



Statistics in focus

INDUSTRY, TRADE AND SERVICES

THEME 4 – 23/2003

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Developments for the construction sector in the first quarter of 2003

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Latest trends¹

The seasonally adjusted production index for construction was down 1.2 % in the EU in the first quarter of 2003 (compared to the previous quarter), and down by 1.4 % in the euro-zone during the same period.

Annual growth rates were negative in both building and particularly in civil engineering. In the EU, the production index (adjusted for working days) lost 2.1 % between the first quarter of 2002 and the first quarter of 2003, with building work down by 1.5 % and civil engineering down by 6.9 %.

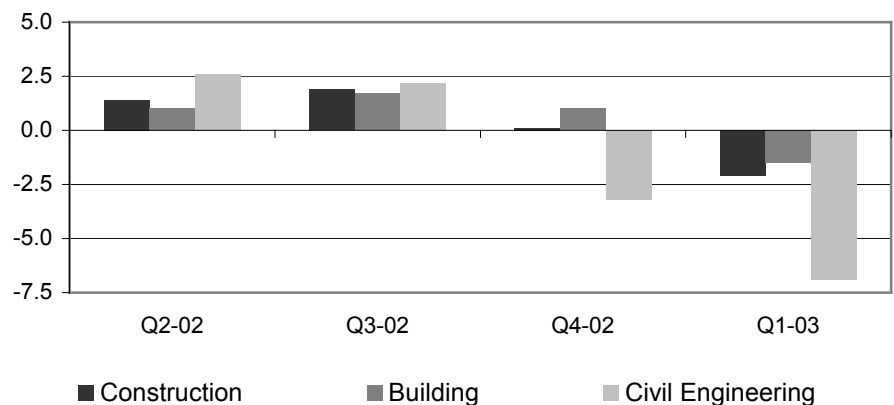


Figure 1: Production index for EU construction, building and civil engineering, growth rates, compared to the same quarter of the previous year (%)

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	
Q2-02	-0.5	Q2-02	-1.1	Q2-02	1.4	Q2-02	-0.2
Q3-02	0.4	Q3-02	0.0	Q3-02	1.9	Q3-02	0.1
Q4-02	-0.4	Q4-02	-0.6	Q4-02	0.1	Q4-02	-1.7
Q1-03	-1.2	Q1-03	-1.4	Q1-03	-2.1	Q1-03	-3.5

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

¹ Eurostat has moved from base year 1995 to base year 2000. For further details see: http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/Public/datashop/print-product/EN?catalogue=Eurostat&product=EBT_rebasing-EN&mode=download

Data extracted: 17.07.2003



Production indices for construction

The downturn experienced in the construction sector in the first quarter of 2003 was observed throughout most of the EU. On the basis of a comparison with the previous quarter, almost all the Member States for which data are available recorded a contraction of output.

Germany experienced the largest decrease, with production down by 5.4 % on the previous quarter. Large reductions approaching or exceeding 2 % were also recorded in the Nordic countries and the United Kingdom. For the latter, this was the first fall in more than a year.

Belgium and Spain stood out from this general picture with quarter on quarter growth reaching 3.0 % and 1.6 % respectively, while France reported no change in output.

The annual growth rates confirm the downturn in the construction sector. Comparing output in the first quarter of 2003 with its level one year before, almost all Member States reported a decline.

Germany posted the largest fall, with a loss of output reaching 14.2 % by the first quarter of 2003, its fourth consecutive contraction. It was joined by Denmark, where construction output was down 14.0% compared with one year before, although this can in part be explained by a brief surge of Danish construction activity in the first quarter of 2002.

Falls in excess of 1 % were also recorded in the Netherlands (-6.4 %), Luxembourg (-5.6 %), Belgium (-3.6 %) and France (-1.3 %).

