

During the third quarter of 2021, seasonally adjusted services turnover increased by 6.8 per cent over the second quarter of 2021. When compared to the same quarter of 2020, working-day adjusted turnover in selected service activities increased by 22.2 per cent.

## Short-term Services Indicators: Q3/2021

Cut-off date:  
12 November 2021

### Quarterly comparison

After adjusting for seasonal effects and the working-day pattern, the total services turnover index increased by 6.8 per cent between the second and third quarters of 2021.

The highest increase was registered in the accommodation and food service activities where the index went up from 28.5 to 64.6 index points. Positive turnover percentage changes were recorded in motor trade (13.1 per cent), transportation and storage (10.9 per cent), wholesale trade (7.7 per cent), administrative and support service activities (5.1 per cent), information and communication (4.3 per cent), retail trade (3.8 per cent) and professional, scientific and technical activities (1.4 per cent). On the other hand, the turnover index of real estate activities registered a decrease of 6.4 per cent (Table 1).

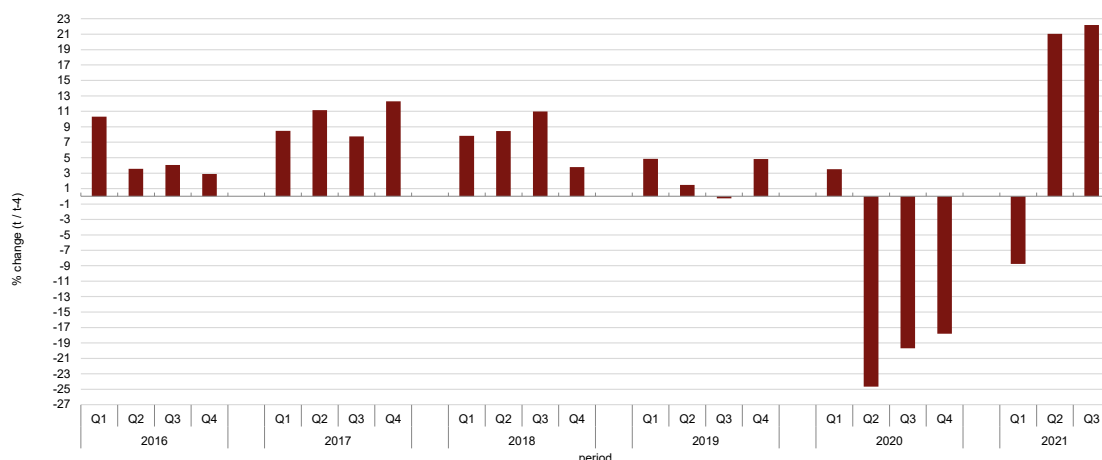
The index for the number of persons employed decreased by 0.2 per cent (Table 3). On the other hand, gross wages and salaries (Table 5) and hours worked (Table 7) increased by 0.4 per cent and 6.2 per cent respectively between the second and third quarters of 2021.

### Annual comparison

During the third quarter of 2021, the total services turnover index increased by 22.2 per cent on an annual basis after adjusting for the working-day pattern. Turnover increases were registered across all the services activities with the highest increase being recorded in the accommodation and food service activities (57.3 per cent). This was followed by increases in transportation and storage (48.2 per cent), real estate activities (30.5 per cent), information and communication (26.6 per cent), wholesale trade (17.5 per cent), motor trade (16.6 per cent), professional, scientific and technical activities (14.0 per cent), retail trade (13.2 per cent) and administrative and support service activities (4.9 per cent) (Table 2).

The indicator for the number of persons employed (Table 4) decreased by 0.4 per cent over the third quarter of 2020. On the other hand, gross wages and salaries (Table 6) and hours worked (Table 8) increased by 8.2 per cent and 3.7 per cent respectively ■

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



Statistics in this News Release should be interpreted in the context of the COVID-19 situation.

