

Seasonally adjusted turnover recorded during the fourth quarter of 2017 decreased by 1.5 per cent over the previous quarter. When compared to the corresponding period of 2016, working-day adjusted industrial turnover decreased by 2.8 per cent.

Short-term Industrial Indicators: Q4/2017

Cut-off date:
14 February 2018

Quarterly comparison

In the fourth quarter of 2017 seasonally adjusted industrial turnover decreased by 1.5 per cent over the previous quarter. Decreases were recorded in the consumer goods (3.7 per cent), energy (2.5 per cent) and intermediate goods (2.4 per cent) sectors. On the other hand, an increase of 6.2 per cent was recorded in the capital goods sector (Table 1).

Seasonally adjusted industrial employment decreased by 0.1 per cent (Table 3). During this period, seasonally adjusted industrial hours worked decreased by 0.3 per cent (Table 5) whereas seasonally adjusted industrial gross wages and salaries increased by 0.4 per cent (Table 7).

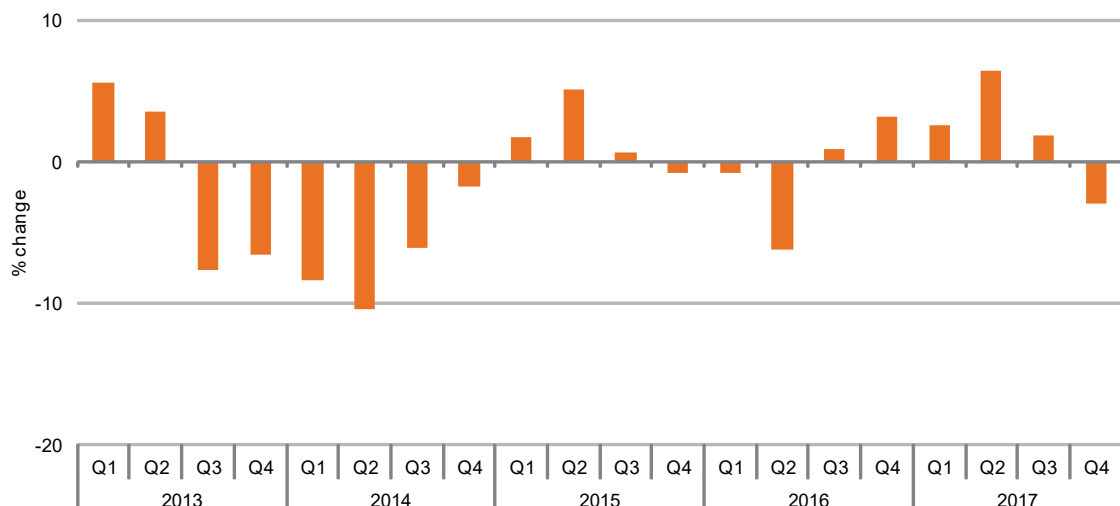
Annual comparison

When compared to the corresponding quarter of 2016, working-day adjusted industrial turnover decreased by 2.8 per cent. Decreases were recorded in the consumer goods (9.7 per cent), energy (9.1 per cent) and intermediate goods (0.6 per cent) sectors. These were mitigated by an increase in the capital goods (11.3 per cent) sector (Table 2).

An increase of 0.7 per cent was recorded in the year-on-year unadjusted industrial employment (Table 4). Working-day adjusted industrial hours worked increased by 3.9 per cent (Table 6) while working-day adjusted industrial gross wages and salaries increased by 3.7 per cent (Table 8) ■

Annual industrial turnover working-day adjusted variation

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



This is the last release on the index of industrial indicators with the base year 2010 = 100. The next release would rebase the indices to year 2015 = 100.