Among the remaining Member States, the rate of change of construction output in Sweden (-0.5 %) and Finland (0.5 %) was relatively low, while Spain (+3.3 %) and the United Kingdom (+3.5 %) were the only countries recording significant growth.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted series					
	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03
EU-15	1.5	0.5	-0.5	0.4	-0.4	-1.2	2.5	3.1	1.4	1.9	0.1	-2.1
Euro-zone	1.5	-0.2	-1.1	0.0	-0.6	-1.4	1.5	1.7	-0.2	0.1	-1.7	-3.5
BE	4.1	-2.6	-1.9	-2.5	-1.0	3.0	-2.6	-0.4	-1.3	-4.3	-5.0	-3.6
DK	-1.4	6.5	-5.8	-2.1	-0.9	-2.3	-4.0	10.5	1.9	0.7	2.2	-14.0
DE	0.7	0.7	-4.3	-1.1	-1.7	-5.4	-3.4	1.1	-1.7	-3.8	-6.1	-14.2
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	3.9	1.7	0.7	1.4	0.1	1.6	8.5	7.1	5.4	8.2	2.4	3.3
FR	-0.3	-1.6	0.0	-1.1	-0.2	0.0	-0.5	-4.1	-2.7	-2.7	-2.7	-1.3
IE	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IT (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
LU	1.3	1.9	-0.7	-3.5	0.5	-1.5	10.1	10.0	9.8	-4.1	-1.9	-5.6
NL	0.6	-0.6	-1.9	-0.7	-2.2	-0.9	1.3	3.3	-1.6	-2.0	-6.6	-6.4
AT	-0.8	1.0	-0.2	-2.4	-1.2	:	-3.4	1.8	3.4	-2.8	-3.4	:
PT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FI	-0.8	0.4	2.7	0.7	-1.3	-1.9	-2.0	-1.8	2.5	1.5	2.7	0.5
SE	4.9	-1.7	0.3	3.0	-3.0	-2.1	7.1	-3.0	3.2	7.1	-1.4	-0.5
UK	2.2	3.0	1.2	1.8	2.1	-2.6	6.3	8.3	7.3	8.0	7.1	3.5

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

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

Production indices for building

Building work contributed to the general decline in construction activity. While this had generally resisted well during most of 2002, output decreased in early 2003, posting a 1.0 % contraction in the first quarter (compared to the previous quarter) in the EU and a 0.9 % decrease in the euro-zone.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted series					
	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03
EU-15	1.1	0.7	-0.5	0.3	0.2	-1.0	1.8	2.4	1.0	1.7	1.0	-1.5
Euro-zone	1.0	0.1	-1.0	-0.2	-0.4	-0.9	0.8	1.3	-0.4	-0.2	-1.2	-3.0
BE	2.5	-2.2	-1.7	-3.1	-1.1	2.3	-3.1	-1.7	-3.0	-5.2	-7.0	-4.9
DK	-2.9	1.6	4.0	-2.7	-0.7	-6.0	-2.1	-0.3	0.8	-0.2	2.0	-5.6
DE	0.4	0.1	-3.9	-0.9	-1.9	-6.4	-5.1	0.0	-2.1	-4.1	-6.2	-14.7
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	2.1	2.5	0.8	1.1	1.7	1.4	9.2	9.9	6.5	7.7	5.2	4.7
FR	-0.2	-1.9	-0.2	-0.4	-0.3	0.0	0.7	-3.8	-3.1	-2.6	-2.5	-0.7
IE	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IT (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
LU	0.4	2.5	0.5	-5.9	-1.8	-3.3	11.8	6.9	10.4	-1.9	-4.3	-11.8
NL	0.9	-0.7	-1.4	-0.7	-1.9	-1.0	-0.9	1.2	-1.8	-2.2	-6.5	-4.7
AT	0.6	-0.1	-0.8	-2.6	-2.7	:	-4.6	-0.7	2.0	-2.7	-7.3	:
PT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FI	-0.6	0.7	4.4	-1.9	-0.4	-1.6	-4.1	-1.6	3.4	0.7	2.9	0.8
SE	0.0	3.0	0.3	0.9	-2.3	-2.1	-2.0	-1.1	3.7	6.2	1.5	-2.5
UK	3.5	0.8	1.4	0.8	3.8	-3.2	6.5	7.4	6.6	8.0	9.5	4.3

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

Production indices for civil engineering

Civil engineering continued to post significant reductions in levels of activity with quarterly losses of 1.4 % in the EU and 1.6 % in the euro-zone in the first quarter of 2003. The 6.9 % annual fall in the EU was mainly as a consequence of the strong contractions reported by Germany (-13.2 %) and the United Kingdom (-12.6 %), as well as the Netherlands (-13.9 %) and Belgium (-10.6 %).

