



**An  
Phríomh-Oifig  
Staidrimh**

Central  
Statistics  
Office

# **Standard SIMS Report: Planning Permissions**



# **Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS) Report**

## **For**

# **Planning Permissions**

This documentation applies to the reporting period:  
**2021**

Last edited: 27/05/2022



## 1. Table of Contents

1. Table of Contents .....	3
2. Introduction .....	5
3. Contact .....	5
4. Metadata Update .....	5
4.1. Metadata last certified .....	5
4.2. Metadata last posted .....	5
4.3. Metadata last update .....	5
5. Statistical Presentation .....	6
5.1. Data Description .....	6
5.2. Classification System .....	6
5.3. Sector Coverage .....	9
5.4. Statistical Concepts and definitions .....	9
5.5. Statistical Unit .....	10
5.6. Statistical Population .....	10
5.7. Reference Area .....	10
5.8. Time Coverage .....	10
5.9. Base period .....	10
6. Unit of Measure .....	10
7. Reference Period .....	10
8. Institutional Mandate .....	10
8.1. Legal Acts and other agreements .....	10
8.2. Data Sharing .....	10
9. Confidentiality .....	10
9.1. Confidentiality – policy .....	10
9.2. Confidentiality – data treatment .....	11
10. Release Policy .....	11
10.1. Release Calendar .....	11
10.2. Release calendar access .....	11
10.3. User access .....	11
11. Frequency of Dissemination .....	11
12. Accessibility and clarity .....	11
12.1. News release .....	11
12.2. Publications .....	12
12.3. On-line database .....	12
12.3.1. AC 1. Data tables - consultations .....	12
12.4. Micro-data Access .....	12
12.5. Other .....	12
12.5.1. AC2. Metadata consultations .....	12
12.6. Documentation on Methodology .....	12
12.6.1. AC3 – Metadata completeness – rate .....	12
12.7. Quality Documentation .....	12
13. Quality Management .....	12
13.1. Quality Assurance .....	12
13.2. Quality Assessment .....	13
14. Relevance .....	13
14.1. User Needs .....	13
14.1.1. Main National Users .....	13
14.1.2. Principal External Users .....	13
14.2. User Satisfaction .....	13
14.3. Data Completeness .....	13
14.3.1. Data Completeness rate .....	13
15. Accuracy and reliability .....	14
15.1. Overall accuracy .....	14
15.2. Sampling Error .....	14
15.2.1. A1. Sampling error indicator .....	14



15.3. Non-sampling Error .....	14
15.3.1. Coverage error .....	14
15.3.2. Measurement error .....	14
15.3.3. Non-Response Error .....	15
15.3.4. Processing error .....	15
15.3.5. Model assumption error .....	15
16. Timeliness and punctuality .....	15
16.1. Timeliness .....	15
16.1.1. TP1. Time lag – First results .....	15
16.1.2. TP2. Time lag – Final results .....	15
16.2. Punctuality .....	15
16.2.1. TP3. Punctuality – Punctuality - delivery and publication .....	15
17. Comparability .....	15
17.1. Comparability – Geographical .....	15
17.1.1. CC1. Asymmetry for mirror flow statistics .....	16
17.2. Comparability over time .....	16
17.2.1. Length of Comparable Time series .....	16
17.3. Coherence – cross domain .....	16
17.3.1. Coherence – Sub annual and annual statistics .....	16
17.3.2. Coherence with National Accounts .....	16
17.4. Coherence – internal .....	16
18. Cost and Burden .....	17
19. Data Revision .....	17
19.1. Data Revision Policy .....	17
19.2. Data Revision Practice .....	17
19.2.1. Data Revision – Average size .....	17
20. Statistical processing .....	18
20.1. Source Data .....	18
20.1.1. Population and sampling frame .....	18
20.1.2. Sampling design .....	18
20.1.3. Survey size .....	18
20.1.4. Survey technique .....	18
20.2. Frequency of data collection .....	18
20.3. Data Collection .....	18
20.3.1. Type of Survey/Process .....	18
20.3.2. Questionnaire (including explanations) .....	18
20.3.3. Survey Participation .....	18
20.3.4. Data Capture .....	18
20.4. Data Validation .....	19
20.5. Data Compilation .....	19
20.5.1. Imputation (for Non-Response or Incomplete Data Sets) .....	19
20.5.2. Grossing and Weighting .....	19
20.6. Adjustment .....	19
20.6.1. Seasonal Adjustment .....	20
21. Comment .....	20



## 2. Introduction

This series provides a short-term indicator on Planning Permissions granted.

