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In the fourth quarter of 2015, working-day adjusted turnover in selected services activities increased by 6.9 per cent over the corresponding period of 2014. Provisional seasonally adjusted services turnover increased by 1.8 per cent.

Short-term Services Indicators: Q4/2015

Cut-off date:
8 April 2016

Annual comparison

When compared to the fourth quarter of 2014, working-day adjusted turnover went up by 6.9 per cent (Table 1). Turnover increased in all sectors, namely real estate activities (33.3 per cent), motor trade (26.4 per cent), administrative and support service activities (13.4 per cent), accommodation and food service activities (7.2 per cent), wholesale trade (5.9 per cent), retail trade (5.3 per cent), professional, scientific and technical activities (3.7 per cent), transportation and storage (3.0 per cent) and information and communication (2.4 per cent).

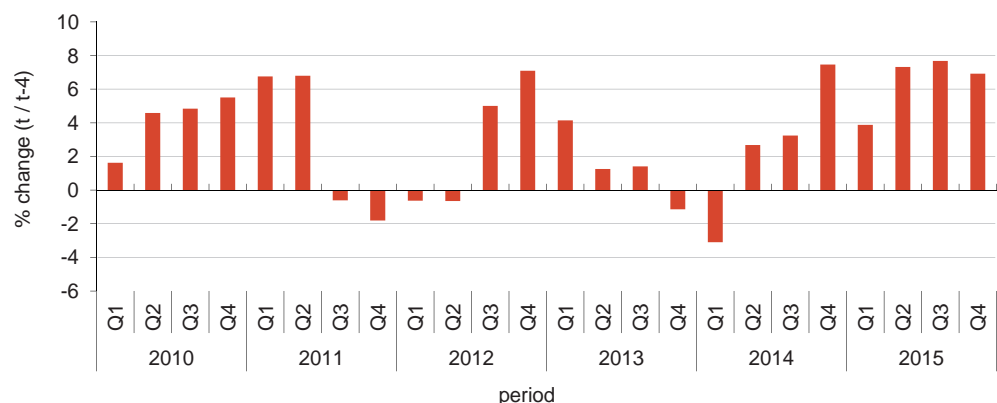
Employment (Table 3), gross wages and salaries (Table 5) and hours worked (Table 7) increased by 2.2, 4.5 and 2.9 per cent respectively over the comparative quarter of 2014.

Quarterly comparison

When compared to the previous quarter, seasonally adjusted turnover in the fourth quarter of 2015 increased by 1.8 per cent (Table 2). Increases were registered in administrative and support service activities (4.5 per cent), accommodation and food service activities (3.1 per cent), information and communication (3.0 per cent), retail trade (2.4 per cent) and wholesale trade (0.2 per cent). Decreases were registered in motor trade (2.1 per cent), real estate activities (1.0 per cent), professional, scientific and technical activities (0.7 per cent) and transportation and storage (0.1 per cent).

Seasonally adjusted employment (Table 4), gross wages and salaries (Table 6) and hours worked (Table 8) increased by 0.3, 1.4 and 1.0 per cent respectively over the previous quarter ■

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



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

NACE	2014	2015				% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
						2014	2015			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4 ^P	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4 ^P
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	114.7	98.1	118.6	120.4	122.4	6.6	2.1	8.3	7.7	6.7
Motor trade	107.7	122.6	139.4	141.1	136.1	7.5	27.7	22.5	41.1	26.4
Wholesale trade	110.1	91.7	114.7	117.1	116.6	7.7	-3.3	7.7	5.2	5.9
Retail trade	123.3	104.5	121.7	122.7	129.8	5.0	6.8	7.2	7.2	5.3
Food	120.3	100.4	115.2	126.5	125.8	1.9	1.8	6.9	14.9	4.6
Non-food	124.8	106.6	125.1	120.8	131.8	6.7	9.5	7.3	3.5	5.6
Transportation and storage	116.9	103.1	125.6	136.9	120.4	10.1	8.2	7.3	8.6	3.0
Accommodation and food service activities	111.0	81.6	126.2	161.7	119.0	8.0	4.4	0.1	2.0	7.2
Information and communication	91.9	82.3	89.6	91.4	94.1	-10.6	-3.2	4.7	4.5	2.4
Real estate activities	113.5	90.3	115.5	152.8	151.3	34.8	-5.4	26.9	16.5	33.3
Professional, scientific and technical activities	163.3	144.8	155.1	150.4	169.4	31.1	28.6	14.0	16.3	3.7
Administrative and support service activities	107.0	94.4	122.0	139.0	121.3	-3.0	1.9	2.1	6.1	13.4
Total	115.3	98.1	119.7	126.5	123.3	7.5	3.9	7.3	7.7	6.9

