

Developments in construction

during the first quarter of 2005

Statistics in focus

INDUSTRY, TRADE AND SERVICES

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Authors

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Latest trends

On the basis of a year on year analysis, for the first time since the first quarter of 2003, the EU-25's production indices for building and civil engineering activities both contracted during the first quarter of 2005 (see Figure 1).

Indeed, the EU-25's volume of production for building work contracted by 1.2 % during the first quarter of 2005, compared to the same quarter of the previous year (working day adjusted data). This was the fastest decrease registered since the second quarter of 2001. The equivalent rate of change for the euro-zone was -1.7 % (see Table 3), the fastest decrease since the third quarter of 1993.

The civil engineering in the EU-25 registered a fall in its volume of production of 3.8 % between the first quarters of 2004 and 2005. A similar contraction, but at a faster pace (-4.7 %), was registered in the euro-zone, and this contrasted strongly with the previous quarter's year on year increase of 0.1 % - see Table 4.

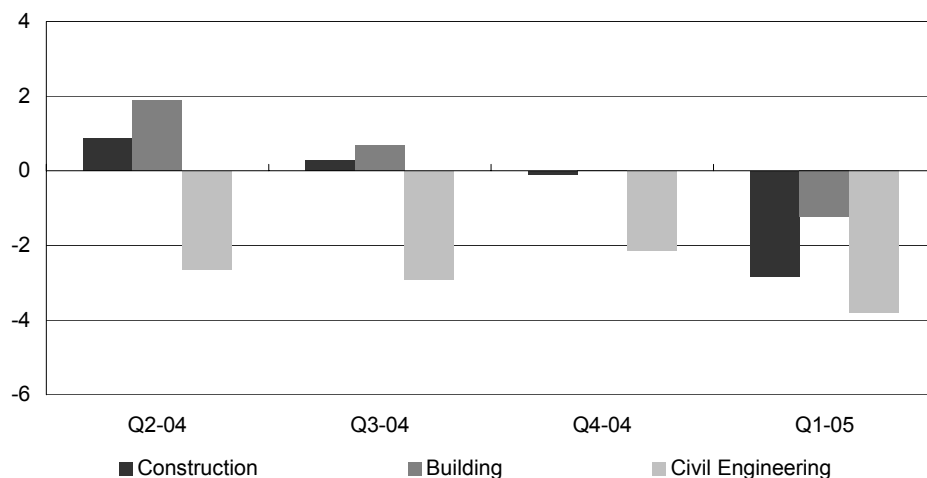


Figure 1: PRODUCTION VOLUME INDEX, WORKING DAY ADJUSTED, GROWTH RATES COMPARED TO THE SAME QUARTER OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR, EU-25 (%); SOURCE: EUROSTAT STS

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series		Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted series		
	EU-25	Euro-zone		EU-25	Euro-zone
Q2-04	-0.6	-0.6	Q2-04	0.9	-0.2
Q3-04	-0.4	-0.4	Q3-04	0.3	-0.2
Q4-04	-0.1	-0.1	Q4-04	-0.1	-0.3
Q1-05	-1.4	-2.0	Q1-05	-2.8	-3.7

Table 1: PRODUCTION VOLUME INDEX FOR CONSTRUCTION, GROWTH RATES (%); SOURCE: EUROSTAT STS

Production indices for construction

On the basis of a quarter on quarter analysis, Table 2 shows that the volume of production for the EU-25's construction sector fell by a 1.4 % between the last quarter of 2004 and the first quarter of 2005 (seasonally adjusted data). This marked the fourth consecutive quarterly decrease and was by far the largest quarterly decrease during these four quarters. This pattern was also true for the euro-zone where production fell at a somewhat faster pace than for the EU-25 during the first quarter of 2005 (-2.0 %).

For comparison, between the first quarters of 2004 and 2005, the working day adjusted index of production for the construction sector went down by 2.8 % in the EU-25 and 3.7 % in the euro-zone.

Across the Member States for which data are available, construction output contracted during the first quarter of 2005 (seasonally adjusted data, compared to the previous quarter) in a dozen countries, most substantially by -8.4 % in Germany, -6.6 % in Belgium and -5.8 % in Cyprus. Nonetheless, among the 10 countries where the volume of construction rose, Malta and Estonia posted growth of 7.0 % and Hungary of

6.5 %. Increases in other countries were less than 4.5 %.

New orders in construction for the EU-25 grew by 0.8 % during the first quarter of 2005 (compared with the previous quarter), a growth much less substantial than during the fourth quarter of 2004 (4.1 %) (see Table 5).

The seasonally adjusted development of the construction employment index (see Table 6) somewhat reflected the downturn in production, which started during the second quarter of 2004. Indeed, the employment index twice fell considerably from this period onwards, by 1.1 % in the second quarter of 2004 and by 0.6 % in the first quarter of 2005. The volume of hours worked also contracted during these recent quarters (see Table 7).

