Short-term Services Indicators: Q3/2026

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News | Data | Methodology



Salient Points

- When compared to the third quarter of 2025, working-day adjusted turnover in selected service activities increased by 10.1 per cent.
- The largest increase was recorded in wholesale trade (30.7 per cent).
- When compared to the corresponding quarter of 2025, employment, gross wages and salaries, and hours worked increased by 0.1 per cent, 5.3 per cent and 1.9 per cent, respectively.
- Seasonally adjusted services turnover went up by 0.9 per cent, with the highest increase occurring in real estate activities (19.0 per cent) when compared to the second quarter of 2026.

Commentary

During the third quarter of 2026, seasonally adjusted services turnover increased by 0.9 per cent over the second quarter of 2026. When compared to the same quarter of 2025, working-day adjusted turnover in selected service activities went up by 10.1 per cent.

Quarterly comparison

After adjusting for seasonal effects and the working-day pattern, the total services turnover index increased by 0.9 per cent between the second quarter and the third quarter of 2026.

The highest increase in turnover was recorded in real estate activities (19.0 per cent), followed by transportation and storage (6.9 per cent), motor vehicles trade (4.0 per cent), accommodation and food service activities (2.3 per cent), and retail trade (0.7 per cent). On the other hand, turnover declined in professional, scientific, and technical activities (3.3 per cent), wholesale trade (2.5 per cent), and administrative and support service activities (1.0 per cent). No change in turnover was registered in information and communication activities (Table 1).

Between the second and third quarters of 2026, the number of persons employed increased by 1.1 per cent (Table 3), gross wages and salaries went up by 1.5 per cent (Table 5), and hours worked increased by 1.3 per cent (Table 7).

Annual comparison

During the third quarter of 2026, the total services turnover index registered an increase of 10.1 per cent on an annual basis after adjusting for the working-day pattern.

Increases in turnover were registered in wholesale trade (30.7 per cent), real estate activities (20.8 per cent), motor vehicles trade (12.7 per cent), accommodation and food service activities (7.5 per cent), administrative and support service activities (7.4 per cent), retail trade (4.7 per cent), transportation and storage (3.7 per cent), and information and communication (3.3 per cent). On the contrary, a decrease of 5.0 per cent was recorded in professional, scientific, and technical activities (Table 2).

When compared to the third quarter of 2025, the indicators for the number of persons employed (Table 4), gross wages and salaries (Table 6), and hours worked (Table 8) increased by 0.1 per cent, 5.3 per cent and 1.9 per cent, respectively.

