

During the first quarter of 2020, working-day adjusted turnover in selected services activities decreased by 1.3 per cent over the same quarter in 2019. Seasonally adjusted services turnover decreased by 4.2 per cent over the previous quarter.

Short-term Services Indicators: Q1/2020

Cut-off date:
19 May 2020

Annual comparison

When compared to the first quarter of 2019, the working-day adjusted turnover index decreased by 1.3 per cent (Table 1).

Decreases in turnover were recorded in the accommodation and food service activities (20.5 per cent), administrative and support service activities (10.5 per cent), real estate activities (8.9 per cent), motor trade activities (7.3 per cent), transportation and storage activities (4.4 per cent), real estate activities (2.5 per cent) and professional, scientific and technical activities (0.5 per cent). Increases were registered in the information and communication activities (10.8 per cent), retail trade activities (3.4 per cent) and wholesale trade activities (0.7 per cent) (Table 1).

Employment (Table 3), gross wages and salaries (Table 5) and hours worked (Table 7) went up by 2.3, 5.2 and 0.9 per cent respectively over the corresponding quarter in 2019.

Quarterly comparison

When compared to the previous quarter, the seasonally adjusted services turnover index decreased by 4.2 per cent (Table 2).

Decreases were registered across all services activities namely in real estate activities (33.8 per cent), accommodation and food service activities (22.1 per cent), professional, scientific and technical activities (7.1 per cent), transportation and storage (4.7 per cent), information and communication (4.0 per cent), administrative and support service activities (3.9 per cent), wholesale trade (2.5 per cent), motor trade (1.0 per cent) and retail trade (0.2 per cent) (Table 2).

The seasonally adjusted employment (Table 4) and gross wages and salaries (Table 6) increased by 0.2 and 0.8 per cent respectively. The seasonally adjusted hours worked decreased by 1.6 per cent (Table 8) ■

Chart 1. Annual working-day adjusted turnover in services
(% change in comparison with the corresponding quarter in previous year)

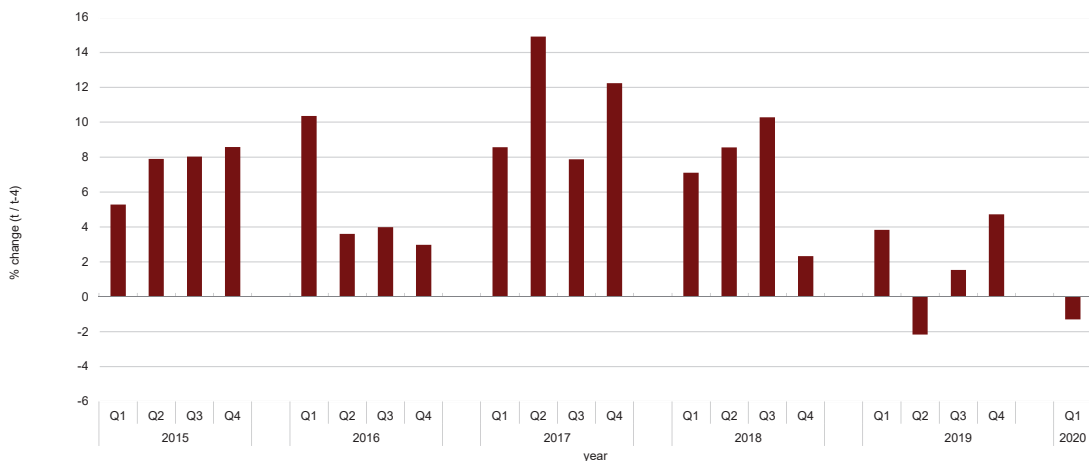


Table 1. Services turnover index by period and NACE classification
Working-day adjusted