The series only provides information on developments subject to the requirement to obtain Planning Permission. The Planning and Development Acts 1963-2021 imposes certain requirements on builders, developers and all other persons who propose to build or develop, and specifies that a Planning Permission must be obtained from the relevant planning authority. Essentially most construction activity undertaken by non-State bodies (including individuals) comes within the scope of the Acts.

With the co-operation of the officers of the various Planning Authorities (and An Bord Pleanála in respect of appeals) data is collected by the Central Statistics Office in respect of each formal Planning Permission or approval granted by the Authorities (but not for outline permissions). Local Authority building (including housing) is exempt in the case where construction takes place in the authorities' own area.

Therefore, works undertaken by a Local Authority outside its functional area come within the scope of the Acts, and need Planning Permission. Planning Permission is also needed for development by the State, except where the consultation procedures are provided for in the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 1993 (e.g. national security, public safety or order, the administration of justice, etc.).

## 3. Contact

<b>Contact Organisation:</b>	Central Statistics Office
<b>Contact Organisation Unit:</b>	Business Statistics
<b>Contact Name:</b>	Sorcha O'Callaghan; Release & Publication, Barry Kelleher; Data Collection Unit
<b>Contact person function:</b>	Statistician
<b>Contact Mail address:</b>	Central Statistics Office, Skehard Road, Mahon, Cork T12 X00E, Ireland.
<b>Contact email address:</b>	Business_Stats@cso.ie
<b>Contact Phone Number:</b>	(+353) 21 453 5000
<b>Contact Fax Number:</b>	

## 4. Metadata Update

### 4.1. Metadata last certified

27/05/2022

### 4.2. Metadata last posted

01/06/2022

### 4.3. Metadata last update

27/05/2022



## 5. Statistical Presentation

### 5.1. Data Description

The scope of the Planning Permission data series is governed by the application of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Acts, 1963 to 2021, which impose the requirement that the majority of construction activity obtains Planning Permission. This series provides a short-term indicator on Planning Permissions granted.

### 5.2. Classification System

Planning Permissions are classified by type of development, Local Authority district and by regional authority. A distinction is made between residential building, non-residential building, and civil engineering.

#### Type

1. New Development.
2. Extension.
3. Alteration & Renovation - No floor areas required (FA = 0).
4. Conversion / Change of Use - No floor areas required (FA = 0).

#### Category

		Floor Area Edit Limits	
Category (CAT)		New Development	Extensions
		Range Floor Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Range Floor Area (m <sup>2</sup> )
101	One-Off Houses Dormer/Porch/Presbytery/Raising Roof	65 - 372	1 - 150
102	Apartments & Granny Flat Maisonettes	19 - 100	1 - 100
104	Communal Dwellings Old People's Homes/Retirement Homes/Student Accommodation	1 - 2,500	1 - 2,500
105	Multi Development Houses 2 or more houses/Housing Estate	65 - 372	1 - 150
201	Agricultural & Fisheries Forestry /Horticulture/Milking Parlour/Stables	1 - 2,000	1 - 1,000
202	Mining & Energy Extraction & Water/Power Supply Sub- Station/Oil Depots	1 - 300	1 - 300
203	Industry & Manufacturing Handicrafts/Enterprise Centre/Storage/Workshops	1 - 5,000	1 - 2,000
204	Hotels & Restaurants Guest Houses/B & Bs/Hostels/Tea Room/Coffee House	1 - 4,000	1 - 1,500
205	Transport Infrastructure Air/Rail/Bus/Petrol Stations/Bicycle Sheds/Car Showrooms	1 - 2,000	1 - 750



206	Trade & Economic Department Stores/Shops/Hairdressers/Take Aways/Warehouses	1 - 5,000	1 - 1,500
207	Public Administration Police/Fire Station/Prisons/Court Houses/Barracks/TV Studio	1 - 4,000	1 - 1,000
208	Health & Welfare Hospitals/Nursing Homes/Vet Clinics/Community Services	1 - 4,000	1 - 1,000
209	Entertainment & Recreation Amusement Arcade/Club Pavilion/Internet Cafe/Swimming Pools	1 - 4,000	1 - 1,000
210	Education & Science Art Galleries/Schools/Museums/Universities	1 - 4,000	1 - 1,000
211	Religious & Funerary Churches/Crematoria/Funeral Home/Mortuaries	1 - 2,000	1 - 500
212	Other Non-Residential Dog Kennels/Public Toilets/Trade Union Offices	1 - 250	1 - 250
213	Offices & Administration Banks/Credit Unions/Insurance	1 - 4,000	1 - 1,000
214	Crèches Childcare/Montessori	1 - 2,000	0 - 750

