1	0.7	3.4	2.5	5.0	7.5	-2.1
FR	-0.3	0.4	1.8	1.1	1.5	0.9	-1.5	-1.6	1.4	3.1	5.4	5.6
IE	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IT	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
CY	5.0	2.1	14.4	14.1	-22.6	5.3	6.0	-0.8	35.0	39.9	3.1	6.4
LV	-3.1	0.0	5.7	-1.6	10.5	-4.0	14.4	9.5	23.7	-4.5	9.2	17.7
LT	-3.2	8.4	1.3	-0.6	1.2	-0.1	-6.3	17.7	18.4	7.1	8.4	3.6
LU	-1.1	1.5	0.6	6.5	:	:	-0.2	0.2	9.9	7.3	:	:
HU	-13.7	23.5	-1.2	-3.2	11.7	-1.3	-19.4	1.9	4.3	0.2	34.3	6.4
MT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
NL	0.5	2.5	0.3	1.2	-0.6	-0.9	-9.5	-1.7	0.2	5.5	4.5	-0.9
AT	8.3	-2.3	3.6	-0.3	-3.7	-2.9	23.8	14.9	18.1	11.5	-7.1	-3.6
PL	-3.2	4.8	-0.6	-3.9	-5.3	-5.1	-19.4	0.7	8.4	-1.6	-2.9	-16.6
PT	-3.8	-1.6	1.4	-4.7	1.6	1.1	-12.5	-12.1	-5.2	-8.6	-3.3	-0.8
SI	7.3	1.7	0.1	-13.5	6.9	-0.4	31.2	35.3	17.2	-5.8	-9.8	-9.6
SK	1.7	3.7	-0.6	1.4	-7.4	-3.6	-5.5	0.1	1.6	17.0	-3.3	-10.5
FI	-2.8	1.8	4.6	2.4	2.5	-1.1	-1.8	-0.6	3.1	4.5	10.2	7.1
SE	-1.1	-0.5	1.4	-3.1	3.8	-4.0	2.8	2.8	3.1	-3.2	1.6	-2.1
UK	-4.6	1.8	-0.8	-1.1	-6.6	-4.3	-9.5	-10.3	-13.3	-4.7	-6.7	-12.3
BG (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
RO	3.5	1.8	6.4	0.5	-2.4	-2.4	1.5	0.2	8.9	13.9	9.2	17.4
TR	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Table 4: Production volume index for civil engineering, growth rates (%); Source: Eurostat STS

(1) Gross series supplied: currently too short to calculate other forms of data presentation.