NACE	2019				2020	% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	2019				2020
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	106.0	118.4	125.1	123.8	107.0	4.6	1.7	5.6	3.6	0.9
Motor trade	119.3	125.2	120.1	113.1	110.6	1.1	3.4	5.2	-10.7	-7.3
Wholesale trade	104.9	117.2	127.4	122.2	105.6	6.0	0.9	5.7	5.3	0.7
Retail trade	105.4	119.5	121.9	129.0	109.0	2.8	2.7	5.4	3.5	3.4
Food	111.2	132.0	135.1	135.2	125.1	2.7	5.6	4.0	3.9	12.5
Non-food	101.6	111.3	113.2	125.0	98.4	2.9	0.6	6.5	3.3	-3.1
Transportation and storage	133.3	151.6	164.1	146.5	127.5	5.6	0.4	1.5	4.1	-4.4
Accommodation and food service activities	80.3	128.9	154.9	104.7	63.9	-3.8	-1.1	-1.5	4.7	-20.5
Information and communication	125.0	125.0	128.5	144.2	138.3	9.2	8.2	6.3	13.4	10.7
Real estate activities	146.4	176.2	204.9	201.3	133.4	3.9	-32.2	-10.8	21.2	-8.9
Professional, scientific and technical activities	99.1	103.8	102.3	123.8	98.6	-7.4	-2.9	-14.6	0.1	-0.5
Administrative and support service activities	139.3	189.8	161.3	151.1	124.6	-0.6	-16.4	-4.0	-2.8	-10.5
Total	112.8	129.0	134.6	131.5	111.3	3.8	-2.2	1.5	4.7	-1.3

Table 2. Services turnover index by period and NACE classification
Seasonally adjusted

NACE	2019				2020	% change compared with previous quarter				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	2019				2020
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	115.5	116.5	121.5	119.4	116.7	0.2	0.9	4.2	-1.7	-2.3
Motor trade	121.9	120.0	121.6	114.1	113.0	-4.7	-1.5	1.3	-6.2	-1.0
Wholesale trade	115.2	115.1	121.5	119.1	116.1	1.8	-0.2	5.6	-2.0	-2.5
Retail trade	116.9	117.9	120.0	120.9	120.7	0.2	0.8	1.8	0.7	-0.2
Food	123.4	128.5	130.4	131.3	137.0	-1.8	4.1	1.5	0.7	4.3
Non-food	112.4	110.4	112.8	115.3	109.4	0.8	-1.8	2.2	2.2	-5.1
Transportation and storage	147.3	148.2	151.5	148.6	141.5	3.2	0.6	2.3	-1.9	-4.7
Accommodation and food service activities	115.0	120.1	115.9	117.3	91.4	2.5	4.5	-3.5	1.2	-22.1
Information and communication	125.0	125.0	128.5	144.2	138.3	-1.7	0.0	2.8	12.2	-4.0
Real estate activities	146.4	176.2	204.9	201.3	133.4	-11.8	20.4	16.3	-1.7	-33.8
Professional, scientific and technical activities	106.0	102.6	105.9	113.7	105.6	-6.9	-3.2	3.2	7.4	-7.1
Administrative and support service activities	168.8	156.2	161.2	158.3	152.1	3.5	-7.4	3.2	-1.8	-3.9
Total	125.6	125.7	127.0	129.5	124.0	1.6	0.1	1.0	2.0	-4.2

Note: The calculation of growth rates from the indices tables may differ slightly from the published growth rates due to rounding.

Table 3. Services employment index by period and NACE classification
Unadjusted

NACE	2019				2020	% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	2019				2020
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	110.7	112.2	113.5	113.1	112.1	1.6	2.6	2.1	2.4	1.3
Motor trade	111.9	113.6	113.6	111.1	109.5	0.5	3.0	1.1	-1.1	-2.1
Wholesale trade	106.7	108.1	111.2	110.3	110.6	1.4	1.3	2.7	2.7	3.7
Retail trade	112.8	114.5	115.0	115.1	113.4	1.9	3.3	1.9	2.7	0.5
Food	120.2	121.4	121.7	120.2	121.4	2.7	3.5	0.5	0.8	1.0
Non-food	109.4	111.4	111.9	112.8	109.7	1.5	3.1	2.6	3.7	0.3
Transportation and storage	109.4	109.2	110.7	109.7	107.8	4.9	2.9	1.4	2.6	-1.5
Accommodation and food service activities	90.9	93.6	96.5	93.9	90.6	-3.2	-3.8	-1.5	-0.1	-0.3
Information and communication	104.7	103.6	104.9	103.9	103.4	3.2	1.0	0.1	-0.7	-1.2
Real estate activities	104.9	107.4	104.5	103.7	103.5	-4.9	0.3	-3.1	-3.3	-1.3
Professional, scientific and technical activities	115.1	110.5	113.5	115.1	114.2	8.9	6.3	5.7	-1.2	-0.8
Administrative and support service activities	122.7	128.5	134.6	138.5	138.6	0.8	6.8	11.2	14.3	13.0
Total	108.7	110.3	113.0	112.6	111.2	1.9	2.6	3.2	3.5	2.3

