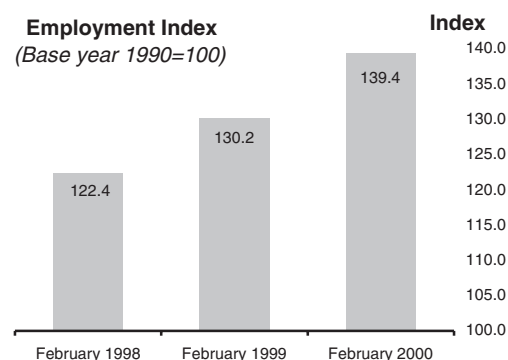




Central Statistics Office
An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh

19 April 2000



Index of Employment in Construction February 2000

Employment in Private Firms (Base year 1990=100)

	Monthly Index
February 1999	130.2
February 2000	139.4
% annual change	+ 7.1%

Numbers employed up 7.1%

Employment in private firms in the construction industry rose by 7.1% in the 12 months between February 1999 and February 2000. The monthly employment index increased from 130.2 in February 1999 to 139.4 in February 2000.

Employment increased by 6.7% in the twelve months between January 1999 and January 2000.

For more information, contact Patsy King at 1890 313 414 ext 5502 or Mary Byrnes at 1890 313 414 ext 5529.

Published by the Central Statistics Office, Ireland.

Ardee Road
Dublin 6
Ireland

Skehard Road
Cork
Ireland

LoCall: 1890 313 414

Tel: +353-1 497 7144
Fax: +353-1 497 2360

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: <http://www.cso.ie>

Director General: Donal Murphy

Enquiries:

Building Statistics	Building Section, ext 5523
Queries and Sales	Information Section, ext 5032 information@cso.ie
Diskette Service	Databank, ext 5301/5499 databank@cso.ie

© Central Statistics Office

The contents of this release may be quoted provided the source is given clearly and accurately. Reproduction for own or internal use is permitted.

Monthly Index of Employment in Construction¹ - February 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% ²
February	96.7	103.0	112.3	122.4	130.2	+ 6.4%	139.4	+7.1% ³
March	96.6	104.7	114.1	124.1	132.9	+ 7.1%		
April	93.8	100.8	111.4	121.1	130.3	+ 7.6%		
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%		
Year (average)	95.4	103.2	112.8	122.6	130.6	+ 6.5%		

¹Private firms with 5 or more persons engaged

²Revised

³Provisional

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.