

**Documentation of statistics for  
Construction Cost Indices for Civil Engineering Projects 2017**

## 1 Introduction

The purpose of the indices is to show trends in prices for work performed by different contractors in civil engineering projects. In 1959 the first cost index for road fund work was compiled. In 1967 the index for motorway work was added. In 1976 four new indices were compiled: Earthwork etc., asphalt work, concrete structures and iron and steel structures

The cost index for roads was published for the first time in 1995. This index has replaced the two indices for motorways and highways. From 1 January 2001 are the titles: Construction cost indices for road work changed to Construction cost indices.

As of quarter 1 of 2016 the the base year has been changed so that 2015 = 100.

## 2 Statistical presentation

The indices show trends in prices for work performed by different contractors in civil engineering projects: Earthwork, etc. asphalt work, concrete structures, iron and steel structures and sub-indices for haulage/traffic performance by lorries and machinery and equipment. Trends in costs for construction of roads are also monitored.

2015 = 100.

### 2.1 Data description

The purpose of the Construction cost index for civil engineering projects is to illustrate the measured development in prices of civil engineering projects.

The indices show trends in prices for work performed by different contractors in civil engineering projects: Earthwork, etc. asphalt work, concrete structures, iron and steel structures and sub-indices for haulage/traffic performance by lorries and machinery and equipment. Trends in costs for construction of roads are also monitored.

The statistics are published quarterly, beginning of February, May, August and November.

### 2.2 Classification system

Not relevant for this statistic.

### 2.3 Sector coverage

Construction sector.

## **2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions**

**Labor costs:** The labor costs are calculated on the basis of the convention salary agreed upon by the Danish Construction Association and 3F (United Federation of Danish Workers) incl. social contributions. All indices are published both excl. and incl. unemployment benefits.

**Material prices:** The material prices are calculated on the basis of information gathered for the price index for domestic supply along with prices for traffic performance by lorries.

Until April 2004 the price concept was the actual producer or import prices excl. VAT. Actual prices means that both general discounts and actual discounts are offset in the price.

Since April 2004 the import prices have been collected as purchasing prices and not sales prices as previously. Hereinafter, the price concept for imported goods are actual purchasing prices c.i.f. excl. all taxes and duties.

**Weighting scheme for the cost index for road construction:** The weighting scheme for the cost index for road construction is set up in cooperation with the Danish Road Directorate on the basis of an analysis of a range of finished road constructions. The indices for earth works, asphalt works and concrete structures are used directly in the calculation of the cost index for road construction. The three indices have weights of 38 pct. for earth works, 41,5 pct. for asphalt works and 20,5 pct. for concrete structures.

The weighting schemes for earth works, asphalt works, concrete structures and iron structures set up on the basis of analysis on finished an ongoing civil engineering projects after discussing the matter with the Danish Road Directorate, Danish Railways and the Danish Construction Association.

For all indices there are sub-indices for labor costs and a number of main cost components. These are not published but can be retrieved by contacting statistics Denmark.

Sub-indices for traffic performance by lorries includes costs such as acquisition costs, interests, vehicle excise duties, insurance, drivers' salaries, administrative costs, fuel, tires and repairs. freight costs.

## **2.5 Statistical unit**

Indices.

## **2.6 Statistical population**

The indices are representative of the civil engineering projects performed in Denmark

## **2.7 Reference area**

Denmark.

## **2.8 Time coverage**

1986-

## **2.9 Base period**

2015=100

## **2.10 Unit of measure**

Indices.

## **2.11 Reference period**

Construction cost indices for civil engineering projects are compiled quarterly at the end of March, June, September and December (reference times).

## **2.12 Frequency of dissemination**

The statistics are published quarterly.

## **2.13 Legal acts and other agreements**

Data are collected in accordance with the Act on Statistics Denmark.

Necessary on grounds of Council Regulation 2223/96.

## **2.14 Cost and burden**

There is no direct response burden since data are collected by others.

## **2.15 Comment**

Further information on the cost index for civil engineering projects is available at [https://www.dst.dk/Cost indices](https://www.dst.dk/Cost%20indices).

## **3 Statistical processing**

The indices are calculated on the basis of information from the price index for domestic supply and price indices for freight transport by road from the service producer price index.

For all indices sub-indices for labor costs and number of main cost groups are calculated. These sub-indices are weighed together to form the main indices. The weights reflect the shares of labor costs, material costs and equipment costs of the total costs of performing civil-engineering projects.