Category (CAT) 301-401		New Development (only) Floor Area (m²) Always 0
301	Construction of Roads Runways/Motorways/Level Crossing	0
302	Construction of Railways Metro Lines	0
303	Civil Engineering Works – Specialised Boat Slips/Cable Cars/Bridges/Tunnels	0
304	Hydraulic Engineering Canals/Harbours/Rivers	0
305	Water & Sewerage Reservoirs/WWTPs/Sewer Systems	0
306	Land Reclamation & Drainage Cemetery/Demolition/Dump/Garden Centre/Quarries	0
307	Electrical & Telecommunication Infrastructure Cables/Overhead Lines/Satellite Dish	0
308	Pipelines Fuel/Gas/Other	0
309	Civil Engineering Works – General Car Parks (not in buildings)/Incinerator/Ready Mix Plant/Wind Farm	0



401	General & Miscellaneous Access Ramps/Driveway/Entrances/Bored Well/Fencing/Gates/Signs	0
-----	---	---

### NUTS2 & NUTS3 Regions

The regional classifications in this release are based on the NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) classification used by Eurostat. The classification was drawn up by Eurostat in order to define territorial units for the production of regional statistics across the European Union. In 2003, the EU Member States, the European Parliament and the Commission established the NUTS regions within a legal framework (Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003).

Revisions were made to the NUTS boundaries in 2016 and were given legal status under Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/2066 amending annexes to NUTS Regulation 1059/2003. Under this revision the NUTS 2 Regions comprise the Regional Assemblies established under the Local Government Act 1991 (Regional Assemblies) (Establishment) Order 2014 (SI No. 573 of 2014). The NUTS 3 Regions are groupings of 31 administrative counties, and nest into the NUTS 2 Regions.

NUTS 2	NUTS 3	
<b>Northern and Western</b>	<b>Border</b>	Cavan
		Donegal
		Leitrim
		Monaghan
		Sligo
	<b>West</b>	Galway City
		Galway County
		Mayo
		Roscommon
	<b>Mid-West</b>	Clare
		Limerick
		Tipperary
	<b>South-East</b>	Carlow
		Kilkenny
		Waterford
		Wexford
	<b>South-West</b>	
		Cork City
		Cork County
		Kerry
<b>Eastern and Midland</b>	<b>Dublin</b>	Dublin
		Dun Laoghaire – Rathdown





		Fingal
		South Dublin
	Mid-East	Louth
		Kildare
		Meath
		Wicklow
	Midland	Laois
		Longford
		Offaly
		Westmeath

### 5.3. Sector Coverage

Planning Permissions fall under the Construction sector (F41-43), as defined by NACE Rev. 2 (Industrial Classification of Economic Activity in the European Communities).

The NACE Rev. 2 classification defines the Construction sector (i.e. Sector F) as:

*"General construction and specialized construction activities for buildings and civil engineering works. It includes new work, repair, additions and alterations, the erection of prefabricated buildings or structures on the site and also construction of a temporary nature."*

### 5.4. Statistical Concepts and definitions

These statistics provide a short-term indicator of the trend in potential work done in Construction sector in the near future.

In each publication, the number of Planning Permissions granted and units are aggregated and presented in absolute figures; results are then classified by NUTS2 and NUTS3 regional breakdown, by county, and are also classified by type of development and functional category.

Only final grants of permission or approvals are covered, i.e. only works which involve construction. The following permissions are excluded since they do not entail construction per se:

- Changes of a technical and business nature as distinct from a building or structural nature;
- outline permission;
- retention of an existing building;
- changes to existing plan;
- bye-law permission;
- refusals

Permissions subsequently granted on appeal by An Bord Pleanála are included.

#### Rounding

As the figures for floor area have been rounded there may be slight discrepancies between the sum of the constituent items and the totals shown.

Estimates are included where complete details of floor area size are not available.



