

By the end of the first quarter of 2017, working-day adjusted turnover in selected services activities increased by 3.7 per cent over the same quarter in 2016. Likewise, provisional seasonally adjusted services turnover increased by 1.9 per cent over the preceding quarter in 2016.

Short-term Services Indicators: Q1/2017

Cut-off date:
4 July 2017

Annual comparison

When compared to the first three months of 2016, working-day adjusted turnover in the services industry went up by 3.7 per cent (Table 1). Turnover increased in all sectors; with the exception of both the motor trade and the wholesale trade industries that registered a slowdown in trading activity of 10.7 and 2.6 per cent respectively. Indeed, increases were registered in the real estate activities (33.4 per cent), the transportation and storage trade (18.4 per cent), the accommodation and food service activities (5.8 per cent), the administrative and support service activities (4.8 per cent), the retail trade (4.7 per cent), the professional, scientific and technical activities (4.0 per cent) and the information and communication sector (3.7 per cent).

Employment (Table 3), gross wages and salaries (Table 5) and hours worked (Table 7) increased by 3.2, 6.6 and 3.2 per cent respectively over the corresponding quarter in 2016.

Quarterly comparison

When compared to the fourth quarter in 2016, the seasonally adjusted turnover index increased by 1.9 per cent (Table 2). Brisk trading activity was recorded in the administrative and support service activities (6.2 per cent), the transportation and storage trade (5.1 per cent), the accommodation and food service activities (4.8 per cent) and the retail trade activities (1.2 per cent). On the other hand, decreases in trading activity were registered in the information and communication sector (7.9 per cent), the real estate activities (4.5 per cent), the wholesale trade (1.1 per cent), the motor trade (1.0 per cent) and the professional, scientific and technical activities (0.8 per cent).

Seasonally adjusted employment (Table 4), gross wages and salaries (Table 6) and hours worked (Table 8) increased by 2.2, 2.1 and 1.4 per cent respectively over the previous quarter ■

Annual working-day adjusted turnover in services

(% change in comparison with the corresponding quarter in previous year)

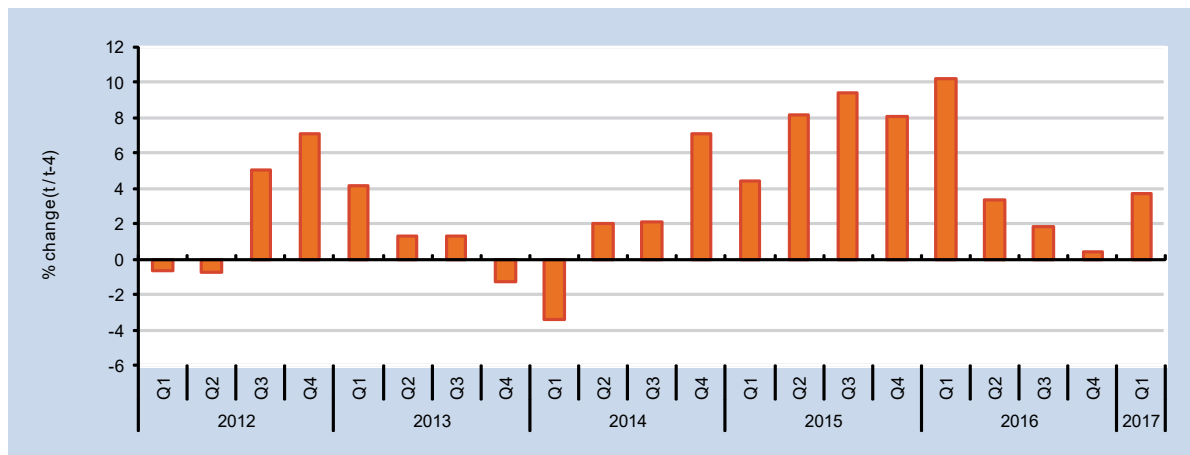


Table 1. Services turnover index by period and NACE classification
Working-day adjusted