The EU-25's wages and salaries in the construction sector continued their upward path. They rose by 0.2 % between the last quarter of 2004 and the first quarter of 2005. This rhythm of growth was nonetheless the slowest recorded since the first quarter of 2003.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted series					
	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04	Q1-05	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04	Q1-05
EU-25	0.4	0.9	-0.6	-0.4	-0.1	-1.4	1.8	3.2	0.9	0.3	-0.1	-2.8
Euro-zone	0.2	0.6	-0.6	-0.4	-0.1	-2.0	0.5	1.3	-0.2	-0.2	-0.3	-3.7
BE	-2.7	5.8	-8.6	1.5	1.1	-6.6	-3.8	1.1	-3.0	-5.1	-0.7	-12.7
CZ	0.3	0.6	4.5	-2.1	-1.3	-2.8	11.9	13.2	12.8	4.4	2.7	-3.8
DK	3.4	1.0	0.4	0.8	0.4	0.7	7.4	3.7	4.1	5.5	2.6	2.4
DE	0.5	-3.7	-2.7	-0.8	-0.3	-8.4	-0.8	-3.1	-5.7	-5.8	-7.2	-15.9
EE	-1.3	8.7	1.5	-6.1	2.3	7.0	6.1	28.0	16.7	3.8	6.8	3.6
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	0.4	0.0	-0.3	0.9	0.6	1.1	4.3	3.5	0.7	1.0	1.1	2.4
FR	-0.6	2.1	-0.1	-0.9	-0.4	-0.6	1.3	3.8	2.9	0.3	0.3	-2.0
IE	3.2	3.7	1.9	1.8	2.4	:	9.1	13.5	14.5	10.9	10.1	:
IT	1.7	2.4	1.0	1.3	-1.8	-0.8	-3.9	-0.1	1.2	5.8	3.0	-0.4
CY	3.0	-1.8	1.4	3.3	4.9	-5.8	12.5	3.4	3.4	6.0	8.8	3.1
LV	1.4	3.6	3.5	3.2	3.7	2.5	6.5	15.2	12.1	11.4	15.8	14.0
LT	0.7	-1.8	0.7	1.0	2.3	4.4	23.2	11.2	6.1	2.3	2.4	8.9
LU	1.3	-1.8	-0.5	-1.5	-3.0	1.0	3.8	1.3	1.4	-0.9	-6.5	-4.5
HU	1.6	1.7	-1.5	2.9	3.6	6.5	6.6	15.0	2.3	5.3	6.4	12.2
MT	1.6	-0.4	1.4	2.3	1.5	7.0	4.5	2.9	4.2	4.9	4.7	12.8
NL	0.0	5.6	-3.7	-0.8	0.7	-2.9	-3.6	2.9	-0.1	0.0	2.6	-3.2
AT	-0.1	1.5	2.6	3.3	0.6	-4.2	12.7	-0.4	3.5	7.1	7.2	2.2
PL	-5.2	-0.1	6.7	-5.1	4.7	-1.3	-3.3	-5.0	-3.0	-3.9	5.6	7.5
PT	-4.4	-0.7	0.1	-0.6	-5.4	-0.1	-9.0	-4.4	-2.6	-5.1	-6.9	-6.0
SI	-0.7	4.1	-5.6	10.1	-7.0	-0.6	1.7	8.8	-5.8	7.5	1.4	-3.3
SK	-0.6	-3.2	1.8	4.1	10.7	-2.4	8.5	1.6	1.9	2.2	14.6	13.7
FI	1.3	-0.2	2.7	-0.7	0.4	0.4	5.9	4.1	7.0	2.0	2.2	4.8
SE	-0.2	0.4	3.2	0.6	1.5	:	-2.0	-0.9	1.9	4.0	5.8	:
UK	0.8	2.3	-2.4	0.8	-0.4	0.4	6.6	9.9	4.4	0.7	-1.6	-2.5
BG	-0.2	9.3	0.1	5.7	7.7	1.4	0.8	11.8	-3.6	9.3	30.7	18.3
RO (1)	2.9	4.7	0.4	2.6	1.2	-5.5	9.2	6.9	8.1	10.5	8.8	-2.3

Table 2: PRODUCTION VOLUME INDEX FOR CONSTRUCTION, GROWTH RATES (%); SOURCE: EUROSTAT STS

(1) Year on year growth rates calculated upon gross series.