## 5.5. Statistical Unit

31 Local Authorities and An Bord Pleanála send details of all Planning Permissions granted for the period. An Bord Pleanála is responsible for the determination of appeals and certain other matters under the Planning and Development Acts, 1963 to 2021, and with appeals under the Building Control Act, 1990, the Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts 1977 and 1990 and the Air Pollution Act, 1987.

Each Local Authority and An Bord Pleanála provides each individual Planning Permission. Each permission granted details the planning registration number, the Local Authority it pertains to, a description of the permission required, the number of units required and the floor area. All variables provided are absolute figures.

## 5.6. Statistical Population

All local authorities in the State and An Bord Pleanála.

## 5.7. Reference Area

State, Region, County.

## 5.8. Time Coverage

1975-2021

## 5.9. Base period

Not applicable.

## 6. Unit of Measure

Number of units for which Planning Permission has been granted and square meters (floor area). Total floor area figures, and average floor area per unit is presented in units of 000s square metres.

## 7. Reference Period

2021

## 8. Institutional Mandate

### 8.1. Legal Acts and other agreements

The Planning and Development Acts 1963 - 2021, Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 1993, Provides variables 411 and 412 of Annex B (Construction) under the Short Term Statistics Regulation (EC) Number 1882/2003

### 8.2. Data Sharing

Not applicable.

## 9. Confidentiality

### 9.1. Confidentiality – policy

All information supplied to the CSO is treated as strictly confidential. The Statistics Act, 1993 sets stringent confidentiality standards: Information collected may be used only for statistical purposes, and



no details that might be related to an identifiable person or business undertaking may be divulged to any other government department or body.

These national statistical confidentiality provisions are reinforced by the following EU legislation: Council Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics for data collected for EU statistical purposes. Further details are outlined in the CSO's Code of Practice on Statistical Confidentiality.

For more information on the CSO confidentiality policy please visit:  
<https://www.cso.ie/en/aboutus/lgdp/csodatapolicies/statisticalconfidentiality/>

## **9.2. Confidentiality – data treatment**

No individual Planning Permission data is published, only data for the entire Local Authority area.

# **10. Release Policy**

## **10.1. Release Calendar**

The date of dissemination of all statistics released by CSO can be found in the Release Calendar published on [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie). This calendar is regularly updated.

## **10.2. Release calendar access**

The release calendar can be accessed via the CSO website  
<https://www.cso.ie/en/csolatestnews/releasecalendar/>

## **10.3. User access**

In accordance with Principle 6 of the European Statistics Code of Practice all users of CSO statistics have equal access via the CSO website at the same time of 11 am. Any privileged pre-release access to any outside user is limited, controlled and publicised. In the event that leaks occur, pre-release arrangements are revised so as to ensure impartiality.

The CSO recognises that in very limited circumstances a business need for pre-release access may be substantiated. Any form of pre-release access is a privilege and a strict CSO pre-release access policy is adhered to for these special requests. The full pre-release access policy can be accessed at  
<https://www.cso.ie/en/aboutus/lgdp/csodatapolicies/csopolicyonpre-releaseaccess/>

The various results are published nationally in statistical release format as well as on the CSO website ([www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie)). Selected extracts from the results are posted on the CSO's data dissemination database, PxStat.

# **11. Frequency of Dissemination**

Quarterly

# **12. Accessibility and clarity**

## **12.1. News release**

News releases for Planning Permissions are not produced on a regular basis. An infographic is published alongside the 4th quarter and yearly summary release, along with a press release.



Press statement:

<https://www.cso.ie/en/csolatestnews/pressreleases/2022pressreleases/pressstatementplanningpermissionsquarter42021/>

## 12.2. Publications

CSO statistical publication, 11 March 2022, 11am. The most current publication can be found on the CSO website <https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/construction/planningpermissions/>

## 12.3. On-line database

The Planning Permissions tables released in the online database PxStat on the CSO website are updated quarterly <https://data.cso.ie/product/PP>

### 12.3.1. AC 1. Data tables - consultations

Planning Permissions Q4 2020 had 3727 page views and 1811 unique page views

## 12.4. Micro-data Access

Microdata access is available after national publication to any approved users to apply via our RMF application process. See weblink below for details on our RMF application process <https://www.cso.ie/en/aboutus/lgdp/csodatapolicies/dataforresearchers/rmfapplicationprocedure/>

## 12.5. Other

Planning Permissions data are also published in the Statistical Yearbook.

Data are sent to Eurostat to be used in European aggregates and/or to be released as national data.