^P Provisional

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

NACE	2014	2015				% change compared with previous quarter				
						2014	2015			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4 ^P	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4 ^P
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	110.8	105.4	117.1	117.9	118.3	1.3	-4.9	11.1	0.7	0.3
Motor trade	110.0	126.6	131.3	142.0	139.0	9.1	15.1	3.7	8.1	-2.1
Wholesale trade	108.0	97.8	112.8	114.1	114.3	-0.5	-9.4	15.3	1.2	0.2
Retail trade	116.5	114.9	120.7	120.1	123.0	4.3	-1.4	5.0	-0.5	2.4
Food	113.1	111.9	116.1	120.8	118.3	7.1	-1.1	3.8	4.0	-2.1
Non-food	117.0	116.5	124.2	119.5	124.0	1.4	-0.4	6.6	-3.8	3.8
Transportation and storage	119.7	117.5	122.1	123.2	123.1	6.5	-1.8	3.9	0.9	-0.1
Accommodation and food service activities	120.3	117.2	119.1	124.1	128.0	-0.6	-2.6	1.6	4.2	3.1
Information and communication	91.9	82.3	89.6	91.4	94.1	5.1	-10.4	8.9	2.0	3.0
Real estate activities	113.5	90.3	115.5	152.8	151.3	-13.4	-20.4	27.9	32.3	-1.0
Professional, scientific and technical activities	151.5	154.9	149.7	158.3	157.2	11.2	2.2	-3.4	5.7	-0.7
Administrative and support service activities	110.6	119.5	116.0	119.1	124.5	-1.2	8.0	-2.9	2.7	4.5
Total	113.5	109.0	117.1	119.1	121.3	2.6	-4.0	7.4	1.7	1.8

^P Provisional

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	2014	2015				% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
						2014	2015			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4 ^P	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4 ^P
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	110.9	111.7	113.8	114.8	114.9	3.0	2.7	3.1	3.5	3.6
Motor trade	115.8	121.2	124.6	125.6	125.6	-2.7	7.7	5.9	6.9	8.5
Wholesale trade	116.4	118.4	121.2	122.4	121.0	7.2	1.3	2.9	3.8	4.0
Retail trade	106.5	105.8	107.1	107.9	109.1	1.3	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.4
Food	101.6	102.6	102.6	102.6	105.7	-1.8	0.9	2.1	1.5	4.0
Non-food	108.2	106.9	108.7	109.8	110.3	2.4	3.2	2.9	3.0	1.9
Transportation and storage	96.0	93.6	96.6	96.3	95.5	2.9	-0.7	2.0	0.9	-0.5
Accommodation and food service activities	92.2	86.6	91.8	95.0	88.7	-5.4	-5.4	-6.9	-4.2	-3.8
Information and communication	104.1	104.5	106.5	108.1	109.3	7.8	5.4	5.0	2.5	5.0
Real estate activities	104.0	101.8	110.8	116.4	116.7	-5.1	-5.8	6.7	15.4	12.2
Professional, scientific and technical activities	115.7	117.9	124.6	123.6	122.9	4.5	6.7	12.4	14.4	6.2
Administrative and support service activities	111.9	108.3	113.0	119.6	114.1	13.8	0.5	1.0	3.9	2.0
Total	105.9	104.5	108.6	110.2	108.2	3.3	1.0	2.2	2.7	2.2