Chart 1. Annual working-day adjusted turnover in services

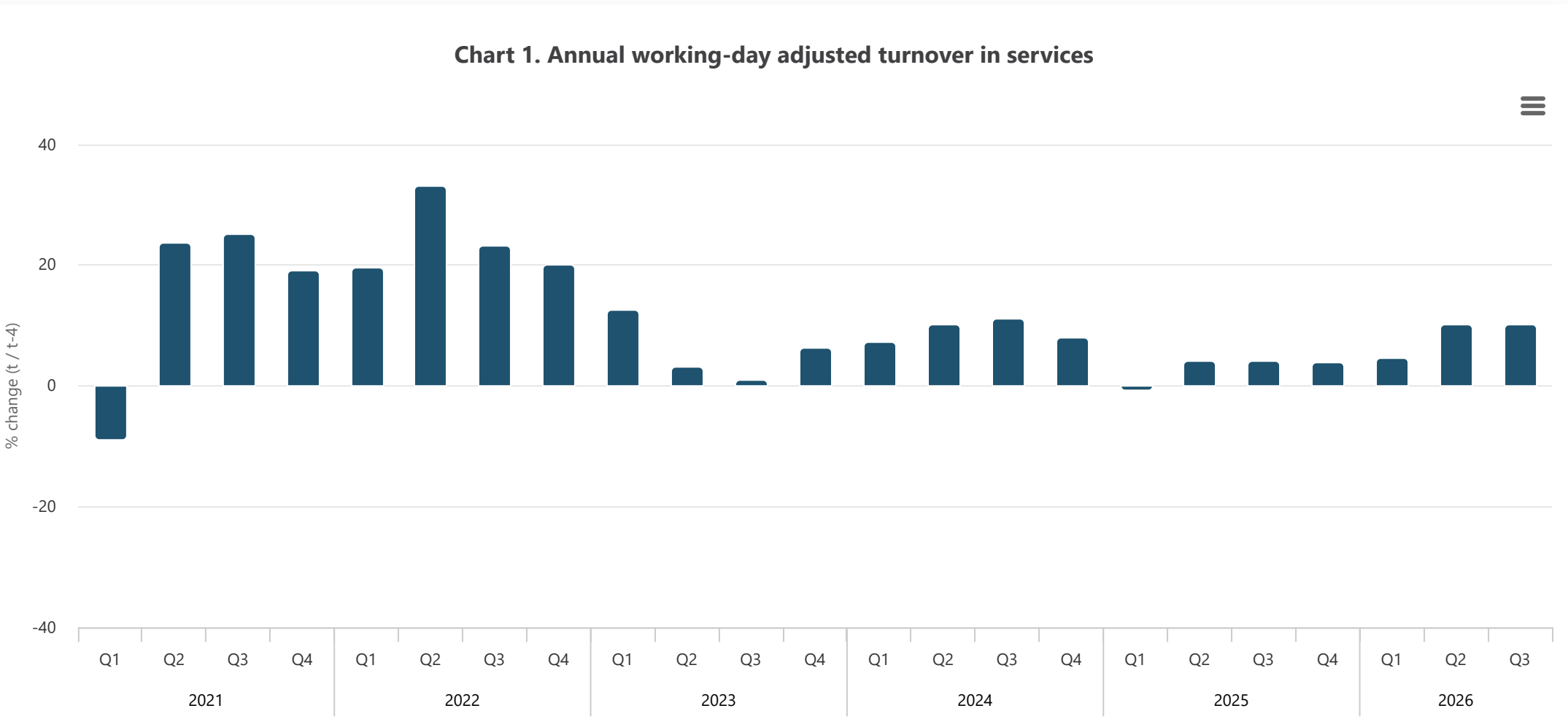


Table 1. Services turnover index by period and NACE classification

Seasonally adjusted; (2021=100)

Economic activity (NACE)	2025		2026			% change compared with previous quarter				
						2025		2026		
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	130.7	131.2	130.6	159.8	157.7	-3.2	0.4	-0.5	22.4	-1.3
Motor vehicles trade	133.0	138.4	144.1	144.3	150.0	-2.4	4.1	4.1	0.1	4.0
Wholesale trade	125.7	126.0	124.0	168.4	164.2	-6.4	0.2	-1.6	35.8	-2.5
Retail trade	139.9	139.8	141.5	145.5	146.5	3.3	-0.1	1.2	2.8	0.7
Food	147.6	148.6	151.9	155.6	156.2	3.3	0.7	2.2	2.4	0.4
Non-food	134.1	133.7	133.6	137.7	139.2	3.4	-0.3	-0.1	3.1	1.1
Transportation and storage	202.8	200.1	188.4	196.1	209.6	6.5	-1.3	-5.8	4.1	6.9
Accommodation and food service activities	228.3	230.1	234.5	243.7	249.2	1.7	0.8	1.9	3.9	2.3
Information and communication	158.9	164.6	160.2	164.1	164.1	1.1	3.6	-2.7	2.4	0.0
Real estate activities	141.1	138.7	126.8	143.3	170.5	-1.9	-1.7	-8.6	13.0	19.0
Professional, scientific, and technical activities	121.0	125.0	118.6	119.1	115.2	4.3	3.3	-5.1	0.4	-3.3
Administrative and support service activities	136.0	143.2	140.0	146.8	145.4	4.5	5.3	-2.2	4.9	-1.0
Total	**148.0**	**149.7**	**149.3**	**161.5**	**163.0**	**1.0**	**1.1**	**-0.3**	**8.2**	**0.9**

Table 2. Services turnover index by period and NACE classification

Working-day adjusted; (2021=100)

Economic activity (NACE)	2025		2026			% change compared with the same quarter of the previous year				
						2025		2026		
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	134.0	135.3	121.3	162.1	161.6	4.6	1.7	6.8	18.4	20.6
Motor vehicles trade	131.1	137.3	142.3	149.3	147.8	0.8	-7.8	9.0	5.9	12.7
Wholesale trade	129.1	127.9	117.0	170.8	168.7	3.9	0.2	6.2	25.4	30.7
Retail trade	144.0	149.2	125.6	147.8	150.8	6.7	6.4	7.5	7.5	4.7
Food	155.1	153.3	136.6	158.7	163.9	11.5	8.9	10.7	9.1	5.7
Non-food	135.8	146.1	117.5	139.8	141.0	2.9	4.6	5.0	6.2	3.8
Transportation and storage	225.0	196.2	167.0	199.5	233.3	9.2	9.8	3.2	2.7	3.7
Accommodation and food service activities	300.7	212.0	154.2	269.0	323.4	7.8	5.5	10.4	8.5	7.5
Information and communication	158.9	164.6	160.2	164.1	164.1	2.5	4.4	3.4	4.4	3.3
Real estate activities	141.1	138.7	126.8	143.3	170.5	6.6	7.9	22.7	-0.4	20.8
Professional, scientific, and technical activities	117.0	132.4	115.1	119.3	111.2	-5.3	-0.3	-3.4	2.8	-5.0
Administrative and support service activities	143.7	141.9	123.6	153.4	154.4	-0.7	1.9	3.8	13.5	7.4
Total	**156.5**	**151.9**	**134.7**	**165.6**	**172.3**	**4.1**	**3.8**	**4.7**	**10.2**	**10.1**

