

ViewStart File in ASP.NET Core MVC

.

Why do we need _ViewStart.cshtml file in ASP.NET Core MVC Application?

- ▶ As of now, we have used the Layout Property to associate a view with a layout view as shown below.
 - ▶ `Layout = "~/Views/Shared/_Layout.cshtml";`
- ▶ Suppose, we have 100 views in our application and all the 100 views want to use the same layout file. Then we need to set the Layout Property as shown in the above image in all the 100 views. This violates the **DRY (Don't Repeat Yourself)** Principle and has the following disadvantages.
 - ▶ **Redundant Code**
 - ▶ **Maintenance Overhead**
- ▶ Suppose tomorrow you want to use a different Layout, then you need to update the Layout Property in each and every individual view. This process is tedious, time-consuming as well as error-prone because you may miss updating the Property in some of the views. To solve the above problems we need to use the ViewStart.cshtml file.

What is _ViewStart.cshtml file in ASP.NET Core MVC Application?

- ▶ In ASP.NET Core MVC Application, the _ViewStart.cshtml file is a special file and the code present in this file is going to be executed before the code in an individual view is executed. So, you can set the Layout Property in this file as shown in the below image instead of setting the Layout Property in each individual view which is going to be executed before the actual view is executed.

```
@{  
    Layout = "~/Views/Shared/_Layout.cshtml";  
}
```

- ▶ Once you set the **Layout** Property in **_ViewStart.cshtml** file as shown in the above image, then maintaining the application becomes much easier. So, in the future, if you want to change the layout file, then you just need to change the code at one place only i.e. in the _ViewStart.cshtml file.

- Create a `_ViewStart` file and call the `_Layout` page inside that.

The screenshot shows the Visual Studio IDE with the following components:

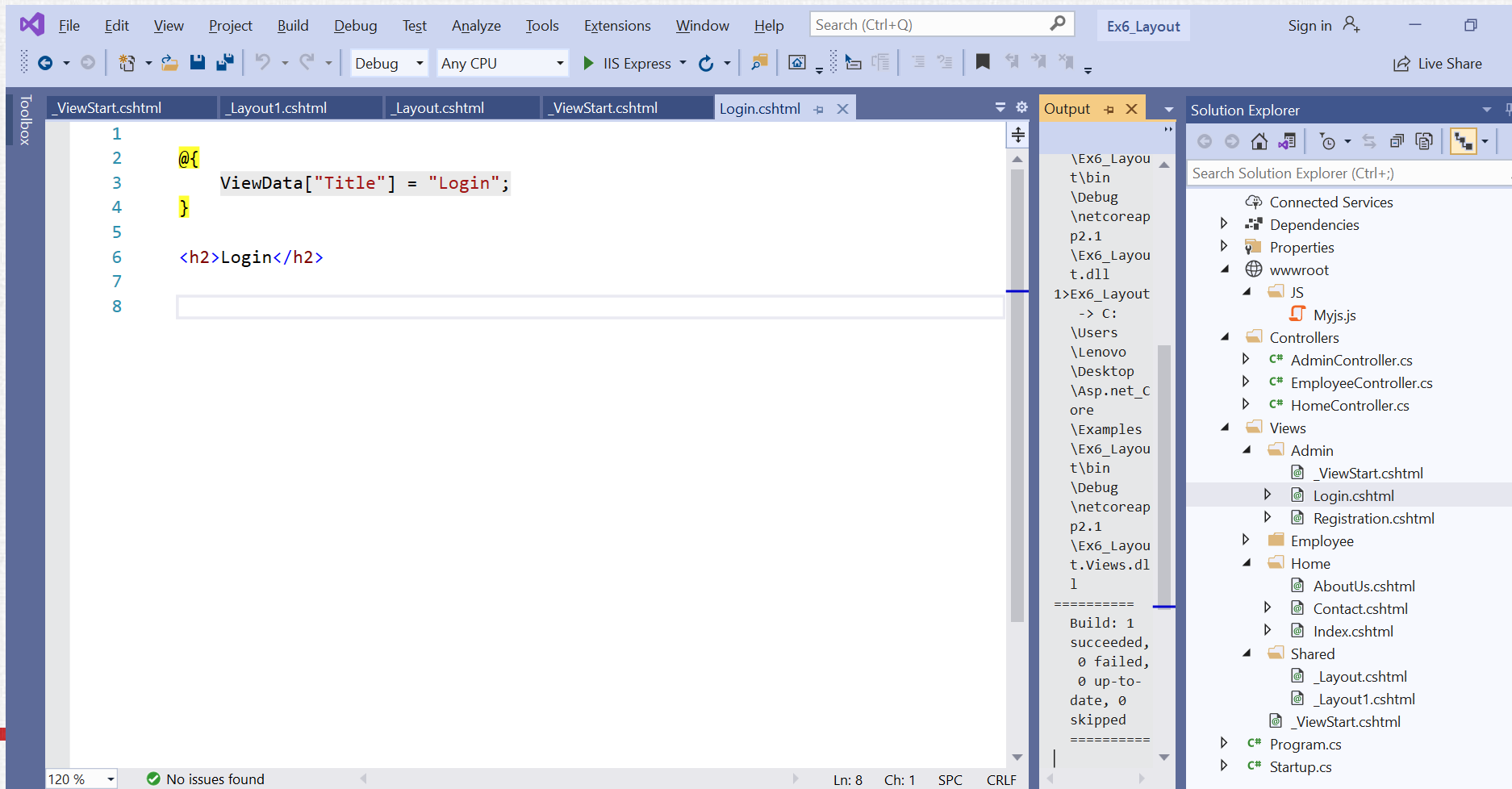
- Editor:** Displays the `_ViewStart.cshtml` file with the following code:

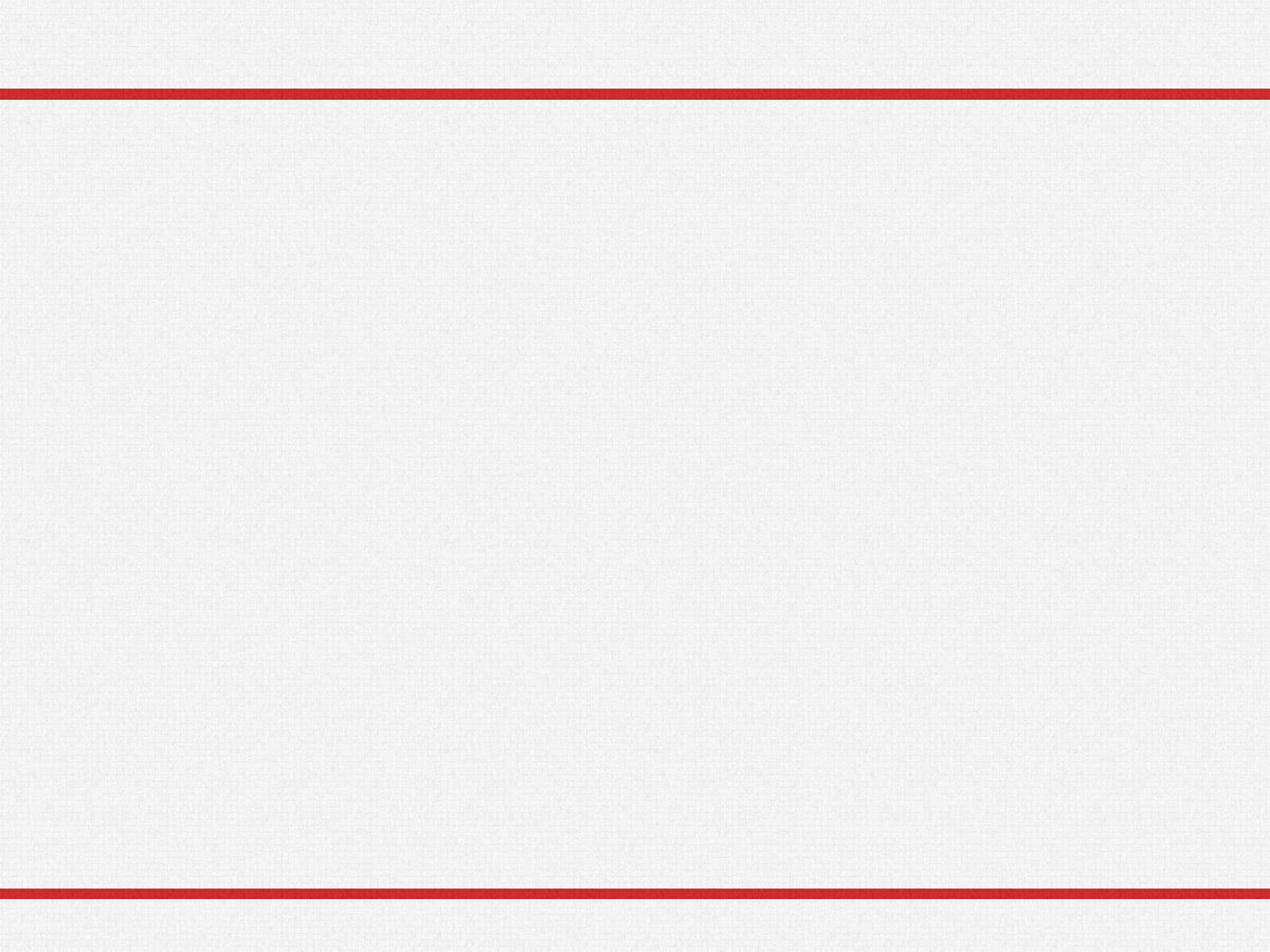
```
1 @{
2     ViewData["Title"] = "_ViewStart";
3     Layout = "~/Views/Shared/_Layout.cshtml";
4 }
5
6
7 <h2>_ViewStart</h2>
8
9
```
- Output Window:** Shows the build output for the project, indicating that the build succeeded.

