

Structural Business Statistics: 2022

NR 132/2024

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Micro, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) were mostly dominant in the Construction domain, accounting for 83.4 per cent of the combined Gross operating surplus and Employee benefits expense. They were the least dominant in the Gambling and betting activities domain with 15.2 per cent.

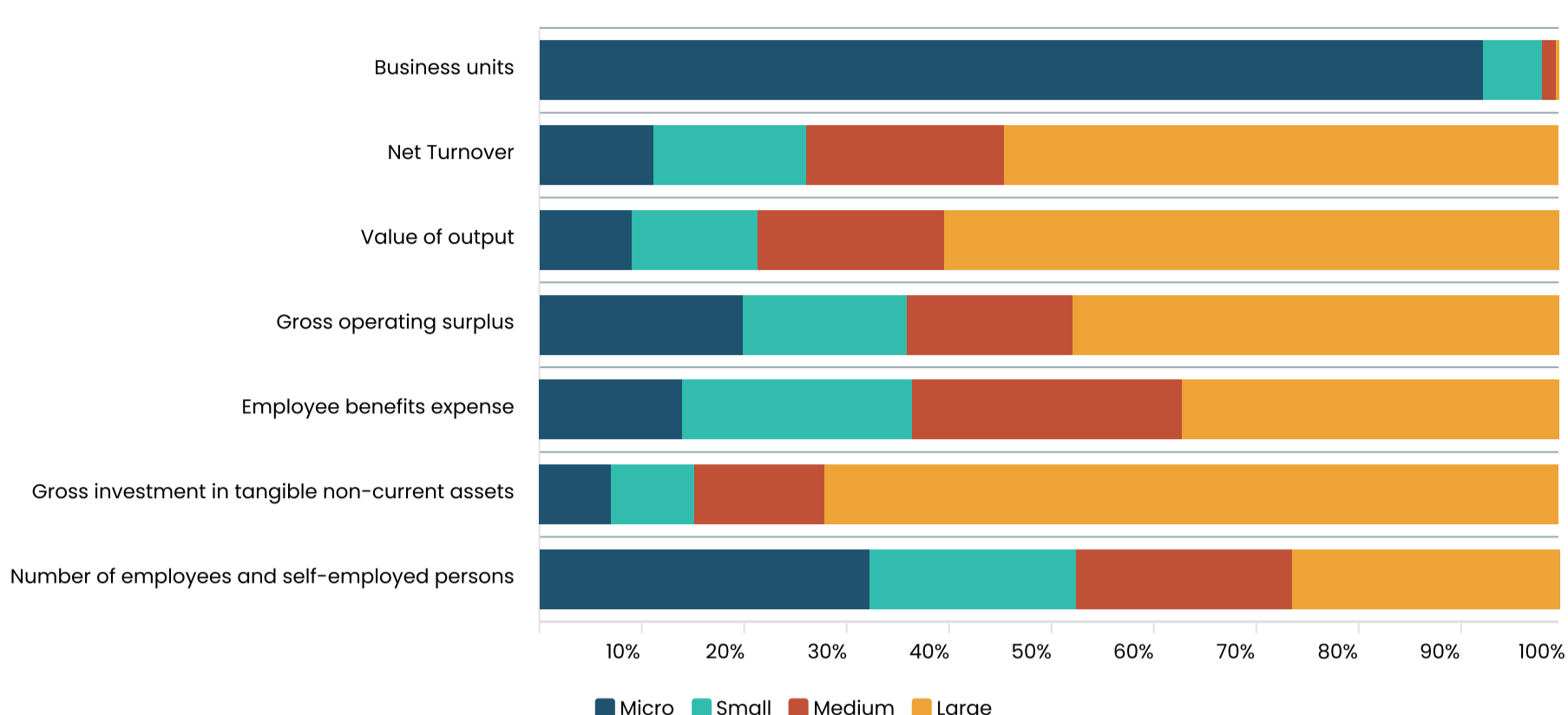


In 2022, the non-financial business economy in Malta incorporating Industry (NACE B to E), Construction (NACE F), Wholesale and retail trade (NACE G), Mobility, logistics and hospitality service activities (NACE H, I and L), Technological solutions, professional and business support activities (NACE J, M and N), Community well-being service activities (NACE P to S, excl. S94 and R92) and Gambling and betting activities (NACE R92) generated €6.5 billion in Gross operating surplus (or profits) and paid out €4.9 billion in Employee benefits expense. SMEs registered an increase of 11.6 per cent in Gross operating surplus and an increase of 15.5 per cent in Employee benefits expense, when compared to 2021. Amongst SMEs, the largest increase in the combined Gross operating surplus and Employee benefits expense was observed in small sized enterprises at 23.8 per cent (Table 2).