**Table 1. Services turnover index by period and NACE classification**  
Seasonally adjusted

NACE	2020		2021			% change compared with previous quarter				
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	2020		2021		
						Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	100.9	103.0	110.8	108.9	116.9	7.2	2.0	7.6	-1.7	7.4
Motor trade	102.1	103.4	100.5	105.3	119.0	34.5	1.3	-2.8	4.7	13.1
Wholesale trade	94.7	93.5	107.4	103.2	111.2	3.9	-1.3	14.9	-3.9	7.7
Retail trade	111.6	120.2	119.6	121.5	126.1	7.2	7.7	-0.5	1.6	3.8
Food	117.2	125.6	125.7	125.4	129.9	2.2	7.2	0.1	-0.2	3.6
Non-food	107.4	117.2	115.9	118.9	123.0	10.7	9.1	-1.1	2.6	3.4
Transportation and storage	101.3	116.6	128.6	135.1	149.8	-3.4	15.1	10.3	5.0	10.9
Accommodation and food service activities	27.9	53.5	66.5	28.5	64.6	164.8	91.6	24.4	-57.1	126.4
Information and communication	157.7	169.9	173.4	191.4	199.6	5.3	7.8	2.0	10.4	4.3
Real estate activities	107.4	120.9	142.0	149.6	140.0	24.3	12.6	17.4	5.4	-6.4
Professional, scientific and technical activities	101.9	94.7	115.6	114.6	116.2	4.2	-7.1	22.1	-0.8	1.4
Administrative and support service activities	93.9	101.8	108.1	93.7	98.4	10.2	8.5	6.2	-13.3	5.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.9</b>	<b>108.0</b>	<b>119.6</b>	<b>115.4</b>	<b>123.3</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>-3.5</b>	<b>6.8</b>

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

**Table 2. Services turnover index by period and NACE classification**  
Working-day adjusted

NACE	2020		2021			% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	2020		2021		
						Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	103.2	106.9	102.9	110.0	119.7	-14.8	-13.6	-10.4	15.6	15.9
Motor trade	101.8	100.9	98.9	109.9	118.7	-11.3	7.2	-8.8	38.7	16.6
Wholesale trade	97.8	95.7	100.5	103.9	114.9	-18.2	-21.3	-13.6	13.1	17.5
Retail trade	113.7	128.9	108.2	121.6	128.7	-9.5	-3.1	-4.7	16.4	13.2
Food	123.0	129.6	115.6	124.3	136.8	-10.1	-4.6	-9.4	8.7	11.2
Non-food	107.6	128.5	103.3	119.9	123.4	-8.9	-2.1	-0.9	22.2	14.7
Transportation and storage	113.0	112.9	115.2	137.1	167.4	-31.4	-24.5	-18.4	28.3	48.2
Accommodation and food service activities	64.0	42.5	30.7	39.3	100.7	-60.0	-63.2	-51.5	84.5	57.3
Information and communication	157.7	169.9	173.4	191.4	199.6	16.1	6.1	17.2	27.8	26.6
Real estate activities	107.4	120.9	142.0	149.6	140.0	-38.4	-37.5	6.1	73.1	30.5
Professional, scientific and technical activities	98.3	101.8	109.1	116.3	112.1	-3.4	-12.8	6.6	17.2	14.0
Administrative and support service activities	98.9	102.0	93.4	98.5	103.8	-40.9	-35.0	-28.7	10.0	4.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>106.8</b>	<b>109.8</b>	<b>108.2</b>	<b>118.0</b>	<b>130.5</b>	<b>-19.7</b>	<b>-17.8</b>	<b>-8.8</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>22.2</b>

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

*Seasonally adjusted*

NACE	2020		2021			% change compared with previous quarter				
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	2020		2021		
						Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	106.7	107.1	106.0	106.8	108.1	0.5	0.4	-1.0	0.7	1.2
Motor trade	111.2	113.1	114.9	115.4	115.8	-0.4	1.7	1.6	0.5	0.3
Wholesale trade	106.6	105.9	103.8	105.4	106.5	0.3	-0.7	-1.9	1.5	1.1
Retail trade	106.2	107.0	106.0	106.4	107.9	0.8	0.8	-0.9	0.3	1.4
Food	110.3	112.1	111.3	111.3	110.3	-0.7	1.6	-0.7	0.0	-0.9
Non-food	104.3	104.7	103.6	104.1	106.8	1.6	0.4	-1.0	0.5	2.5
Transportation and storage	101.0	101.4	101.8	101.8	101.4	-1.6	0.4	0.4	0.1	-0.4
Accommodation and food service activities	80.3	78.8	76.8	75.9	78.8	-4.0	-2.0	-2.5	-1.3	3.9
Information and communication	99.0	101.9	96.9	98.3	99.8	-0.6	2.9	-4.9	1.5	1.5
Real estate activities	102.3	102.8	104.5	106.6	104.0	-2.0	0.5	1.6	2.0	-2.4
Professional, scientific and technical activities	110.0	110.6	112.7	114.4	114.5	2.4	0.5	1.9	1.5	0.1
Administrative and support service activities	133.1	132.2	123.9	126.9	126.4	0.3	-0.6	-6.3	2.4	-0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>104.5</b>	<b>104.4</b>	<b>102.7</b>	<b>104.3</b>	<b>104.1</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>-1.6</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>-0.2</b>