Table 1. Industrial turnover by main industrial grouping
(Seasonally adjusted; 2010=100)

Main industrial grouping	2016	2017				% change compared with previous quarter				
						2016		2017		
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Intermediate goods	78.2	82.4	84.5	79.6	77.7	1.0	5.4	2.5	-5.8	-2.4
Energy	119.1	106.6	109.7	111.1	108.3	21.4	-10.5	2.9	1.3	-2.5
Capital goods	150.6	157.1	157.1	157.8	167.6	0.6	4.3	0.0	0.4	6.2
Consumer goods	113.1	110.1	108.3	106.7	102.7	-1.2	-2.7	-1.6	-1.5	-3.7
Durable consumer goods	115.5	114.0	109.5	100.8	105.4	7.1	-1.3	-3.9	-7.9	4.6
Non-durable consumer goods	113.4	109.9	107.8	107.2	102.7	-1.2	-3.1	-1.9	-0.6	-4.2
Total industry	101.7	101.5	101.9	100.4	98.9	3.2	-0.2	0.4	-1.5	-1.5

Table 2. Industrial turnover by main industrial grouping
(Working-day adjusted; 2010=100)

Main industrial grouping	2016	2017				% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
						2016		2017		
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Intermediate goods	79.7	81.2	85.4	78.5	79.2	2.9	8.0	17.3	2.8	-0.6
Energy	118.2	101.8	102.0	124.6	107.4	33.2	12.6	11.3	13.2	-9.1
Capital goods	152.2	161.0	161.7	147.5	169.4	1.2	4.8	4.8	5.5	11.3
Consumer goods	112.3	108.2	112.5	105.6	101.4	-5.9	-7.8	-5.8	-6.1	-9.7
Durable consumer goods	119.4	102.0	115.9	102.1	109.0	-4.3	6.5	6.1	-6.6	-8.7
Non-durable consumer goods	111.6	108.9	112.2	106.0	100.6	-6	-9.0	-7.0	-6.1	-9.9
Total industry	102	100.3	103.6	99.8	99.1	3.2	2.6	6.4	1.9	-2.8

Table 3. Industrial employment by main industrial grouping
(Seasonally adjusted; 2010=100)

Main industrial grouping	2016	2017				% change compared with previous quarter				
						2016		2017		
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Intermediate goods	103.0	103.9	103.6	102.9	103.9	0.7	0.9	-0.3	-0.7	1.0
Energy	65.8	64.0	69.6	70.8	70.7	0.8	-2.7	8.7	1.7	-0.1
Capital goods	97.8	98.3	96.4	96.8	96.6	-0.5	0.5	-1.9	0.4	-0.2
Consumer goods	92.6	93.1	92.6	93.1	93.0	-0.8	0.5	-0.5	0.5	-0.1
Durable consumer goods	87.9	88.7	87.0	85.3	85.0	-1.5	0.9	-1.9	-2.0	-0.4
Non-durable consumer goods	93.6	94.2	94.0	94.7	94.6	-0.7	0.6	-0.2	0.7	-0.1
Total industry	93.8	94.5	94.6	94.5	94.4	-0.3	0.7	0.1	-0.1	-0.1

Table 4. Industrial employment by main industrial grouping
(Unadjusted; 2010=100)

Main industrial grouping	2016	2017				% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
						2016		2017		
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Intermediate goods	103.2	103.3	103.3	103.7	104.0	2.5	2.0	2.3	0.6	0.8
Energy	65.8	64.0	69.6	70.8	70.8	-9.4	-10.1	0.1	8.4	7.6
Capital goods	98.0	97.5	96.3	97.4	96.7	-2.1	-0.9	-2.8	-1.6	-1.3
Consumer goods	92.0	92.6	93.1	93.8	92.4	-4.0	-1.5	-2.2	-0.2	0.4
Durable consumer goods	87.9	88.7	87.0	85.3	85.0	-3.0	-0.9	-5.0	-4.4	-3.3
Non-durable consumer goods	92.9	93.4	94.5	95.7	94.1	-4.3	-1.6	-1.6	0.6	1.3
Total industry	93.9	93.9	94.4	95.1	94.6	-2.0	-0.9	-0.7	0.4	0.7