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted series					
	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03
EU-15	1.6	1.1	-1.2	0.0	-3.0	-1.4	3.6	4.6	2.6	2.2	-3.2	-6.9
Euro-zone	2.0	-0.2	-2.0	0.5	-1.6	-1.6	2.7	2.1	-0.2	0.2	-3.2	-5.5
BE	-0.9	-5.0	-0.7	-4.7	-2.5	-4.3	-13.5	-13.4	-12.6	-12.9	-13.1	-10.6
DK	2.3	6.0	-1.6	-1.4	-2.4	3.3	-10.9	3.2	7.0	5.5	2.2	-4.4
DE	1.4	1.6	-4.9	-1.5	-1.6	-3.4	-0.5	3.2	-0.8	-3.2	-6.0	-13.2
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	7.8	0.2	-0.9	2.2	-1.5	2.0	10.1	3.7	4.0	8.3	-2.6	-0.4
FR	-0.2	-1.4	0.3	-1.7	-0.5	-0.6	-3.0	-4.8	-1.8	-3.0	-3.3	-2.5
IE	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IT (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
LU	1.7	1.4	-2.0	-7.9	9.8	0.4	8.2	14.0	9.1	-6.7	0.7	-0.3
NL	-0.3	2.9	-5.4	-1.5	-3.0	-3.1	4.6	11.7	-1.6	-1.9	-7.3	-13.9
AT	0.7	2.0	-0.8	-0.9	9.0	:	0.5	11.2	7.2	-3.1	8.5	:
PT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FI	-0.4	-0.9	-0.7	6.9	-3.8	-3.6	4.5	-0.6	-1.3	3.2	2.9	-3.0
SE	-1.6	-5.7	-0.3	1.3	2.1	-2.5	27.1	-10.2	-0.8	5.8	-8.3	6.7
UK	-3.6	8.1	-0.7	-1.6	-7.4	3.7	5.9	15.0	14.0	9.0	-3.1	-12.6

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

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

New orders

In the first quarter of 2003 new orders in the construction sector were 2.0 % less than one year before. This was the first negative growth recorded since late 2001. A particularly large fall in the new orders index was observed in Germany (-15.1 %) and the Netherlands (-10.9 %), while Finland again recorded a high annual rate of change (63.7 %), heavily influenced by growth towards the end of 2002.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted series					
	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03
EU-15	-3.4	6.7	-1.3	2.6	1.8	-5.0	-1.0	4.5	4.1	4.4	10.0	-2.0
Euro-zone	0.5	1.2	1.5	0.2	-0.1	0.3	-1.2	3.9	5.3	1.9	7.5	-2.9
BE	-1.9	-2.4	3.0	-4.7	10.5	-2.3	-9.3	-10.4	-9.2	-7.3	5.8	5.9
DK	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
DE	-2.3	2.1	-4.7	-1.3	-2.8	-6.7	-7.2	-2.3	-9.8	-5.8	-6.1	-15.1
EL	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
ES	-8.6	10.4	14.7	-4.2	-2.5	-2.4	-7.8	6.5	33.8	14.6	17.8	3.8
FR (1)	6.4	1.0	6.1	-5.2	4.3	.	15.6	16.2	9.9	5.4	3.5	.
IE	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
IT	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
LU	-11.6	0.5	14.2	-1.0	8.3	-4.2	-2.5	-4.9	24.3	-12.5	36.4	11.0
NL	-0.4	1.4	1.3	0.2	0.8	0.6	10.9	5.0	11.8	4.7	19.7	-10.9
AT	-16.5	0.3	-6.7	-4.5	.	.	-35.3	-19.6	-25.8	-25.6	.	.
PT	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
FI	-9.0	2.3	9.7	10.6	32.1	1.9	-26.1	-20.6	-1.3	14.4	66.2	63.7
SE	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
UK	-11.7	22.9	-16.7	23.9	-7.1	6.0	-0.1	5.8	-0.1	12.1	18.5	0.2