NACE	2016				2017	% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
						2016				2017
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		Q1 ^P	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	106.9	118.3	118.8	118.8	106.3	8.4	-0.2	-1.5	-3.9	-0.6
Motor trade	158.3	156.0	145.1	145.1	141.4	29.1	10.7	2.7	-1.7	-10.7
Wholesale trade	100.1	111.8	112.0	108.1	97.5	8.3	-2.2	-4.2	-7.6	-2.6
Retail trade	110.0	123.0	125.8	132.0	115.1	4.9	1.0	2.0	1.2	4.7
Food	108.9	119.8	127.3	127.3	111.0	8.3	3.6	-0.5	-0.2	1.9
Non-food	110.5	124.7	125.0	134.3	117.2	3.2	-0.2	3.4	1.8	6.1
Transportation and storage	121.5	144.3	156.7	148.1	143.8	19.2	12.3	15.3	23.0	18.4
Accommodation and food service activities	94.8	140.8	174.1	119.8	100.3	17.0	9.4	2.1	-3.4	5.8
Information and communication	85.2	88.9	91.4	96.0	88.4	3.2	-1.2	-3.6	-1.3	3.7
Real estate activities	93.1	117.3	130.6	130.1	124.2	-1.0	5.7	-16.0	-6.8	33.4
Professional, scientific and technical activities	154.2	166.2	161.3	176.2	160.4	6.1	6.8	8.3	6.4	4.0
Administrative and support service activities	114.4	133.6	150.5	129.3	119.9	21.5	9.1	10.1	6.5	4.8
Total	108.5	124.0	129.5	124.7	112.5	10.2	3.3	1.8	0.4	3.7

^P Provisional

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

NACE	2016				2017	% change compared with previous quarter				
						2016				2017
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		Q1 ^P	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	115.2	116.7	116.1	114.8	114.5	-3.5	1.3	-0.5	-1.2	-0.2
Motor trade	161.9	149.5	147.2	146.1	144.6	8.9	-7.7	-1.5	-0.7	-1.0
Wholesale trade	107.7	109.6	108.7	106.0	104.9	-6.1	1.8	-0.8	-2.5	-1.1
Retail trade	120.9	122.1	123.2	124.5	126.1	-1.7	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.2
Food	121.1	120.9	121.2	120.6	123.2	0.6	-0.2	0.3	-0.6	2.2
Non-food	121.6	123.1	123.9	126.0	128.2	-1.6	1.3	0.7	1.7	1.8
Transportation and storage	135.9	140.8	143.4	150.5	158.2	10.7	3.7	1.9	4.9	5.1
Accommodation and food service activities	131.2	133.6	134.6	130.3	136.6	-2.1	1.8	0.7	-3.2	4.8
Information and communication	85.2	88.9	91.4	96.0	88.4	-12.4	4.3	2.9	4.9	-7.9
Real estate activities	93.1	117.3	130.6	130.1	124.2	-33.3	26.0	11.3	-0.4	-4.5
Professional, scientific and technical activities	161.1	161.7	166.2	168.8	167.4	1.9	0.4	2.8	1.6	-0.8
Administrative and support service activities	138.4	127.0	130.4	136.3	144.7	8.2	-8.2	2.7	4.4	6.2
Total	120.6	121.4	121.9	122.7	125.0	-1.3	0.7	0.5	0.6	1.9

^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	2016				2017	% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1 ^P	2016				2017
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1 ^P
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	116.1	117.1	118.6	118.6	118.9	4.2	3.1	3.1	2.6	2.5
Motor trade	131.3	132.4	129.2	129.3	133.1	8.3	6.0	2.4	0.5	1.4
Wholesale trade	119.5	121.7	124.7	122.2	124.7	2.7	2.4	2.6	2.1	4.4
Retail trade	111.1	111.3	112.8	114.3	112.6	4.3	3.0	3.6	3.4	1.4
Food	109.2	110.3	112.8	113.3	112.9	3.8	4.8	6.4	4.1	3.4
Non-food	111.8	111.7	112.8	114.7	112.5	4.5	2.3	2.6	3.2	0.7
Transportation and storage	94.3	96.6	97.1	96.6	96.9	0.9	0.1	0.7	1.6	2.8
Accommodation and food service activities	89.8	93.6	97.4	89.3	91.2	5.0	1.4	0.1	-2.9	1.6
Information and communication	109.4	109.8	109.7	109.3	108.5	6.9	4.8	3.3	1.6	-0.8
Real estate activities	132.6	129.9	132.4	132.0	131.5	23.1	9.6	2.5	1.3	-0.8
Professional, scientific and technical activities	121.9	141.1	124.4	126.1	125.8	3.1	13.7	1.2	-2.0	3.2
Administrative and support service activities	112.2	118.4	122.2	119.4	122.1	16.0	12.3	9.2	9.6	8.9
Total	108.7	112.5	113.3	111.4	112.2	6.2	5.4	3.2	2.1	3.2