The largest increase in Net turnover was registered in the Mobility, logistics and hospitality service activities domain (€2.4 billion), followed by the Industry (€1.8 billion) and the Technological solutions, professional and business support activities (€1.7 billion) domains. The Technological Solutions, Professional, and Business Support Activities domain experienced the largest growth in terms of business units, with an increase of 789 units. It engaged 4,718 more Employees in 2022 and paid out €224.3 million more in Employee benefits expense. The Mobility, logistics and hospitality service activities domain experienced the largest increase in Gross investments in tangible non-current assets, with an increase of €965.0 million over 2021. The Gambling and betting activities domain registered the largest drop in Net turnover, Value of output and Gross operating surplus, with decreases of €723.0, €635.5 and €351.5 million respectively (Table 3).

Chart 1. Main variables by size classification

2022



Performance of large enterprises

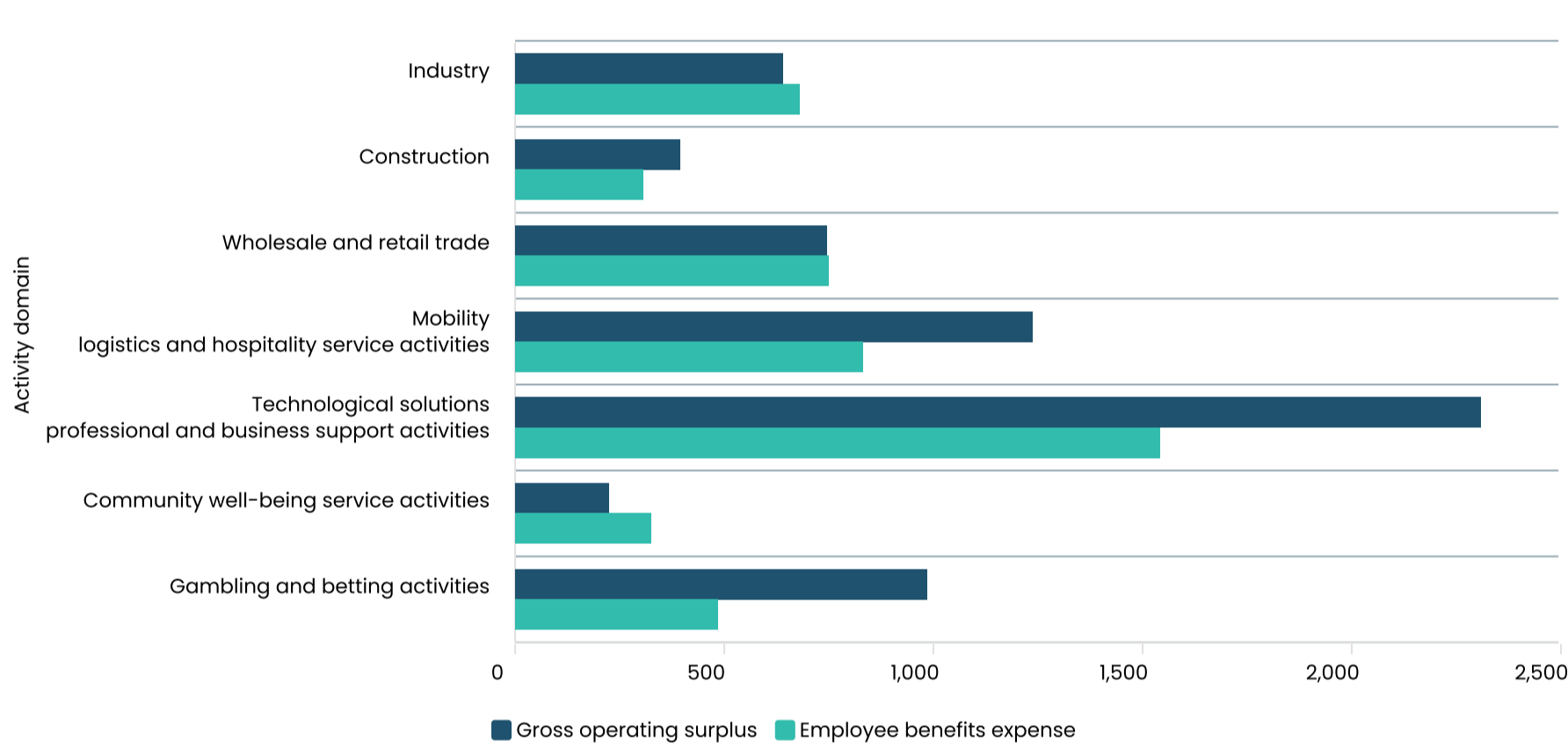
Large enterprises increased by 24 business units in 2022 when compared to 2021. For the same period, the number of Employees increased by 10.2 per cent while the Employee benefits expense increased by 15.1 per cent. Gross investment in tangible non-current assets for the same size class classification, increased from €685.0 million to €1.8 billion (Table 2).

