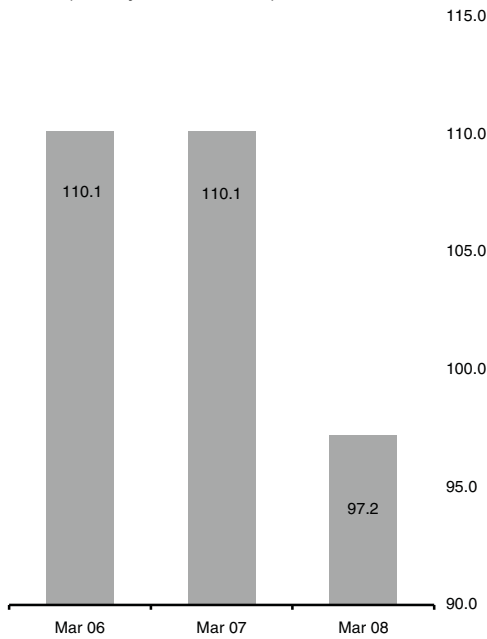




Index of Employment in Construction

March 2008 (Provisional)
February 2008 (Final)

Employment in Construction Index
(Base year 2000=100)



Employment in Construction
(Base year 2000=100)

	Monthly Index
March 2007	110.1
March 2008	97.2
% annual change	-11.7%

Numbers employed down 11.7% in March

Employment in private firms (with five or more persons engaged) in the construction industry decreased by 11.7% in March 2008 by comparison with March 2007. The monthly employment index decreased from 110.1 in March 2007 to 97.2 in March 2008. *See Table 1.*

The final figure for February 2008 showed a decrease of 10.8% when compared with February 2007

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 employed.

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Table 1 Monthly Index of Employment in Construction¹ - January 2000 to March 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 ²	-10.8% ²
March	102.5	105.4	102.0	102.5	103.1	107.5	110.1	+2.3%	110.1	0.0%	97.2 ³	-11.7% ³
April	100.9	104.4	100.6	101.0	102.0	106.3	109.2	+2.7%	109.1	-0.1%		
May	99.2	103.2	99.2	99.7	101.4	106.3	109.0	+2.5%	108.7	-0.3%		
June	99.5	103.5	100.7	101.3	105.1	108.1	111.1	+2.8%	109.8	-1.2%		
July	102.6	105.6	102.4	103.2	108.3	110.6	113.5	+2.6%	111.2	-2.0%		
August	101.2	103.1	100.0	100.5	106.0	110.0	112.8	+2.5%	110.1	-2.4%		
September	103.9	103.6	101.3	101.9	107.0	111.0	113.8	+2.5%	110.1	-3.3%		
October	97.5	96.7	95.0	95.3	100.7	104.0	107.1	+3.0%	102.1	-4.7%		
November	95.7	93.8	92.9	93.4	98.9	102.8	105.4	+2.5%	99.8	-5.3%		
December	96.3	93.7	93.6	94.2	99.6	102.6	105.0	+2.3%	98.4	-6.3%		
Year (average)	100.0	101.7	99.3	99.7	103.2	107.0	109.6	+2.4%	107.5	-1.9%		

¹ Private firms with 5 or more persons engaged² Revised³ 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.