## New orders and employment

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04
EU-25	-3.5	-1.0	0.9	2.4	3.4	-0.7	2.4	-3.2	-3.9	-1.3	5.8	6.1
EU-15	-2.0	-2.9	1.0	2.7	5.1	-4.0	2.1	-2.4	-2.8	-1.3	6.0	4.7
Euro-zone	-1.4	-1.3	1.7	2.7	0.2	-1.9	2.6	-4.8	-1.8	2.4	7.1	1.9
BE	-2.2	-8.9	-0.1	5.8	1.6	0.0	6.4	-8.8	-5.5	-5.7	-0.6	7.4
CZ	-6.3	-7.9	16.4	2.0	7.7	21.9	24.0	-1.5	21.1	2.7	16.7	53.7
DK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
DE	-8.2	0.8	1.5	-3.0	-0.6	-3.9	-17.0	-12.1	-7.3	-8.7	-1.0	-6.0
EE	6.6	7.5	3.9	-15.7	-3.2	-8.3	35.2	0.1	32.3	0.5	-7.7	-21.0
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	12.3	0.7	1.9	5.6	5.8	-12.3	28.6	2.0	10.5	21.8	16.4	-1.2
FR	0.1	1.1	2.4	-0.2	4.4	c	3.0	2.3	4.8	3.0	8.5	c
IE	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
CY	40.4	-26.3	8.2	-11.3	1.0	12.6	85.0	2.3	46.0	-0.7	-28.6	9.1
LV	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
LT	5.9	5.9	4.3	0.1	-2.2	-6.8	41.0	43.1	23.1	11.2	15.0	4.2
LU	-10.4	-10.4	-3.0	4.7	:	:	13.1	-20.2	-20.3	-16.0	:	:
HU	-39.8	16.5	7.5	-1.2	19.8	37.5	-51.0	-26.4	-15.0	-27.9	42.9	79.2
MT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
NL	0.6	c	c	c	c	:	-10.9	c	c	c	c	:
AT	4.7	-1.8	8.8	0.5	0.6	-4.6	11.2	4.4	16.3	12.4	2.2	4.7
PL	5.8	-5.8	-8.0	8.0	1.4	6.8	14.7	-14.6	-32.1	3.6	-8.3	5.3
PT	-9.8	0.2	0.1	11.7	8.1	:	-3.8	-2.7	-12.9	0.9	21.1	:
SI	2.1	-6.5	10.2	8.8	-7.5	13.7	32.1	-7.1	-5.1	16.1	3.5	26.3
SK	-18.2	-2.6	-7.9	5.4	3.7	5.4	-6.4	-2.2	-10.3	-22.5	-2.3	5.4
FI	2.7	-31.5	5.9	43.6	5.4	-18.4	63.7	-9.7	-11.5	11.7	35.5	7.6
SE	-1.8	-1.9	0.7	-3.3	c	c	27.7	14.0	11.7	-3.6	c	c
UK	2.1	-8.5	2.3	-5.5	16.0	1.0	-1.7	4.4	-7.9	-13.6	2.2	10.2
BG	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
RO	c	c	c	c	c	-10.6	c	c	c	c	c	c
TR	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Table 5: New orders index for construction, growth rates (%); Source: Eurostat STS

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04
EU-25	-0.4	0.6	-0.8	-0.2	2.0	-1.9	-2.2	-0.4	-0.5	-0.7	1.7	-1.0
EU-15	1.0	0.2	-0.7	0.3	1.0	-0.9	0.2	1.7	1.7	0.8	0.9	-0.3
Euro-zone	0.9	0.3	-0.8	-0.2	0.7	-0.7	0.4	1.6	1.4	0.3	0.1	-1.0
BE	-0.7	-0.6	-0.6	-1.3	-0.9	-1.8	-2.6	-2.5	-3.2	-3.0	-3.3	-4.6
CZ	-0.5	-0.7	0.5	0.6	0.3	1.2	-3.2	-3.3	-1.2	0.5	0.1	2.7
DK	-0.6	-1.3	-0.5	1.3	-1.3	1.7	-3.3	-3.3	-3.2	-1.1	-1.9	1.1
DE	-2.3	-0.3	-1.7	-1.6	-2.4	-4.1	-11.0	-7.6	-6.6	-6.9	-5.4	-9.7
EE	0.8	0.9	1.2	0.0	5.4	-1.3	5.4	3.8	4.0	2.8	7.7	5.2
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	2.6	1.7	-0.6	0.6	1.5	1.0	2.2	4.1	4.3	4.3	3.2	2.5
FR	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.7	1.0	0.7
IE	0.1	-0.1	0.3	0.2	0.7	0.9	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.8	2.1
IT	3.5	1.6	0.0	0.4	1.7	1.6	13.8	13.8	11.8	5.5	3.8	3.8
CY	1.7	3.2	1.1	0.7	-0.6	-0.1	4.9	7.9	7.9	7.1	4.3	1.0
LV	0.5	2.7	0.7	-0.2	8.2	0.2	6.0	8.6	6.9	3.5	11.9	9.0
LT	-1.9	1.0	2.0	0.9	10.4	-0.2	0.8	0.7	1.6	0.7	16.6	13.1
LU	0.3	-0.1	0.2	-0.1	:	:	1.2	0.6	0.9	0.3	:	:
HU	-0.2	0.7	1.1	0.1	0.1	1.5	-0.3	2.1	2.8	1.7	1.3	3.4
MT	-26.6	20.0	-1.7	-2.7	8.4	-7.1	-1.1	24.1	11.0	-15.7	24.4	-3.7
NL	-0.7	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1	-1.2	-1.0	-2.0	-2.7	-3.4	-4.0	-4.5	-4.1
AT	3.3	0.1	0.1	-0.1	-1.9	0.6	2.9	4.8	4.7	4.4	-2.2	-1.1
PL	-11.4	2.8	-3.4	-3.3	16.9	-18.8	-16.5	-14.9	-14.3	-15.2	13.4	-11.7
PT	-3.1	-1.9	-0.7	-0.9	-0.1	-1.1	-7.3	-8.3	-7.6	-6.5	-3.6	-2.8
SI	-0.1	0.3	-0.1	-1.7	-0.8	0.3	-0.6	0.5	0.7	-1.6	-2.3	-2.2
SK	1.9	1.5	1.3	1.4	-0.2	0.5	1.5	2.6	4.9	6.7	3.8	2.5
FI	0.2	1.0	-2.0	-0.8	-1.0	-1.5	3.0	4.2	1.1	-0.3	-2.0	-5.2
SE	-0.2	0.9	-0.2	-0.8	-0.4	-0.1	-0.3	2.7	2.3	-0.6	-1.0	-1.2
UK	0.4	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.6	-0.5	-0.6	2.9	4.6	5.3	7.0	4.4
BG	5.0	2.4	2.8	0.7	5.5	-1.5	6.1	13.2	14.9	11.2	11.8	7.5
RO	4.2	0.8	1.1	0.1	-2.4	-2.1	4.7	0.8	4.1	6.6	-0.4	-3.7
TR	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Table 6: Employment index for construction, growth rates (%); Source: Eurostat STS