Key indicators across activity domains

During 2022, amongst the four levels of size class classification, the largest number of active enterprises were micro enterprises in the Technological solutions, professional and business support activities, followed by the same size category in the Mobility, logistics and hospitality service activities and Wholesale and retail trade domains respectively. The Gambling and betting activities domain reported the highest Net turnover, which led to the largest amount of Value of output generated. Large enterprises in the Technological solutions, professional and business support activities domain recorded the largest amount of Gross operating surplus at €1.2 billion while large enterprises in the Mobility, logistics and hospitality service activities domain had the largest amount of Gross investment in tangible non-current assets amounting to €1.3 billion. With 18,068 Persons employed, micro enterprises in the Technological solutions, professional and business support activities domain, engaged the largest number of persons. This domain paid out €1.5 billion in Employee benefits expense, or 31.4 per cent of the total (Table 4, Chart 1). The Community well-being service activities, Industry and the Wholesale and retail trade domains had the larger share of Employee benefits expense from the combined Gross operating surplus and Employee benefits expense (Chart 2).

Chart 2. Distribution of combined gross operating surplus and employee benefits expense in the non-financial business economy by activity domain

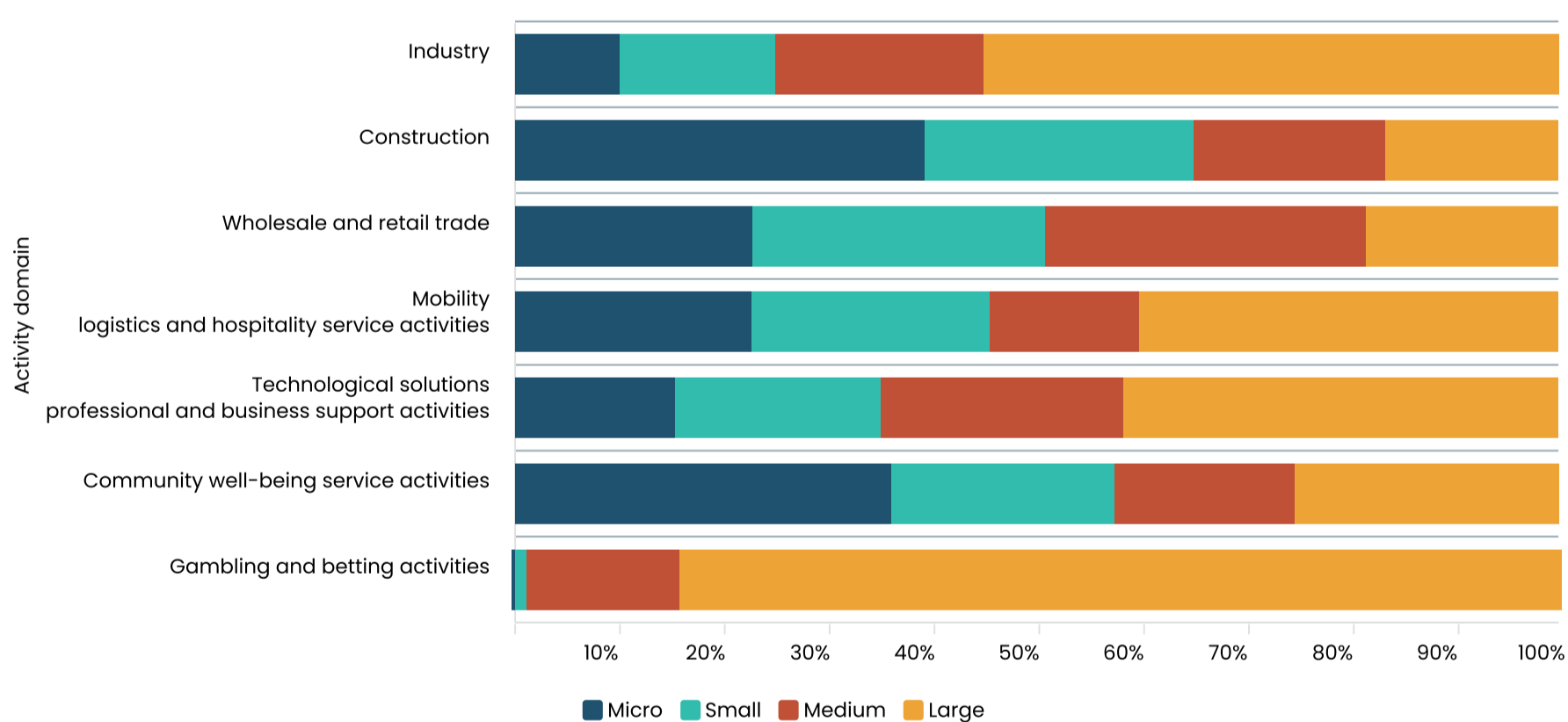
2022 - € million



SMEs generated the largest share of combined Gross operating surplus and Employee benefits expense in all domains except for the Industry and the Gambling and betting activities domains, where large enterprises contributed to the largest share. SMEs were mostly dominant in the Construction domain, accounting for 83.4 per cent of the combined Gross operating surplus and Employee benefits expense (Table 4, Chart 3). The share of Gross operating surplus from the combined Gross operating surplus and Employee benefits expense was higher for large and micro enterprises, while the share of Employee benefits expense was larger in medium and small enterprises (Chart 4).