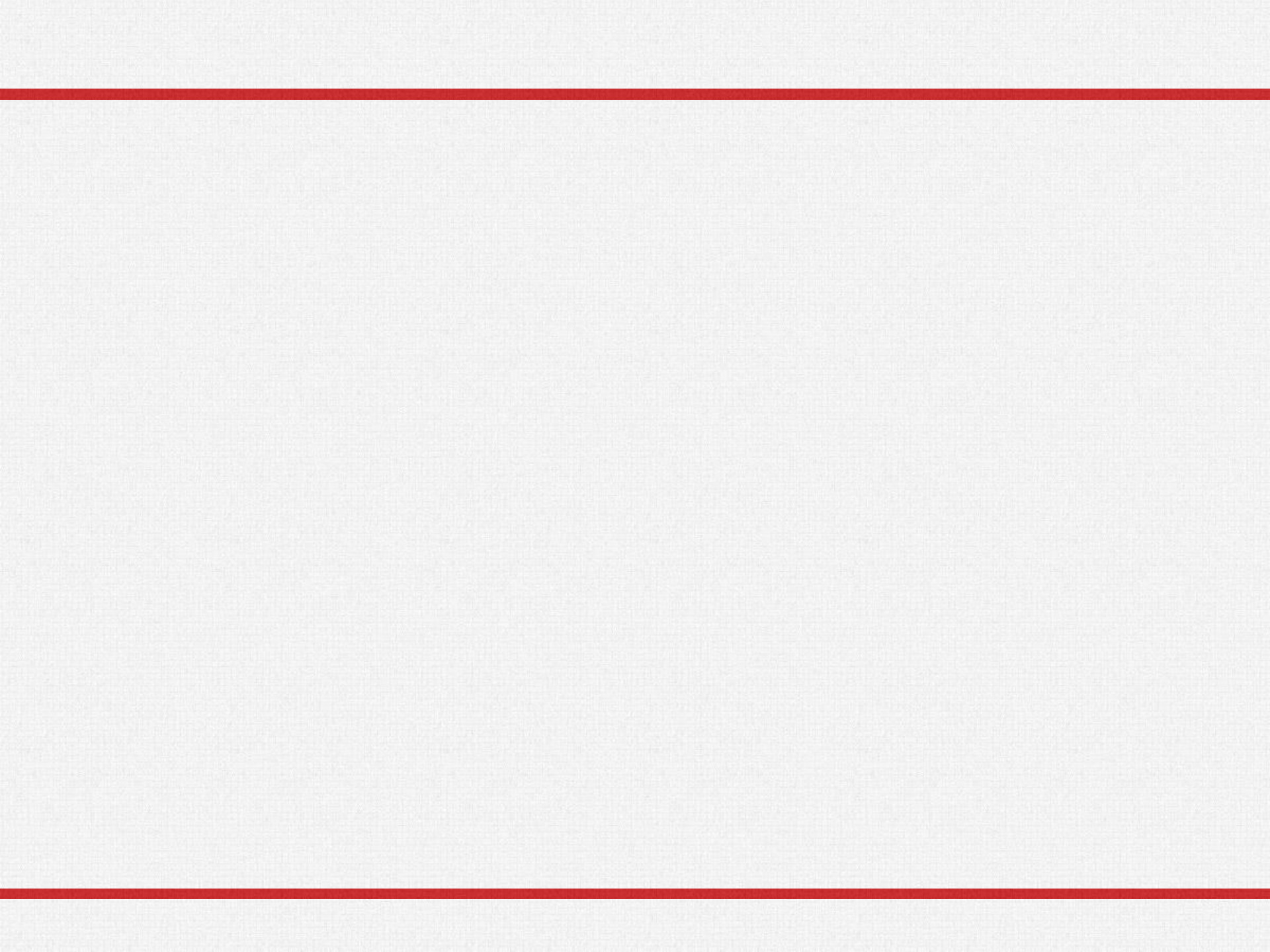
```
Build: 1
succeeded,
0 failed,
0 up-to-
date, 0
skipped
```
- Solution Explorer:** Displays the project structure for 'Ex6_Layout'. The 'Views' folder is expanded, showing the following files:
 - `Employee`
 - `Home`
 - `Shared`
 - `_Layout.cshtml`
 - `_ViewStart.cshtml`
- Taskbar:** Shows the Windows taskbar with the search bar and various application icons.