Production indices for building and civil engineering

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted series					
	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04	Q1-05	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04	Q1-05
EU-25	0.7	1.1	-0.3	-0.7	0.0	-0.1	1.6	4.4	1.9	0.7	0.0	-1.2
Euro-zone	0.1	0.6	-0.1	-0.5	-0.2	-0.6	0.1	1.3	0.5	0.1	-0.2	-1.7
BE	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
CZ	2.2	2.8	3.8	-1.0	-3.2	-2.2	10.6	14.6	15.0	8.1	2.2	-4.5
DK	3.6	3.4	-0.2	0.2	0.1	3.1	6.4	7.7	6.3	6.9	3.3	3.5
DE	0.3	-2.5	-2.5	-2.4	-1.6	-7.2	-0.8	-1.7	-4.9	-6.0	-8.5	-16.8
EE (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	0.4	-0.2	0.6	0.1	0.7	2.0	3.2	2.8	1.8	0.6	0.8	3.5
FR	-1.0	2.4	-0.4	-0.7	-0.7	-0.5	0.6	3.3	1.8	-0.1	-0.1	-2.4
IE	3.2	3.4	1.9	1.2	1.5	:	9.5	13.8	14.8	10.1	8.2	:
IT	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
CY	2.9	-0.7	-0.5	3.7	6.1	-4.5	6.2	3.5	-0.4	5.4	8.7	4.4
LV	1.4	2.2	2.3	5.6	3.4	3.7	14.9	5.8	6.7	11.7	18.0	23.3
LT	1.8	-3.7	0.9	0.9	2.3	5.6	34.5	14.5	7.4	0.7	0.0	10.2
LU	2.3	0.3	0.4	-0.5	-1.1	-0.1	5.3	5.1	3.9	3.4	-0.7	-1.6
HU	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
MT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
NL	2.0	4.1	-3.5	-0.3	-1.6	-1.0	-4.4	2.1	0.5	0.6	1.7	-2.4
AT	1.0	2.3	2.6	3.3	-0.1	-3.5	13.2	1.6	6.2	9.1	7.1	2.4
PL	-1.3	-4.1	4.1	-2.4	1.2	4.9	-5.8	-7.2	3.8	-4.5	-3.0	4.0
PT	-4.8	-1.1	-0.2	-0.6	-5.5	-0.2	-9.3	-4.9	-3.6	-6.1	-7.6	-6.6
SI	13.5	1.7	-9.2	15.0	-8.3	6.0	10.4	27.0	-1.5	20.8	-1.8	3.0
SK	-3.1	1.3	3.7	2.4	9.0	-4.2	4.6	3.4	8.6	4.0	18.6	10.3
FI	1.6	-1.5	4.9	-1.9	1.4	1.4	6.0	2.4	7.2	2.6	2.9	6.2
SE	1.1	1.3	2.6	2.0	2.1	:	-1.1	1.8	3.8	7.3	8.4	:
UK	1.5	4.3	-2.7	-1.6	-0.4	2.6	6.9	15.6	5.8	1.3	-0.5	-2.0
BG (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
RO (2)	-0.4	7.2	-3.7	6.6	-0.8	-22.8	2.9	4.4	-1.0	6.9	10.2	-19.2

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.

(2) Year on year growth rates calculated upon gross series.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted series					
	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04	Q1-05	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04	Q1-05
EU-25	-0.2	-0.4	-1.5	-0.6	-0.2	-0.9	0.7	0.5	-2.6	-2.9	-2.1	-3.8
Euro-zone	-0.4	0.8	-1.5	-0.1	0.6	-2.8	1.9	2.2	-0.8	-1.2	0.1	-4.7
BE	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
CZ	-3.8	0.0	5.4	-4.6	1.4	1.6	11.7	7.3	8.9	-2.3	3.0	-2.0
DK	3.1	-8.1	3.4	4.2	-1.0	-1.9	7.4	-14.5	-4.9	2.8	-1.6	4.0
DE	0.8	-5.9	-3.2	2.1	1.9	-10.3	-0.8	-5.8	-7.4	-5.4	-5.0	-14.0
EE (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	-1.3	3.3	-6.0	3.1	-0.3	2.9	5.0	7.5	-2.1	-1.2	-0.2	-0.6
FR	0.6	1.4	0.9	-1.5	0.3	-0.6	2.9	5.3	5.7	1.0	1.0	-0.9
IE	3.5	3.9	2.5	3.1	6.3	:	7.5	12.7	13.5	13.6	16.8	:
IT	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
CY	8.1	3.9	-2.8	1.3	7.8	-7.1	53.2	45.4	27.0	9.9	13.7	-4.0
LV	-1.2	3.2	5.2	2.3	3.0	6.0	-4.5	10.2	17.5	11.1	7.7	21.9
LT	-1.1	1.4	0.5	1.3	2.4	2.5	7.0	2.7	4.3	4.5	6.9	5.1
LU	-0.4	-5.2	-8.7	-3.1	-8.1	-2.5	4.2	-3.5	-12.5	-14.9	-22.9	-22.3
HU	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
MT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
NL	-0.3	1.8	-1.7	0.2	2.0	-3.0	5.5	4.5	-1.0	-0.8	5.9	-6.3
AT	-1.6	-6.0	5.0	4.9	4.4	-11.6	11.5	-7.4	-3.6	1.8	7.4	1.6
PL	-6.4	-6.7	11.8	1.1	4.9	-9.3	-1.6	-1.3	-8.9	-3.5	12.9	10.7
PT	-3.5	0.1	0.8	-0.7	-4.9	0.0	-8.6	-3.1	-0.3	-2.9	-5.1	-4.9
SI	-13.1	7.0	-1.2	5.8	-7.1	-8.2	-5.8	-9.7	-9.5	-3.8	4.8	-9.4
SK	3.7	-8.1	-6.3	8.1	13.6	3.0	17.0	-3.3	-10.5	-1.4	5.0	16.2
FI	1.9	0.5	0.8	-1.2	-0.4	-0.2	5.9	11.5	8.0	0.1	-1.1	-0.8
SE	-3.6	-0.2	-0.8	0.3	6.1	:	-3.5	-3.1	-3.3	-4.4	5.4	:
UK	-0.2	-4.4	-5.4	-2.3	-7.0	12.9	-4.5	-4.2	-10.5	-11.9	-17.9	-3.0
BG (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
RO (2)	6.0	-1.7	6.6	2.7	-0.2	2.5	14.0	9.3	17.3	13.9	7.3	13.2

