

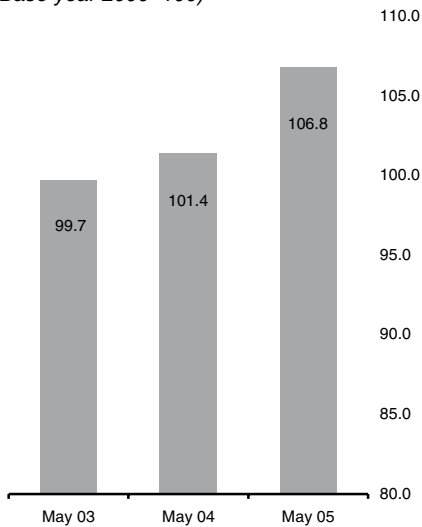


Central Statistics Office
An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh

20 July 2005

Index of Employment in Construction May 2005

Employment Index
(Base year 2000=100)



Employment in Private Firms
(Base year 2000=100)

Monthly Index

| | |
|----------|-------|
| May 2004 | 101.4 |
| May 2005 | 106.8 |

% annual change +5.3%

Numbers employed up 5.3%

Employment in private firms (with five or more persons engaged) in the construction industry increased by 5.3% in May 2005 by comparison with May 2004. The monthly employment index increased from 101.4 in May 2004 to 106.8 in May 2005.

The annual increase in employment was 4.2% for April 2005.

This inquiry covers firms with five or more persons employed.

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Monthly Index of Employment in Construction¹ - May 2005

Base Year 2000=100

| Month | 2000 Index | 2001 Index | 2002 Index | 2003 Index | 2004 Index | Annual Change | 2005 Index | Annual Change |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| January | 100.5 | 103.4 | 102.5 | 102.0 | 102.8 | +0.8% | 107.5 | +4.6% |
| February | 100.3 | 104.0 | 101.1 | 102.1 | 103.1 | +1.0% | 107.6 | +4.4% |
| March | 102.5 | 105.4 | 102.0 | 102.5 | 103.1 | +0.6% | 107.5 | +4.3% |
| April | 100.9 | 104.4 | 100.6 | 101.0 | 102.0 | +1.0% | 106.3 | +4.2% ² |
| May | 99.2 | 103.2 | 99.2 | 99.7 | 101.4 | +1.7% | 106.8 | +5.3% ³ |
| June | 99.5 | 103.5 | 100.7 | 101.3 | 105.1 | +3.8% | | |
| July | 102.6 | 105.6 | 102.4 | 103.2 | 108.3 | +4.9% | | |
| August | 101.2 | 103.1 | 100.0 | 100.5 | 106.0 | +5.5% | | |
| September | 103.9 | 103.6 | 101.3 | 101.9 | 107.0 | +5.0% | | |
| October | 97.5 | 96.7 | 95.0 | 95.3 | 100.7 | +5.7% | | |
| November | 95.7 | 93.8 | 92.9 | 93.4 | 98.9 | +5.9% | | |
| December | 96.3 | 93.7 | 93.6 | 94.2 | 99.6 | +5.7% | | |
| Year (average) | 100.0 | 101.7 | 99.3 | 99.7 | 103.2 | +3.5% | | |

¹ Private firms with 5 or more persons engaged

² Revised

³ 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.

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.