

News Release



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Business

Wholesale and retail trade and other services indicators: Oct-Dec 2005

This release provides indices for 2004 and for 2005, 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 Other Business activities sector registered a decrease in its Turnover Index of 25.6 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2005, when compared with the same quarter in 2004, from 94.2 to 70.1. The Supporting and Auxiliary Transport and the Land transport also recorded a decrease in their Turnover Index of 17.3 per cent and 13.5 per cent respectively when compared to the same period under review of 2004.

In the course of the fourth quarter this year, the Turnover Index of the Hotels and Restaurants increased by 25.1 per cent. The Air transport sector Index increased from 81.1 in 2004 to 99.9 in 2005, an increase of 23.2 per cent. The Computer and Related Activities sector registered an increase of 21 per cent, in its Turnover Index.

In the fourth quarter this year, most of the job losses were registered in the Other Business activities, the fall in the Employment Index was of 14 per cent. The Retail Trade Employment Index decreased by 12.8 per cent, from 97.5 in Q4 2004 to 85 in Q4 2005. The Hotels and Restaurants sector registered a fall of 4.7 per cent, for the same period under review.

An increase in employment was registered in the Wholesale Trade sector, where the Index increased from 116.1 in 2004 to 128.3 in 2005, an increase of 10.5 per cent. Increases were also registered in the Computer and Related Activities and in the Supporting and Auxiliary Transport, where the Employment Index increased by 7.5 per cent and 7.2 per cent respectively.

The sectors that registered the highest decrease in the Gross Wages and Salaries Index, were the Retail Trade (18.8 per cent), the Land Transport (5.5 per cent) and the Other Business Activities (1.7 per cent) sectors.

In Q4 2005, increases in the Gross Wages and Salaries were recorded in the Water Transport (16.1 per cent), the Computer and Related Activities (14.3 per cent) and the Post and Telecommunications (12.3 per cent).

For the period under review, the most significant decreases in the hours worked index were registered in the Other Business Activities, the Retail Trade and the Water Transport. The falls were of 17.6 per cent, 13.4 per cent and 4.3 per cent respectively.

The sector that registered the most significant increase in the Hours Worked Index is the Supporting and Auxiliary Transport, that went up from 114.7 to 120.2, an increase of 4.8 per cent. The Computer and Related Activities and the Hotels and Restaurants sector also recorded an increase of 4.7 per cent and 5.1 per cent respectively ■

Theme:
Industry and Services

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Table 1. Indices - Turnover (Net of VAT)

Nace	2004				2005				Annual (Q4) % Change
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Motor trade	157.1	189.9	143.6	153.8	241.2	244.6	211.1	166.6	8.3
Wholesale trade	100.0	112.8	116.8	117.1	101.8	121.9	117.5	120.1	2.6
Retail trade	106.0	112.2	116.2	113.4	106.4	94.8	100.7	99.6	-12.2
Hotels and restaurants	65.1	111.6	155.7	101.8	70.2	114.7	184.2	127.4	25.1
Land transport	71.8	98.5	108.8	132.1	88.2	116.1	114.1	114.3	-13.5
Water transport	57.1	128.4	184.2	123.8	88.2	134.1	193.4	137.3	10.9
Air transport	83.5	134.9	176.9	81.1	80.1	122.8	161.0	99.9	23.2
Supporting and auxiliary transport	85.2	93.2	82.9	113.2	84.7	87.3	83.6	93.7	-17.3
Post and telecommunications	166.9	114.6	125.5	109.9	96.5	117.9	121.0	112.8	2.6
Computer and related activities	75.5	66.5	83.5	61.5	60.2	78.5	74.8	74.3	21.0
Other business activities	59.7	79.1	69.4	94.2	95.9	79.1	70.1	70.1	-25.6

Table 2. Indices - Employment

Nace	2004				2005				Annual (Q4) % Change
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Motor trade	82.9	85.3	94.8	76.5	74.8	108.8	108.3	81.6	6.6
Wholesale trade	114.8	112.0	113.8	116.1	116.3	121.0	128.1	128.3	10.5
Retail trade	79.7	85.1	95.8	97.5	80.6	96.0	91.9	85.0	-12.8
Hotels and restaurants	96.7	106.1	109.8	107.1	102.7	106.3	111.8	102.1	-4.7
Land transport	133.0	135.6	138.1	117.4	122.7	126.2	119.5	113.4	-3.4
Water transport	86.2	86.3	86.6	84.2	82.4	82.7	88.2	84.7	0.5
Air transport	92.4	99.3	97.9	93.3	90.3	93.1	93.4	90.9	-2.6
Supporting and auxiliary transport	100.8	100.9	111.1	111.6	110.7	111.8	120.0	119.6	7.2
Post and telecommunications	104.7	90.8	91.2	97.3	99.9	95.5	100.1	100.8	3.6
Computer and related activities	98.4	92.8	101.5	99.0	99.8	101.5	104.5	106.3	7.5
Other business activities	102.5	121.7	116.4	127.5	106.8	102.9	109.7	109.7	-14.0

Table 3. Indices - Gross wages and salaries

Nace	2004				2005				Annual (Q4) % change
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Motor trade	97.2	94.0	102.6	97.5	99.2	119.1	97.2	103.8	6.5
Wholesale trade	128.9	129.5	126.4	138.3	136.9	137.2	134.3	139.1	0.5
Retail trade	121.6	121.2	133.7	140.6	125.9	131.2	125.0	114.2	-18.8
Hotels and restaurants	91.4	93.5	105.0	110.7	94.6	100.7	112.5	116.6	5.3
Land transport	146.7	138.8	149.0	155.4	136.9	147.1	132.8	146.9	-5.5
Water transport	94.5	93.5	92.9	96.5	91.9	91.0	102.7	112.0	16.1
Air transport	118.9	105.8	96.9	93.2	110.4	108.6	93.6	97.7	4.8
Supporting and auxiliary transport	106.4	110.7	112.7	113.6	106.7	120.4	125.8	119.7	5.3
Post and telecommunications	127.7	91.6	92.1	97.3	97.2	119.8	103.0	109.3	12.3
Computer and related activities	98.5	93.3	97.5	100.4	101.1	102.5	127.0	114.8	14.3
Other business activities	105.3	97.9	99.1	97.7	105.8	103.2	96.0	96.0	-1.7

Table 4. Indices - Hours worked

Nace	2004				2005				Annual (Q4) % change
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Motor trade	86.5	89.7	100.3	84.7	89.4	105.4	105.1	85.9	1.4
Wholesale trade	104.3	105.3	109.1	110.8	109.1	106.3	112.4	112.4	1.4
Retail trade	73.5	76.4	86.2	83.1	88.0	111.8	79.8	71.9	-13.4
Hotels and restaurants	88.4	97.4	109.4	99.6	88.9	101.4	111.9	104.6	5.1
Land transport	115.3	117.7	121.2	103.4	100.0	104.0	91.3	101.7	-1.6
Water transport	89.7	106.8	94.7	93.1	87.0	90.6	91.3	89.1	-4.3
Air transport	111.4	105.4	106.5	104.6	100.3	101.0	101.7	102.7	-1.8
Supporting and auxiliary transport	108.6	107.8	111.4	114.7	107.7	120.4	120.5	120.2	4.8
Post and telecommunications	121.8	98.5	172.8	93.1	92.4	141.0	93.6	93.6	0.5
Computer and related activities	102.2	116.2	102.4	100.4	100.2	103.8	104.4	105.1	4.7
Other business activities	93.9	93.8	95.2	103.8	85.5	107.4	85.5	85.5	-17.6

METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

These indices are published from the NSO 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.