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.

(2) Year on year growth rates calculated upon gross series.

New orders and employment

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04	Q1-05	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04	Q1-05
EU-25	1.8	3.0	0.4	-1.5	4.1	0.8	-1.3	6.3	4.9	3.7	6.2	-0.1
Euro-zone	2.2	2.4	-1.9	2.0	2.0	0.3	2.4	7.1	2.0	4.2	4.9	0.1
BE	4.2	4.2	-0.5	-3.4	-2.4	3.1	-5.7	-0.6	7.4	4.0	-2.4	-3.7
CZ	7.2	4.2	22.5	-0.5	-25.4	3.5	2.7	16.8	55.0	36.1	-5.2	-8.5
DK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
DE	-3.7	1.2	-5.0	-0.4	-1.5	-7.2	-8.7	-1.0	-6.0	-7.8	-5.6	-12.7
EE	-7.9	3.2	2.0	13.5	13.5	6.5	0.5	-7.7	-21.0	18.8	62.3	37.1
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	3.8	8.2	-12.1	14.3	7.7	-1.5	21.8	16.4	-1.2	12.9	17.6	6.6
FR	1.5	1.7	1.1	0.1	0.0	c	3.0	8.5	7.7	4.2	1.3	c
IE	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
CY	-15.0	8.6	3.7	7.4	22.2	-20.9	-2.0	-26.0	8.3	2.9	48.1	7.3
LV	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
LT	0.3	10.7	0.8	5.4	8.1	1.7	11.2	15.1	4.2	11.8	58.9	-7.7
LU	9.7	-3.3	-7.1	23.1	0.5	1.4	-10.9	0.5	-10.1	30.0	5.4	8.7
HU	11.5	11.4	30.4	-8.6	-6.5	-9.0	-27.9	43.1	79.4	49.1	20.9	2.5
MT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
NL	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
AT	1.0	-2.7	2.3	5.0	1.8	2.0	12.4	2.2	4.7	5.9	6.8	11.3
PL	-3.2	-4.1	-7.7	-12.9	10.9	10.0	3.6	-8.3	-19.3	-24.2	-13.7	-3.3
PT	7.1	7.3	6.8	-17.6	12.2	0.7	0.9	21.1	28.3	1.1	6.0	-0.5
SI	22.1	-10.6	16.4	15.7	-12.9	30.4	16.1	3.5	26.3	43.8	5.5	55.2
SK	7.7	-2.6	8.5	0.4	-5.7	75.5	-22.5	-2.3	5.4	13.7	-0.6	82.4
FI	48.9	7.5	-26.1	-11.9	-9.9	-1.4	18.2	19.3	23.7	0.2	-38.4	-42.7
SE	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
UK	-5.4	17.0	-2.1	-6.1	5.0	-1.2	-13.5	4.1	9.4	3.5	13.1	-4.5
BG	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
RO	9.3	8.4	7.3	6.5	5.3	2.5	56.4	46.6	37.5	38.1	37.3	5.1

