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# Developments for construction in the second quarter of 2001

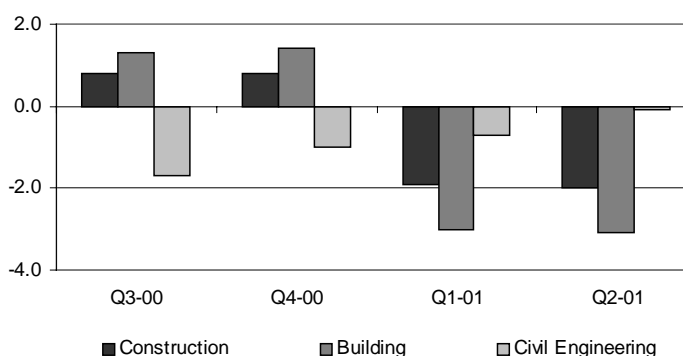
*EU output down 0.6% compared to Q1-2001*

*Digna Amil*

### Latest construction trends

EU-15 construction output fell by 0.6% in the second quarter of 2001, when compared to the first quarter of 2001. This marked a further decline in construction activity, as in the first quarter construction output fell by 1.0%. In the euro-zone<sup>1</sup> the decline in activity was even more pronounced, with the production index falling by 1.4% in the second quarter of 2001.

In the EU, construction activity was 2.0% lower in the second quarter of 2001 than it had been in the second quarter of 2000 (see figure 1 below). The decline in output was considerably more pronounced within the building sector (-3.1%) than within civil engineering (-0.1%).



*Figure 1: Production volume index for EU-15 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
Q3-00	-1.1	Q3-00	-0.8	Q3-00	1.1
Q4-00	0.8	Q4-00	1.0	Q4-00	1.0
Q1-01	-1.0	Q1-01	-1.5	Q1-01	-2.0
Q2-01	-0.6	Q2-01	-1.4	Q2-01	-2.7

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

Data extracted: 17.10.2001

*1) Euro-zone data up to the end of 2000 cover eleven Member States (B, D, E, F, IRL, I, L, NL, A, P and FIN); with Greece's entry into the euro-zone from the beginning of 2001, they cover twelve Member States.*

## Production indices for construction

Amongst the Member States the largest decline was recorded in Germany, where output in the construction sector dropped by 5.7% between the last quarter of 2000 and the first quarter of 2001; this was followed by a further decline of 5.3% in the second quarter of 2001. As a result, German construction activity declined by 12.3% between the second quarters of 2000 and 2001 (slightly less than the 14.4% decline recorded in the first quarter). Using both a quarter on quarter growth rate and a year on year growth rate, German construction activity declined for five consecutive quarters.

In France, the index of production for construction fell by 0.6% between the first and second quarters of 2001 - the second consecutive quarter that this rate was recorded. As a result, French output in the second quarter of 2001 was 1.1% below its level during the

same quarter of 2000.

Italian data is only available for the first quarter of 2001, when an expansion of 2.0% in construction activity was recorded, largely reversing the loss of 2.8% recorded in the final quarter of 2000. The Italian construction sector reported a 4.0% growth in activity between the first quarters of 2000 and 2001.

In the United Kingdom there was also an expansion in construction activity, with growth of 2.7% in the second quarter of 2001 (on the basis of a quarter on quarter comparison) and an increase of 3.1% in activity between the second quarters of 2000 and 2001. This was the first time in a year that this longer-term growth rate was positive in the United Kingdom.

Spanish construction activity grew by 2.1% between the first and second quarters of 2001, and by

10.5% between the second quarters of 2000 and 2001 (continuing a series of high and rising growth).