### 12.5.1. AC2. Metadata consultations

Not calculated.

## 12.6. Documentation on Methodology

Further documentation on the methodology used for the compilation of these results can be found on the CSO's methods page <http://www.cso.ie/en/methods/construction/planningpermissions/>

### 12.6.1. AC3 – Metadata completeness – rate

Not calculated.

## 12.7. Quality Documentation

For more documentation on the quality of this publication please refer to the CSO's methods page <http://www.cso.ie/en/methods/construction/planningpermissions/>

# 13. Quality Management

## 13.1. Quality Assurance

### Quality Management Framework

The CSO avails of an office wide Quality Management Framework (QMF). This framework allows all CSO processes and outputs to meet the required standard as set out in the European Statistics Code of Practice



(ESCOMP). The QMF foundations are based on establishing the UNECE's Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) as the operating statistical production model to achieve a standardised approach to Quality Management. All and any changes implemented to CSO processes and outputs require adherence to the QMF.

Staff training: Staff meet with key people in local authorities and An Bord Pleanála to discuss any quality issues and to clarify permissions reporting.

## 13.2. Quality Assessment

Not assessed.

## 14. Relevance

### 14.1. User Needs

Planning Permissions are a reliable indicator of activity in the Construction sector and is required as a short-term indicator by the EU. However, while it provides good estimates of quarter-on-quarter change, it is not designed to be used to examine long term or structural changes in the Construction sector.

#### 14.1.1. Main National Users

- Government (such as Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage)
- Economists
- Tegral
- Eir
- Economists
- Construction Industry
- Other CSO sections
- Professional Bodies
- University students and other interest groups for research purposes

#### 14.1.2. Principal External Users

European Union/Eurostat

### 14.2. User Satisfaction

Not measured.

### 14.3. Data Completeness

Planning Permissions are fully compliant under the Short Term Statistics Regulation (EC) No 1882/2003.

Data on all variables requested by Eurostat are collected and submitted.

#### 14.3.1. Data Completeness rate

100% - all data is received monthly and published quarterly from 31 Local Authorities and An Bord Pleanála.



## 15. Accuracy and reliability

### 15.1. Overall accuracy

This series is a reliable indicator of activity in the Construction sector. Planning Permissions reliably predict the trend in work done by one quarter and the trends are consistent on a quarterly basis regarding numbers employed and hours worked.

However, while it provides good estimates of quarter-on-quarter change, it is not designed to be used to examine long term or structural changes in the Construction sector.

### 15.2. Sampling Error

None – all areas in the State are covered.

#### 15.2.1. A1. Sampling error indicator

Not applicable.

### 15.3. Non-sampling Error

In general, the data provided by the Local Authorities and An Bord Pleanála is suitable for use by the section. It is sufficiently detailed so that the data can be coded by the CSO's Business Statistics Data Collection Unit in a consistent manner on a monthly basis. Data is manually coded by the section based on the information given in the template. Monthly data is compiled into quarterly data.

All Planning Permissions are given a unique identifier using a combination of elements that constitute a Planning Permission i.e. using the type of permission, category of construction, the planning authority it pertains to, and the Planning Registration Number.

The template used by most Local Authorities is generally the same, which means the structure of the data is consistent over time and the data is therefore comparable with previous periods.

The system used does not allow for entry of duplicate records. A number of edits are run on the data each month to check for inconsistencies or invalid entries. Any errors or inconsistencies are corrected.

#### 15.3.1. Coverage error

Nil - All 31 Local Authority areas and An Bord Pleanála are covered monthly.

##### 15.3.1.1. A2. Over coverage rate

Not applicable.

##### 15.3.1.2. A3. Common units – proportion

Not calculated.

#### 15.3.2. Measurement error

Measurement errors are not formally calculated. However, the following measures have been put in place:

- Each return is checked and the relevant Local Authority / An Bord Pleanála is contacted if necessary.
- There is comprehensive inter-staff checking, following manual coding of data.
- Data is then checked against a summary form lodged with the copy of permissions from each Local Authority.



- Some training has been provided to relevant personnel in the local authorities and An Bord Pleanála.
- Finally, normal system edit checks uncover most errors.

### **15.3.3. Non-Response Error**

Not applicable.

#### **15.3.3.1. Unit non-response rate**

Not relevant - data is always received from each Local Authority and An Bord Pleanála.