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

Employment

The evolution of the employment index of the construction sector did not follow that of the output index. In fact, employment rose by 0.6 % both in the EU and the euro-zone in the first quarter of 2003 compared to the previous quarter, although it was still reporting a decline on the basis of a comparison with the previous year.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03
EU-15	0.7	-0.2	-1.1	-0.3	-0.2	0.6	0.6	2.2	-0.9	-1.6	-1.6	-1.3
Euro-zone	0.3	0.5	-1.1	-0.4	-0.2	0.6	0.4	2.5	-0.4	-1.0	-1.2	-1.0
BE	0.0	-0.2	-0.3	-0.6	-0.8	-0.9	0.3	-0.1	-0.3	-1.0	-2.2	-2.6
DK	-0.9	0.5	-0.2	-2.0	-0.6	-0.3	-2.0	-1.5	-1.0	-2.7	-2.4	-3.1
DE	0.5	-1.1	-3.1	-1.5	-3.1	-2.1	-9.0	0.3	-7.2	-7.8	-7.9	-10.1
EL	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
ES	1.6	2.0	-0.3	-1.5	0.8	3.2	7.2	6.7	4.2	1.9	1.0	2.2
FR	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.2	2.0	1.5	0.9	1.1	0.3	0.6
IE	-2.0	-0.1	-0.7	-0.3	0.5	0.2	-1.8	-2.3	-3.4	-2.7	-1.0	0.3
IT	0.7	0.1	0.5	1.4	0.6	0.5	4.7	3.0	1.4	2.2	2.8	4.3
LU	1.0	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4	4.4	3.8	2.6	2.2	1.7	1.3
NL (2)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
AT	-1.3	-0.5	-1.0	-0.9	-0.7	.	-5.1	-3.7	-4.0	-3.7	-2.7	.
PT	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
FI	0.0	-0.1	1.5	-1.7	2.8	0.7	0.2	1.3	4.5	-1.9	3.3	3.0
SE (3)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
UK	-0.5	-1.1	-3.0	-0.9	1.0	0.0	2.0	0.7	-3.9	-5.6	-3.7	-2.8

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

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

Hours worked

The volume of work done, as measured by the number of hours worked, followed a similar development to that of the employment index, with a slight increase in the euro-zone in the first quarter of 2003 compared to the previous one, but a decline on the basis of a comparison with the same quarter of a year before.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03
EU-15	-0.1	-0.8	-0.8	-1.2	-0.6	0.0	-1.9	-0.6	-1.6	-3.7	-3.7	-2.3
Euro-zone	-0.3	-0.8	-1.2	-1.4	-1.0	0.2	-3.0	-0.7	-2.4	-4.0	-4.8	-3.0
BE	1.0	-1.0	-0.6	-0.8	-1.6	-0.9	-0.9	-2.0	-1.2	-1.2	-5.4	-3.5
DK	-0.6	-0.6	-0.4	-0.4	:	:	-1.3	-4.2	0.4	-3.5	:	:
DE	0.4	-0.8	-3.8	-2.5	-5.7	-2.7	-10.2	-0.3	-7.8	-8.3	-11.2	-15.2
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	-1.2	-1.1	0.1	-1.7	0.8	0.9	-0.1	-2.6	-0.1	-4.6	-4.6	3.3
FR	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	-0.2	0.0	1.1	1.0	0.6	0.5	0.2	-0.1
IE	0.2	0.3	-1.2	1.7	-1.6	:	-1.8	-0.4	-1.6	0.9	-0.9	:
IT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
LU	1.3	0.6	-0.4	-2.3	0.2	0.2	12.0	6.4	9.5	-1.8	-2.9	-3.9
NL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
AT	-1.8	-0.4	-0.7	-0.7	-0.2	:	-5.7	-5.5	-4.1	-3.5	-1.0	:
PT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FI	0.8	0.0	-0.4	-2.5	1.7	0.4	3.0	2.7	1.8	-2.7	-1.1	-0.1
SE (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	0.0	-1.8	1.5	-3.0	1.5	-0.1	2.2	1.0	1.0	-3.3	-0.3	0.0