There was a contraction in construction activity in Belgium, on the basis of a quarter on quarter (-1.2%) and year on year (-0.1%) comparison, whilst the opposite was true in Luxembourg (with growth of 2.3% and 3.5% respectively). In Finland, construction activity was down by 3.3% in the second quarter of 2001 (compared to the first quarter), following two consecutive positive growth rates in excess of 4.0%. In the Netherlands, construction activity rose by 0.1%, maintaining a pattern of alternating positive and negative quarter on quarter growth rates. Dutch construction activity declined by 0.6% between the second quarters of 2000 and 2001, following positive rates throughout the whole of 2000.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted series					
	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01
EU-15	1.5	-0.5	-1.1	0.8	-1.0	-0.6	4.7	2.3	0.8	0.8	-1.9	-2.0
Euro-zone	1.3	-0.5	-0.8	1.0	-1.5	-1.4	4.4	2.4	1.1	1.0	-2.0	-2.7
B	2.0	-1.2	-1.7	4.1	-0.9	-1.2	6.4	4.2	1.2	2.6	0.1	-0.1
DK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
D	1.5	-4.1	-2.6	-0.2	-5.7	-5.3	0.4	-2.6	-5.2	-5.5	-14.4	-12.3
EL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	1.4	1.0	2.9	2.1	2.1	2.1	6.6	6.3	7.2	7.1	8.5	10.5
F	1.2	0.6	0.4	0.6	-0.6	-0.6	5.6	3.9	2.5	4.0	0.6	-1.1
IRL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I (2)	1.2	1.5	3.3	-2.8	2.0	:	8.7	8.6	10.0	3.2	4.0	:
L	2.7	-2.1	1.1	1.0	-1.6	2.3	7.1	2.2	3.6	4.1	-3.6	3.5
NL	0.8	1.1	-0.3	1.0	-0.3	0.1	3.1	4.5	1.2	4.7	1.0	-0.6
A	-2.3	-0.1	0.2	1.5	1.0	-3.7	4.1	-3.5	-2.7	0.0	3.9	-1.8
P (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	6.5	-1.1	-4.0	4.2	4.8	-3.3	11.3	6.1	4.0	6.5	4.1	1.5
S (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	1.4	-1.4	-1.3	1.2	0.5	2.7	5.4	2.2	-1.1	-0.3	-1.2	3.1

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

<sup>1</sup> Derogation until end 2001; <sup>2</sup> 4 month delay permitted until end 2001.

## Production indices for building

Production in the EU's building sector fell by 0.8% in the second quarter of 2001 (compared to the previous quarter). This was the second consecutive quarter that a negative rate was recorded and the fourth negative rate in the last five quarters.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted series					
	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01
EU-15	2.2	-0.5	-1.0	0.5	-1.8	-0.8	5.6	3.1	1.3	1.4	-3.0	-3.1
Euro-zone	1.9	0.0	-0.9	0.1	-2.0	-0.9	5.7	3.3	1.6	1.6	-3.1	-3.7
B	2.2	-4.5	-3.3	15.8	-9.3	3.6	13.7	6.3	-3.2	9.2	-3.1	5.1
DK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
D	0.7	-2.9	-2.5	-1.3	-7.4	-6.1	-0.2	-2.5	-5.0	-6.1	-15.8	-15.3
EL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	2.8	1.4	1.1	0.8	2.1	3.2	11.3	9.8	8.4	6.1	5.4	7.5
F	1.8	0.8	-0.2	1.2	-1.4	-0.5	6.4	4.4	3.5	4.7	0.2	-1.4
IRL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I (2)	6.4	2.3	2.2	-5.3	5.6	0.7	11.6	11.3	12.4	5.4	4.5	3.0
L	5.3	-4.6	5.8	4.8	2.7	3.4	0.7	0.1	9.4	11.3	9.4	15.2
NL	0.6	0.9	0.6	-0.1	-1.3	-1.2	0.8	2.9	3.4	4.5	-0.1	-1.6
A	0.2	-0.4	-0.1	0.1	-0.5	-1.4	4.3	-3.0	-2.4	1.3	1.7	-3.4
P (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	7.0	0.1	-4.9	3.5	6.1	-2.7	11.9	9.4	6.1	6.5	4.9	1.7
S (4)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	1.9	-1.4	-1.4	1.3	-0.2	2.0	5.2	1.9	-1.0	0.4	-1.7	1.8

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

## Production indices for civil engineering

The decline in civil engineering activity in the second quarter of 2001 (on the basis of a comparison with the previous quarter) was equal to 0.5% in the EU and 0.7% in the euro-zone. In civil engineering activity there were particularly large reductions in Austria (7.1%), Finland (5.9%) and Germany (4.0%), whereas the United Kingdom had a considerable increase (7%).