^P Provisional

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

NACE	2016				2017	% change compared with previous quarter				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1 ^P	2016				2017
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1 ^P
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	116.1	117.1	118.6	118.6	118.9	0.4	0.9	1.3	0.0	0.3
Motor trade	131.3	132.4	129.2	129.3	133.1	2.1	0.8	-2.4	0.1	3.0
Wholesale trade	119.5	121.7	124.7	122.2	124.7	-0.2	1.8	2.4	-1.9	2.0
Retail trade	111.1	111.3	112.8	114.3	112.6	0.5	0.2	1.3	1.3	-1.5
Food	109.2	110.3	112.8	113.3	112.9	0.3	1.0	2.2	0.5	-0.4
Non-food	111.8	111.7	112.8	114.7	112.5	0.6	-0.1	1.0	1.7	-1.9
Transportation and storage	95.5	96.3	96.3	96.6	98.1	0.4	0.9	0.0	0.3	1.6
Accommodation and food service activities	94.0	92.7	92.7	90.8	95.4	0.5	-1.4	0.0	-2.0	5.1
Information and communication	109.9	109.5	109.0	109.9	109.1	1.6	-0.4	-0.5	0.8	-0.7
Real estate activities	132.6	129.9	132.4	132.0	131.5	1.7	-2.0	1.9	-0.3	-0.3
Professional, scientific and technical activities	121.9	141.1	124.4	126.1	125.8	-5.2	15.8	-11.9	1.4	-0.2
Administrative and support service activities	112.2	118.4	122.2	119.4	122.1	3.0	5.6	3.2	-2.3	2.3
Total	110.5	112.2	111.5	111.6	114.1	1.1	1.6	-0.6	0.1	2.2

^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	2016				2017	% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
						2016				2017
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1 ^P	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1 ^P
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	138.9	139.8	140.8	149.8	144.8	7.4	5.9	4.9	4.6	4.3
Motor trade	150.3	154.5	155.9	166.8	161.3	16.0	11.8	8.7	14.3	7.3
Wholesale trade	145.1	145.5	146.3	155.9	150.7	6.4	4.7	3.0	1.9	3.9
Retail trade	129.4	130.3	131.5	139.4	134.7	7.1	6.2	6.8	6.2	4.1
Food	127.4	125.2	131.4	133.5	129.7	5.3	7.1	6.0	7.6	1.8
Non-food	130.2	131.8	131.6	141.4	136.1	7.6	5.7	7.2	5.9	4.5
Transportation and storage	113.4	113.0	114.4	113.9	115.8	5.1	-2.7	0.9	-2.2	2.1
Accommodation and food service activities	110.9	117.4	126.3	118.7	114.0	7.2	2.9	2.8	-0.6	2.8
Information and communication	118.3	118.6	120.2	128.2	127.2	7.8	7.8	7.3	5.5	7.6
Real estate activities	132.3	150.9	133.7	148.4	138.8	26.9	20.3	4.5	4.3	4.9
Professional, scientific and technical activities	172.1	180.7	180.5	197.5	190.7	15.4	12.1	13.0	13.0	10.8
Administrative and support service activities	129.8	144.9	150.3	155.6	150.5	13.6	14.9	13.3	11.0	16.0
Total	129.0	132.9	135.8	141.1	137.5	9.0	6.3	6.2	5.1	6.6