Chart 3. Distribution of combined gross operating surplus and employee benefits expense by domain and size classification

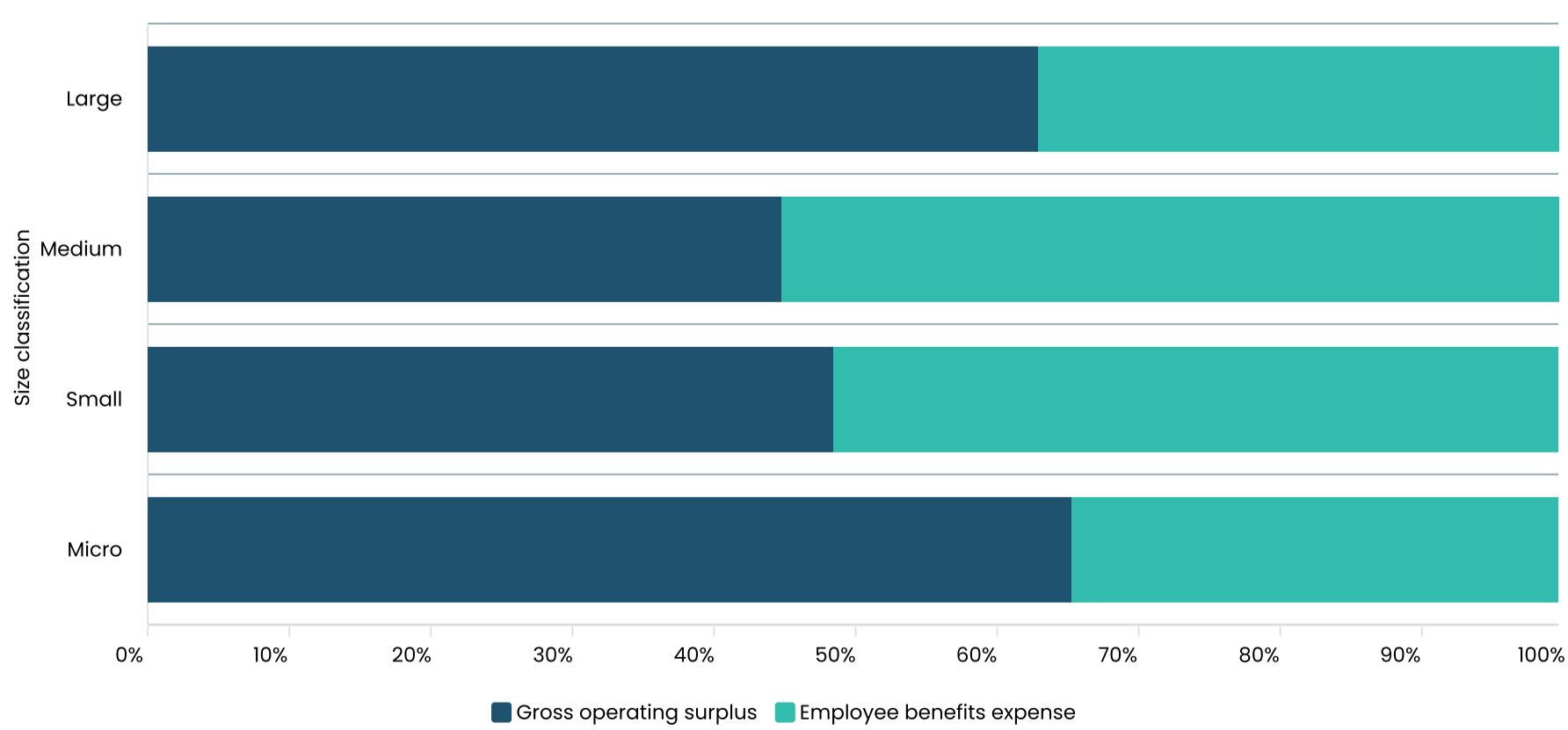
2022



Note: This chart does not show negative values on the horizontal axis. A small percentage of micro enterprises within the Gambling and betting activities domain showed negative values and is therefore not being shown in the chart.

Chart 4. Distribution of combined gross operating surplus and employee benefits expense in the non-financial business economy by size classification

2022



Limited liability companies generated 85.9 per cent of the Gross operating surplus and 89.4 per cent of the Employee benefits expense, for activities forming part of the non-financial business economy in 2022 (Table 5).