^P Provisional

Table 4. Services employment index by period and NACE classification

Seasonally adjusted

NACE	2014	2015				% change compared with previous quarter				
						2014	2015			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4 ^P	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4 ^P
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	110.9	111.7	113.8	114.8	114.9	0.1	0.7	1.9	0.9	0.1
Motor trade	115.8	121.2	124.6	125.6	125.6	-1.4	4.7	2.8	0.8	0.0
Wholesale trade	116.4	118.4	121.2	122.4	121.0	-1.2	1.7	2.4	1.0	-1.1
Retail trade	106.5	105.8	107.1	107.9	109.1	1.3	-0.7	1.2	0.7	1.1
Food	101.0	102.7	102.8	103.0	105.1	-0.3	1.7	0.1	0.2	2.0
Non-food	108.2	106.9	108.7	109.8	110.3	1.5	-1.2	1.7	1.0	0.5
Transportation and storage	95.8	94.9	96.4	95.5	95.3	1.1	-0.9	1.6	-0.9	-0.2
Accommodation and food service activities	93.4	91.6	90.4	90.3	89.8	-0.8	-1.9	-1.3	-0.1	-0.6
Information and communication	104.5	104.9	106.5	107.4	109.6	-0.2	0.4	1.5	0.8	2.0
Real estate activities	104.0	101.8	110.8	116.4	116.7	3.1	-2.1	8.8	5.1	0.3
Professional, scientific and technical activities	115.7	117.9	124.6	123.6	122.9	7.1	1.9	5.7	-0.8	-0.6
Administrative and support service activities	111.9	108.3	113.0	119.6	114.1	-2.7	-3.2	4.3	5.8	-4.6
Total	106.4	106.1	108.1	108.4	108.7	0.8	-0.3	1.9	0.3	0.3

^P Provisional

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

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

NACE	2014	2015				% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
						2014	2015			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4 ^P	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4 ^P
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	129.8	128.3	131.5	133.0	138.2	7.0	8.4	8.2	6.9	6.5
Motor trade	130.4	129.4	137.9	141.6	143.7	0.3	11.2	6.8	9.1	10.2
Wholesale trade	136.5	136.0	138.9	141.3	146.7	9.7	9.0	9.3	7.9	7.5
Retail trade	121.8	118.9	121.6	121.6	127.1	4.9	6.9	7.2	5.2	4.4
Food	115.3	120.1	118.2	121.0	120.1	1.9	2.7	3.2	5.6	4.2
Non-food	123.8	118.8	122.8	121.7	129.3	5.9	8.4	8.8	5.0	4.4
Transportation and storage	114.6	106.6	111.1	113.1	113.6	13.3	4.2	1.7	1.2	-0.9
Accommodation and food service activities	110.1	103.7	112.8	119.4	114.8	3.4	2.7	-0.4	2.7	4.3
Information and communication	111.3	111.6	111.5	113.8	121.3	8.8	6.2	4.5	5.4	9.0
Real estate activities	108.2	100.6	114.8	110.9	117.5	-4.6	2.1	19.2	8.1	8.6
Professional, scientific and technical activities	140.0	139.9	150.7	143.8	148.3	7.0	8.3	12.3	6.9	5.9
Administrative and support service activities	122.6	113.0	122.0	123.5	123.5	10.4	4.9	3.0	4.4	0.7
Total	121.3	117.2	122.5	124.7	126.8	7.8	6.1	5.2	5.0	4.5

^P Provisional

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

NACE	2014	2015				% change compared with previous quarter				
						2014	2015			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4 ^P	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4 ^P
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	127.3	129.8	132.0	133.5	135.7	2.0	2.0	1.7	1.1	1.6
Motor trade	127.6	132.3	138.5	141.0	140.7	-1.4	3.7	4.7	1.8	-0.2
Wholesale trade	134.7	136.8	139.1	142.1	144.8	2.3	1.6	1.7	2.2	1.9
Retail trade	118.9	120.8	122.3	122.0	124.2	2.7	1.6	1.2	-0.2	1.8
Food	115.3	120.1	118.2	121.0	120.1	0.6	4.2	-1.6	2.4	-0.7
Non-food	120.2	121.0	123.6	122.3	125.7	3.3	0.7	2.1	-1.1	2.8
Transportation and storage	114.6	106.6	111.1	113.1	113.6	2.5	-7.0	4.2	1.8	0.4
Accommodation and food service activities	111.4	111.5	112.0	111.2	116.0	3.0	0.1	0.4	-0.7	4.3
Information and communication	111.3	111.6	111.5	113.8	121.3	3.0	0.3	-0.1	2.1	6.6
Real estate activities	108.2	100.6	114.8	110.9	117.5	5.6	-7.0	14.1	-3.4	6.0
Professional, scientific and technical activities	140.0	139.9	150.7	143.8	148.3	4.0	-0.1	7.7	-4.6	3.1
Administrative and support service activities	122.6	113.0	122.0	123.5	123.5	3.6	-7.8	8.0	1.2	0.0
Total	119.7	120.4	122.1	123.4	125.1	2.1	0.6	1.4	1.1	1.4