Table 4. Services employment index by period and NACE classification
Seasonally adjusted

NACE	2019				2020	% change compared with previous quarter				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	2019				2020
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	110.7	112.2	113.5	113.1	112.1	0.1	1.4	1.2	-0.3	-0.9
Motor trade	111.9	113.6	113.6	111.1	109.5	-0.4	1.5	0.0	-2.2	-1.4
Wholesale trade	106.7	108.1	111.2	110.3	110.6	-0.7	1.3	2.9	-0.7	0.3
Retail trade	112.8	114.5	115.0	115.1	113.4	0.7	1.5	0.4	0.1	-1.5
Food	120.2	121.4	121.7	120.2	121.4	0.8	1.0	0.2	-1.2	1.0
Non-food	109.4	111.4	111.9	112.8	109.7	0.6	1.8	0.4	0.8	-2.7
Transportation and storage	110.0	108.9	109.7	110.3	108.4	2.3	-1.0	0.7	0.5	-1.7
Accommodation and food service activities	94.2	93.1	92.7	94.9	93.9	-1.0	-1.2	-0.4	2.3	-1.1
Information and communication	105.0	103.7	104.3	104.2	103.6	0.0	-1.2	0.5	0.0	-0.6
Real estate activities	104.9	107.4	104.5	103.7	103.5	-2.2	2.4	-2.7	-0.7	-0.2
Professional, scientific and technical activities	115.1	110.5	113.5	115.1	114.2	-1.2	-4.0	2.7	1.5	-0.8
Administrative and support service activities	124.0	130.1	136.2	140.2	140.3	1.3	4.8	4.7	2.9	0.1
Total	110.6	110.4	111.5	113.0	113.2	1.3	-0.2	1.0	1.3	0.2

Table 5. Services gross wages and salaries index by period and NACE classification
Working-day adjusted

NACE	2019				2020	% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	2019				2020
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	124.7	125.0	127.9	133.4	130.2	6.6	6.1	7.9	6.6	4.4
Motor trade	132.7	138.8	141.2	138.9	138.4	5.3	9.6	8.8	1.2	4.3
Wholesale trade	122.2	120.4	122.4	129.8	129.4	9.1	5.9	8.2	8.8	5.9
Retail trade	126.3	128.0	131.8	136.6	129.8	4.2	5.8	7.4	5.4	2.8
Food	129.7	133.1	138.9	136.0	132.2	4.3	5.2	10.0	0.3	1.9
Non-food	124.8	125.9	128.8	136.8	128.7	4.2	6.1	6.2	7.6	3.1
Transportation and storage	116.1	119.0	124.0	122.3	126.9	1.2	2.8	3.6	4.1	9.3
Accommodation and food service activities	107.4	113.0	120.8	115.0	108.1	0.8	-2.1	6.0	3.1	0.7
Information and communication	120.6	119.0	119.6	121.8	124.8	10.6	8.2	5.4	3.2	3.5
Real estate activities	116.4	128.6	115.3	126.6	115.3	-3.0	4.3	-0.3	7.1	-0.9
Professional, scientific and technical activities	116.8	115.5	114.4	114.6	114.4	1.2	-6.4	-2.1	-2.5	-2.1
Administrative and support service activities	135.0	140.6	139.3	161.6	153.4	-1.5	1.4	5.8	15.1	13.6
Total	122.0	123.9	126.4	131.4	128.6	3.8	3.1	5.3	6.2	5.2

Table 6. Services gross wages and salaries index by period and NACE classification
Seasonally adjusted