Main variables by locality

Enterprises with a registered address in Birkirkara, San Ġiljan and Tas-Sliema generated the largest aggregated amounts of income (combined Gross operating surplus and Employee benefits expense) in the Maltese non-financial economy during 2022 (Map 1). The largest growths in income were recorded by enterprises registered in Birkirkara, Ħal Luqa and San Ġiljan (Map 2). Gross investments in tangible non-current assets were the highest in Ħal Luqa, Birkirkara and Ta' Xbiex (Map 3).

Tourism related industries

In 2022, the post-COVID rebound was observed in all the main variables of tourism related industries. Net turnover, Gross operating surplus and Employee benefits expense increased by €2.1 billion, €366.7 and €124.5 million, respectively (Table 6).

Table 1. NACE Rev. 2 Classification

Section	Division	Description
A	01 - 03	Agriculture, forestry and fishing
B	05 - 09	Mining and quarrying
C	10 - 33	Manufacturing
D	35	Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply
E	36 - 39	Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities
F	41 - 43	Construction
G	45 - 47	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles
H	49 - 53	Transportation and storage
I	55 - 56	Accommodation and food service activities
J	58 - 63	Information and communication
K	64 - 66	Financial and insurance activities
L	68	Real estate activities
M	69 - 75	Professional, scientific and technical activities
N	77 - 82	Administrative and support service activities
O	84	Public administration and defence; compulsory social security
P	85	Education
Q	86 - 88	Human health and social work activities
R	90 - 93	Arts, entertainment and recreation
S	94 - 96	Other service activities
T	97 - 98	Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods- and services-producing activities of households for own use
U	99	Activities of extraterritorial organisations and bodies

Table 2. Performance of enterprises within the Non-financial business economy by size classification

	Business units	Persons employed	Employees	Employees in FTE ¹	Net turnover	Value of output	Gross operating surplus	Employee benefits expense	Gross investment in tangible non-current assets
	no.				€ million				
2022									
Large	174	59,365	59,339	56,742	24,205.3	26,010.7	3,122.9	1,825.6	1,772.0
Medium	644	47,834	47,752	44,599	8,634.5	7,873.3	1,061.2	1,301.3	315.3
Small	2,880	45,584	44,895	41,755	6,664.4	5,306.8	1,051.3	1,112.0	201.5
Micro	46,231	73,080	35,388	30,882	4,975.2	3,925.3	1,310.0	688.8	173.0
Total	49,929	225,863	187,374	173,977	44,479.4	43,116.1	6,545.4	4,927.6	2,462.1
2021									
Large	150	53,859	53,848	50,849	19,442.2	19,942.7	2,859.6	1,586.1	685.0
Medium	598	43,960	43,893	40,745	7,803.4	7,267.7	1,102.5	1,130.3	265.6
Small	2,690	43,546	42,899	39,374	5,864.2	4,628.4	759.2	988.1	168.0
Micro	44,540	69,261	32,470	27,215	4,458.3	3,406.4	1,204.2	567.5	137.6
Total	47,978	210,626	173,110	158,183	37,568.1	35,245.1	5,925.4	4,272.0	1,256.3

¹ Full-time equivalent.

Table 3. Performance of enterprises in the Non-financial business economy by activity domain

	Business units	Persons employed	Employees	Employees in FTE ¹	Net turnover	Value of output	Gross operating surplus	Employee benefits expense	Gross investment in tangible non-current assets
	no.				€ million				
	2022								
Industry (NACE B to E)	3,071	27,522	25,228	24,228	6,464.1	7,846.3	641.9	680.5	271.1
Construction (NACE F)	5,470	17,761	13,276	13,047	1,985.2	2,343.8	394.6	307.1	58.7
Wholesale and retail trade (NACE G)	9,823	41,270	33,547	30,434	9,930.5	4,589.9	746.8	750.8	154.4
Mobility, logistics and hospitality service activities (NACE H, I and L)	10,186	44,042	36,731	32,652	7,432.8	8,407.2	1,238.7	833.2	1,647.2
Technological solutions, professional and business support activities (NACE J, M and N)	13,301	61,479	52,149	49,035	8,846.8	9,177.6	2,313.2	1,545.3	283.0
Community well-being service activities (NACE P to S, excl. S94 and R92)	7,779	23,887	16,619	14,932	951.0	984.0	224.3	325.6	20.6
Gambling and betting activities (NACE R92)	299	9,902	9,824	9,649	8,868.9	9,767.4	985.9	485.1	27.1
Total	49,929	225,863	187,374	173,977	44,479.4	43,116.1	6,545.4	4,927.6	2,462.2
	2021								
Industry (NACE B to E)	2,974	26,790	24,531	23,520	4,674.7	4,902.2	552.1	638.1	165.4
Construction (NACE F)	5,377	16,491	11,970	11,728	1,912.4	2,193.0	421.4	262.1	54.7
Wholesale and retail trade (NACE G)	9,788	40,283	32,411	28,795	8,399.3	3,855.9	610.5	666.2	105.6
Mobility, logistics and hospitality service activities (NACE H, I and L)	9,600	39,537	32,529	28,713	5,076.3	5,709.9	783.3	677.4	682.3
Technological solutions, professional and business support activities (NACE J, M and N)	12,512	56,223	47,431	43,576	7,155.4	7,396.8	2,035.5	1,321.0	184.9
Community well-being service activities (NACE P to S, excl. S94 and R92)	7,427	21,872	14,887	12,592	758.1	784.4	185.1	264.5	36.0
Gambling and betting activities (NACE R92)	300	9,430	9,351	9,259	9,591.9	10,402.9	1,337.4	442.7	27.4
Total	47,978	210,626	173,110	158,183	37,568.1	35,245.1	5,925.4	4,272.0	1,256.3

