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A sample survey carried out among construction enterprises showed that employment decreased by 3.6 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2012 when compared to the corresponding period in 2011.

Short-term construction indicators: Q4/2012

Cut-off date:
3 April 2013

Annual comparison

Year-on-year data indicate that overall employment in construction activities went down by 3.6 per cent. Employment in the construction of buildings, civil engineering and in specialised construction activities decreased by 2.4, 0.4 and 5.3 per cent respectively.

Construction hours adjusted for working days went down by 5.8 per cent. This drop was reflected in all sectors. Hours worked in the construction of buildings, civil engineering and in specialised construction activities decreased by 2.8, 4.0 and 10.7 per cent respectively.

During the period under review, working-day adjusted wages and salaries decreased by 2.9 per cent. Wages and salaries paid in the construction of buildings and in civil engineering dropped by 6.2 and 7.1 per cent respectively but rose by 1.8 per cent in specialised construction activities.

Seasonally adjusted data

In the fourth quarter of 2012, seasonally adjusted employment decreased by 2.4 per cent over the preceding quarter. Gross wages increased by 1.3 per cent, whereas hours worked remained stable.

New Dwelling permits

Seasonally adjusted data for new dwelling permits increased by 5.2 per cent between the third and fourth quarters of 2012. This was reflected in an increase of 7.3 and 21.3 per cent in permits for one-dwelling residential buildings and for two and more dwelling residential buildings (apartments) respectively ■



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The advance release calendar may be consulted at www.nso.gov.mt

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**Table 1. Construction employment by NACE classification*
unadjusted**

2005=100

NACE	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012				% Change
	Q4					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q _t / Q _{t-4}
Total Construction	106.1	102.2	89.8	85.1	83.2	83.7	84.4	82.2	80.2	-3.6
Construction of buildings	121.8	118.9	106.2	101.1	98.0	101.5	99.8	97.8	95.6	-2.4
Civil engineering	108.8	104.5	128.9	118.0	137.5	145.9	140.7	145.5	137.0	-0.4
Specialised construction activities	94.6	90.1	74.4	70.6	67.5	65.1	68.1	65.1	63.9	-5.3

**Table 2. Construction employment by NACE classification*
seasonally adjusted**

2005=100

NACE	2010	2011				2012				% Change
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q _t / Q _{t-1}
Total Construction	85.1	84.4	84.2	85.8	83.2	83.7	84.4	82.2	80.2	-2.4
Construction of buildings	101.1	98.1	97.8	100.9	98.0	101.5	99.8	97.8	95.6	-2.2
Civil engineering	118.0	129.1	129.1	135.6	137.5	145.9	140.7	145.5	137.0	-5.8
Specialised construction activities	70.6	70.4	70.3	70.3	67.5	65.1	68.1	65.1	63.9	-1.8

**Table 3. Construction hours worked by NACE classification*
working-day adjusted**

2005=100

NACE	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012				% Change
	Q4					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q _t / Q _{t-4}
Total Construction	108.6	103.3	89.6	86.9	89.4	87.9	89.9	84.2	84.2	-5.8
Construction of buildings	119.6	113.0	100.9	95.9	96.8	97.7	95.4	91.5	94.1	-2.8
Civil engineering	112.4	108.1	117.3	111.5	131.4	135.8	129.8	132.2	126.1	-4.0
Specialised construction activities	96.3	92.3	72.5	72.9	73.8	68.7	76.6	67.4	65.9	-10.7

* The calculation of growth rates for the indices tables may slightly differ from the growth rates published due to rounding

**Table 4. Construction hours worked by NACE classification*
seasonally adjusted**

2005=100

NACE	2010	2011				2012				% Change
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q _t / Q _{t-1}
Total Construction	86.9	85.6	86.1	89.1	89.4	87.9	89.9	84.2	84.2	0.0
Construction of buildings	95.9	92.2	93.9	96.9	96.8	97.7	95.4	91.5	94.1	2.8
Civil engineering	111.5	120.7	120.9	130.7	131.4	135.8	129.8	132.2	126.1	-4.6
Specialised construction activities	72.9	72.2	71.5	73.3	73.8	68.7	76.6	67.4	65.9	-2.2

**Table 5. Construction gross wages and salaries by NACE classification*
working-day adjusted**

2005=100

NACE	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012				% Change
	Q4					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q _t / Q _{t-4}
Total Construction	110.8	104.8	98.4	97.5	101.7	100.4	101.7	97.4	98.7	-2.9
Construction of buildings	121.3	120.0	109.5	106.2	110.2	107.1	106.9	102.9	103.4	-6.2
Civil engineering	113.9	116.4	126.7	122.6	153.7	153.0	145.2	147.0	142.8	-7.1
Specialised construction activities	100.8	89.7	83.4	85.3	85.2	85.7	89.0	82.8	86.7	1.8