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					
	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04	Q1-05	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04	Q1-05
EU-25	-0.4	2.2	-1.1	0.1	0.8	-0.6	0.5	2.4	0.6	0.8	2.1	-0.8
Euro-zone	-0.3	1.7	-0.2	0.0	0.8	-0.7	0.8	1.1	0.6	1.1	2.2	-0.2
BE	-0.9	-0.9	-1.6	-1.0	-1.1	-0.6	-3.0	-3.3	-4.4	-4.6	-4.8	-3.4
CZ	0.7	0.6	1.2	1.0	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.1	2.7	4.0	4.0	2.7
DK	0.8	-1.2	1.8	0.0	0.5	1.7	-1.0	-1.9	0.8	1.3	1.1	4.3
DE	-2.4	-0.4	-1.6	-1.5	-2.3	-3.7	-6.9	-3.9	-5.6	-5.7	-5.6	-8.9
EE	0.5	4.3	-0.8	1.2	0.8	3.8	2.8	7.7	5.2	5.2	5.4	5.1
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	0.6	3.1	2.0	1.8	2.6	-1.3	6.5	5.8	5.5	7.7	9.8	5.1
FR	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.4	1.0	1.3	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.4
IE	0.3	1.2	1.2	2.0	1.0	0.2	0.5	0.8	2.1	5.2	5.9	4.4
IT	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
CY	1.4	1.1	0.9	2.0	0.8	:	7.1	6.9	4.4	5.7	4.7	:
LV	-0.5	12.3	0.7	-0.2	0.9	1.6	3.5	15.7	13.7	12.4	13.9	3.0
LT	1.0	1.0	-0.5	-0.3	1.4	4.0	9.7	10.5	5.9	0.5	0.8	5.6
LU	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	-0.1	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.6	-0.1	0.3
HU	0.3	-0.4	2.8	1.4	0.5	0.7	1.7	1.3	3.4	4.3	4.3	5.4
MT	1.3	8.4	-4.7	-2.3	-16.9	:	-15.7	23.9	1.9	3.7	-17.7	:
NL	-1.0	-1.2	-0.9	-0.9	-1.0	c	-4.0	-4.5	-4.1	-3.9	-4.1	c
AT	0.2	-0.8	-0.2	-0.3	-0.5	-0.6	4.4	-2.2	-1.1	-0.3	-0.8	-2.3
PL	-3.8	19.3	-21.1	-0.1	0.2	-2.9	-15.2	13.4	-11.7	-9.6	-5.8	-23.7
PT	-0.7	-0.6	-0.8	-1.3	-1.5	-0.3	-6.5	-3.9	-2.9	-3.4	-4.2	-3.9
SI	-1.7	-0.8	0.3	0.0	0.8	1.0	-1.6	-2.3	-2.2	-2.3	0.2	2.1
SK	1.3	-0.7	0.8	1.1	1.4	2.5	6.7	3.8	2.5	2.2	2.4	6.5
FI	-0.1	-1.5	-0.6	2.0	0.7	3.2	-0.3	-2.0	-5.2	-0.1	0.2	3.7
SE	-0.9	-0.9	0.4	-0.3	0.0	0.9	-0.6	-1.0	-1.2	-1.7	-1.0	1.2
UK	1.6	1.5	-0.5	-0.7	3.2	1.3	6.2	7.5	4.7	1.6	3.8	3.5
BG	3.7	0.7	-1.0	-0.6	5.2	5.0	14.4	16.6	13.8	2.8	4.2	8.7
RO	-1.2	-4.8	-0.3	-1.0	2.6	6.2	6.6	-0.4	-3.7	-7.2	-3.6	7.7

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					
	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04	Q1-05	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04	Q1-05
EU-25	-0.1	0.4	-0.2	0.1	-0.1	-0.4	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.3	-1.2
Euro-zone	-0.2	0.7	-0.3	-0.1	-0.1	-0.9	0.7	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.7	-2.0
BE	-2.7	7.1	-7.7	1.9	0.2	-8.8	-2.7	2.7	-0.2	-8.6	1.2	-13.4
CZ	-0.8	3.0	0.7	-0.6	1.3	-1.7	0.3	5.4	7.2	1.7	4.5	-1.5
DK	3.7	:	:	:	:	:	0.1	:	:	:	:	:
DE	-2.3	2.3	-5.8	-3.2	-1.3	-7.3	-2.9	0.5	-6.7	-8.3	-8.2	-22.6
EE	1.8	3.1	-1.6	3.1	2.2	0.8	6.0	7.8	4.6	6.5	7.0	4.5
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	1.3	-0.3	2.4	1.1	2.1	1.6	10.5	2.7	5.8	6.0	7.5	5.3
FR	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.8	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.3	1.3
IE	4.2	2.5	4.8	4.0	4.1	:	5.9	6.2	12.2	16.4	16.3	:
IT	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
CY	1.4	1.1	0.9	2.0	0.8	:	7.1	7.0	4.4	5.7	4.9	:
LV	-2.6	14.5	-1.1	2.4	2.0	-2.4	3.4	18.6	13.3	13.0	18.3	0.8
LT	1.0	0.5	-1.5	-0.4	0.8	3.9	17.9	12.3	4.9	-0.6	-1.0	3.1
LU	0.5	-0.8	-1.0	-1.5	-2.0	-1.2	4.1	1.4	0.5	-2.6	-7.1	-6.5
HU	0.3	1.3	2.2	0.3	0.7	-2.7	2.4	3.8	5.1	4.1	4.5	0.0
MT	-2.7	-5.2	11.0	-12.8	-20.1	:	-16.1	3.8	16.8	-10.7	-26.7	:
NL	-1.2	-1.5	-1.1	-1.2	-1.2	c	-4.7	-5.4	-4.9	-4.7	-4.9	c
AT	0.4	-1.6	0.8	0.5	-0.7	-1.1	6.0	-1.0	0.4	0.8	-1.7	-3.3
PL	-2.4	-3.9	-0.2	1.1	0.0	4.8	-17.7	-13.2	-10.1	-5.0	-6.4	8.3
PT	-2.6	-0.5	-0.4	-1.7	-2.2	-1.2	-8.3	-4.1	-2.0	-4.2	-6.0	-5.2
SI	0.0	0.4	0.0	-0.5	-1.1	-1.8	-0.5	1.7	-0.4	-0.2	-0.7	-2.8
SK	1.1	1.7	-0.2	0.3	2.8	0.9	7.1	7.3	5.9	2.7	3.9	2.8
FI	0.6	-2.9	-0.2	1.1	-0.1	1.1	5.2	-0.9	-3.1	-1.2	-2.0	1.8
SE	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
UK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
BG	2.9	0.9	-0.7	-1.4	4.6	6.6	18.1	20.1	14.2	0.9	2.9	9.5
RO	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c