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted series					
	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01
EU-15	-0.9	-1.0	-1.4	2.2	-0.4	-0.5	3.5	0.9	-1.7	-1.0	-0.7	-0.1
Euro-zone	-0.2	-0.5	-1.2	0.9	-0.7	-0.7	2.8	0.5	-1.7	-0.5	-1.3	-1.9
B	-0.2	-5.5	-7.9	12.4	-12.5	1.9	12.1	6.8	-9.5	-2.4	-14.5	-7.8
DK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
D	3.0	-6.2	-2.9	2.1	-2.7	-4.0	1.7	-2.8	-5.5	-4.5	-11.7	-6.9
EL (5)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	-0.5	-0.9	1.1	6.1	4.7	2.6	-2.4	-2.2	2.1	6.0	11.6	15.5
F	-0.1	1.7	-0.8	0.7	0.0	-1.0	2.8	3.5	0.8	1.9	2.2	-1.7
IRL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I (6)	-6.0	0.2	4.0	0.3	-1.8	:	1.7	2.5	4.8	-1.5	2.6	:
L	10.3	-7.0	-5.5	0.3	-2.6	-1.1	14.1	4.3	-1.4	-2.7	-16.0	-7.3
NL	4.6	1.0	-5.4	5.8	1.3	0.6	15.2	9.9	-4.7	5.2	3.7	1.6
A	-8.6	0.8	0.9	2.5	6.5	-7.1	2.8	-5.0	-3.3	-3.9	12.6	2.6
P (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	4.7	-5.7	-0.5	6.9	-0.2	-5.9	8.4	-6.2	-2.8	6.3	0.0	0.4
S (4)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	-1.7	-3.3	-2.7	2.4	7.2	7.0	6.8	5.1	-2.0	-5.2	3.5	14.2

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

<sup>1</sup> Derogation until June 2003; <sup>2</sup> 1 month delay permitted until 2003; <sup>3</sup> Derogation until June 2002; <sup>4</sup> Derogation until end 2001; <sup>5</sup> Derogation until end 2002; <sup>6</sup> 4 month delay permitted until 2003.

## New orders

Having risen by 13.3% in the first quarter of 2001 (compared to the previous quarter), new orders for construction in the United Kingdom declined by 12.1% in the second quarter of 2001. There was growth in the number of new orders in Belgium (3.3%) and Germany (2.0%) over the same period.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01
EU-15 (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Euro-zone (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
B	2.4	-6.0	11.0	-2.2	-6.7	3.3	16.6	5.4	12.6	4.5	-4.8	4.7
DK (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
D	-2.3	-5.2	-5.8	3.1	-0.9	2.0	-10.2	-13.5	-16.4	-10.6	-9.9	-1.5
EL (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	9.2	10.0	-10.1	3.8	-5.3	:	4.2	23.4	12.2	12.3	-3.4	:
F (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IRL (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
L	33.8	10.8	-9.5	21.5	1.2	-1.1	-15.6	2.4	-11.8	73.2	26.4	9.0
NL (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
A	1.0	2.3	-2.6	1.1	-3.6	-1.0	4.7	8.2	0.1	5.3	-4.1	-6.9
P (4)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	7.1	-5.1	-4.5	17.3	-11.7	-3.1	41.9	9.5	-7.6	16.6	-6.7	-5.1
S (5)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	-0.9	13.2	-4.8	-6.5	13.3	-12.1	-1.2	8.7	9.8	-0.2	13.6	-11.3

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

## Employment

There were 0.3% less persons employed in the EU construction sector in the second quarter of 2001 (compared to the previous quarter), essentially due to the negative rate of Germany (-3.5%). Nevertheless, in the United Kingdom (1.9%), Ireland (1.5%), France and Luxembourg (both 0.9%) and the Netherlands (0.5%) there was an expansion in the n° of persons employed.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01
EU-15	0.7	0.2	-0.7	-0.2	0.0	-0.3	1.8	1.2	-0.1	0.0	-0.7	-1.1
Euro-zone (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
B	:	:	:	:	:	:	8.2	6.3	4.1	4.2	2.8	2.6
DK	3.1	-0.2	-1.4	0.3	-0.2	-0.9	6.0	4.0	0.7	1.6	-1.6	-2.3
D	-1.0	-1.8	-2.4	-2.5	-3.0	-3.5	-3.1	-4.9	-6.3	-7.3	-9.5	-11.3
EL (6)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
F	0.9	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.9	3.2	3.7	4.1	4.6	5.0	4.3
IRL	2.4	1.1	0.9	0.7	0.7	1.5	6.8	6.9	5.7	5.1	3.2	3.8
I	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
L	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.9	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.3	2.0	2.9
NL	1.0	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.5	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.3	1.6	1.7
A	0.6	-0.5	-1.3	-0.5	-1.0	-1.3	-1.9	-2.4	-1.9	-1.4	-3.6	-4.8
P (4)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN (7)	1.2	:	:	:	:	:	3.9	:	:	:	:	:
S (5)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	1.5	1.0	-1.6	0.0	1.5	1.9	4.4	5.2	0.8	0.5	0.8	2.1