Table 3. Services employment index by period and NACE classification

Seasonally adjusted; (2021=100)

Economic activity (NACE)	2025		2026			% change compared with previous quarter				
						2025		2026		
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	118.1	119.0	118.8	121.1	123.0	3.0	0.8	-0.2	1.9	1.6
Motor vehicles trade	119.8	114.6	114.0	114.7	114.0	1.3	-4.3	-0.5	0.6	-0.6
Wholesale trade	114.8	116.4	119.7	121.5	124.3	3.1	1.4	2.8	1.5	2.3
Retail trade	119.8	121.1	119.1	121.9	123.7	3.2	1.1	-1.7	2.4	1.5
Food	127.7	131.3	126.2	134.4	134.1	5.5	2.8	-3.9	6.5	-0.2
Non-food	116.0	116.3	115.7	115.9	118.7	2.0	0.3	-0.5	0.2	2.4
Transportation and storage	107.6	115.1	115.4	113.8	119.7	-5.4	7.0	0.3	-1.4	5.2
Accommodation and food service activities	119.0	120.1	121.1	120.4	120.1	-2.3	0.9	0.8	-0.6	-0.2
Information and communication	126.4	129.0	133.0	132.5	137.4	-7.5	2.1	3.1	-0.4	3.7
Real estate activities	115.0	117.1	120.5	121.9	120.1	-2.0	1.8	2.9	1.2	-1.5
Professional, scientific, and technical activities	115.1	113.0	111.1	111.5	111.9	-1.3	-1.8	-1.7	0.4	0.4
Administrative and support service activities	109.8	111.6	111.1	109.7	111.4	2.6	1.6	-0.4	-1.3	1.5
Total	**115.1**	**117.1**	**114.7**	**113.9**	**115.2**	**-1.2**	**1.7**	**-2.0**	**-0.7**	**1.1**

Table 4. Services employment index by period and NACE classification

Unadjusted [1] ; (2021=100)

Economic activity (NACE)	2025		2026			% change compared with the same quarter of the previous year				
						2025		2026		
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	118.1	119.0	118.8	121.1	123.0	4.2	4.8	4.2	5.6	4.1
Motor vehicles trade	119.8	114.6	114.0	114.7	114.0	4.0	0.2	-1.6	-3.0	-4.8
Wholesale trade	114.8	116.4	119.7	121.5	124.3	2.2	4.2	7.8	9.2	8.3
Retail trade	119.8	121.1	119.1	121.9	123.7	5.6	5.9	3.2	5.0	3.3
Food	127.7	131.3	126.2	134.4	134.1	13.1	14.2	6.5	11.1	5.0
Non-food	116.0	116.3	115.7	115.9	118.7	1.9	1.9	1.5	1.9	2.3
Transportation and storage	108.5	115.0	115.1	113.1	120.8	0.3	5.2	2.7	0.0	11.3
Accommodation and food service activities	122.6	119.9	118.4	119.8	123.7	-1.4	-0.9	2.5	-1.1	0.9
Information and communication	127.2	128.0	133.5	132.3	138.2	10.5	12.9	9.2	-3.1	8.6
Real estate activities	115.0	117.1	120.5	121.9	120.1	2.0	5.9	3.3	3.9	4.4
Professional, scientific, and technical activities	115.1	113.0	111.1	111.5	111.9	-1.4	-3.0	-4.8	-4.4	-2.8
Administrative and support service activities	109.8	111.6	111.1	109.7	111.4	1.0	1.6	2.3	2.5	1.5
Total	**116.5**	**117.2**	**113.4**	**113.8**	**116.6**	**1.9**	**2.9**	**-0.8**	**-2.2**	**0.1**

[1] Refer to methodological note no. 4 - Employment.

