

News Release



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Business

Wholesale and retail trade and other services indicators: Jan-Mar 2006

This release provides indices for 2005 and 2006, for the services sectors. Tables 1 to 4 provide data in respect of Turnover, Employment, Gross Wages and Salaries and Hours Worked on a quarterly basis. The base year used for these indices is the average for the whole of 2000 (2000=100). This series was not seasonally adjusted

The Retail Trade sector registered a decrease in its Turnover Index of 29.1 per cent in the first quarter of 2006, when compared with the same quarter in 2005, from 106.4 to 75.4. The Air Transport and the Other Business Activities also recorded a decrease in their Turnover Index of 6.1 per cent and 3.6 per cent respectively when compared to the same period under review of 2005.

In the course of the first quarter this year, the Turnover Index of the Water Transport increased by 52.6 per cent. The Supporting and Auxiliary Transport index increased from 44.2 in 2005 to 53.1 in 2006, an increase of 20.1 per cent. The Hotels and Restaurants sector registered an increase of 16.2 per cent, in its Turnover Index.

In the first quarter this year, most of the job losses were registered in the Hotels and Restaurants sector, the fall in the Employment Index was of 4.2 per cent. The Air Transport Employment Index decreased by 2.3 per cent, from 92.4 in Q1 2005 to 90.3 in Q1 2006. The Computer and related activities Index registered a fall of 0.9 per cent, for the same period under review.

An increase in the Employment Index was registered in the Motor Trade sector, where the index increased from 74.8 in 2005 to 90.5 in 2006, an increase of 21.0 per cent. Increases were also registered in the Other Business Activities and in the Supporting and Auxiliary Transport where the Employment Indexes increased by 16.4 per cent and 10.6 per cent respectively.

The only sector that registered a fall in the Gross Wages and Salaries Index, was the Retail Trade sector, which registered a fall of 9.6 per cent from 125.9 in 2005 to 113.8 in 2006.

In Q1 2006, increases in the Gross Wages and Salaries Index were recorded in the Land transport (14.6 per cent), the Motor trade (14.0 per cent) and the Other Business Activities (16.1 per cent).

For the period under review, the most significant decreases in the hours worked index were registered in the Retail Trade sector and the Computer and Related Activities. In fact, the index for the Retail Trade decreased by 13.6 per cent from 88.0 to 76.0 and the index for the Computer and Related Activities decreased by 0.9 per cent, from 106.7 in Q1 2005 to 105.7 in Q1 2006. The Air Transport Index registered a decrease of 0.4 per cent in Q1 in the period 2005 to 2006

In the Hours Worked Index from Q1 2005 to Q1 2006, the three sectors that registered the highest increases were the Other Business Activities (33.3 per cent), the Motor Trade (8.2 per cent) and the Land Transport (6.4 per cent) ■

Theme:
Industry and Services

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Table 1. Indices - Turnover (Net of VAT)

Nace	2005				2006	Q1 % Change
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	
Motor trade	241.2	374.6	211.1	226.6	248.6	3.1
Wholesale trade	101.8	122.0	118.8	124.5	116.0	13.9
Retail trade	106.4	94.8	100.7	92.6	75.4	-29.1
Hotels and restaurants	70.2	114.7	176.7	107.4	81.6	16.2
Land transport	90.2	119.9	116.6	136.4	91.5	1.4
Water transport	88.2	134.1	193.4	137.3	134.6	52.6
Air transport	86.9	127.7	161.0	99.9	81.6	-6.1
Supporting and auxiliary transport	44.2	67.3	83.1	55.3	53.1	20.1
Post and telecommunications	96.5	377.2	121.0	110.6	104.2	8.0
Computer and related activities	70.5	78.5	74.8	74.4	76.5	8.5
Other business activities	95.9	79.1	69.8	71.8	92.4	-3.6