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					
	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04	Q1-05	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04	Q1-05
EU-25	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	1.2	2.4	1.6	2.0	1.7	0.6
Euro-zone	0.2	0.4	-0.1	0.1	0.0	-0.1	0.4	1.5	0.5	0.8	0.7	-0.6
BE	-0.7	1.3	-1.7	0.7	-3.8	-2.5	-1.8	2.3	-2.5	-3.2	0.1	-9.0
CZ	3.3	-1.2	1.7	2.3	1.7	4.4	9.1	5.8	5.5	5.7	3.8	11.1
DK	0.7	:	:	:	:	:	3.6	:	:	:	:	:
DE	-1.8	0.1	-2.6	-2.3	-3.1	-4.6	-6.3	-3.2	-6.3	-6.1	-7.4	-12.5
EE	4.6	6.1	3.1	4.4	3.3	1.9	18.6	22.3	18.4	19.7	18.6	13.2
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	1.2	0.8	0.9	1.1	0.7	1.0	5.7	4.0	3.8	4.7	2.8	3.6
FR	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.0	1.3	2.1	3.9	5.9	6.6	6.3	5.8	6.1
IE	1.6	6.3	5.2	6.3	13.8	:	13.5	14.3	14.7	20.8	35.2	:
IT	0.8	1.0	1.1	0.8	0.9	0.2	3.9	2.3	4.1	3.8	4.6	2.3
CY	2.5	1.4	2.9	:	:	:	13.7	7.9	10.1	:	:	:
LV	4.2	14.4	2.2	3.3	7.6	5.6	22.5	35.4	28.9	25.4	29.7	20.3
LT	4.7	3.3	0.6	5.1	4.6	10.7	30.3	21.4	15.0	14.1	13.4	23.2
LU	2.2	-0.4	0.6	0.6	0.0	1.5	4.8	4.4	4.3	2.6	0.7	2.4
HU	1.8	4.2	2.0	3.5	1.9	1.2	11.8	13.2	11.5	12.0	11.9	8.8
MT	-2.8	8.0	-4.1	3.9	-8.8	:	7.5	22.8	0.9	5.4	-2.9	:
NL	-1.2	-0.9	-1.7	-1.3	-1.0	c	-3.5	-4.1	-4.0	-4.0	-3.1	c
AT	0.6	-0.4	0.8	0.4	0.1	-0.1	6.4	1.7	0.8	1.9	2.0	0.8
PL	-2.5	-3.0	-1.1	0.1	1.4	0.7	-13.6	-7.6	-7.0	-6.4	-2.6	1.2
PT	0.8	1.9	0.6	-0.2	0.5	1.0	-2.4	2.7	4.6	2.9	2.3	1.9
SI	1.0	2.6	0.9	2.0	2.1	0.0	6.4	8.6	5.0	6.7	7.9	5.1
SK	1.3	3.8	1.1	2.9	2.8	3.8	5.8	11.0	8.5	9.2	10.7	11.3
FI	0.4	1.8	0.6	2.4	2.6	0.9	6.1	4.4	3.6	6.6	8.7	4.8
SE	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
UK	2.1	1.6	1.4	1.1	0.8	-0.9	3.7	4.9	5.7	6.3	4.9	2.9
BG	5.6	3.4	1.0	0.1	4.8	6.4	33.4	27.3	20.7	9.5	9.2	13.2
RO	2.6	-0.1	0.2	0.0	8.8	15.4	29.6	19.4	10.9	2.5	8.8	25.7

