



## Monthly Index of Employment in Construction<sup>1</sup> - April 2000

Base Year 1990=100

Month	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999		2000	
	Index	Index	Index	Index	Index	Annual change	Index	Annual Change
January	96.4	101.7	110.5	122.6	130.4	+6.4%	139.2	+6.7%
February	96.7	103.0	112.3	122.4	130.2	+6.4%	139.0	+6.8%
March	96.6	104.7	114.1	124.1	132.9	+7.1%	142.1	+6.9% <sup>2</sup>
April	93.8	100.8	111.4	121.1	130.3	+7.6%	139.9	+7.4% <sup>3</sup>
May	92.4	101.4	110.9	121.3	128.3	+5.8%		
June	92.8	101.6	112.7	122.7	129.9	+5.9%		
July	96.6	104.2	114.9	125.1	134.0	+7.1%		
August	96.9	103.7	113.2	123.2	132.8	+7.8%		
September	97.8	107.2	116.8	125.8	136.4	+8.4%		
October	94.6	103.5	112.7	121.7	128.5	+5.6%		
November	94.8	102.8	112.1	120.2	126.4	+5.2%		
December	95.2	103.3	111.8	120.9	127.1	+5.1%		
<b>Year (average)</b>	<b>95.4</b>	<b>103.2</b>	<b>112.8</b>	<b>122.6</b>	<b>130.6</b>	<b>+6.5%</b>		

<sup>1</sup>Private firms with 5 or more persons engaged

<sup>2</sup>Revised

<sup>3</sup>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. The sample covers all large firms (i.e. 100 persons or more), approximately 75% of medium sized firms (i.e. 20-99 persons) and about 25% of small (i.e. 5-19 persons) firms in the industry.

### **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**

Respondents 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. The monthly employment indices for 1981 were first estimated as a basis for this method by using a month-on-month matched sample change estimation procedure.

The most recent weights for the three size categories are based on data from the Monthly Inquiry and the 1997 Labour Force Survey.