Table 2. Indices - Employment

Nace	2005				2006	Q1 % Change
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	
Motor trade	74.8	108.8	108.6	81.9	90.5	21.0
Wholesale trade	116.4	121.1	281.6	117.5	117.0	0.5
Retail trade	80.6	96.0	91.8	84.3	85.0	5.5
Hotels and restaurants	102.7	106.3	111.7	100.6	98.4	-4.2
Land Transport	130.2	132.9	131.9	132.7	133.0	2.2
Water Transport	82.4	82.7	88.2	84.7	89.3	8.4
Air Transport	92.4	93.1	93.4	90.9	90.3	-2.3
Supporting and Auxiliary Transport	100.4	111.1	111.2	111.1	111.0	10.6
Post and Telecommunications	99.9	105.5	100.1	100.1	99.3	-0.6
Computer and Related Activities	105.9	101.5	104.5	106.3	104.9	-0.9
Other Business Activities	106.1	102.2	87.9	87.9	123.5	16.4

Table 3. Indices - Gross wages and salaries

Nace	2005				2006	Q1 % Change
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	
Motor trade	99.2	119.1	95.0	102.6	113.1	14.0
Wholesale trade	137.0	137.4	136.2	142.6	142.9	4.3
Retail trade	125.9	131.2	125.0	119.2	113.8	-9.6
Hotels and restaurants	94.6	100.7	106.9	100.2	95.4	0.8
Land Transport	149.0	162.8	154.2	182.0	170.8	14.6
Water Transport	91.9	91.0	102.7	113.9	102.3	11.3
Air Transport	77.7	80.0	83.4	77.0	81.8	5.3
Supporting and Auxiliary Transport	102.3	114.5	119.6	113.2	114.9	12.3
Post and Telecommunications	97.2	102.6	103.0	98.8	103.0	6.0
Computer and Related Activities	107.2	102.5	127.0	114.9	117.7	9.8
Other Business Activities	105.8	103.2	96.8	96.8	122.8	16.1

Table 4. Indices - Hours worked

Nace	2005				2006	Q1 % Change
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	
Motor trade	89.4	105.4	103.5	84.4	96.7	8.2
Wholesale trade	109.2	110.3	114.4	112.0	109.1	-0.1
Retail trade	88.0	111.8	79.8	72.0	76.0	-13.6
Hotels and restaurants	88.9	101.4	110.6	100.7	91.8	3.3
Land Transport	106.3	110.2	101.9	116.6	113.1	6.4
Water Transport	87.0	90.6	91.3	89.1	90.1	3.6
Air Transport	97.2	101.0	101.7	99.2	96.8	-0.4
Supporting and Auxiliary Transport	101.2	110.9	112.2	108.2	104.7	3.5
Post and Telecommunications	92.4	94.1	93.6	93.1	93.0	0.6
Computer and Related Activities	106.7	103.8	104.4	105.1	105.7	-0.9
Other Business Activities	85.5	107.4	83.7	83.7	114.0	33.3

METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

These indices are published from the NSO's quarterly surveys of economic activity in Malta. The data presented cover motor trade, wholesale and retail trade. The results are compiled and published according to NACE (the statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community).

DATA COLLECTION AND INDEX COMPILATION

Data has been collected by means of a statistical sample survey. For each NACE division (for example NACE Division 50 for motor trade), a sample was selected. On a quarterly basis the selected enterprises were requested to provide information, including turnover, employment and wages and salaries. On the basis of the information provided, indices have been calculated for each Division, showing the level of the specified variable (for example employment), relative to the average level throughout the base year 2002, in the case of the data presented here. Note that the data presented have not been seasonally adjusted.

STATUS OF THE DATA

This data set is considered provisional as the methodology of the data collection and the index calculation is still being developed. Furthermore, efforts to increase the response rate are likely to lead to revisions of the index.

OBJECTIVES

The aim of the short-term statistics is to provide users with information on the business cycle.

SUMMARY DEFINITIONS OF KEY VARIABLES:

Turnover: includes total sales and other income and is expressed net of VAT. Turnover is presented in current prices.

Wages & 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 employer's social security charges.

Employment: This 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.

Hours worked: Cover total amount of hours actually worked; regular working hours and also during overtime; during nights, Sundays or Public holidays. Hours worked but not paid are also considered.