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In the fourth quarter of 2013, employment in construction activities declined by 5.0 per cent when compared to the corresponding quarter of 2012.

Short-term Construction Indicators: Q4/2013

Cut-off date:
8 April 2014

Employment

Employment in construction activities (Table 1) declined by 5.0 per cent on account of decreases in employment in civil engineering, specialised construction activities and in the construction of buildings by 22.0, 3.8 and 2.8 per cent respectively.

Hours Worked

In the period under review, hours worked (Table 2) declined by 6.3 per cent over the corresponding period in 2012. The largest decline (-19.2 per cent) was registered in civil engineering. Furthermore, hours worked in specialised construction activities and in the construction of buildings contracted by 5.8 and 3.3 per cent respectively.

Gross Wages and Salaries

A downward trend was observed in wages and salaries (Table 3), where a drop of 4.4 per cent was registered. The most notable decline was registered in civil engineering (-14.6 per cent). Wages and salaries contracted by 2.9 per cent in both the construction of buildings and in specialised construction activities.

New Dwelling Permits

Residential permit data (Table 4) for the period under review decreased by 25.3 per cent. Permits for one-dwelling residential buildings dropped by 6.9 per cent while permits for two and more dwelling residential units decreased by 30.2 per cent ■

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

2010=100

NACE	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013				% change
	Q4					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q _t / Q _{t-4}
Total Construction	115.6	101.6	96.3	93.5	88.7	86.2	85.1	84.2	84.3	-5.0
Construction of buildings	114.4	102.3	97.5	93.5	87.8	84.7	84.7	84.7	85.3	-2.8
Civil engineering	85.5	105.5	96.6	112.6	113.6	102.1	95.4	93.2	88.6	-22.0
Specialised construction activities	121.5	100.3	95.3	91.0	86.2	85.4	84.0	82.6	82.9	-3.8

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

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

2010=100

NACE	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013				% change
	Q4					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q _t / Q _{t-4}
Total Construction	115.7	100.4	97.5	100.7	92.2	88.8	88.3	86.4	86.4	-6.3
Construction of buildings	114.9	102.8	97.8	98.3	90.6	86.3	86.1	87.2	87.6	-3.3
Civil engineering	96.6	104.9	99.8	125.1	119.6	112.5	103.2	97.9	96.6	-19.2
Specialised construction activities	122.1	95.9	96.5	97.8	87.3	86.1	87.5	82.4	82.2	-5.8

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

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

2010=100

NACE	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013				% change
	Q4					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q_t / Q_{t-4}
Total Construction	104.9	98.6	98.0	101.8	97.6	91.4	92.9	93.1	93.3	-4.4
Construction of buildings	107.9	98.6	96.2	99.5	91.1	87.3	87.9	91.9	88.5	-2.9
Civil engineering	92.3	103.9	100.4	118.3	112.1	105.5	97.3	94.4	95.7	-14.6
Specialised construction activities	104.5	97.2	99.4	100.1	101.3	92.4	97.7	94.3	98.4	-2.9

* 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 (2010=100)*

Variable	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013				% change
	Q4					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q_t / Q_{t-4}
Residential buildings	116.8	112.5	87.3	71.9	75.4	58.5	59.5	69.2	56.3	-25.3
One-dwelling residential buildings <i>of which:</i>	76.3	98.3	82.5	96.0	98.3	67.2	106.2	98.3	91.5	-6.9
Maisonettes	66.1	106.7	81.1	94.9	114.1	80.0	100.3	92.8	100.3	-12.1
Terraced houses	79.3	58.1	61.7	102.2	79.3	56.4	114.5	102.2	84.6	6.7
Others	105.7	154.7	132.1	86.8	83.0	45.3	109.4	109.4	75.5	-9.0
Two and more dwelling residential buildings	124.5	115.2	88.2	67.3	71.1	56.9	50.6	63.7	49.6	-30.2

* 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 2010. 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 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