## Hours worked and wages and salaries

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04
EU-25	0.3	0.1	0.1	-0.2	0.1	-0.3	-2.0	-1.6	0.3	0.3	0.5	-0.5
EU-15	1.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.0	-0.4	-0.5	-0.5	1.5	1.8	0.8	-0.6
Euro-zone	1.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.6	-0.7	-0.6	1.0	1.6	0.5	-1.0
BE	0.4	-2.8	1.6	-2.8	6.8	-7.6	-3.3	-3.7	-0.6	-2.7	2.7	-0.3
CZ	-1.5	0.4	1.5	0.6	2.6	2.0	-4.6	-3.1	0.9	0.3	5.4	7.2
DK	0.7	-1.1	-3.2	3.7	:	:	-0.8	-5.0	-4.0	0.1	:	:
DE	-0.4	1.5	-1.6	-0.6	-7.2	-0.5	-16.6	-6.8	-4.4	-2.9	-0.9	-9.6
EE	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	7.3	-0.6	2.1	1.5	-0.2	2.4	12.8	6.7	8.3	10.5	2.7	5.8
FR	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	-0.1	0.4	0.7	0.9	1.3	1.2
IE	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
CY	1.7	3.2	1.1	0.7	-0.6	-0.1	4.9	7.8	7.8	7.1	4.3	1.0
LV	-0.1	3.4	2.7	-2.6	11.1	-2.1	6.1	7.3	8.2	3.4	14.9	8.9
LT	0.5	4.7	2.4	-0.1	10.8	-0.3	2.6	7.4	8.3	6.5	19.7	12.6
LU	0.9	0.1	3.1	2.3	:	:	-4.1	-6.0	4.4	8.9	:	:
HU	-1.4	2.2	1.2	0.4	0.2	3.2	-1.8	1.3	2.4	2.4	3.8	5.1
MT	-18.7	-0.2	11.0	-6.9	0.1	4.6	2.5	2.8	24.4	-16.1	3.3	8.3
NL	-0.9	-1.2	-1.3	-1.3	-1.4	-1.1	-2.5	-2.9	-3.9	-4.7	-5.4	-4.9
AT	2.2	1.2	1.2	-0.3	-0.8	0.5	2.1	5.5	8.0	6.0	0.1	0.4
PL	-7.3	-4.1	-3.4	-3.8	-2.1	-2.2	-19.1	-17.7	-16.9	-17.7	-13.2	-10.1
PT	-3.5	-2.0	1.4	-3.2	0.1	-0.5	-8.3	-9.2	-2.3	-8.3	-3.9	-2.0
SI	-1.2	1.0	-0.1	-0.2	0.7	-0.9	-0.5	0.4	0.0	-0.5	1.7	-0.4
SK	1.3	2.8	2.3	0.6	1.4	1.5	-1.4	1.7	4.8	7.1	7.3	5.9
FI	2.3	0.9	0.7	0.4	-2.2	:	-0.1	2.5	6.0	5.2	-0.9	:
SE	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
UK	-0.1	:	:	:	:	:	0.0	:	:	:	:	:
BG	3.0	5.2	3.5	1.0	4.7	-0.9	4.1	11.2	14.3	12.9	15.9	8.1
RO	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
TR	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Table 7: Hours worked index for construction, growth rates (%); Source: Eurostat STS