**Table 6. Construction gross wages and salaries by NACE classification*
seasonally adjusted**

2005=100

NACE	2010	2011				2012				% Change
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q _t / Q _{t-1}
Total Construction	97.5	96.2	98.6	99.7	101.7	100.4	101.7	97.4	98.7	1.3
Construction of buildings	107.5	104.5	108.5	107.9	110.7	106.3	105.2	105.0	103.7	-1.2
Civil engineering	122.6	130.9	139.1	151.8	153.7	153.0	145.2	147.0	142.8	-2.9
Specialised construction activities	85.3	82.0	80.4	85.1	85.2	85.7	89.0	82.8	86.7	4.7

* The calculation of growth rates for the indices tables may slightly differ from the growth rates published due to rounding

Table 7. Seasonally adjusted index for residential units for which permits have been granted, excluding residences for communities (2005=100)*

Variable	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012				% change
	Q4					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q _t / Q _{t-1}
Residential buildings	118.6	68.4	58.5	42.6	38.9	35.9	30.5	32.3	34.0	5.2
One-dwelling residential buildings	58.0	42.3	42.5	40.9	43.8	38.9	35.7	35.2	37.8	7.3
<i>of which:</i>										
Maisonettes	50.9	32.4	36.2	33.6	32.0	28.0	24.7	25.1	27.6	9.9
Terraced houses	61.7	49.6	36.4	38.6	63.9	59.5	58.4	55.1	49.6	-10.0
Others	120.8	87.8	121.1	109.1	93.2	52.9	84.7	24.0	58.0	141.5
Two and more dwelling residential buildings	124.5	71.8	63.2	43.5	40.0	34.9	29.3	29.5	35.8	21.3

* The calculation of growth rates for the indices tables may slightly differ from the growth rates published due to rounding

Methodological Notes

1. This release contains data relating to employment, wages and salaries, and hours worked as well as new permits for residential buildings in the construction sector. The base year for the calculation of the indices is 2005. The calculation of growth rates from the indices table may slightly differ from the growth rates published due to rounding.
2. Figures for the last eight quarters, including the reference quarter period, are to be considered as provisional and subject to revision. However, in exceptional cases, back data may also be revised. The figures in this release are in three formats: unadjusted, working-day adjusted (for calendar effects) and seasonally adjusted. Working-day and seasonally adjusted data are statistical methods that aid interpretation of data by removing regularly recurring variations from a time-series.
3. Working-day adjustment is a statistical method for removing the calendar effect from an economic time series. The calendar effect is the variation caused by the changing number of working days in different months. The number of working days for a given quarter may depend on the timing of certain public holidays, the possible overlap of certain public holidays and non-working days and the occurrence of a leap year. This method is used to compare the same quarter of the previous year.
4. Seasonal adjustment removes variations which include effects due to month lengths, holidays and particular events such as Christmas. Statistically, seasonal adjustment takes place after a time series has already been cleared of calendar effects by way of working-day adjustment. This method is used to compare data with the previous month.
5. The NSO has adopted the methodologies and guidelines of Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Community.
6. The sampled enterprises transmit to the NSO data on employment, wages and salaries and hours worked. Employment includes all persons who work in the observed unit, inclusive of self-employed workers and unpaid family workers. Wages are calculated in euro, for every quarter. Hours worked is an indicator of the work carried out, inclusive of any overtime performed less any vacation or sick leave. The data on the number of residential units for which permits have been granted are obtained directly from the Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA).
7. Construction activities covered in this release are in line with Section F of the statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community (NACE Rev. 2). In particular, these activities include the complete construction of buildings, the complete construction of civil engineering works, as well as specialised construction activities, if carried out only as a part of the construction process.
8. Units having real estate (Section L of NACE Rev. 2) as their primary activity are not included. Units primarily engaged in the following activities are also excluded: manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products, such as the manufacture of clay building material; the manufacture of cement, lime and plaster; the manufacture of articles of concrete, cement and plaster; and the cutting, shaping and finishing of stone. Quarrying of stone, sand and clay is also excluded.
9. A distribution of the aggregation weights falling under Section F of NACE Rev. 2 for each variable is presented in the following table:

NACE classification	Description	Employment	Wages and salaries	Hours worked
Section F	Construction	100.0	100.0	100.0
Division 41	Construction of buildings	39.4	43.4	47.0
Division 42	Civil engineering	5.2	8.5	8.3
Division 43	Specialised construction activities	55.4	48.1	44.7

10. This release is based on the direct approach as permitted by the ESS guidelines. The direct approach for seasonally adjusting data is a preferred tool for transparency and accuracy over the indirect or mixed approach. Using the direct approach implies that each grouping is seasonally adjusted independently from one another, thus there is no accounting consistency between the aggregates and sub-series.