#### **15.3.3.2. Item non-response rate**

Not relevant - data is always received from each Local Authority and An Bord Pleanála.

### **15.3.4. Processing error**

Any errors that arise are checked and rectified each month. All data received from Local Authorities and An Bord Pleanála is manually coded and then are keyed manually. All characters keyed are numeric. Edits are then run on the data to highlight any errors. A combination of range and consistency checks are performed on the data, as outlined in section 4.3. Edits are then re-run after any corrections are made.

#### **15.3.5. Model assumption error**

Not relevant as all data is received from each Local Authority and An Bord Pleanála.

## **16. Timeliness and punctuality**

### **16.1. Timeliness**

#### **16.1.1. TP1. Time lag – First results**

There are no provisional results.

#### **16.1.2. TP2. Time lag – Final results**

This series is published within 80 days of the reference date.

### **16.2. Punctuality**

National publication is always on time.

Deliveries to Eurostat have also always been sent on time.

#### **16.2.1. TP3. Punctuality – Punctuality - delivery and publication**

0 days.

## **17. Comparability**

### **17.1. Comparability – Geographical**

It is possible to compare calculated Irish aggregates with those of other European countries, due to harmonised STS indices in the European Union.



#### **17.1.1. CCI. Asymmetry for mirror flow statistics**

Not applicable at national level.

### **17.2. Comparability over time**

Data is available for this release from 1970 onwards. However, comparisons should not be made with data prior to that time, due to a break in the series.

Comparisons are made between quarters going back to 2000 and there is no break in the time series.

Comparisons are made with the same quarter last year. In addition, Tables 1 and 4 of the publication show all data for each quarter for a number of previous years

#### **17.2.1. Length of Comparable Time series**

51 years – 1970 to 2021. The template used by most Local Authorities is generally the same, which means the structure of the data is consistent over time and the data is therefore comparable with previous periods.

### **17.3. Coherence – cross domain**

While Planning Permission data only shows Planning Permissions granted, these figures can be compared with the publication produced by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage publication on housing statistics (which includes house commencements and completions).

The Department's House completions data series are based on the number of new dwellings connected by ESB Networks to the electricity supply. These represent the number of homes completed and available, and do not reflect any work-in-progress.

CSO now also publish quarterly data on New Dwelling Completions  
<https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/construction/newdwellingcompletions/>

#### **17.3.1. Coherence – Sub annual and annual statistics**

Not applicable.

#### **17.3.2. Coherence with National Accounts**

Not applicable.

### **17.4. Coherence – internal**

Planning Permissions are a reliable indicator of activity in the Construction sector.

The Planning Permissions reliably predict the trend in work done in construction by one quarter and the trends are consistent on a quarterly basis regarding numbers employed and hours worked. As a result, there are no obvious weak points.

- Labour Force Survey (LFS) - numbers employed in construction.
- Earnings and Labour Costs Survey (EHECS) - average hourly and weekly rate, hours worked
- Quarterly production in construction - trends in residential building, non residential building, and civil engineering





An analysis quantifying the differences between the above is not published but one reason is that each data series serves a different purpose. An internal coherence exercise is undertaken on a quarterly basis as follows:

- a) LFS: when the numbers employed in construction rise or fall one would expect the volume of construction to similarly rise or fall.
- b) EHECS: when the number of hours worked in construction rise or fall one would expect the volume of construction to similarly rise or fall.
- c) Comparing trends of Planning Permissions by product (residential, non residential, and civil engineering): Planning Permissions help predict the trend of the production in construction by one quarter.

## 18. Cost and Burden

Estimates of Cost and Burden can be obtained from the Response Burden Barometer

<https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/multisectoral/responseburdenbarometer/>

Survey specific information is available via CSO's dissemination database PxStat.

<https://data.cso.ie/product/RBB>

## 19. Data Revision

### 19.1. Data Revision Policy

Revisions refer to changes made to published statistical data when the information used in its production has been updated or corrected. This information includes all data used in compiling the statistic e.g. respondent data, administrative data, weights and factors, methodology, classifications, definitions, modifications to survey questionnaires, survey scope and data collection methods

### 19.2. Data Revision Practice

There is at least one quarter advance notice given for major changes in methodology by including footnotes in the respective tables.

We also have a database called PxStat, which contains all published Planning Permissions data, and it has an audit trail of all revisions going back since the survey was first introduced.

Any revisions made nationally are transmitted to Eurostat at the same time.