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04
EU-25	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	-0.1	0.7	1.2	1.0	2.1	1.0
EU-15	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.8	1.2	1.0	2.0	1.0
Euro-zone	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.1	-0.1	-1.0	0.7	0.9	0.1	1.0	-0.4
BE	3.6	1.1	-0.4	-1.1	:	:	18.0	18.0	19.8	-1.8	:	:
CZ	1.2	1.6	1.7	2.2	0.6	1.3	2.3	3.4	5.4	9.1	5.8	5.5
DK	-0.4	1.0	0.6	0.7	:	:	-1.8	-5.6	1.1	3.6	:	:
DE	-2.7	0.9	-2.2	-1.7	-2.3	-3.1	-10.0	-5.1	-5.9	-6.3	-4.3	-9.1
EE	2.3	5.5	4.6	4.6	5.1	3.0	18.3	18.3	18.9	18.6	22.3	18.4
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	1.9	1.4	1.3	1.0	0.8	1.0	2.1	4.3	6.3	5.7	4.0	3.8
FR	-0.1	0.7	1.3	1.8	1.8	1.5	2.5	2.3	2.6	3.8	5.8	6.7
IE	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IT	1.0	0.2	1.8	0.3	-0.1	1.7	1.5	2.2	3.8	3.4	1.7	4.1
CY	6.2	3.5	2.3	1.7	-3.5	:	15.5	15.1	15.1	14.3	3.8	:
LV	5.0	6.6	5.0	4.8	11.8	1.5	18.0	21.8	23.6	22.5	32.2	24.9
LT	7.5	2.9	5.4	3.1	13.7	1.4	11.6	12.8	17.8	19.0	29.1	24.6
LU	-2.4	0.3	2.8	0.9	:	:	3.6	0.6	5.1	1.8	:	:
HU	2.6	3.5	3.4	1.9	3.9	1.9	8.5	11.1	11.7	11.8	13.2	11.5
MT	-2.5	17.8	0.9	-7.2	11.8	-4.1	3.3	23.6	32.9	7.5	23.2	0.3
NL	-0.9	0.0	-0.7	-1.2	-0.1	-1.4	0.9	0.0	-0.2	-3.5	-4.1	-4.0
AT	3.0	1.7	1.1	0.5	-0.8	0.3	5.6	7.0	7.1	6.4	1.7	0.8
PL	-9.3	-1.8	-0.5	-2.5	-3.0	-1.1	-16.6	-13.3	-12.6	-13.6	-7.6	-7.0
PT	-2.2	-0.9	-0.5	1.1	3.3	0.7	-3.1	-4.6	-4.2	-2.4	3.1	4.8
SI	0.3	4.3	0.7	1.1	2.2	0.8	7.7	10.4	8.3	6.4	8.6	5.0
SK	0.2	2.9	2.0	0.7	5.1	0.5	5.0	5.8	7.2	5.8	11.0	8.5
FI	2.1	0.5	1.9	1.1	0.1	1.0	1.8	1.0	4.4	6.1	4.4	3.9
SE	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
UK	-0.3	0.9	0.9	2.2	1.3	1.4	3.1	1.6	2.0	3.7	4.9	5.9
BG	11.8	6.2	4.7	2.9	7.5	0.7	13.9	23.3	27.2	26.2	24.4	16.4
RO	9.7	5.4	6.3	4.0	1.5	0.3	30.7	25.0	29.5	29.6	19.4	10.9
TR	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Table 8: Wages and salaries index for construction, growth rates (%); Source: Eurostat STS