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

Wages and salaries

The wages and salaries index posted its second consecutive decrease in the EU when compared to the previous quarter (-0.2 %) and its first in over a year when compared to the same quarter one year before (-0.8 %). The euro-zone continued to display more negative rates of change than the EU average.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03
EU-15	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.1	-0.1	-0.2	1.5	1.8	1.4	1.4	0.5	-0.8
Euro-zone	0.2	0.2	-0.3	-0.2	-0.4	-0.4	0.0	1.7	-0.2	0.3	-1.0	-1.7
BE	-0.2	-0.4	3.3	2.1	5.9	4.7	3.3	0.2	3.4	-0.1	15.3	17.4
DK	0.2	-0.2	-1.2	-1.1	-1.2	-1.3	3.9	-1.7	3.5	-3.2	-2.8	-1.3
DE	-1.4	-0.6	-2.1	-1.9	-2.8	-4.0	-7.2	-7.0	-6.3	-5.1	-7.0	-10.6
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	2.6	1.6	0.1	0.5	-0.5	0.0	7.2	16.4	5.0	3.9	-1.8	1.6
FR	1.8	1.4	0.5	1.0	1.3	-1.4	5.9	5.3	4.8	4.8	4.3	1.5
IE	4.3	3.3	2.1	2.1	-1.8	:	5.2	11.0	11.8	11.6	5.4	:
IT	0.3	-1.2	-0.8	1.0	0.4	-0.4	-3.3	-4.8	-6.1	-0.9	-0.2	0.6
LU	-2.8	5.5	2.0	0.2	4.2	-2.1	5.3	6.0	8.3	4.5	13.3	3.4
NL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
AT	-0.7	0.7	-0.5	0.2	-0.1	:	-2.6	-0.2	-0.9	0.0	-0.5	:
PT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FI	-0.5	1.3	1.5	-1.2	-0.7	2.8	4.2	0.3	2.1	1.2	0.6	2.3
SE (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	-1.3	2.4	2.9	0.3	1.2	-2.7	6.5	2.3	6.8	5.4	7.0	1.5

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 first quarter of 2003 increased by 2.3% in the EU and by 2.0% in the euro-zone, when compared to the same quarter one year before, marking a slowdown compared to the evolution in 2002. The small amount of data available for the second quarter (not shown) indicated a continuation of this trend.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, gross series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03
EU-15	0.4	1.2	0.5	0.8	0.4	0.7	2.9	3.2	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.3
Euro-zone	0.0	1.2	0.5	0.6	0.1	0.8	1.8	2.3	2.1	2.3	2.4	2.0
BE	0.7	1.1	0.7	0.5	:	:	:	2.7	3.5	3.1	:	:
DK	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.7	1.4	2.4	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.8
DE (1)	-0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	-0.2	0.2	-0.4	-0.2	-0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
EL	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.4	0.9	2.3	2.3	2.1	2.4	2.2	2.7
ES (2)	-0.5	1.1	0.4	0.6	0.4	1.0	1.7	1.3	1.2	1.6	2.5	2.4
FR	0.2	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.3	1.4	2.6	3.0	2.9	3.4	3.5	3.8
IE (3)	3.1	0.3	-0.1	2.5	0.1	0.2	10.1	9.6	7.6	5.8	2.8	2.7
IT	0.3	2.9	0.4	0.5	0.2	:	2.1	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.0	:
LU (1)	0.1	0.5	1.1	0.8	0.3	0.5	3.6	2.9	2.5	2.5	2.8	2.8
NL	0.1	1.4	0.5	1.1	-0.1	0.9	4.9	4.5	3.0	3.2	3.0	2.4
AT	-0.3	0.5	1.1	0.2	0.1	0.9	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.8	2.2
PT	0.2	1.5	0.9	0.4	0.2	:	1.8	3.5	3.5	3.0	3.0	:
FI	-0.8	0.2	1.0	0.2	0.0	0.8	1.6	0.8	0.4	0.6	1.4	2.1
SE	0.1	0.8	1.7	0.7	0.3	1.8	4.2	3.7	3.9	3.3	3.5	4.5
UK (1)	1.6	1.7	0.4	1.5	1.2	0.0	6.7	6.9	5.6	5.3	4.8	3.1