### **3.1 Source data**

The indices are calculated on the basis of information from the price index for domestic supply and prices for haulage/traffic performance by lorries and wage rate agreements between the Danish Association of Builders and the United Federation of Danish Workers (previously the Danish Specialized Workers' Union).

### **3.2 Frequency of data collection**

Quarterly.

### **3.3 Data collection**

For the construction cost index for civil engineering projects data that has already been collected by other in Statistics Denmark is used. Furthermore, some prices are collected from the internet.

### **3.4 Data validation**

Basic data is validated before use in Construction cost index for civil engineering projects.

### **3.5 Data compilation**

For all indices sub-indices for labor costs and number of main cost groups are calculated. These sub-indices are weighed together to form the main indices. The weights reflect the shares of labor costs, material costs and equipment costs of the total costs of performing civil-engineering projects.

### **3.6 Adjustment**

No corrections are made besides from what has already been described under data validation and data treatment.

## **4 Relevance**

The purpose of the indices is to reflect the development in the costs of civil-engineering projects

### **4.1 User Needs**

The construction cost index for civil engineering projects has two primary purposes. The index is used for contract regulation and to follow the economic development in construction costs. The users of the construction cost index for civil engineering projects are construction organisations, contractors, building owners, lawyers and public authorities.

### **4.2 User Satisfaction**

No information on user satisfaction is collected.

### **4.3 Data completeness rate**

Not relevant for these statistics.

## **5 Accuracy and reliability**

The weighting of the indices for earthwork, asphalt work, concrete structures, iron and steel structures is prepared on the basis of an analysis of completed and ongoing construction work. In agreement with the Danish Roads Directorate, State Railways and the Danish Association of Builders the weighting is finally determined. The weighting for the construction cost index for roads is prepared in collaboration with the Danish Roads Directorate on the basis of an analysis of various completed motorway and highway projects.

See otherwise the documentation of statistics for the price index for domestic supply.

Figures on statistical errors are not available.

### **5.1 Overall accuracy**

The statistics are primarily compiled on the basis of data from the price index for domestic supply and wage rates fixed by collective agreements between the Danish Association of Builders and the United Federation of Danish Workers (previously the Danish Specialized Workers' Union). Figures on the statistical reliability are not estimated.

A possible source of errors is response errors or registrations errors during the data collection. The types of errors are for the most part avoided through thorough trouble shooting and data validation.

### **5.2 Sampling error**

Not relevant for these statistics.

### **5.3 Non-sampling error**

*Response errors.* Errors may occur when an enterprise report prices for other commodities than expected. The reason for this is normally misunderstandings e.g. change in staff.

*Recording errors.* Errors may occur when questionnaires are recorded in Statistics Denmark. Our error checking procedures normally spot such errors. Recording errors are not regarded to be important.

### **5.4 Quality management**

Statistics Denmark follows the recommendations on organisation and management of quality given in the Code of Practice for European Statistics (CoP) and the implementation guidelines given in the Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (QAF). A Working Group on Quality and a central quality assurance function have been established to continuously carry through control of products and processes.

## **5.5 Quality assurance**

Statistics Denmark follows the principles in the Code of Practice for European Statistics (CoP) and uses the Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (QAF) for the implementation of the principles. This involves continuous decentralized and central control of products and processes based on documentation following international standards. The central quality assurance function reports to the Working Group on Quality. Reports include suggestions for improvement that are assessed, decided and subsequently implemented.

## **5.6 Quality assessment**

Overall the Construction Cost index for civil engineering project is assessed to be of good quality.

## **5.7 Data revision - policy**

Statistics Denmark revises published figures in accordance with the [Revision Policy for Statistics Denmark](#). The common procedures and principles of the Revision Policy are for some statistics supplemented by a specific revision practice.

## **5.8 Data revision practice**

Only final figures are compiled.

## **6 Timeliness and punctuality**

The statistics are published quarterly at the beginning of February, May, August and November. The statistics are usually published without delay in relation to the scheduled date. Construction cost indices for civil engineering projects are compiled quarterly at the end of March, June, September and December.

### **6.1 Timeliness and time lag - final results**

The statistics are published quarterly at the beginning of February, May, August and November.

### **6.2 Punctuality**

The statistics are usually published without delay in relation to the scheduled date.