## Construction costs and building permits

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, gross series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04
EU-25	1.3	0.6	2.0	1.1	1.5	1.9	4.8	3.5	4.6	5.1	5.3	6.6
EU-15	1.4	0.6	2.1	1.1	1.6	1.9	4.9	3.6	4.7	5.2	5.5	6.8
Euro-zone	1.0	0.4	0.3	0.1	1.5	2.0	2.4	2.2	1.9	1.8	2.3	4.0
BE	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	2.2	2.5	1.9	0.9	0.9	0.7	2.9
CZ	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.9	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.5	2.6	3.9
DK	0.7	1.2	0.0	0.1	:	:	2.1	2.9	2.6	2.0	:	:
DE	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	1.1	0.2	0.1	-0.1	0.1	0.3	1.4
EE	1.4	1.1	0.5	0.4	1.5	2.6	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.5	5.0
EL	0.9	0.9	0.2	0.5	0.6	1.3	2.7	3.1	2.5	2.5	2.2	2.6
ES	1.0	0.2	0.5	-0.1	1.3	3.2	2.4	2.3	2.2	1.7	2.0	5.0
FR	1.4	0.7	0.3	0.6	2.4	2.8	3.8	3.5	2.8	3.1	4.1	6.3
IE	1.0	3.4	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.1	8.6	9.4	11.3	10.9	13.0	12.7
IT	2.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	1.8	1.8	3.2	3.2	2.8	2.8	2.4	3.9
CY	2.9	0.6	1.0	0.1	4.0	1.7	4.8	5.5	5.3	4.6	5.7	6.9
LV	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
LT	-1.9	2.5	1.0	0.0	0.5	4.3	1.0	1.5	1.3	1.6	4.1	5.9
LU	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.5	0.9	0.6	2.7	2.2	1.7	1.9	2.2	2.3
HU	-2.8	2.6	1.1	2.6	-0.7	2.6	4.7	3.8	3.4	3.4	5.6	5.6
MT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
NL	0.7	0.2	0.7	-1.2	2.7	0.8	2.2	1.9	1.5	0.4	2.4	3.1
AT	0.9	1.1	0.6	0.6	1.9	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.7	3.2	4.3	5.3
PL	-0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.6	1.2	-1.8	-1.1	-0.7	0.2	1.0	2.1
PT	2.0	-0.7	-0.3	0.2	2.0	2.3	3.5	1.9	1.3	1.2	1.2	4.3
SI	1.5	2.0	1.2	1.6	1.9	6.0	5.1	5.9	5.9	6.4	6.8	10.9
SK	0.7	1.6	1.3	0.9	2.4	:	3.5	4.2	4.4	4.5	6.2	:
FI	0.9	0.7	0.3	-0.3	0.5	1.4	2.1	1.9	1.9	1.6	1.3	2.0
SE	1.5	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.9	1.9	4.0	3.2	3.0	3.4	2.8	4.1
UK	2.4	1.3	8.2	4.0	2.0	1.6	14.4	8.2	14.2	16.7	16.3	16.5
BG	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
RO	7.9	3.6	4.3	2.5	8.7	2.4	26.2	23.4	20.7	19.5	20.4	19.0
TR	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Table 9: Construction costs index for residential buildings, growth rates (%); Source: Eurostat STS

