Construction

Selected construction indicators, real indices	Absolute data September 2003	Real indices		
		Sept 2003/ Sept 2002	Q3 2003/ Q3 2002	2002/ 2001
Value of construction put in place[1] SIT million	35,554	104.5	106.5	105.5
Building	15,815	90.4	96.3	97.5
Residential building	2,429	64.3	96.2	97.9
Non-residential building	13,386	97.6	96.3	97.4
Civil engineering	19,738	119.5	117.2	115.4
Hours worked (thousand hours)[1]	2,765	103.4	102.2	96.6
Value of contracts[1] SIT million	32,140	61.9	61.5	113.4
Average number of construction workers	58,277	101.4	101.4	100.4
Average gross wage per construction worker[2, 3], SIT	208,229	103.4	102.7	101.5

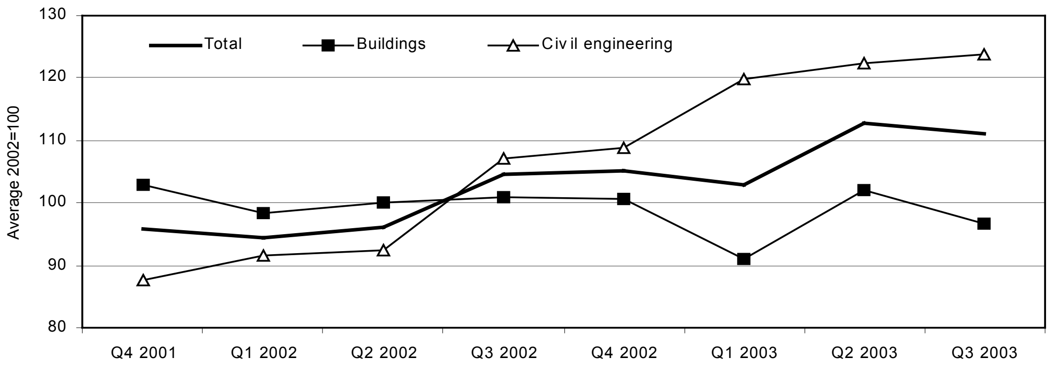
Sources of data: SORS, AP, CCIS, calculations by the IMAD.
Notes: [1]applies to enterprises and organisations employing 10 or more workers, [2]applies to enterprises and organisations employing three or more workers, [3]deflated by the consumer price index.

The **value of construction** put in place by enterprises employing 10 or more workers fell by 1.5% in the **third quarter** over the previous one, according to seasonally adjusted figures, however, it remained at a high level. This fall was anticipated because construction activity was at record levels in the second quarter (see graph). Compared to the third quarter of last year, the value of construction put in place rose by 6.5% in real terms. **Civil engineering** continued to strengthen, with the value of construction put in place rising by 17.2% year on year in the third quarter in real terms. Seasonally adjusted figures show that civil engineering increased for the eighth quarter in a row and was 50% higher than two years ago. This was fuelled by intensive motorway construction. **Building construction**, which recorded a fall in the first quarter and a rise in the second quarter according to the seasonally adjusted figures, fell by 3.7% year on year in the third quarter. Both residential and non-residential building construction contracted, going down by 3.8% and 3.7%, respectively. It should be noted, however, that enterprises employing 10 or more workers only construct about one-tenth of all dwellings in Slovenia.

In the **second and third quarters**, construction activity also intensified in the **sector of individual private entrepreneurs**. According to statistics on the number of people employed in construction, the number of individual private entrepreneurs and their employees rose by 1.3% in the second and 2.0% in the third quarter year on year after having fallen for eight quarters in a row. The strengthening of this sector was largely related to building construction. Namely, growth in the number of individual private entrepreneurs and their employees was most pronounced in general construction and building completion.

The number of **building permits** continued to rise in the third quarter. According to provisional figures, there were 1,470 building permits issued to construct buildings in the **third quarter**, 11.4% more than in the same period last year, while the planned useful floor space was 17.1% larger. There were 530 building permits issued for **non-residential building construction**, with the planned useful floor space being 3.3% larger than the year before. The number of permits issued for the construction of **dwellings** totalled 1,663, 36.6% more than a year ago, while their useful floor space was 33.2% larger. This growth in the number of planned dwellings and their floor space was the most significant in the last five years. The number of dwellings planned to be constructed as single houses increased by 14.7% and their floor space by 20.4% from the same period last year, while the number and floor space of dwellings in two- or multi-dwelling houses surged by 86.6% and 74.4%, respectively.

Graph: **Seasonally-adjusted indices of the value of construction put in place, real terms**



Source of data: SORS, calculations by the IMAD.