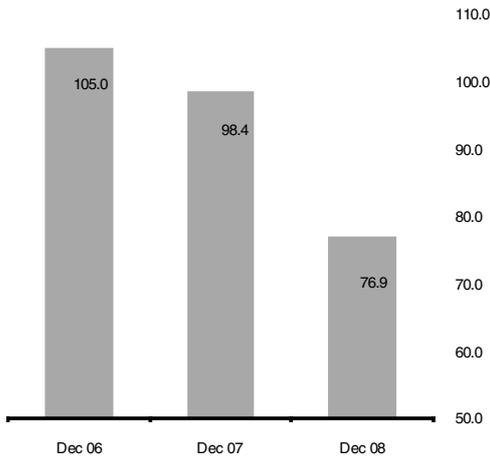


Index of Employment in Construction

December 2008 (Provisional)
November 2008 (Final)

Employment in Construction Index
(Base year 2000=100)



Employment in Construction
(Base year 2000=100)

	Monthly Index
December 2007	98.4
December 2008	76.9
% annual change	-21.9%

Numbers employed down 21.9% in December

Employment in private firms (with five or more persons engaged) in the construction industry decreased by 21.9% in December 2008 by comparison with December 2007. The monthly employment index decreased from 98.4 in December 2007 to 76.9 in December 2008. *See Table 1.*

The final figure for November 2008 showed a decrease of 20.2% when compared with November 2007. *See Table 1.*

This data series is available on the CSO's data dissemination service. See www.cso.ie and go to Database Direct.

This inquiry covers private firms with five or more persons engaged.

In order to reduce burden on respondents and in an attempt to streamline surveys in the CSO, this is the final release of this inquiry and contains provisional figures for December 2008 reference period. Revised results for December 2008 are expected to be made available on Database Direct by the end of March 2009.

Please see results from the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) for an alternative short-term indicator concerning employment in the construction sector. For a copy of the latest QNHS release, please see the following:

http://www.cso.ie/releasespublications/documents/labour_market/current/qnhs.pdf

For more information, contact 1890 313 414 Brid Fitzpatrick at ext. 5162, Gerry Brett at ext. 5541 or Sandra O'Riordan at ext. 5135.

Published by the Central Statistics Office, Ireland.

Ardee Road
Dublin 6
Ireland

Skehard Road
Cork
Ireland

LoCall: 1890 313 414 (ROI)
0870 8760256 (UK/NL)

Tel: +353 1 498 4000
Fax: +353 1 498 4229

Tel: +353 21 453 5000
Fax: +353 21 453 5555

Both offices may be contacted through any of these telephone numbers.

CSO on the Web: www.cso.ie
and go to
Business Sectors: Construction

Director General: Gerard O'Hanlon

Enquiries:

Building Statistics Building Section, ext 5541 or 5523
building@cso.ie

Queries and Sales Information Section, ext 5021
information@cso.ie

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Table 1 Monthly Index of Employment in Construction¹ - January 2000 to December 2008

Base Year 2000=100

Month	2000 Index	2001 Index	2002 Index	2003 Index	2004 Index	2005 Index	2006 Index	Annual Change	2007 Index	Annual Change	2008 Index	Annual Change
January	100.5	103.4	102.5	102.0	102.8	107.5	108.1	+0.6%	110.0	+1.8%	99.0	-10.0%
February	100.3	104.0	101.1	102.1	103.1	107.6	109.8	+2.0%	110.7	+0.8%	98.7	-10.8%
March	102.5	105.4	102.0	102.5	103.1	107.5	110.1	+2.3%	110.1	0.0%	96.4	-12.4%
April	100.9	104.4	100.6	101.0	102.0	106.3	109.2	+2.7%	109.1	-0.1%	94.4	-13.5%
May	99.2	103.2	99.2	99.7	101.4	106.3	109.0	+2.5%	108.7	-0.3%	92.9	-14.5%
June	99.5	103.5	100.7	101.3	105.1	108.1	111.1	+2.8%	109.8	-1.2%	93.2	-15.1%
July	102.6	105.6	102.4	103.2	108.3	110.6	113.5	+2.6%	111.2	-2.0%	93.4	-16.0%
August	101.2	103.1	100.0	100.5	106.0	110.0	112.8	+2.5%	110.1	-2.4%	90.3	-18.0%
September	103.9	103.6	101.3	101.9	107.0	111.0	113.8	+2.5%	110.1	-3.3%	89.5	-18.7%
October	97.5	96.7	95.0	95.3	100.7	104.0	107.1	+3.0%	102.1	-4.7%	84.0	-17.7%
November	95.7	93.8	92.9	93.4	98.9	102.8	105.4	+2.5%	99.8	-5.3%	79.6	-20.2%
December	96.3	93.7	93.6	94.2	99.6	102.6	105.0	+2.3%	98.4	-6.3%	76.9 ²	-21.9% ²
Year (average)	100.0	101.7	99.3	99.7	103.2	107.0	109.6	+2.4%	107.5	-1.9%	90.7²	-15.6%²

¹ Private firms with 5 or more persons engaged² Provisional

Background Notes

Scope and Background

This series of monthly indices is based on trends shown by a monthly employment sample inquiry covering approximately 1,000 private building and construction firms with 5 or more persons engaged; i.e. firms classified to division 45 of the NACE Industrial Classification of Economic Activity in the European Communities (NACE Rev.1.1).

This series is also available using the interactive tables in Database Direct on www.cso.ie.

Definition of Persons Engaged

The number of persons engaged is defined to include proprietors and family members working in the firm, employees (operatives, managerial, technical and clerical staff) and persons working for the firms on a labour-only subcontract basis. The number of persons in the latter category is not always known to the respondent firms and this influences the accuracy of the index.

Methodology

Respondent firms to the monthly sample inquiry are classified into three size categories, namely 5-19, 20-99 and 100 or more persons engaged. The percentage changes in employment levels for the current month over the same month in the previous year, derived from matched samples of respondents in each of these three size categories, are weighted together to give an overall percentage change. This annual change is applied to the index for the corresponding month of the previous year to give the index for the current month.