Table 5. Industrial hours worked by main industrial grouping
(Seasonally adjusted; 2010=100)

Main industrial grouping	2016	2017				% change compared with previous quarter				
						2016	2017			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Intermediate goods	105.2	108.9	106.8	108.8	108.4	-1.3	3.5	-1.9	1.9	-0.4
Energy	66.8	64.4	72.4	70.7	68.6	-1.6	-3.6	12.4	-2.3	-3.0
Capital goods	88.2	92.4	94.9	93.8	93.3	-1.4	4.8	2.7	-1.2	-0.5
Consumer goods	96.6	97.8	96.5	99.3	99.9	-0.9	1.2	-1.3	2.9	0.6
Durable consumer goods	82.7	84.5	83.9	83.0	83.1	0.1	2.2	-0.7	-1.1	0.1
Non-durable consumer goods	98.8	99.8	98.8	102.3	102.7	-1.1	1.0	-1.0	3.5	0.4
Total industry	94.1	96.0	96.5	98.0	97.7	-1.1	2.0	0.5	1.6	-0.3

Table 6. Industrial hours worked by main industrial grouping
(Working-day adjusted; 2010=100)

Main industrial grouping	2016	2017				% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
						2016	2017			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Intermediate goods	104.4	108.7	108.2	108.5	107.5	1.9	4.4	3.1	2.1	3.0
Energy	67.9	64.0	70.7	71.7	69.7	-8.2	-11.2	1.6	4.2	2.7
Capital goods	88.8	91.5	95.1	93.9	93.9	-13	-8.4	-2.1	4.8	5.7
Consumer goods	95.0	96.9	98.3	100.0	98.3	-3.2	-0.1	-2.3	2.1	3.5
Durable consumer goods	82.7	84.5	83.9	83.0	83.1	-2.1	-1.9	-4.1	0.4	0.5
Non-durable consumer goods	97.1	98.6	100.8	103.1	101.0	-3.2	-0.4	-1.7	2.5	4.0
Total industry	93.5	95.3	97.6	98.3	97.1	-3.8	-1.7	0.3	2.9	3.9

Table 7. Industrial gross wages and salaries by main industrial grouping
(Seasonally adjusted; 2010=100)

Main industrial grouping	2016	2017				% change compared with previous quarter				
						2016	2017			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Intermediate goods	114.8	122.2	121.5	123.5	122.1	-1.4	6.4	-0.6	1.6	-1.1
Energy	88.6	77.0	90.8	79.2	87.3	0.2	-13.1	17.9	-12.8	10.2
Capital goods	120.2	113.8	117.0	120.1	122.8	2.5	-5.3	2.8	2.6	2.2
Consumer goods	109.5	111.2	111.8	114.5	114.0	-1.5	1.6	0.5	2.4	-0.4
Durable consumer goods	89.8	89.1	86.0	85.2	85.8	0.6	-0.8	-3.5	-0.9	0.7
Non-durable consumer goods	111.3	113.8	114.5	117.8	116.6	-2.0	2.2	0.6	2.9	-1.0
Total industry	110.0	110.2	113.3	113.7	114.1	-0.9	0.2	2.8	0.4	0.4

Table 8. Industrial gross wages and salaries by main industrial grouping
(Working-day adjusted; 2010=100)