Table 8: WAGES AND SALARIES INDEX FOR CONSTRUCTION, GROWTH RATES (%); SOURCE: EUROSTAT STS

Construction costs

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, gross series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04	Q1-05	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04	Q1-05
EU-25	1.1	1.5	2.0	0.8	0.6	1.0	5.2	5.5	6.9	5.5	5.0	4.4
Euro-zone	0.2	1.4	2.0	0.8	0.4	1.0	1.9	2.3	3.9	4.4	4.7	4.3
BE	0.0	0.7	2.2	.	.	.	0.9	0.7	2.9	.	.	.
CZ	0.6	0.9	1.8	0.9	0.4	0.8	2.5	2.6	3.9	4.2	4.1	4.0
DK	0.1	-0.3	0.9	0.9	0.9	.	2.0	1.0	0.7	1.7	2.5	.
DE	0.0	0.3	1.1	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.3	1.4	1.7	1.8	1.9
EE	0.4	1.5	2.6	1.3	1.1	1.2	3.4	3.5	5.0	5.9	6.6	6.4
EL	0.5	0.6	1.3	0.7	1.3	0.4	2.5	2.2	2.6	3.1	4.1	3.8
ES	-0.1	1.3	3.2	1.1	0.6	2.9	1.7	2.0	4.9	5.6	6.3	7.9
FR	0.6	2.4	2.8	0.6	0.5	0.4	3.1	4.1	6.3	6.6	6.4	4.3
IE	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.4	2.3	1.2	10.9	13.0	12.7	13.1	12.3	10.4
IT	0.2	1.8	1.8	1.2	0.6	1.3	2.8	2.4	3.9	5.0	5.4	4.9
CY	0.1	4.0	1.7	1.1	0.4	2.7	4.6	5.7	6.9	7.0	7.3	6.0
LV	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
LT	0.0	0.5	4.3	3.1	1.7	0.0	1.6	4.1	5.9	8.1	9.9	9.4
LU	0.5	0.9	0.6	0.9	1.1	.	1.9	2.2	2.3	2.9	3.5	.
HU	2.6	-0.7	2.6	1.0	2.8	-4.1	3.4	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.8	2.1
MT	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
NL	-0.2	0.9	1.0	0.4	0.1	1.1	1.2	1.3	2.2	2.2	2.4	2.6
AT	0.6	1.9	2.2	0.6	0.8	0.4	3.2	4.3	5.3	5.3	5.6	4.0
PL	0.2	0.6	1.2	1.4	0.9	0.5	0.2	1.0	2.1	3.4	4.1	4.0
PT	0.2	2.0	2.2	.	.	.	1.2	1.2	4.1	.	.	.
SI	1.6	1.9	6.0	2.0	1.5	1.0	6.4	6.8	10.9	11.8	11.8	10.8
SK	0.9	2.4	2.0	2.0	0.9	1.3	4.5	6.2	6.7	7.4	7.5	6.4
FI	-0.3	0.5	1.4	1.0	0.6	0.9	1.6	1.3	2.0	2.7	3.6	4.1
SE	0.5	0.9	1.9	0.9	0.4	1.4	3.4	2.8	4.1	4.4	4.3	4.7
UK	4.0	1.3	2.6	1.9	1.3	-0.6	16.7	15.4	16.9	10.1	7.3	5.3
BG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
RO	2.5	8.7	2.4	4.2	2.0	6.8	19.5	20.4	19.0	18.9	18.3	16.2

Table 9: CONSTRUCTION COSTS INDEX FOR RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS, GROWTH RATES (%);
SOURCE: EUROSTAT STS

Residential building permits issued

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04	Q1-05	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04	Q1-05
EU-25	2.5	3.0	-0.2	-3.8	5.2	1.4	10.0	6.4	7.8	2.8	5.5	-1.1
Euro-zone	2.4	0.3	2.2	-1.6	4.1	2.7	9.3	7.9	8.9	4.3	8.6	-0.3
BE	4.4	11.8	-5.9	-6.2	15.9	0.6	16.3	32.1	12.5	3.1	13.8	-0.6
CZ	0.1	-2.0	-3.8	-5.7	7.0	-5.4	39.8	25.1	11.0	-11.3	-4.0	-7.8
DK	16.2	0.4	-10.8	-0.4	1.7	10.6	-1.0	16.2	-4.1	3.2	-9.6	-8.4
DE	5.9	9.1	-17.7	-8.0	-1.8	-5.7	3.4	-0.7	-9.7	-13.7	-20.0	-32.0
EE	28.3	64.9	58.0	-47.5	4.9	-28.6	2.9	324.0	402.1	41.0	31.7	-36.3
EL	-9.4	1.0	-0.1	1.5	2.9	-1.4	-15.1	-10.2	-5.4	-9.5	5.1	2.9
ES	-5.3	12.3	-0.4	8.0	4.2	-2.0	3.5	14.1	5.8	14.2	26.0	9.4
FR	4.2	6.5	7.3	0.2	5.8	0.3	15.0	18.5	29.2	19.0	21.3	14.2
IE	-5.7	23.4	-1.6	1.6	6.2	1.0	37.8	87.6	26.0	0.1	30.6	-0.2
IT	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
CY	3.8	15.6	4.4	5.8	12.7	7.3	27.9	35.6	14.9	32.7	44.6	34.0
LV	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
LT	-6.3	35.1	-5.1	76.2	-36.3	10.2	3.2	-6.0	-0.1	106.3	40.0	18.9
LU	39.1	-10.8	-11.5	84.6	-43.5	.	19.0	9.8	-0.1	129.7	-19.2	.
HU	10.7	-7.8	4.2	-10.0	-0.4	2.9	41.5	8.2	22.7	-3.9	-13.9	-3.9
MT	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
NL	6.9	-9.5	16.1	-11.2	41.7	-12.5	-6.1	-17.7	0.7	-6.4	32.7	21.7
AT	28.9	.	.	.	.	.	44.8	.	.	.	.	.
PL	10.1	6.4	-1.1	-4.8	-15.6	38.3	42.8	73.2	31.4	16.3	-19.5	17.1
PT	12.8	-16.7	0.1	-6.4	3.8	9.0	17.9	-8.6	-7.5	-12.8	-19.2	4.1
SI	24.0	-7.1	5.0	45.3	-33.1	-11.0	25.8	8.4	-2.1	86.8	-7.1	-9.5
SK	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
FI	4.5	-9.2	0.4	-0.7	-3.6	7.7	22.2	12.3	-1.9	-4.0	-14.6	9.1
SE	7.8	9.3	-7.3	4.2	10.0	-20.9	46.8	18.3	5.8	12.8	19.2	-18.4
UK	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
BG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
RO	7.6	6.0	9.8	-0.3	-2.2	15.5	7.4	25.2	34.7	24.0	12.2	23.0