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04
EU-25	3.3	0.3	0.5	3.6	3.1	-0.6	13.6	6.9	4.3	10.4	6.2	6.6
EU-15	2.6	0.3	-0.4	3.8	2.4	-0.9	13.7	6.5	3.2	9.3	5.1	4.6
Euro-zone	4.1	-2.3	1.1	4.5	1.7	1.3	17.8	7.0	4.8	10.2	8.3	8.7
BE	1.0	7.5	-0.4	12.6	7.9	-3.1	6.9	8.8	2.0	22.1	31.8	17.1
CZ	7.5	8.1	15.1	3.0	-2.4	-2.7	11.2	14.8	39.2	39.8	25.1	11.0
DK	-6.3	-0.4	-6.9	13.9	-6.6	-12.3	-28.9	-28.0	-36.1	-1.0	11.1	-13.2
DE	10.7	-9.3	-2.4	4.7	0.9	-10.2	39.2	-1.9	-5.2	3.4	-0.7	-9.7
EE	-66.1	110.2	10.8	39.1	41.3	133.2	-27.3	23.3	17.5	2.9	320.3	403.0
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	7.0	4.9	-4.7	2.9	4.8	:	21.0	29.7	17.8	3.5	12.3	:
FR	3.8	-0.6	10.6	4.7	1.2	10.5	6.6	3.1	10.0	15.5	19.4	29.5
IE	-2.6	36.3	9.7	-5.3	23.3	-1.5	-17.0	1.0	33.9	37.8	87.6	26.0
IT	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
CY	10.7	21.4	-5.0	0.2	17.4	2.8	57.9	71.0	37.6	27.9	35.6	14.9
LV	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
LT	30.6	-9.3	1.9	-15.6	21.4	-2.7	99.8	48.5	87.6	3.2	-6.0	-0.1
LU	2.9	-6.4	7.8	10.3	-5.0	-11.9	40.2	-20.3	30.8	19.0	9.8	-0.1
HU	20.9	-4.0	8.5	10.5	-4.5	7.3	12.6	3.3	16.6	41.5	8.2	22.7
MT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
NL	-8.4	-3.8	-12.9	20.9	-19.2	17.6	38.7	11.2	1.9	-6.1	-17.7	0.7
AT	-21.2	40.7	-2.1	37.3	:	:	-36.6	-9.2	-25.7	44.8	:	:
PL	28.2	17.6	1.9	-6.8	48.3	-8.2	4.6	9.5	7.9	40.9	73.2	31.9
PT	8.2	-2.2	-1.1	12.8	-16.1	-1.1	-7.2	-14.9	-19.1	17.9	-8.6	-7.5
SI	0.1	21.0	-4.4	8.7	-9.5	-6.4	-4.8	45.5	31.3	25.8	13.8	-11.9
SK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FI	2.8	14.7	-1.6	5.2	-11.0	-4.9	0.7	20.2	14.6	23.8	7.7	-12.2
SE	16.3	9.5	-4.5	5.2	-4.4	-5.3	43.8	27.5	21.7	33.5	7.2	-14.6
UK	2.9	0.7	-0.3	:	:	:	4.3	8.9	2.7	:	:	:
BG	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
RO	-5.4	3.4	4.9	6.3	10.0	10.4	-22.1	-21.5	0.7	8.1	25.2	34.6
TR	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Table 10: Number of residential building permits issued, growth rates (%); Source: Eurostat STS