^P Provisional

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

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

Working-day adjusted

NACE	2014	2015				% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
						2014	2015			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4 ^P	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4 ^P
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	112.1	112.0	114.4	117.0	117.6	4.2	4.2	5.1	5.4	4.9
Motor trade	126.9	127.0	132.6	139.4	138.0	6.3	4.2	-0.4	4.4	8.7
Wholesale trade	109.7	110.3	113.0	117.0	115.9	4.8	3.8	5.1	6.4	5.7
Retail trade	112.0	110.2	112.4	113.4	115.8	3.3	4.5	5.7	4.7	3.4
Food	103.6	105.1	103.7	108.2	106.1	0.5	0.7	1.1	5.8	2.4
Non-food	114.8	112.3	115.5	115.1	119.1	4.2	5.8	7.4	4.3	3.7
Transportation and storage	98.3	96.0	98.1	98.2	96.9	1.0	0.1	3.4	0.2	-1.4
Accommodation and food service activities	91.4	85.4	92.9	99.0	91.5	-2.8	-3.5	-5.1	-3.2	0.1
Information and communication	103.3	104.7	107.5	108.9	111.7	13.6	9.7	8.5	7.0	8.1
Real estate activities	103.4	101.9	112.1	113.1	113.6	-8.1	-2.3	7.4	10.5	9.9
Professional, scientific and technical activities	128.7	132.1	142.3	141.2	145.2	12.4	7.1	17.9	16.5	12.8
Administrative and support service activities	123.9	112.0	116.2	123.0	120.8	13.4	2.9	-3.1	2.9	-2.5
Total	108.9	105.0	109.7	113.3	112.1	5.2	2.8	2.3	3.7	2.9

^P Provisional

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

Seasonally adjusted

NACE	2014	2015				% change compared with previous quarter				
						2014	2015			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4 ^P	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4 ^P
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	111.9	113.3	114.2	116.1	117.4	1.6	1.3	0.8	1.7	1.1
Motor trade	126.9	127.0	132.6	139.4	138.0	-5.0	0.1	4.4	5.1	-1.0
Wholesale trade	109.7	110.3	113.0	117.0	115.9	-0.3	0.5	2.4	3.5	-0.9
Retail trade	110.3	112.1	112.9	112.8	114.0	2.4	1.6	0.7	-0.1	1.1
Food	102.5	106.2	104.5	107.3	105.0	1.0	3.6	-1.6	2.7	-2.1
Non-food	113.3	114.1	115.6	114.7	117.5	3.0	0.7	1.3	-0.8	2.4
Transportation and storage	97.2	98.1	98.3	97.2	95.8	0.2	0.9	0.2	-1.1	-1.4
Accommodation and food service activities	92.7	93.2	92.3	90.6	92.8	-0.8	0.5	-1.0	-1.8	2.4
Information and communication	103.3	104.7	107.5	108.9	111.7	1.4	1.4	2.7	1.3	2.6
Real estate activities	103.4	101.9	112.1	113.1	113.6	1.0	-1.5	10.0	0.9	0.4
Professional, scientific and technical activities	128.7	132.1	142.3	141.2	145.2	6.2	2.6	7.7	-0.8	2.8
Administrative and support service activities	124.1	115.0	116.1	119.8	121.0	6.5	-7.3	1.0	3.2	1.0
Total	108.6	108.6	109.4	110.5	111.6	2.1	0.0	0.7	1.0	1.0

^P Provisional

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

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 2010. 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.

A distribution of the aggregation weights by NACE classification is presented in the following table:

NACE	Turnover	Employment	Wages and salaries	Hours worked
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	59.8	35.4	30.2	33.4
Motor trade	3.3	3.5	2.4	2.8
Wholesale trade	34.9	12.5	15.1	14.8
Retail trade	21.6	19.4	12.8	15.9
Food	7.3	5.2	3.2	4.1
Non-food	14.3	14.2	9.6	11.8
Transportation and storage	10.4	11.2	17.8	13.0
Accommodation and food service activities	7.2	19.1	15.4	18.8
Information and communication	7.6	7.2	11.9	8.8
Real estate activities	2.2	1.7	1.2	1.3
Professional, scientific and technical activities	6.3	10.9	10.8	9.0
Administrative and support service activities	6.5	14.5	12.7	15.7

6. 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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