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

Seasonally adjusted; (2021=100)

Economic activity (NACE)	2025		2026			% change compared with previous quarter				
						2025		2026		
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	143.6	147.1	149.7	154.0	157.3	1.6	2.4	1.8	2.9	2.1
Motor vehicles trade	143.7	142.7	141.1	145.0	143.7	2.4	-0.7	-1.1	2.8	-0.9
Wholesale trade	138.0	144.5	146.3	152.1	153.6	0.7	4.7	1.2	4.0	1.0
Retail trade	149.1	152.9	150.2	160.7	162.8	2.6	2.5	-1.8	7.0	1.3
Food	157.4	172.3	160.8	175.7	178.1	1.9	9.5	-6.7	9.3	1.4
Non-food	142.7	145.2	146.0	150.5	152.3	3.4	1.8	0.6	3.1	1.2
Transportation and storage	135.8	147.8	145.4	150.9	153.9	-5.9	8.8	-1.6	3.8	2.0
Accommodation and food service activities	157.9	164.8	165.1	164.1	173.9	-2.3	4.4	0.2	-0.6	6.0
Information and communication	134.4	135.1	145.2	144.0	140.6	-4.3	0.5	7.5	-0.8	-2.4
Real estate activities	128.1	133.0	149.6	133.8	139.3	-7.8	3.8	12.5	-10.6	4.1
Professional, scientific, and technical activities	125.5	121.4	125.2	116.2	119.3	-1.2	-3.3	3.1	-7.2	2.7
Administrative and support service activities	122.0	141.5	142.1	135.9	122.7	-4.2	16.0	0.4	-4.4	-9.7
Total	**137.5**	**140.4**	**141.9**	**142.8**	**145.0**	**-0.6**	**2.1**	**1.1**	**0.6**	**1.5**

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

Working-day adjusted; (2021=100)

Economic activity (NACE)	2025		2026			% change compared with the same quarter of the previous year				
						2025		2026		
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	140.7	153.2	148.0	153.0	154.0	4.8	7.9	5.5	10.5	9.5
Motor vehicles trade	144.0	145.9	138.7	143.9	144.0	3.2	4.8	2.4	3.4	0.0
Wholesale trade	134.6	149.4	147.3	149.9	149.7	2.4	8.7	7.3	11.1	11.2
Retail trade	146.7	158.5	150.2	157.8	160.1	7.4	7.7	4.2	11.0	9.1
Food	157.4	172.3	160.8	175.7	178.1	10.8	13.8	5.4	13.7	13.2
Non-food	140.9	151.0	144.5	148.1	150.4	5.4	4.2	3.5	9.3	6.7
Transportation and storage	135.8	147.8	145.4	150.9	153.9	4.0	11.1	4.2	4.6	13.3
Accommodation and food service activities	165.3	165.1	156.6	164.2	182.1	0.4	3.4	1.8	1.4	10.2
Information and communication	134.4	135.1	145.2	144.0	140.6	7.5	7.8	3.7	2.6	4.6
Real estate activities	128.1	133.0	149.6	133.8	139.3	4.5	0.4	17.3	-3.7	8.7
Professional, scientific, and technical activities	125.5	121.4	125.2	116.2	119.3	0.6	-5.8	-6.1	-8.5	-4.9
Administrative and support service activities	122.0	141.5	142.1	135.9	122.7	0.2	8.2	9.9	6.7	0.6
Total	**135.1**	**142.6**	**142.9**	**142.2**	**142.3**	**3.1**	**5.3**	**3.6**	**3.3**	**5.3**

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

Seasonally adjusted; (2021=100)

Economic activity (NACE)	2025		2026			% change compared with previous quarter				
						2025		2026		
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	118.0	122.6	122.7	123.6	124.5	1.3	3.9	0.1	0.7	0.7
Motor vehicles trade	118.7	115.8	107.7	111.8	113.9	3.6	-2.4	-7.0	3.8	1.9
Wholesale trade	112.3	114.2	116.4	121.4	122.4	1.1	1.7	1.9	4.3	0.8
Retail trade	123.1	129.5	128.5	127.3	128.5	1.4	5.2	-0.8	-0.9	0.9
Food	134.3	136.2	146.9	146.7	145.6	0.7	1.4	7.9	-0.1	-0.7
Non-food	117.2	126.8	118.0	117.2	119.6	1.5	8.2	-6.9	-0.7	2.0
Transportation and storage	104.4	110.0	113.3	113.9	124.1	-5.3	5.4	3.0	0.5	9.0
Accommodation and food service activities	134.8	133.9	132.9	135.2	135.0	-0.9	-0.7	-0.7	1.7	-0.1
Information and communication	112.6	117.3	119.9	120.2	121.2	-5.6	4.2	2.2	0.3	0.8
Real estate activities	110.4	113.6	122.3	116.5	118.1	-5.0	2.9	7.7	-4.7	1.4
Professional, scientific, and technical activities	122.2	115.6	113.2	115.1	115.1	0.3	-5.4	-2.1	1.7	0.0
Administrative and support service activities	106.5	110.8	110.8	111.1	111.2	-2.9	4.0	0.0	0.3	0.1
Total	**116.4**	**118.3**	**116.1**	**117.1**	**118.6**	**-1.7**	**1.6**	**-1.9**	**0.9**	**1.3**