NACE	2019				2020	% change compared with previous quarter				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	2019				2020
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	125.0	126.5	128.7	130.2	131.2	2.4	1.2	1.7	1.2	0.8
Motor trade	135.1	139.5	141.1	136.1	140.9	0.5	3.3	1.1	-3.6	3.5
Wholesale trade	122.2	121.6	124.6	126.5	129.3	5.1	-0.5	2.5	1.6	2.2
Retail trade	127.3	128.9	132.5	134.0	130.8	0.2	1.3	2.8	1.1	-2.4
Food	129.7	133.1	138.9	136.0	132.2	-4.3	2.6	4.4	-2.1	-2.8
Non-food	126.3	127.1	129.9	132.9	130.4	2.4	0.6	2.2	2.3	-1.9
Transportation and storage	116.1	119.0	124.0	122.3	126.9	-1.2	2.5	4.2	-1.4	3.8
Accommodation and food service activities	113.9	112.1	114.3	116.1	114.6	1.1	-1.5	1.9	1.5	-1.3
Information and communication	120.6	119.0	119.6	121.8	124.8	2.1	-1.3	0.6	1.8	2.4
Real estate activities	116.4	128.6	115.3	126.6	115.3	-1.5	10.5	-10.4	9.8	-8.9
Professional, scientific and technical activities	116.8	115.5	114.4	114.6	114.4	-0.6	-1.1	-0.9	0.1	-0.2
Administrative and support service activities	135.0	140.6	139.3	161.6	153.4	-3.8	4.2	-0.9	16.0	-5.1
Total	123.3	124.1	126.7	128.7	129.7	1.7	0.7	2.1	1.6	0.8

Table 7. Services hours worked index by period and NACE classification

Working-day adjusted

NACE	2019				2020	% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	2019				2020
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	109.2	111.1	113.9	113.9	112.2	1.3	2.9	2.4	3.4	2.7
Motor trade	114.3	118.0	118.3	115.3	114.1	0.3	2.2	-0.5	-2.9	-0.2
Wholesale trade	104.1	105.3	111.2	109.9	107.7	3.0	1.8	5.4	7.5	3.5
Retail trade	112.6	115.0	115.4	117.1	115.9	0.2	3.8	0.3	1.4	2.9
Food	124.5	126.8	131.7	125.5	129.6	2.3	4.9	3.0	-3.2	4.1
Non-food	107.6	109.6	108.7	113.4	109.4	-0.9	3.2	-0.3	3.8	1.7
Transportation and storage	108.3	109.3	111.8	111.0	105.9	-0.3	-2.0	0.6	1.8	-2.2
Accommodation and food service activities	95.7	101.9	108.8	104.3	92.0	-0.7	-4.2	1.7	3.9	-3.9
Information and communication	101.0	100.1	102.0	101.3	98.3	3.9	0.4	-0.7	-0.7	-2.6
Real estate activities	105.2	109.5	103.9	107.7	106.2	-4.9	2.4	-3.0	-0.6	1.0
Professional, scientific and technical activities	111.3	110.8	114.7	114.8	113.8	3.8	4.6	4.3	3.9	2.2
Administrative and support service activities	130.1	138.5	147.0	143.8	141.0	2.8	3.2	12.7	8.8	8.4
Total	110.5	113.2	118.3	116.3	111.4	1.8	1.2	4.5	3.9	0.9

Table 8. Services hours worked index by period and NACE classification

Seasonally adjusted

NACE	2019				2020	% change compared with previous quarter				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	2019				2020
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	110.3	111.2	113.1	113.6	113.4	0.5	0.8	1.7	0.4	-0.2
Motor trade	114.3	118.0	118.3	115.3	114.1	-3.7	3.2	0.3	-2.6	-1.0
Wholesale trade	104.1	105.3	111.2	109.9	107.7	1.8	1.1	5.5	-1.1	-2.0
Retail trade	114.5	115.5	114.6	115.3	117.9	0.6	0.9	-0.8	0.6	2.3
Food	126.0	128.1	130.1	124.4	131.1	-1.9	1.7	1.6	-4.4	5.4
Non-food	109.2	109.6	108.4	112.0	111.1	1.1	0.4	-1.0	3.3	-0.8
Transportation and storage	110.4	109.6	110.5	109.8	108.0	2.4	-0.8	0.8	-0.6	-1.6
Accommodation and food service activities	103.4	100.8	101.3	105.4	99.6	1.9	-2.6	0.5	4.0	-5.5
Information and communication	101.0	100.1	102.0	101.3	98.3	-1.1	-0.8	1.9	-0.7	-2.9
Real estate activities	105.2	109.5	103.9	107.7	106.2	-2.9	4.1	-5.1	3.7	-1.4
Professional, scientific and technical activities	111.3	110.8	114.7	114.8	113.8	0.7	-0.4	3.5	0.1	-0.9
Administrative and support service activities	133.8	138.0	144.0	143.6	144.7	1.4	3.2	4.3	-0.3	0.8
Total	113.3	113.0	115.6	116.2	114.3	1.3	-0.2	2.3	0.5	-1.6