## Building permits in square metres

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04
EU-25	6.4	-0.8	0.2	6.8	0.8	-1.9	19.7	6.4	5.1	10.9	9.2	8.2
EU-15	6.8	-1.5	-0.1	6.4	-0.1	-2.6	19.8	5.5	4.1	9.8	7.9	6.4
Euro-zone	4.5	-1.0	1.9	3.2	1.2	2.2	21.7	6.5	5.7	9.8	7.0	8.1
BE	2.4	3.2	4.4	14.9	20.9	6.3	5.3	6.5	4.2	22.3	-44.7	-58.4
CZ	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
DK	-18.7	10.4	-6.1	14.7	19.7	-25.0	-29.6	-32.0	-35.7	-2.1	45.2	-3.4
DE	12.0	-11.9	-2.7	6.0	-2.1	-8.2	46.8	-1.0	-4.8	3.7	-0.1	-9.9
EE	-54.2	82.5	29.1	19.1	52.5	66.8	-23.7	26.6	39.7	20.6	319.7	297.1
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	1.2	5.5	3.7	-7.1	3.6	-1.7	20.1	28.9	19.2	2.8	10.4	-1.9
FR	1.9	1.8	5.3	9.3	1.5	5.7	4.9	0.9	8.8	19.4	18.8	23.3
IE	-6.8	32.3	3.4	4.5	22.8	0.4	-14.3	0.2	21.3	33.2	75.6	33.3
IT	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
CY	0.2	16.8	-3.5	1.4	10.6	6.5	30.0	42.8	22.9	14.3	26.3	15.3
LV	5.4	22.6	40.3	31.2	1.3	5.4	7.3	47.0	76.5	142.8	137.9	98.7
LT	30.0	-7.0	0.1	-9.5	15.6	12.5	106.6	47.8	84.3	5.9	-5.4	7.9
LU	2.6	-19.6	21.9	-1.6	-6.6	0.1	48.4	-26.4	51.6	7.2	-13.4	10.5
HU	14.7	9.0	0.9	6.2	-2.9	-1.0	7.8	22.0	18.4	34.4	14.6	3.3
MT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
NL	-2.3	-8.0	-16.0	24.6	-19.5	17.5	45.9	11.4	-0.2	-2.7	-22.6	-0.9
AT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
PL	37.8	15.6	2.9	-15.3	56.5	-13.4	25.4	25.5	20.6	38.8	60.9	21.5
PT	-2.0	-1.6	-4.0	6.1	-5.3	-2.6	-10.4	-15.1	-23.7	1.1	-1.0	-6.2
SI	-0.6	20.8	2.2	7.9	-4.1	-5.7	-8.3	40.6	32.5	32.5	27.9	-0.2
SK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FI	4.4	10.7	5.1	3.2	-11.4	-4.3	9.6	15.3	19.1	29.2	6.9	-8.4
SE	13.9	14.5	-10.0	2.3	-2.2	-8.3	35.6	34.8	18.4	21.0	4.7	-19.0
UK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
BG	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
RO	6.9	45.2	-25.4	3.9	11.6	50.6	-8.3	-7.1	14.3	17.7	23.8	29.6
TR	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

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

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

#### Abbreviation and symbols:

:

not available

c

confidential

## ***Further information:***

### ➤ **Reference publications**

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

### ➤ **Databases**

[EUROSTAT website/Industry, trade and services/Industry, trade and services - horizontal view/Short-term Business Statistics - Monthly and Quarterly \(Industry, Construction, Retail Trade and Other Services\)/Construction \(NACE Rev.1 F\) - Building and civil engineering](#)

---

### **Journalists can contact the media support service:**

Bech Building Office A4/017 • L-2920 Luxembourg • Tel. (352) 4301 33408 • Fax (352) 4301 35349 •

E-mail: [eurostat-mediasupport@cec.eu.int](mailto:eurostat-mediasupport@cec.eu.int)

---

### **European Statistical Data Support:**

Eurostat set up with the members of the 'European statistical system' a network of support centres, which will exist in nearly all Member States as well as in some EFTA countries.

Their mission is to provide help and guidance to Internet users of European statistical data.

The complete details concerning this support network can be found on our Internet site: [www.europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/)

---

A list of worldwide sales outlets is available at the:

**Office for Official Publications of the European Communities.**

2, rue Mercier – L-2985 Luxembourg

URL: <http://publications.eu.int>

E-mail: [info-info-opoce@cec.eu.int](mailto:info-info-opoce@cec.eu.int)

BELGIEN/BELGIQUE/BELGIË - DANMARK - DEUTSCHLAND - EESTI – ELLÁDA - ESPAÑA - FRANCE - IRELAND - ITALIA - KYPROS/KIBRIS – LUXEMBOURG - MAGYARORSZÁG – MALTA - NEDERLAND - ÖSTERREICH - POLSKA - PORTUGAL - SLOVENIJA - SLOVENSKO - SUOMI/FINLAND - SVERIGE - UNITED KINGDOM - BALGARIJA - HRVATSKA - ÍSLAND – NORGE - SCHWEIZ/SUISSE/SVIZZERA - AUSTRALIA - BRASIL - CANADA - EGYPT - MALAYSIA - MÉXICO - SOUTH KOREA - SRI LANKA - T'AI-WAN - UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

---

ORIGINAL TEXT: English