¹ Full-time equivalent.

Table 4. Performance of enterprises within the Non-financial business economy by size classification and activity domain

	Business units	Persons employed	Employees	Employees in FTE ¹	Net turnover	Value of output	Gross operating surplus	Employee benefits expense	Gross investment in tangible non-current assets
	no.				€ million				
Industry (NACE B to E)	3,071	27,522	25,228	24,228	6,464.1	7,846.3	641.9	680.5	271.1
Large	18	10,850	10,850	10,688	4,707.8	5,932.1	371.7	357.1	180.2
Medium	76	6,600	6,597	6,265	871.2	995.6	98.8	166.1	34.3
Small	264	5,036	4,998	4,735	566.1	597.0	87.2	109.8	30.0
Micro	2,713	5,036	2,783	2,540	319.1	321.5	84.2	47.5	26.6
Construction (NACE F)	5,470	17,761	13,276	13,047	1,985.2	2,343.8	394.6	307.1	58.7
Large	9	3,152	3,152	3,129	379.1	660.6	23.1	93.1	14.0
Medium	43	3,620	3,620	3,551	541.2	599.0	41.1	87.8	22.5
Small	225	3,321	3,281	3,189	509.2	521.6	109.9	70.8	8.7
Micro	5,193	7,668	3,223	3,179	555.7	562.5	220.6	55.3	13.6
Wholesale and retail trade (NACE G)	9,823	41,270	33,547	30,434	9,930.5	4,589.9	746.8	750.8	154.4
Large	25	5,152	5,152	4,717	3,225.9	1,856.9	138.5	137.5	61.0
Medium	152	9,290	9,280	8,584	2,703.7	1,359.7	235.5	226.5	57.6
Small	737	9,998	9,798	9,058	2,371.7	829.4	192.5	227.6	26.5
Micro	8,909	16,830	9,317	8,075	1,629.1	544.0	180.3	159.2	9.3
Mobility, logistics and hospitality service activities (NACE H, I and L)	10,186	44,042	36,731	32,652	7,432.8	8,407.2	1,238.7	833.2	1,647.2
Large	32	11,441	11,441	10,563	4,445.6	5,251.8	492.7	340.3	1,343.4
Medium	87	7,790	7,789	7,071	994.0	1,099.6	118.6	178.9	142.5
Small	608	9,994	9,822	9,051	1,100.1	1,151.1	268.6	202.8	78.3
Micro	9,459	14,817	7,679	5,966	893.2	904.7	358.8	111.2	83.1
Technological solutions, professional and business support activities (NACE J, M and N)	13,301	61,479	52,149	49,035	8,846.8	9,177.6	2,313.2	1,545.3	282.9
Large	49	15,910	15,887	15,023	3,699.9	3,887.6	1,186.5	421.7	148.5
Medium	204	14,868	14,804	13,989	2,292.2	2,362.6	429.4	468.9	47.6
Small	784	12,633	12,479	11,787	1,642.7	1,702.4	364.1	395.8	49.5
Micro	12,264	18,068	8,979	8,235	1,211.9	1,225.0	333.3	259.0	37.4
Community well-being service activities (NACE P to S, excl. S94 and R92)	7,779	23,887	16,619	14,932	951.0	984.0	224.3	325.6	20.6
Large	6	5,934	5,933	5,771	221.8	226.1	13.9	125.1	3.0
Medium	36	3,735	3,731	3,248	151.3	170.6	15.4	79.5	6.6
Small	201	3,831	3,749	3,220	238.4	246.6	44.5	73.1	8.1
Micro	7,536	10,387	3,206	2,694	339.5	340.7	150.4	47.9	3.0
Gambling and betting activities (NACE R92)	299	9,902	9,824	9,649	8,868.9	9,767.4	985.9	485.1	27.1
Large	35	6,926	6,924	6,851	7,525.2	8,195.6	896.5	350.9	22.3
Medium	46	1,931	1,931	1,891	1,080.8	1,286.2	122.4	93.5	4.3
Small	61	771	768	715	236.2	258.7	15.4	32.1	0.5
Micro	157	274	201	192	26.7	26.8	17.7	8.6	0.0
Total	49,929	225,863	187,374	173,977	44,479.4	43,116.1	6,545.4	4,927.6	2,462.1

¹ Full-time equivalent.