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

Working-day adjusted; (2021=100)

Economic activity (NACE)	2025		2026			% change compared with the same quarter of the previous year				
						2025		2026		
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	118.8	123.4	121.3	123.3	125.4	3.9	7.4	5.0	6.1	5.6
Motor vehicles trade	118.7	115.8	107.7	111.8	113.9	-1.7	1.1	-5.6	-2.4	-4.0
Wholesale trade	112.3	114.2	116.4	121.4	122.4	2.8	4.6	7.6	9.3	9.0
Retail trade	123.9	131.6	126.8	126.2	129.3	5.4	10.3	4.6	4.9	4.4
Food	136.0	138.1	144.8	145.0	147.4	7.3	7.3	12.2	10.0	8.4
Non-food	117.8	128.4	116.9	116.3	120.1	4.0	12.0	0.2	1.4	2.0
Transportation and storage	105.7	111.5	111.1	113.0	125.7	0.5	2.0	1.3	3.3	18.9
Accommodation and food service activities	143.9	132.8	123.9	136.2	144.1	-0.6	-3.9	-3.7	-0.5	0.1
Information and communication	112.6	117.3	119.9	120.2	121.2	0.7	1.1	3.6	0.8	7.6
Real estate activities	110.4	113.6	122.3	116.5	118.1	3.6	3.4	10.4	0.3	7.0
Professional, scientific, and technical activities	122.2	115.6	113.2	115.1	115.1	1.4	-5.0	-7.4	-5.5	-5.8
Administrative and support service activities	106.2	112.8	108.9	111.4	110.9	-4.5	-1.2	-0.3	1.4	4.4
Total	**118.0**	**119.4**	**113.5**	**117.0**	**120.2**	**0.3**	**0.8**	**-2.1**	**-1.1**	**1.9**

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. Questionnaires are sent to approximately 900 business units 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. Business units are asked to provide information on turnover, employment, hours worked, and wages and salaries. For NACE Section L (real estate activities), the contracts data from the Inland Revenue Department is 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 2021.

3. The indices in this news 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 changing number of working days in different quarters. When there are no working-day or seasonal adjustments to be made, the index is published in its unadjusted form.

4. 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.

5. 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 individual indices.

6. In line with the Regulation on Short-term Business Statistics, services exclude Financial and insurance activities and Gambling and betting activities.

7. Definitions:

- **Turnover**: includes total sales and other income and is expressed net of VAT. Turnover is presented in current prices.
- **Gross wages and salaries**: covers wages and salaries including bonuses, weekly allowances (cost of living allowances), overtime and national social security contributions by the employee. It does not include employers' social security contributions.
- **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, nights, Sundays or public holidays. Hours worked but not paid are also considered.

8. The data contained in this news release should be considered as provisional and subject to revision. For an updated time series which includes past data, please refer to the Selected Indicators for this domain.

9. **Weighting structure by activity/industry and variables (2021)**

NACE Section / Division	NACE label	Turnover	Employment	Hours worked	Gross wages and salaries
G	Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	43.5	28.5	28.2	23.3
G45	Motor vehicles trade	2.7	2.6	2.0	1.6
G46	Wholesale trade	26.9	9.5	11.3	11.2
G47	Retail trade	13.9	16.4	14.9	10.5
H	Transportation and storage	14.6	10.5	10.5	12.1
I	Accommodation and food service activities	4.0	15.1	13.7	10.1
J	Information and communication	15.1	8.8	9.8	15.7
L	Real estate activities	3.0	3.0	2.4	2.1
M	Professional, scientific, and technical activities	12.6	15.3	14.0	18.1
N	Administrative and support service activities	7.2	18.8	21.4	18.6
	Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

10. The calculation of the percentage changes from the indices table may slightly differ from the published percentage changes due to rounding.

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

Statistical Concepts
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12. A detailed news release calendar is available online.

13. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately. For guidance on access and re-use of data please visit our dedicated webpage.

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