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In the first quarter, employment in the construction sector declined by 5.9 per cent when compared to the corresponding quarter last year.

Short-term construction indicators: Q1/2013

Cut-off date:
6 June 2013

Employment

Employment in construction activities declined by 5.9 per cent to 78.8 points in the first quarter. Employment over the four quarters has consistently been declining, with the exception of a slight increase in employment in the second quarter last year. Employment in the construction of buildings, civil engineering and in specialised construction activities declined by 8.2, 12.0 and 2.0 per cent respectively.

Hours worked

A year-on-year comparison for unadjusted hours worked indicates a decline of 7.3 per cent. Specialised construction activities were the least affected, with a decline of 4.5 per cent, while the largest decline was registered in civil engineering. The latter dropped from 136.4 points in the first quarter of 2012 to 120.1 points in the first quarter this year.

Gross Wages and Salaries

In line with other indicators, wages and salaries decreased by 7.0 per cent, with the most notable decline registered in civil engineering (-12.5 per cent). Furthermore, wages and salaries expended in the construction of buildings and specialised construction activities declined by 8.0 and 4.1 per cent respectively.

New Dwelling permits

Residential permit data for the period under review showed an annual drop of 27.3 per cent. This was reflected in declines of both one-dwelling and two and more dwelling residential permits of 12.5 and 29.9 per cent respectively ■

Note: As from this year, the short-term construction indicators release will feature unadjusted indices for employment, hours worked, gross wages and salaries, and permit data.

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

2005=100

NACE	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012				2013	% Change
	Q1				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q _t / Q _{t-4}
Total Construction	105.3	100.9	90.4	84.4	83.7	84.4	82.2	80.4	78.8	-5.9
Construction of buildings	127.0	118.9	107.2	98.1	101.5	99.7	97.7	96.0	93.2	-8.2
Civil engineering	106.1	125.4	124.3	129.1	146.8	141.6	145.6	137.7	129.2	-12.0
Specialised construction activities	89.8	85.8	75.1	70.4	65.1	68.1	65.1	63.9	63.8	-2.0

**Table 2. Construction hours worked by NACE classification*
unadjusted**

2005=100

NACE	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012				2013	% Change
	Q1				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q _t / Q _{t-4}
Total Construction	107.2	102.6	89.9	85.6	88.0	89.8	83.9	83.5	81.5	-7.3
Construction of buildings	121.3	116.4	100.5	92.2	97.7	95.2	91.5	92.9	89.8	-8.0
Civil engineering	112.7	114.2	114.5	120.7	136.4	130.4	132.0	124.6	120.1	-12.0
Specialised construction activities	91.3	85.8	74.2	72.2	68.7	76.6	67.0	65.9	65.6	-4.5

**Table 3. Construction gross wages and salaries by NACE classification*
unadjusted**

2005=100

NACE	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012				2013	% Change
	Q1				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q _t / Q _{t-4}
Total Construction	115.0	109.8	100.7	96.2	100.5	101.8	97.2	98.6	93.4	-7.0
Construction of buildings	138.6	129.0	115.0	105.9	107.1	106.9	102.8	103.5	98.5	-8.0
Civil engineering	115.9	125.0	123.3	131.0	155.0	144.4	150.5	141.0	135.6	-12.5
Specialised construction activities	93.6	89.8	83.8	81.4	84.9	89.8	82.7	86.6	81.4	-4.1

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

Table 4. Unadjusted index for residential units for which permits have been granted, excluding residences for communities (2005=100)*

Variable	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012				2013	% change
	Q1				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q _t / Q _{t-4}
Residential buildings	97.2	62.6	37.6	47.2	39.4	29.2	29.5	36.9	28.6	-27.3
One-dwelling residential buildings	58.9	43.1	45.1	37.6	35.3	35.3	33.5	45.1	30.9	-12.5
<i>of which:</i>										
Maisonettes	54.4	40.5	36.3	34.0	25.0	21.6	25.7	40.5	28.4	13.6
Terraced houses	49.6	43.0	73.8	41.9	59.5	58.4	55.1	49.6	35.3	-40.7
Others	125.6	66.1	36.4	56.2	52.9	86.0	36.4	72.7	39.7	-25.0
Two and more dwelling residential buildings	105.1	66.6	36.1	49.1	40.2	27.9	28.7	35.2	28.2	-29.9

* 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 unadjusted.
3. The Short-term construction indicators release will only feature unadjusted data as in the majority of variables seasonality and calendar effects were not identified.
4. The NSO has adopted the methodologies and guidelines of Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Community.
5. 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).
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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