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

<sup>1</sup> Data available present less than 60% of the weight of all Member States, thus these aggregates are not calculated; <sup>2</sup> Derogation until end 2002; <sup>3</sup> Derogation until mid-2001; <sup>4</sup> Derogation until June 2002; <sup>5</sup> Derogation until April 2002; <sup>6</sup> Derogation until June 2003; <sup>7</sup> Derogation until end 2001.

## Hours worked

The latest EU-15 data shows that the number of hours worked in the first quarter of 2001 fell by 0.8% compared to the quarter before. There were 7.6% fewer hours worked in Germany comparing the second quarter of 2001 and the previous quarter (along with a 5.3% reduction in output and 3.5% reduction in the number of persons employed).

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01
EU-15 (1)	0.0	-0.6	-0.6	-0.4	-0.8	:	1.7	-0.6	-1.6	-0.9	-2.9	:
Euro-zone (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
B	4.7	0.0	-1.6	2.7	-1.9	1.1	13.7	8.3	2.7	6.6	-1.2	0.0
DK (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
D	-0.1	-4.7	-3.5	-0.6	-5.7	-7.6	-0.3	-6.4	-8.6	-8.5	-17.0	-15.3
EL (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
F	0.3	0.7	1.2	1.3	1.1	:	2.0	2.0	2.7	3.7	4.5	:
IRL	-0.2	0.0	-0.7	-0.8	-1.1	0.4	0.9	1.6	-0.9	-1.7	-2.6	-2.2
I (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
L	2.9	-2.8	-0.1	1.9	-1.5	2.7	8.4	2.5	0.0	3.1	-4.3	3.6
NL	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.6	3.0	2.6	2.4	2.6	1.3	1.9
A	0.5	-0.6	-1.7	-0.1	-1.5	-1.6	-0.1	-2.7	-5.2	0.0	-3.2	-6.5
P (4)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	0.3	-3.7	-2.3	-2.0	-0.9	0.4	5.8	-0.1	-5.9	-8.3	-8.8	-4.0
S (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	-0.4	2.5	1.3	-1.1	2.0	0.4	-0.2	2.5	3.7	2.0	4.9	2.7

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

## Wages and salaries

Wage growth continued to retract at a rapid pace in Germany, falling by 2.5% between the first and second quarters of 2001 - marking the fifth consecutive negative rate in excess of 2%. There was also a reduction in wages and salaries in Austria (-1.7%) and Finland (-0.4%) between the first and second quarters of 2001.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01
EU-15	0.9	0.5	-0.1	0.0	-0.2	-0.3	5.5	3.9	1.2	1.3	0.6	-1.3
Euro-zone	0.6	-0.7	-0.9	-0.6	-1.0	-0.7	3.2	0.0	-1.6	-1.1	-3.3	-3.5
B	2.9	1.5	1.3	1.1	0.4	0.9	15.1	8.8	6.4	11.9	2.2	3.5
DK	4.9	1.2	0.1	2.9	0.5	:	10.1	11.9	4.7	8.8	3.5	:
D	1.2	-2.7	-2.3	-2.3	-3.0	-2.5	-0.1	-4.5	-6.0	-6.1	-9.8	-9.7
EL (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
F	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IRL	1.3	2.3	1.9	7.5	-1.3	5.9	15.1	14.0	7.4	13.6	10.6	14.6
I	1.2	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	3.2	2.7	2.9	2.4	1.5	1.1
L	-1.8	1.2	2.3	0.3	4.8	2.0	3.0	5.0	5.4	1.1	9.4	10.0
NL (5)	2.0	1.7	1.6	1.8	1.7	:	11.1	7.3	5.9	7.3	8.1	7.8
A	0.3	0.9	-0.8	-0.6	-0.7	-1.7	0.0	0.5	0.1	-0.4	0.1	-3.7
P (4)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	4.7	4.0	0.4	-0.8	9.3	-0.4	14.2	17.1	8.1	8.4	13.3	8.3
S (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	2.3	2.8	2.4	1.4	5.4	0.4	12.6	19.3	11.2	9.0	12.7	10.0

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

<sup>1</sup> Data available present less than 60% of the weight of all Member States, thus European aggregates are not calculated; <sup>2</sup> Derogation until end 2001; <sup>3</sup> Derogation until June 2003; <sup>4</sup> Derogation until June 2002; <sup>5</sup> For technical reasons, seasonally adjusted data for the latest period are not available.