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

Building permits

In contrast with the generally negative evolution of the construction sector's output, the number of building permits issued in the first quarter of 2003 was clearly rising: quarterly growth in the EU was 4.4 % and annual growth was 10.1 %.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03
EU-15	-2.7	1.4	-2.1	3.5	0.8	4.4	-2.5	-3.8	0.3	1.3	2.8	10.1
Euro-zone	-3.6	0.7	-1.7	3.4	2.2	5.7	-6.3	-6.1	-0.8	-0.3	3.6	13.5
BE	4.9	-3.8	4.0	4.6	-2.8	2.8	4.8	-14.4	0.5	12.7	1.5	8.6
DK	-4.8	37.0	-3.4	2.7	-16.0	-11.3	9.3	16.7	49.9	30.3	14.1	-26.1
DE	-5.4	-2.7	-0.9	0.8	11.0	23.2	-9.9	-8.1	-11.1	-10.3	6.3	39.1
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	-3.4	-6.8	1.8	8.8	7.6	:	-9.5	-9.9	3.7	-0.8	16.0	:
FR	-6.7	0.1	0.8	3.8	-2.1	2.1	-1.6	-4.9	-0.9	-0.5	0.9	6.1
IE	0.6	-6.7	18.3	-14.3	-10.6	:	-23.6	-27.7	-2.3	1.4	-15.6	:
IT (4)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
LU	-13.8	-11.2	44.4	-26.1	26.7	-1.5	1.7	-29.4	50.8	-28.0	17.5	40.2
NL	-23.3	10.3	5.1	-0.2	33.2	-10.9	-14.3	-18.4	10.1	-12.9	53.1	38.7
AT	12.4	8.2	3.7	2.2	-19.1	:	-6.6	14.3	23.1	40.8	-12.3	:
PT	-4.0	-9.2	3.5	0.1	-14.0	4.0	-13.3	-12.1	-13.4	-8.4	-20.3	-7.2
FI	-4.1	1.8	4.8	1.0	-1.3	-8.5	-10.4	1.4	4.4	1.4	9.1	-5.7
SE	-9.8	14.6	-2.7	-2.6	-4.4	11.5	19.5	-31.4	-2.7	3.4	-1.4	22.6
UK (5)	3.5	-0.6	-5.8	7.3	-1.5	6.5	12.9	5.9	-2.1	3.6	-1.2	3.8

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

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

Building permits in square metres

Among the eight Member States for which data are available for the first quarter of 2003, the evolution in the number of square metres for which permits were issued was also positive in a majority of countries, when compared to the situation one year before. Only Denmark reported significantly negative figures, with a decrease of 23.8 % in the first quarter 2003.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted series						Year on year growth rates, gross series					
	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q4-01	Q1-02	Q2-02	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03
EU-15	-0.2	0.3	-0.2	-0.3	0.1	:	-5.1	-6.2	1.4	-0.8	6.1	:
Euro-zone	-2.5	0.3	1.3	0.6	2.6	:	-6.5	-6.0	0.2	-1.9	6.9	:
BE	-2.2	-8.1	4.1	3.8	-0.6	23.2	-2.2	-19.7	-11.8	2.7	-4.9	37.9
DK	10.1	15.2	-4.8	4.0	-16.9	-11.4	28.1	17.3	41.6	25.7	-5.7	-23.8
DE	-8.0	1.1	-1.8	0.8	17.7	24.0	-11.5	-3.3	-8.7	-10.1	16.8	46.8
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	-6.9	-3.2	-2.0	13.4	6.3	:	-9.4	-7.8	1.3	1.6	14.4	:
FR	-1.8	0.0	1.2	0.1	2.5	1.1	-1.1	-3.3	1.5	-1.2	5.2	4.4
IE	13.4	-15.2	15.2	-17.1	-1.4	:	-23.7	-28.1	-10.0	-7.4	-18.1	:
IT (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
LU	-14.2	-10.3	40.8	-25.6	34.6	-0.6	-6.7	-22.7	51.7	-33.6	26.8	48.4
NL	-17.0	-2.2	6.0	-0.6	33.6	-1.3	-8.6	-21.9	8.3	-13.9	42.8	45.9
AT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
PT	-3.2	:	:	:	:	:	-11.8	:	:	:	:	:
FI	-7.0	5.2	4.1	2.2	-0.6	-5.8	-8.9	0.2	6.6	5.2	9.7	1.4
SE	-6.6	8.3	-3.3	-1.8	0.3	4.5	16.5	-29.8	-7.5	5.4	-3.4	16.2
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

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