**Table 4. Services employment index by period and NACE classification**

*Unadjusted <sup>1</sup>*

NACE	2020		2021			% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	2020		2021		
						Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	106.7	107.1	106.0	106.8	108.1	-5.7	-5.3	-4.9	0.6	1.3
Motor trade	111.2	113.1	114.9	115.4	115.8	-2.7	-0.8	0.0	3.3	4.1
Wholesale trade	106.6	105.9	103.8	105.4	106.5	-4.5	-4.6	-5.9	-0.9	0.0
Retail trade	106.2	107.0	106.0	106.4	107.9	-6.8	-6.3	-5.1	1.0	1.6
Food	110.3	112.1	111.3	111.3	110.3	-7.1	-4.7	-5.0	0.2	0.0
Non-food	104.3	104.7	103.6	104.1	106.8	-6.6	-7.1	-5.2	1.4	2.4
Transportation and storage	101.8	100.6	101.4	102.1	102.2	-9.3	-9.1	-6.7	-0.8	0.5
Accommodation and food service activities	84.8	78.2	74.0	74.5	83.5	-14.3	-19.3	-23.0	-9.9	-1.6
Information and communication	99.7	101.6	97.0	97.7	100.5	-6.1	-4.0	-9.2	-1.4	0.8
Real estate activities	102.3	102.8	104.5	106.6	104.0	-5.3	-2.1	-4.9	2.1	1.7
Professional, scientific and technical activities	110.0	110.6	112.7	114.4	114.5	-6.6	-7.6	-2.3	6.4	4.1
Administrative and support service activities	133.1	132.2	123.9	126.9	126.4	-0.2	-1.9	-9.0	-4.4	-5.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>105.9</b>	<b>104.7</b>	<b>102.0</b>	<b>103.2</b>	<b>105.4</b>	<b>-7.0</b>	<b>-7.5</b>	<b>-9.0</b>	<b>-1.9</b>	<b>-0.4</b>

<sup>1</sup> Refer to methodological note 2.

**Table 5. Services gross wages and salaries index by period and NACE classification**  
*Seasonally adjusted*

NACE	2020		2021			% change compared with previous quarter				
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	2020		2021		
						Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	125.5	129.0	131.4	133.2	134.5	3.9	2.7	1.9	1.4	1.0
Motor trade	129.8	128.1	146.0	144.0	145.9	5.3	-1.3	14.0	-1.4	1.3
Wholesale trade	122.2	126.5	128.7	129.5	131.7	2.7	3.5	1.7	0.6	1.7
Retail trade	128.6	131.5	132.4	135.5	135.8	5.4	2.3	0.7	2.3	0.2
Food	128.3	132.5	128.3	139.4	136.5	3.0	3.2	-3.2	8.7	-2.1
Non-food	128.8	131.4	133.4	134.3	135.6	6.2	2.0	1.5	0.6	0.9
Transportation and storage	102.2	109.3	109.4	123.0	112.1	-4.8	6.9	0.1	12.5	-8.8
Accommodation and food service activities	89.3	82.3	84.3	81.8	106.8	8.3	-7.9	2.4	-2.9	30.5
Information and communication	122.5	132.3	128.0	125.9	126.6	-2.6	8.0	-3.3	-1.6	0.6
Real estate activities	111.1	122.3	115.5	119.8	115.2	3.6	10.1	-5.6	3.8	-3.9
Professional, scientific and technical activities	111.4	116.2	115.7	116.3	123.9	1.3	4.4	-0.5	0.5	6.6
Administrative and support service activities	134.7	149.9	136.2	143.0	139.4	-2.8	11.3	-9.1	4.9	-2.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>117.4</b>	<b>121.0</b>	<b>120.1</b>	<b>126.2</b>	<b>126.7</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>0.4</b>

**Table 6. Services gross wages and salaries index by period and NACE classification**  
*Working-day adjusted*

NACE	2020		2021			% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	2020		2021		
						Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	123.8	132.4	131.5	131.3	132.6	-5.1	-3.5	-2.7	10.4	7.1
Motor trade	129.6	130.7	143.9	143.3	145.7	-10.1	-12.3	0.7	16.9	12.4
Wholesale trade	119.3	130.8	129.8	127.2	128.5	-4.5	-2.6	-2.5	8.7	7.7
Retail trade	128.0	134.6	131.5	134.1	135.1	-4.9	-3.0	-3.6	11.2	5.6
Food	128.3	132.5	128.3	139.4	136.5	-8.3	-3.1	-8.7	11.9	6.3
Non-food	127.8	135.4	132.8	131.8	134.5	-3.3	-2.9	-1.3	10.8	5.2
Transportation and storage	102.2	109.3	109.4	123.0	112.1	-18.9	-11.4	-15.3	14.6	9.7
Accommodation and food service activities	92.5	82.4	80.5	82.3	110.3	-24.2	-30.2	-27.6	-0.7	19.3
Information and communication	122.5	132.3	128.0	125.9	126.6	3.4	5.4	-2.0	0.0	3.3
Real estate activities	111.1	122.3	115.5	119.8	115.2	-5.7	-5.8	-8.6	11.8	3.7
Professional, scientific and technical activities	111.4	116.2	115.7	116.3	123.9	-5.3	-2.3	0.2	5.7	11.3
Administrative and support service activities	134.7	149.9	136.2	143.0	139.4	-2.3	-6.2	-7.0	3.1	3.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>116.7</b>	<b>124.1</b>	<b>120.1</b>	<b>123.3</b>	<b>126.2</b>	<b>-8.4</b>	<b>-6.9</b>	<b>-8.1</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>8.2</b>