Main industrial grouping	2016	2017				% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
						2016	2017			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Intermediate goods	114.5	121.9	122.2	123.4	121.8	1.5	7.0	7.4	6.1	6.4
Energy	88.6	77.0	90.8	79.2	87.3	-3.8	-10.0	9.5	-10.5	-1.5
Capital goods	120.2	113.8	117.0	120.1	122.8	-0.2	-4.4	-0.3	2.4	2.2
Consumer goods	109.0	110.9	112.0	115.3	113.3	-3.3	-1.2	2.0	3.3	3.9
Durable consumer goods	89.8	89.1	86.0	85.2	85.8	-4.1	0.8	-5.5	-4.6	-4.5
Non-durable consumer goods	111.0	113.2	114.8	118.5	116.3	-3.2	-1.4	2.6	3.9	4.8
Total industry	110.0	110.2	113.3	113.7	114.1	-1.1	0.1	4.2	2.5	3.7

Methodological Notes

1. This news release comprises a number of business cycle indicators showing the quarterly evolution of the market of goods and services in the industrial sector. It records the evolution of turnover, employment, wages and salaries, and hours worked over long periods of time. The objective of these indicators is to measure the market activity in the industrial sector. These indicators are compiled as a "fixed-base-year Laspeyres type volume index". The current base year is 2010 (index 2010=100). The results are compiled and published according to the statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community, NACE Rev. 2.
2. The data is collected by means of a monthly questionnaire sent to a representative sample of 418 enterprises categorised within the industrial sector. The data is then grossed up to represent the entire industrial population.
3. For the scope of the index calculation, NACE divisions 09,12,19,24, and NACE groups 27.5 and 30.9 are excluded because of their negligible activity.
4. The calendar and seasonal adjustments for this release are done directly on quarterly indices. These indices cannot be compared directly to the indices published by Eurostat, since quarterly adjusted European aggregates are calculated from monthly adjusted series, which are provided by the Member States.
5. Calendar 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 particular weekdays or holidays in different months or other time periods (quarters, years). 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 compare the same quarter of the previous year.
6. Working-day adjustment is the part of calendar adjustment which focuses on the changing number of working days (Monday to Friday) in the various months/quarters and their effect on statistical indicators for these months/quarters.
7. Seasonal adjustment removes variations which include effects due to quarter lengths, 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 with the previous quarter.
8. The objective of Main Industrial Groupings (MIGs) is to provide an activity breakdown of industry (NACE Rev. 2 Sections B, C, D and E). These regroup all the activities between Sections B to E and cover economic activities of companies in the quarrying, manufacturing, water and energy sectors. There are four MIGs, namely intermediate goods, energy, capital goods and consumer goods, of which the consumer goods grouping is further broken down into durable consumer goods and non-durable consumer goods:
9. **Definitions:**
 - **Turnover:** Includes total sales and other income presented in current prices and is expressed net of VAT.
 - **Wages and Salaries:** Covers wages and salaries including bonuses, weekly allowances (cost of living allowances), overtime and national social security contributions by employees. It does not include employers' social security charges.
 - **Employment:** Covers all persons employed, regardless of whether they are part-time or full-time, and includes paid employees, working proprietors and unpaid family workers. Employment is not working-day adjusted since the number of employees does not depend on the factors that make up the working-day effect.
 - **Hours worked:** Covers total amount of hours actually worked; regular working hours and hours worked during overtime; during nights, Sundays or Public holidays. Hours worked but not paid are also considered.

A distribution of the aggregation weights by variable and main industrial grouping is presented in the following table:

Main industrial grouping	Turnover	Employment	Wages and salaries	Hours worked
Intermediate goods	47.4	31.0	32.6	32.0
Energy	13.4	10.5	14.1	12.3
Capital goods	10.9	19.4	18.3	19.6
Consumer goods	28.3	39.1	35.0	36.1
Durable consumer goods	2.7	7.2	3.4	5.1
Non-durable consumer goods	25.6	31.9	31.6	31.0
Total industry	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

10. The calculation of growth rates from the indices table may slightly differ from the growth rates published due to rounding.
11. The data contained in this release should be considered as provisional and thereby subject to revision. Each release may include revisions of the past quarterly data in respect of a rolling two-year period.
12. 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>

Classifications: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/classificationdetails.aspx?id=NACE Rev. 2>