Table 10: BUILDING PERMITS: NUMBER OF DWELLINGS, GROWTH RATES (%); SOURCE: EUROSTAT STS

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04	Q1-05	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04	Q1-05
EU-25	6.1	2.4	-3.1	2.8	1.1	-3.1	8.7	6.5	8.3	3.4	6.4	-4.6
Euro-zone	0.9	2.6	0.5	-0.6	1.4	-2.7	7.0	3.6	6.5	2.5	6.5	-3.4
BE	3.9	11.5	-7.0	-8.7	14.1	1.9	18.4	30.9	11.4	-1.9	7.3	-2.2
CZ	-6.6	6.3	4.9	-5.1	11.5	-9.7	10.9	9.5	23.7	-1.6	20.7	1.2
DK	14.8	32.0	-26.4	-2.9	7.1	-2.6	-2.1	50.6	8.0	8.5	1.1	-26.6
DE	10.5	7.4	-20.0	-7.8	-1.1	-7.4	3.7	-0.1	-9.9	-13.8	-22.4	-34.4
EE	16.5	57.8	39.5	-43.7	-2.3	-16.7	20.6	321.8	296.2	26.1	11.6	-36.6
EL	-18.1	3.2	1.2	1.1	1.0	0.7	-26.1	-13.1	-4.5	-15.9	6.6	3.8
ES	-5.7	7.4	3.4	6.1	4.8	-0.9	2.8	10.4	4.1	11.0	23.6	10.3
FR	4.5	4.6	5.4	-0.3	3.4	2.3	12.7	15.6	23.0	14.7	13.7	11.0
IE	2.9	22.3	0.3	-11.3	16.0	1.2	33.2	75.6	33.3	12.0	26.3	4.5
IT	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
CY	2.7	8.3	7.4	-0.9	9.5	7.3	14.3	26.3	15.3	17.4	26.4	26.1
LV	30.5	4.4	0.8	15.7	9.8	-7.5	142.8	137.9	98.7	60.7	34.6	15.7
LT	1.1	12.4	0.5	37.4	1.0	10.5	5.9	-5.4	7.9	68.0	43.7	27.8
LU	25.8	-10.6	1.1	70.8	-43.3	:	7.2	-13.4	10.5	132.2	-12.6	:
HU	7.4	-3.3	-2.9	-5.5	-1.6	-1.9	34.4	14.6	3.3	-3.6	-12.0	-12.0
MT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
NL	13.0	-12.2	16.3	-8.1	34.1	-13.0	-2.7	-22.6	-0.9	1.2	26.9	14.9
AT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
PL	1.7	11.3	-5.7	-7.3	-17.9	39.5	38.8	60.9	20.9	4.7	-23.4	4.2
PT	5.1	-7.6	-0.8	-5.7	5.3	9.0	1.1	-1.0	-6.2	-11.3	-8.3	4.9
SI	13.8	-2.9	-1.1	43.7	-27.6	-15.3	32.5	26.5	5.4	57.1	-0.1	-12.8
SK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FI	5.9	-7.4	0.6	-1.5	1.5	0.3	26.4	11.1	4.0	-2.1	-8.4	6.5
SE	2.5	13.1	-7.2	1.0	10.2	-16.1	32.1	13.0	-1.7	6.4	17.6	-15.3
UK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
BG	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
RO	5.2	5.1	8.7	1.9	1.0	12.8	17.7	23.8	29.7	21.3	14.2	20.2

Table 11: BUILDING PERMITS: SQUARE METRES OF AREA, 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

Abbreviation and symbols:

: not available

c confidential

Further information:

Reference publications

Title	Quarterly Panorama of European business statistics
Subscription number	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/Construction: Production indices \(2000=100\)/ Construction: quarterly production index \(2000=100\)](#)

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