## Construction costs

Construction costs for residential buildings in the EU rose by 2.6% between the second quarters of 2000 and 2001. As such, the slowdown in price increases from a high of 3.4% recorded in the final quarter of 2000 continued. Price increases in the euro-zone were slightly less pronounced, up by 2.2% over the same period.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, gross series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01
EU-15	1.1	0.6	0.7	0.9	0.6	0.4	2.4	2.5	2.5	3.4	2.8	2.6
Euro-zone	1.2	0.5	0.4	0.9	0.5	0.3	2.0	2.1	2.1	3.0	2.4	2.2
B (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
DK	0.6	2.0	0.9	1.2	0.9	0.5	0.1	2.1	2.4	4.8	5.1	3.5
D (2)	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	-0.1	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.1	-0.1
EL	0.5	0.8	0.7	1.1	0.4	0.7	2.5	2.4	2.5	3.0	3.0	2.9
E (3)	2.4	0.7	0.6	0.4	1.3	0.0	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.3	3.1	2.3
F (2)	1.7	0.6	0.4	3.1	-0.2	:	1.1	1.4	1.2	5.8	3.9	:
IRL (4)	1.0	0.5	0.5	12.0	0.7	1.7	7.7	4.8	3.8	14.1	13.8	15.2
I	1.3	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.3	3.0	2.7	3.0	3.1	2.7	2.5
L (2)	0.7	0.6	1.3	0.7	1.2	1.6	3.1	2.7	3.7	3.4	3.9	4.9
NL	1.5	0.5	1.4	0.3	2.3	1.9	3.8	3.7	4.1	3.8	4.6	6.1
A	0.2	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.4	1.1	3.1	2.2	1.8	2.1	2.3	2.6
P (5)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN (4)	0.7	1.2	0.7	0.6	0.9	1.3	2.5	3.1	3.0	3.3	3.5	3.6
S	1.1	1.6	0.8	0.7	1.4	1.4	3.3	3.9	4.3	4.2	4.5	4.4
UK (2)	1.1	0.8	1.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	4.1	4.1	4.5	4.5	4.2	4.2

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

## Building permits

After three negative rates to end 2000, the number of permits issued in the EU grew in the first (1.2%) and second (0.9%) quarters of 2001.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01
EU-15	0.1	-4.5	-1.4	-4.2	1.2	0.9	1.0	-4.7	-3.3	-9.8	-8.8	-3.6
Euro-zone	-0.9	-4.6	-0.4	-4.1	-0.4	:	0.8	-5.4	-3.6	-9.8	-9.2	:
B	-1.0	-12.6	1.1	-6.5	17.5	-10.7	5.4	-8.9	-8.9	-19.4	-2.7	-0.9
DK	-6.9	12.2	-17.6	12.0	19.8	-25.3	-1.7	1.0	-25.3	-3.7	25.1	-17.8
D	-10.8	-20.2	-2.6	-12.5	14.5	-9.1	-16.8	-32.9	-32.5	-38.8	-24.1	-10.7
EL (6)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	2.1	-0.7	3.3	0.0	-6.8	:	14.1	-2.0	20.7	4.9	-4.5	:
F	5.2	6.3	-0.6	-2.4	0.3	-4.0	-8.9	20.7	15.5	4.2	3.5	-3.7
IRL	-1.8	0.8	-2.0	:	:	:	27.5	16.3	5.8	:	:	:
I (7)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
L	-28.5	41.3	8.0	:	:	:	-40.1	38.2	54.6	:	:	:
NL	16.5	-5.7	-15.6	-12.0	-4.9	:	19.6	-3.1	-18.8	-18.0	-34.2	:
A (8)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
P	6.9	-11.5	-1.8	-2.4	-5.2	:	9.4	-6.3	-9.5	-9.2	-19.4	:
FIN	10.9	-11.3	-17.1	4.1	-17.4	1.8	23.6	3.7	-26.6	-15.3	-37.6	-26.7
S (9)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK (10)	2.2	-5.0	0.5	-13.6	15.8	-2.3	3.8	-2.4	-0.6	-16.6	-7.5	1.5