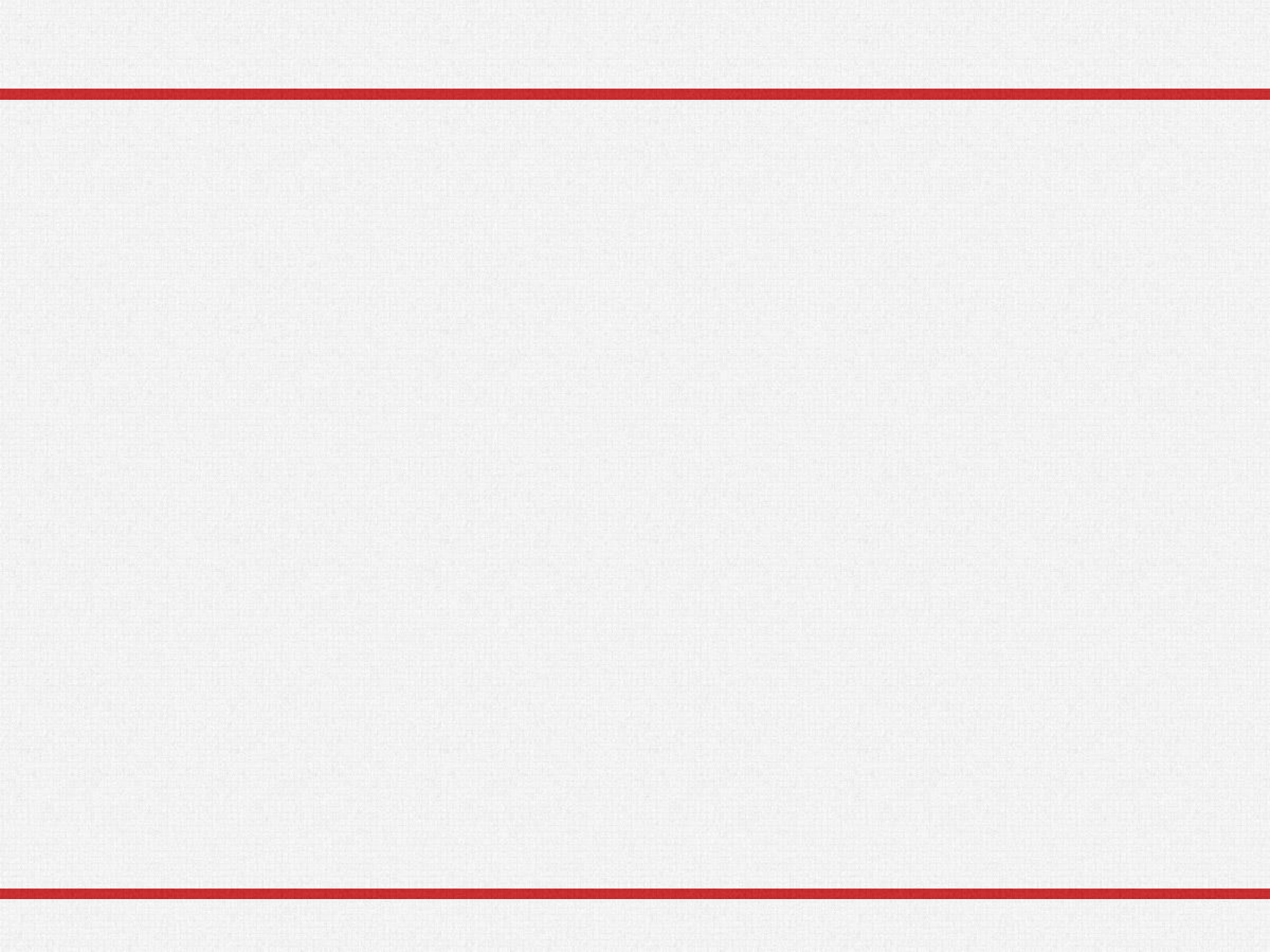
More than one ViewStart file:-

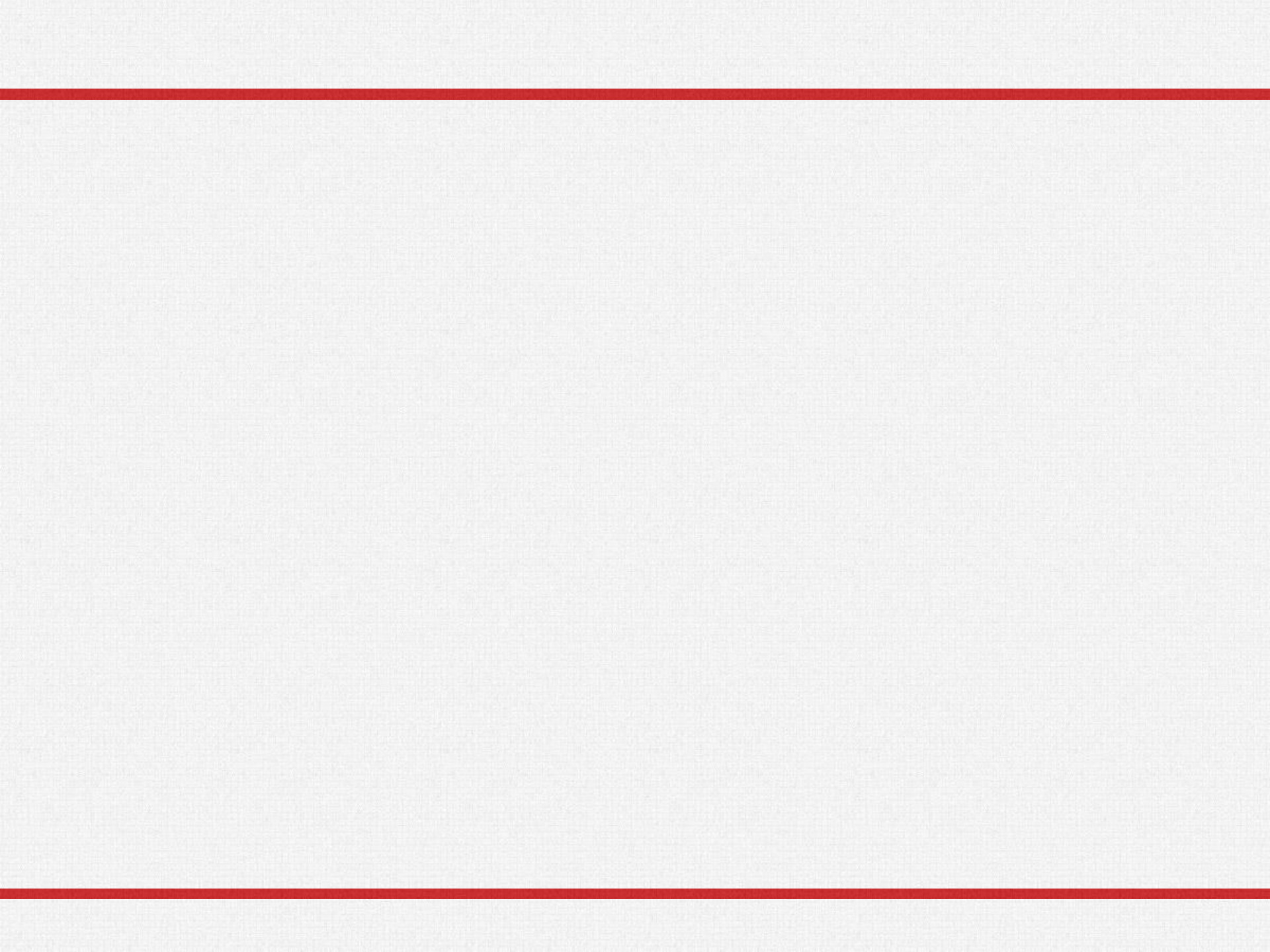
- Inside Admin Controller Folder add `_ViewStart` and call the `_Layout1.cshtml` inside that.











Thanks