Table 5. Performance of enterprises within the Non-financial business economy by Legal organisation

	Business units	Persons employed	Employees	Employees in FTE¹	Net turnover	Value of output	Gross operating surplus	Employee benefits expense	Gross investment in tangible non-current assets
	no.				€ million				
Sole owners and partnerships	36,296	62,902	24,495	21,103	3,753.1	2,778.2	865.2	435.3	47.0
Ltd and plc	13,460	160,329	160,295	150,465	40,204.3	39,858.3	5,619.7	4,406.8	2,407.0
Other	173	2,632	2,584	2,408	521.9	479.7	60.5	85.5	8.1
Grand Total	49,929	225,863	187,374	173,977	44,479.4	43,116.1	6,545.4	4,927.6	2,462.1

¹ Full-time equivalent.

Notes:

1. For SME classification refer to methodological note 9
2. Ltd stands for private limited company and PLC stands for public limited company
3. Branches, cooperatives, corporations and joint ventures are grouped as 'Other' in the legal organisation classification.

Table 6. Performance of tourism related industries within the Non-financial business economy

	Business units	Persons employed	Employees in FTE¹	Net turnover	Gross operating surplus	Employee benefits expense	Gross investment in tangible non-current assets
	no.			€ million			
	2022						
Tourism related industry	5,362	29,779	22,396	5,214.6	631.0	551.9	1,503.7
Mainly tourism	1,104	12,447	10,959	4,227.8	506.2	328.3	1,438.7
	2021						
Tourism related industry	4,937	26,478	19,378	3,147.2	264.3	427.3	568.4
Mainly tourism	978	10,800	9,327	2,417.3	222.7	249.5	497.0

¹ Full-time equivalent.

Note: For the definition of 'Tourism related industries' and 'mainly tourism' refer to Methodological note 11.

Methodological Notes

1. The SME classification used in this news release is organised according to the staff headcount and the 'Turnover' financial ceilings recognised in annex article 2 of Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC.

The main variables referred to in this news release, for both 2021 and 2022, refer to statistical units as compiled and transmitted to Eurostat at statistical unit 'Enterprise' level. This is in accordance with Council Regulation (EEC) No 696/93. The data in this news release is therefore not strictly comparable with previous releases, whereby data was presented at 'Legal' unit level. An 'Enterprise' is a market-oriented organisation that is autonomous in decision-making and may operate in more than one location. For most small firms, an enterprise is the same as a legal unit. However, for larger interconnected businesses, multiple legal units are treated as an 'Enterprise' in the form of a group of legal units under common control.

2. Structural Business Statistics (SBS) aim to provide a cross-sectional view of the business economy based on the structure, performance and behaviour of the industries. Presented according to the activity classification, they cover industry, construction, trade and services production of businesses within the Maltese territory. These statistics can be broken down by domain and employment size class levels.

3. For reference year 2022, around 6,100 business units were randomly selected and contacted. A stratified random sample was used to cover industries in the non-financial business economy. For larger companies, a census survey was targeted. The questionnaire asked for details related to the performance of the enterprise during the financial year. The information collected was supplemented and supported by additional information extracted from administrative data sources. The data was grossed up to represent the total non-financial business population active during the year.

4. The domain names used in this news release are not internationally recognised but were established internally taking into account the respective domestic industry categories, national exigencies and the users' needs.

5. The business activities covered by the SBS have been extended following the implementation of the European Business Statistics (EBS) regulation 2019/2152 from reference year 2021. NACE Sections B to N and P to S (excluding S94) are now covered by the SBS survey.

6. The financial sector covered by the Structural Business Statistics (NACEs 64-66) does not feature in this news release.

7. SBS data is not fully comparable to data produced by National Accounts for a number of reasons. These reasons include conceptual adjustments carried out by National Accounts (such as adjustments for production activities which are not captured in the activities reported by enterprises, including estimates to cover for the informal economy transactions), different coverage range of industries and other National Accounts adjustments (such as Financial Intermediation Services Indirectly Measured – FISIM). Additionally, the information published in this release is still not included in National Accounts. Thus, data published so far by National Accounts might not necessarily reflect some of the trends published in this release. SBS data is unadjusted and reflects the official data reported by active resident enterprises operating in the non-financial business economy of Malta.

8. Definitions (based on the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1197):

- **Net turnover** includes total sales and other operating income and is expressed net of VAT.

- **Value of output** measures the amount actually produced, based on sales, including changes in stocks and neutralising the impact of goods resold in the same condition as purchased.

- **Gross operating surplus** is the surplus generated by operating activities after the labour factor input has been recompensed. It can be calculated from the Gross value added less the Employee benefits expenses. Simply put, Gross operating surplus is a measure of profitability before accounting for interest, income taxes, depreciation, amortisation, revaluations, provisions and other non-operating expenses.