## **7 Comparability**

The construction cost index for civil engineering projects was calculated for the first time in 1959.

The indices have since then changes both weights and calculation method several times, thus they are not directly comparable over time when going back to 1959.

The Norwegian statistical agency are producing a cost index for road construction which is comparable to the Danish indices.

### **7.1 Comparability - geographical**

The Norwegian statistical agency has since 1985 produced cost indices for road construction. The indices are based on input prices and measure the development of the factor prices in road construction. The price changes of material, labor, equipment and transportation are weighted together to form total indices. I.e. the Norwegian indices are calculated using the same method as for the Danish indices. Thus, the total indices calculated in the two countries are comparable.

### **7.2 Comparability over time**

The first cost index for road fund work was compiled for March 1959 and the index for motorway work was compiled for the first time for March 1967 with March 1965 equal to 100.

In March 1971 when Statistics Denmark began to publish the road indices, the weighting of the indices was adjusted. Simultaneously, the year 1968 = 100.

The calculation of labour costs in the road indices was originally based on actual labour costs. In 1976 Statistics Denmark began to calculate construction cost indices using the collective wage rate agreements.

The cost index for roads was published for the first time in June 1996. The aim of the new index was to simplify the index-calculation, as the new index is in future to replace the two indices for motorways and highways. Part of this process of simplification is that the construction cost indices for earthwork, asphalt work and concrete structures are used directly in compiling the new index.

From 1 January 2001 are the titles: Construction cost indices for road work changed to Construction cost indices.

As of quarter 1 of 2016 the base year has been changed so that 2015 = 100.

### **7.3 Coherence - cross domain**

Prices for materials and equipment are mainly collected from the Price Index for Domestic Supply. These indices are not directly comparable to the sub-indices of the construction cost index. This is caused by the fact that these sub-indices are calculated on basis of detailed indices that are not published in the Price Index for Domestic Supply.

### **7.4 Coherence - internal**

Not relevant for these statistics.

## **8 Accessibility and clarity**

The statistics appear in News from Statistics Denmark, in Prices and consumption, in Main Indicators.

Annual publications: Statistical Yearbook and Statistical Ten-Year Review.

- [Quarterly - BYG61](#)
- [Yearly - BYG71](#)
- [Subject pages](#)



### **8.1 Release calendar**

The publication date appears in the release calendar. The date is confirmed in the weeks before.

### **8.2 Release calendar access**

The Release Calendar can be accessed on our English website: [Release Calendar](#).

### **8.3 User access**

Statistics are always published at 8:00 a.m. at the day announced in the release calendar. No one outside of Statistics Denmark can access the statistics before they are published.

### **8.4 News release**

- [News from Statistics Denmark](#)
- [Subject pages](#)

### **8.5 Publications**

[Statistical Yearbook](#).

### **8.6 On-line database**

The statistics are published in the StatBank under the subject [Construction cost index for civil engineering projects](#) in the following tables:

- [BYG61](#): Construction cost indices for civil engineering projects by index type, unit and time
- [BYG71](#): Construction cost indices for civil engineering projects by index type, unit and time

### **8.7 Micro-data access**

The primary data are stored in registers. Special processing and linkages of the data are not possible.

### **8.8 Other**

Not relevant for these statistics.

### **8.9 Confidentiality - policy**

All statistics in Statistics Denmark follow the data confidentiality protocol of Statistics Denmark. For the Construction cost indices for civil engineering projects only aggregated indices are published, thus discretion does not apply to this statistic.

### **8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment**

All statistics in Statistics Denmark follow the data confidentiality protocol of Statistics Denmark. For the Construction Cost index for civil engineering projects only aggregated indices are published, thus discretion does not apply to this statistic.

## **8.11 Documentation on methodology**

Not available in English.

## **8.12 Quality documentation**

Results from the quality evaluation of products and selected processes are available in detail for each statistics and in summary reports for the Working Group on Quality.

## **9 Contact**

The administrative placement of this statistic is in the division of Prices and Consumption. The person responsible is Sigrid Krogstrup Jensen, tel. +45 39 17 34 56, e-mail: [sij@dst.dk](mailto:sij@dst.dk)

### **9.1 Contact organisation**

Statistics Denmark

### **9.2 Contact organisation unit**

Prices and Consumption, Economic Statistics

### **9.3 Contact name**

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Responsible for the statistics

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