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

<sup>1</sup> Derogation until end 2001; <sup>2</sup> Output prices for new residential buildings are used as a proxy for construction costs; <sup>3</sup> Input prices for new residential building construction; <sup>4</sup> Input prices for 1-dwelling residential buildings; <sup>5</sup> Derogation until June 2002; <sup>6</sup> 1 month delay permitted until June 2003; <sup>7</sup> 3 month delay permitted until June 2003; data available for later periods, but not entered for technical reasons; <sup>8</sup> Data available from Q1-00 onwards; <sup>9</sup> Data available from 1996 onwards as a gross series; <sup>10</sup> Building starts for houses.

## Building permits in square metres

In the euro-zone the total area of floor space for which permits were issued grew by 1.6% in the first quarter of 2001 (compared to the previous quarter), whilst there was a decline of 0.4% in terms of the number of permits issued (see previous page). There were large reductions in the floor space for which permits were issued in Denmark (-15.8%) and Germany (-7.3%) in the second quarter of 2001 (compared to the first quarter).

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01
EU-15	5.2	-8.2	-1.2	:	:	:	12.7	-3.3	-2.4	:	:	:
Euro-zone	4.7	-8.5	-1.4	-2.7	1.6	:	13.4	-3.8	-2.6	-8.2	-12.5	:
B	-3.1	-10.9	-1.4	-4.8	11.7	-2.9	-0.8	-8.4	-11.0	-20.0	-6.6	1.7
DK	-7.3	5.2	-7.5	-0.6	13.8	-15.8	-6.5	-6.8	-18.3	-10.7	11.7	-11.3
D	9.5	-20.7	-1.2	-6.7	6.2	-7.3	12.6	-12.9	-14.7	-20.4	-24.5	-8.6
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	2.0	-0.8	1.8	2.5	-5.2	:	14.9	-1.6	17.1	5.6	-2.0	:
F (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IRL	8.7	:	:	:	:	:	7.0	:	:	:	:	:
I (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
L	-41.8	24.8	-18.4	:	:	:	-16.8	26.3	14.9	:	:	:
NL	3.5	-3.4	-18.3	-9.3	-1.4	:	9.4	-5.3	-23.7	-25.4	-29.8	:
A (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
P	3.7	-6.9	-2.1	-2.8	-5.4	:	10.8	-3.7	-4.8	-7.8	-16.1	:
FIN	17.8	-7.5	-15.7	0.2	-12.9	0.3	27.4	14.2	-15.4	-9.3	-32.1	-25.3
S (4)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK (3)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

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

<sup>1</sup> 1 month delay permitted until June 2003; <sup>2</sup> Data available from 1998 onwards – however, due to the lack of a value in the base year it is impossible to compute an index; <sup>3</sup> Data available for later periods, but not entered for technical reasons; <sup>4</sup> Derogation until June 2003;

<sup>5</sup> Data available from 1996 onwards - hence, due to the lack of a value in the base year it is impossible to compute an index.

## Definitions

**Production:** measures output volume through the trend in value added at factor costs.

**Building and civil engineering production:** the two main Sections in the classification of types of construction (CC).

**New orders:** an indication of future production. An order is the value of the contract linking a producer and a third party for the provision of goods and services. The order is accepted if there is sufficient evidence for a valid agreement.

**Employment:** number of persons employed is the total number of persons working within and outside the observation unit (including working proprietors, sales representatives and so on). It also includes persons absent for a short, definite period or persons on strike. Part time, trainee and seasonal workers are also included.

**Hours worked:** aggregate number of hours worked, excluding hours paid but not actually worked such as for meals, holidays and sick leave.

**Wages and salaries:** total remuneration, in cash or in kind, payable to all persons counted on the payroll, in return for work done during the reference period. Includes taxes and social contributions paid by the employee.

**Construction costs:** measure the evolution of the costs of the factors employed in the activity of construction and incurred by the contractor. These factors include, amongst others, materials, wages and salaries, plant and equipment hire; **output prices:** show the evolution of prices paid by the client to the contractor.

**Building permits:** show the future development of construction activity. A building permit is an authorisation to start work on a building project.

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Title Monthly Panorama of European Business  
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