- **Employee benefits expense** is defined as the total remuneration, in cash or in kind, payable by an employer to an employee (regular and temporary employees as well as home workers) in return for work done by the latter during the reference period. Employee benefits expenses also include taxes and employees' social security contributions retained by the unit as well as the employer's compulsory and voluntary social contributions.

- **Gross investment in tangible non-current assets** is defined as investment during the reference period in all tangible goods. Included are new and existing tangible capital goods, whether bought from third parties or produced for own use (i.e. capitalised production of tangible capital goods), having a useful life of more than one year including non-produced tangible goods such as land. Investments in intangible and financial assets are excluded.

- **Persons employed** are people engaged in productive activities in an economy. The concept includes both employees and self-employed (i.e. inclusive of working proprietors, partners and unpaid family workers). The latter category may include persons who do not receive compensation in the form of wages, salaries, fees, gratuities, piecework pay or remuneration in kind. The name used, for this variable by Eurostat in the Eurobase is Number of employees and self-employed persons.

- **Number of employees** is defined as those persons who work for an employer through a contract of employment and receive compensation in the form of wages, salaries, fees, gratuities, piecework pay or remuneration in kind.

- **Number of employees in full-time equivalent units** is a unit of measure which transforms the number of employees in a way which makes employees working a different number of hours per week comparable. This conversion is mainly relevant to part-time workers. The unit is obtained by comparing an employee's average number of hours worked to the average number of hours of a full-time worker. A full-time person is therefore counted as one FTE, while a part-time worker gets a score in proportion to the hours he or she works. For example, a part-time worker employed for 20 hours a week where full-time work consists of 40 hours, is counted as 0.5 in FTE.

- **Combined Gross operating surplus and Employee benefits expense** equates to gross income, which in technical terms is referred to as Gross value added (GVA).

9. SBS data in this news release was classified according to the SME classification in the Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC "definition of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises adopted by the Commission". The ceilings of this classification were applied to turnover and employment only (both criteria must be met by individual statistical units). The balance sheet total ceiling was not applied as such information is not available for statistical units involving self-employed. Users of this news release must appreciate that there is not a single definition of what a SME is. Other SME definitions may be used by other institutions, authors and publications. For instance, Eurostat defines SMEs solely based on the employment within an enterprise.

Company Category	Staff headcount	Turnover
Medium	<250	≤ €50m
Small	<50	≤ €10m
Micro	<10	≤ €2m

Companies that do not fall within these categories, i.e. either more than 249 employees or with turnover greater than €50 million, are considered as Large.

10. Enterprises may change their classification from one year to the other if significant changes occur in their respective NACE, employment or turnover.

11. Tourism related industries in this news release were classified according to the list drawn up by the UNWTO International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics 2008. Firm-level data cannot distinguish between consumption by visitors and non-visitors and for this reason, the industries exposed to tourism demand are identified and aggregated together. This aggregate does not represent the 'tourism industry' but simply sums the main variables of all establishments belonging to the list of tourism related industries, regardless of whether all their output is provided to visitors and of the degree of specialisation of their production process. This aggregate also leaves out other consumption expenditure components by visitors from other non-tourism related industries. The sub-category 'mainly tourism' is a sub-category established in the same UNWTO manual to identify the most intensively exposed industries to tourism demand. The NACE industries that are considered as tourism related and 'mainly tourism' are listed below:

H4910 Passenger rail transport, interurban.

H4932 Taxi operation.

H4939 Other passenger land transport n.e.c.

H5010 Sea and coastal passenger water transport.

H5030 Inland passenger water transport.

H5110 Passenger air transport, also 'mainly tourism'.

I5510 Hotels and similar accommodation, also 'mainly tourism'.

I5520 Holiday and other short-stay accommodation, also 'mainly tourism'.

I5530 Camping grounds, recreational vehicle parks and trailer parks, also 'mainly tourism'.

I5610 Restaurants and mobile food service activities.

I5630 Beverage serving activities.

N771 Renting and leasing of motor vehicles.

N7721 Renting and leasing of recreational and sports goods.

N791 Travel agency and tour operator activities, also 'mainly tourism'.

N7990 Other reservation service and related activities.

12. The calculation of the growth rate may differ due to rounding.

13. The data for 2022 in this news release should be considered as provisional and subject to revision.

14. The public sector and non-profit organisations are excluded except for public corporations featuring in the non-financial business economy.

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

[Spatial divisions for Malta](#)

[Statistical Concepts](#)

16. Further information on Structural Business Statistics is available [here](#). Values available on Eurostat's database (Eurobase) differ from the values of this news release due to the different size classification and the cut-off thresholds applied on the values available on Eurobase.

17. A detailed news release calendar is available [online](#).

18. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately. For guidance on access and re-use of data please visit our [dedicated webpage](#).

19. For further assistance send your request through our [online request form](#).