Planning Permissions data is typically not revised as we do not publish until we receive data from each Local Authority.

A new planning application process called Strategic Housing Developments (SHDs) was introduced in 2018. This led to some revisions of the Q1 2018 data in Q2 2018 and again in Q3 2018. Currently revisions due to SHD applications are made at the time of the Q4 release each year.

The Quality Indicators used in the data revision practice are: MAR (Mean Absolute Revision) and MR (Mean Revision).

#### 19.2.1. Data Revision – Average size

The computed values for the last 20 quarterly Building Permits indicators are:

Growth rates for unadjusted data series (YoY):

PNUM:F\_CC11\_X\_CC113: MAR = 0.017 , RMAR = 0.037 , MR = -0.002.

PSQM:F\_CC11\_X\_CC113: MAR = 0.01 , RMAR = 0.028 , MR = -0.001.



## 20. Statistical processing

### 20.1. Source Data

All data is sourced from local authorities in the State and An Bord Pleanála.

#### 20.1.1. Population and sampling frame

All local authorities and An Bord Pleanála

#### 20.1.2. Sampling design

Not applicable.

#### 20.1.3. Survey size

31 Local Authorities and An Bord Pleanála

#### 20.1.4. Survey technique

Mainly Electronic file transfer from the local authorities to CSO. Some provide paper documentation by post.

### 20.2. Frequency of data collection

Monthly

### 20.3. Data Collection

Returns are received electronically from each Local Authority and An Bord Pleanála and are compiled and queried if necessary.

Emails and telephone calls are used to seek the prompt return of administrative data.

#### 20.3.1. Type of Survey/Process

Returns are filed by Local Authorities and An Bord Pleanála. The template used by most Local Authorities is generally the same, which means the structure of the data is consistent over time and the data is therefore comparable with previous periods.

#### 20.3.2. Questionnaire (including explanations)

Not applicable.

#### 20.3.3. Survey Participation

Participation is compulsory.

#### 20.3.4. Data Capture

Each Local Authority returns their summary of Planning Permissions granted and each planning application with floor area, by e-mail or by post. Information is not collected on floor areas for alterations or conversions.

Each return is scrutinised for errors or missing data and for any discrepancy between the stated Planning Permissions granted and the numbers of planning applications returned. Any queries are followed up with the relevant Local Authority.



The data received is coded by the section and then imported into the CSO Data Management System (DMS).

## 20.4. Data Validation

The system used does not allow for entry of duplicate records. A number of edits are run on the data each month to check for inconsistencies or invalid entries. Any errors or inconsistencies are corrected.

Each return is scrutinised for errors or missing data and for any discrepancy between the stated Planning Permissions granted and the numbers of planning applications returned. Any queries are followed up with the relevant Local Authority. The data received is coded by the section and then imported into the CSO Data Management System (DMS).

A number of validation procedures are in place for all returned data:

- Range checking is performed on floor areas assigned to categories of construction.
- Edit checks are performed to ensure floor areas are not assigned to civil engineering works, such as the building of roads, railways and other structures which do not have floor areas.
- Checks are performed to ensure all structures are coded to the correct type of development.
- Checks are carried out to ensure that the correct number of units has been assigned to each category of construction and that no floor areas are assigned to alterations and conversions.

If differences exceed specified thresholds, an edit is raised. The system produces lists of errors for each type of edit each quarter. These are then analysed, and records are corrected as appropriate.

Data is transmitted to Eurostat using the SDMX format. Validation of the correct structure of these files is done in-house in advance prior to transmission.

## 20.5. Data Compilation

Data is collected monthly and compiled into quarterly data. All Planning Permissions are given a unique identifier using a combination of elements that constitute a Planning Permission i.e. using the type of permission, category of construction, the planning authority it pertains to, and the Planning Registration Number.

Planning Permissions are presented by NUTS2 and NUTS3 regional breakdown, and then classified by county, type of development (new construction, extension, alteration or conversion), Local Authority district and by regional authority. Total floor areas for Planning Permissions granted are also given.

### 20.5.1. Imputation (for Non-Response or Incomplete Data Sets)

No imputation is carried out.

#### 20.5.1.1. A7. Imputation rate

Not applicable

### 20.5.2. Grossing and Weighting

Not applicable.

## 20.6. Adjustment

No adjustment is carried out



#### **20.6.1. Seasonal Adjustment**

Not applicable.

## **21. Comment**