Methodological Notes

1. The aim of short-term statistics is to provide information on the business cycle within the services sector. The results are compiled and published according to the statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community, NACE Rev. 2.
2. Every quarter, questionnaires are sent to approximately 900 enterprises categorised within the services sector. The data is then grossed up to represent the entire services population. For each NACE division (for example NACE Division 45 for motor trade), a sample was selected. The selected enterprises were requested to provide information, including turnover, employment and wages and salaries, on a quarterly basis. The indices were calculated for each division, showing the level of the specified variable (for example employment) relative to the average level throughout the base year 2015. The index numbers in this release are working-day and seasonally adjusted. These statistical methods aid interpretation of data by removing regularly recurring variations from a time series. Working-day adjustment is a statistical method for removing the calendar effect from an economic time series. The calendar effect is the variation caused by the changing number of working days in different quarters.

The number of working days for a given quarter may depend on the timing of certain public holidays, the possible overlap of certain public holidays and non-working days and the occurrence of a leap year. This method is used to make a comparison with the corresponding quarter of the previous year. Seasonal adjustment removes variations which include effects due to quarter length, holidays and particular events such as Christmas.

Statistically, seasonal adjustment takes place after a time series has already been cleared of calendar effects by way of working-day adjustment. This method is used to compare data for a specific quarter with the previous quarter. In seasonal and working-day adjustment, the direct approach is used and refers to the adjustments of aggregated raw component.

3. In line with the Regulation on Short-term Statistics, services exclude Financial and Insurance Activities and Gambling and Betting Activities.
4. **Definitions:**
 - **Turnover:** includes total sales and other income and is expressed net of VAT. Turnover is presented in current prices.
 - **Wages and Salaries:** covers wages and salaries including bonuses, weekly allowances (cost of living allowances), overtime and national social security contributions by the employee. The definition does not include employer's social security charges.
 - **Employment:** covers all persons employed, regardless of whether they are part-time or full-time, and includes paid employees as well as working proprietors and unpaid family workers. Employment is not working day adjusted since the number of employees does not depend on factors that make up the working day effect.
 - **Hours worked:** covers total amount of hours actually worked, regular working hours and during overtime, during nights, Sundays or public holidays. Hours worked but not paid are also considered.
5. The data contained in this release should be considered as provisional and therefore subject to revision. Each release may include revisions of the past quarterly data in respect of a rolling two-year period.

6. Weighting Structure by activity/industry and variables.

NACE Section/ Division	NACE label	Turnover	Employment	Hours Worked	Wages and Salaries
G	Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	54.1	33.0	30.5	26.5
G45	Motor trade	3.4	2.7	2.2	1.8
G46	Wholesale trade	33.1	11.4	12.9	13.0
G47	Retail trade	17.6	19.0	15.3	11.7
H	Transportation and storage	10.6	11.1	12.7	16.5
I	Accommodation and food services activities	6.4	18.8	17.6	13.4
J	Information and communication	9.6	7.9	9.7	13.6
L	Real estate activities	3.1	1.8	1.3	1.4
M	Professional, scientific and technical activities	9.7	11.6	11.1	13.5
N	Administrative and support services activities	6.5	15.8	17.1	15.1

7. Statistics in this News Release should be interpreted in context to the unprecedented developments and restrictions related to COVID-19.

Most service-related industries were impacted by the sequence of events, of which some are listed below:

Monday, 16 March 2020	Closure of Courts
Tuesday, 17 March 2020	Closure of bars, restaurants and public entertainment
Thursday, 19 March 2020	Suspension of sea-travel for passengers between Malta and Sicily
Saturday, 21 March 2020	Suspension of all flights from/to all destinations
Monday, 23 March 2020	Prohibition of non-essential retail and services and mass gatherings
Tuesday, 31 March 2020	Restrictions on non-essential travel between Malta and Gozo

8. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:

Statistical Concepts: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/concepts.aspx>

Metadata: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/reports.aspx?id=13>

European statistics comparable to data in this News Release are available at:

[EUROSTAT Website/Homepage/Statistics Database](#)

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