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

NACE	2020		2021			% change compared with previous quarter				
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	2020		2021		
						Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	105.9	105.7	105.3	107.0	107.0	3.6	-0.3	-0.3	1.6	0.0
Motor trade	116.6	114.8	114.5	115.4	118.4	11.1	-1.6	-0.2	0.8	2.6
Wholesale trade	104.1	101.1	98.8	104.4	104.7	1.7	-2.8	-2.3	5.7	0.2
Retail trade	107.2	107.4	108.5	108.3	108.6	5.0	0.2	1.0	-0.1	0.3
Food	118.8	118.4	114.8	120.2	119.9	6.5	-0.4	-3.1	4.7	-0.2
Non-food	102.6	102.8	104.8	102.8	104.1	5.0	0.2	2.0	-1.9	1.3
Transportation and storage	101.4	97.4	101.1	105.2	105.3	3.9	-3.9	3.8	4.0	0.1
Accommodation and food service activities	86.1	74.6	74.1	71.3	100.6	36.4	-13.4	-0.6	-3.8	41.1
Information and communication	95.2	97.7	93.3	91.2	98.8	-1.0	2.6	-4.6	-2.2	8.3
Real estate activities	93.2	100.8	100.0	106.7	101.4	1.1	8.2	-0.8	6.6	-4.9
Professional, scientific and technical activities	112.2	112.8	113.3	113.1	114.1	4.1	0.5	0.4	-0.1	0.8
Administrative and support service activities	132.1	133.8	129.1	128.8	134.2	7.8	1.3	-3.5	-0.2	4.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>103.6</b>	<b>103.6</b>	<b>102.9</b>	<b>103.4</b>	<b>109.9</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>-2.0</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>6.2</b>

**Table 8. Services hours worked index by period and NACE classification**  
*Working-day adjusted*

NACE	2020		2021			% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	2020		2021		
						Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	106.9	106.1	104.0	106.9	108.0	-5.5	-6.3	-6.9	4.6	1.0
Motor trade	116.6	114.8	114.5	115.4	118.4	-1.6	-1.5	-5.8	10.0	1.6
Wholesale trade	104.1	101.1	98.8	104.4	104.7	-5.9	-8.2	-8.6	2.0	0.5
Retail trade	107.9	109.1	106.7	107.7	109.4	-5.9	-5.5	-5.7	6.1	1.3
Food	119.7	120.6	113.1	118.9	120.8	-6.1	-0.7	-8.2	7.7	0.9
Non-food	102.9	104.1	103.4	102.6	104.4	-6.1	-7.8	-4.6	5.2	1.5
Transportation and storage	102.7	98.3	99.2	104.9	106.7	-11.7	-13.1	-8.0	7.8	3.9
Accommodation and food service activities	93.4	74.0	67.3	71.4	107.9	-16.6	-29.9	-29.6	12.7	15.6
Information and communication	95.2	97.7	93.3	91.2	98.8	-6.8	-5.4	-7.5	-5.2	3.7
Real estate activities	93.2	100.8	100.0	106.7	101.4	-15.4	-9.4	-7.1	15.7	8.8
Professional, scientific and technical activities	112.2	112.8	113.3	113.1	114.1	-4.3	-3.5	2.8	4.9	1.6
Administrative and support service activities	136.0	134.0	125.1	128.7	138.2	-6.2	-3.1	-6.5	5.1	1.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>108.4</b>	<b>104.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>103.2</b>	<b>112.5</b>	<b>-9.1</b>	<b>-10.2</b>	<b>-9.8</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>3.7</b>

## Methodological Notes

1. The aim of this news release 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. For NACE Division 68 (real estate activities), the contracts data from the Inland Revenue Department was also used. 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 in the 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

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, since adjustments are made directly to the aggregated raw data.

Employment is not working-day adjusted since the number of employees does not depend on factors that make up the working day effect.

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

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

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

8. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.

9. A detailed news release calendar is available on:

[https://nso.gov.mt/en/News\\_Releases/Release\\_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx](https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx)

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

[EUROSTAT Website/Homepage/Statistics Database](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/)

Data Navigation Tree

Database by themes

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For further assistance send a request from:

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