^P Provisional

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

NACE	2016				2017	% change compared with previous quarter				
						2016				2017
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1 ^P	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1 ^P
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	140.6	140.9	141.9	145.7	146.6	0.9	0.2	0.7	2.6	0.7
Motor trade	151.5	155.5	157.0	163.4	162.6	6.0	2.6	1.0	4.1	-0.5
Wholesale trade	146.5	146.7	147.7	151.7	152.2	-1.8	0.1	0.7	2.7	0.3
Retail trade	130.7	131.3	132.1	136.4	136.0	1.9	0.5	0.6	3.2	-0.3
Food	127.4	125.2	131.4	133.5	129.7	2.7	-1.8	5.0	1.6	-2.8
Non-food	131.9	132.7	133.0	137.4	137.8	1.8	0.6	0.3	3.3	0.3
Transportation and storage	113.4	113.0	114.4	113.9	115.8	-2.5	-0.4	1.3	-0.5	1.7
Accommodation and food service activities	118.8	117.0	117.6	119.9	122.1	-1.6	-1.4	0.5	2.0	1.8
Information and communication	118.3	118.6	120.2	128.2	127.2	-2.7	0.3	1.3	6.7	-0.8
Real estate activities	132.3	150.9	133.7	148.4	138.8	-7.0	14.1	-11.4	11.0	-6.5
Professional, scientific and technical activities	172.1	180.7	180.5	197.5	190.7	-1.6	5.0	-0.1	9.4	-3.5
Administrative and support service activities	129.8	144.9	150.3	155.6	150.5	-7.4	11.7	3.7	3.5	-3.2
Total	132.4	133.0	135.2	138.1	141.0	0.7	0.4	1.6	2.2	2.1

^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	2016				2017	% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1 ^P	2016				2017
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1 ^P
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	116.7	117.9	118.2	119.0	118.2	4.3	3.3	0.4	0.9	1.3
Motor trade	137.8	139.8	141.9	144.5	148.2	8.2	4.9	0.6	9.6	7.6
Wholesale trade	113.4	115.9	111.7	111.2	113.0	3.4	3.3	-5.3	-3.5	-0.3
Retail trade	115.7	116.3	119.8	121.6	118.9	4.5	3.6	5.4	2.8	2.8
Food	115.7	112.5	121.1	117.6	115.0	8.6	6.3	7.8	4.0	-0.6
Non-food	115.9	117.5	119.5	123.1	119.8	3.1	2.5	4.8	2.7	3.4
Transportation and storage	99.6	100.4	103.6	102.5	102.1	3.1	1.2	3.8	2.9	2.6
Accommodation and food service activities	88.4	95.3	101.2	93.6	88.9	4.1	0.3	-0.9	-1.7	0.6
Information and communication	107.8	109.6	111.1	114.2	113.3	3.9	3.8	4.0	2.4	5.1
Real estate activities	137.7	137.9	133.8	133.0	134.6	27.1	14.8	4.7	3.1	-2.3
Professional, scientific and technical activities	146.3	149.6	147.3	151.2	152.3	10.4	8.3	5.1	4.4	4.1
Administrative and support service activities	125.8	136.0	144.1	137.8	127.1	13.2	11.9	7.0	4.8	1.1
Total	111.7	116.5	118.8	116.9	115.2	6.5	5.2	2.2	1.5	3.2

^P Provisional

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

Seasonally adjusted

NACE	2016				2017	% change compared with previous quarter				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1 ^P	2016				2017
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1 ^P
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	117.7	117.7	117.7	118.8	119.3	0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.9	0.4
Motor trade	137.8	139.8	141.9	144.5	148.2	4.6	1.5	1.5	1.8	2.6
Wholesale trade	113.4	115.9	111.7	111.2	113.0	-1.6	2.2	-3.6	-0.5	1.6
Retail trade	117.7	117.0	119.0	119.6	121.0	1.2	-0.7	1.7	0.5	1.2
Food	116.6	114.2	119.3	116.6	116.0	4.1	-2.1	4.5	-2.3	-0.5
Non-food	117.6	117.4	119.2	121.7	121.6	-0.8	-0.2	1.6	2.0	-0.1
Transportation and storage	101.5	100.7	102.6	101.3	104.1	3.1	-0.8	1.8	-1.2	2.8
Accommodation and food service activities	96.1	94.6	93.1	95.0	96.6	-0.6	-1.6	-1.6	2.1	1.7
Information and communication	107.8	109.6	111.1	114.2	113.3	-3.3	1.7	1.4	2.7	-0.7
Real estate activities	137.7	137.9	133.8	133.0	134.6	6.8	0.1	-3.0	-0.6	1.2
Professional, scientific and technical activities	146.3	149.6	147.3	151.2	152.3	1.1	2.3	-1.6	2.7	0.7
Administrative and support service activities	131.3	136.4	138.3	137.3	132.8	0.3	3.9	1.4	-0.8	-3.2
Total	114.8	116.3	115.8	116.8	118.5	-0.3	1.3	-0.4	0.9	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.

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:

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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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