

12 April 2017 | 1100 hrs | 063/2017

During the last quarter of 2016, turnover adjusted for working-days in selected services activities in Malta went down by 0.2 per cent over the fourth quarter of 2015. On the other hand, turnover adjusted for seasonal effects climbed by 0.5 per cent over the third quarter in 2016.

Short-term Services Indicators: Q4/2016

Cut-off date:
4 April 2017

Annual comparison

When compared to the fourth quarter of 2015, the economy recorded a slight decrease of 0.2 per cent in the index measuring the movement in the working-day adjusted turnover. Turnover dropped in the wholesale trade (7.7 per cent), in the real estate activities (5.7 per cent), in the administrative and support service activities (2.1 per cent), in the motor trade business (1.8 per cent), in the information and communication (1.3 per cent) and in the accommodation and food service activities (1.3 per cent). On the other hand, increases were registered in the transport and storage business (22.9 per cent), in the professional, scientific and technical activities (6.8 per cent) and in the retail trade (0.2 per cent) (Table 1).

The unadjusted index for employment (Table 3) as well as the working-day adjusted index for both the gross wages and salaries paid to employees in this sector (Table 5) and the number of hours worked during the period under review (Table 7) advanced by 1.3, 5.9 and 2.3 per cent respectively over the same quarter in 2015.

Quarterly comparison

When compared to the preceding quarter in 2016, seasonally adjusted turnover increased by 0.5 per cent. Increases were registered in the transport and storage activities (5.0 per cent), in the information and communication business (4.2 per cent), in the professional, scientific and technical activities (1.7 per cent) and equally in the real estate activities and the administrative and support service activities (1.5 per cent). On the contrary, decreases were essentially recorded in the wholesale trade activities (2.6 per cent), in the accommodation and food service activities (1.3 per cent) and in the motor trade activities (1.1 per cent) (Table 2).

Seasonally adjusted data on gross wages and salaries (Table 6) and the number of hours worked (Table 8) improved by 2.6 and 1.7 per cent respectively over the third quarter in 2016. No change was registered in the index for seasonally adjusted data on employment over the preceding period in 2016 (Table 4) ■

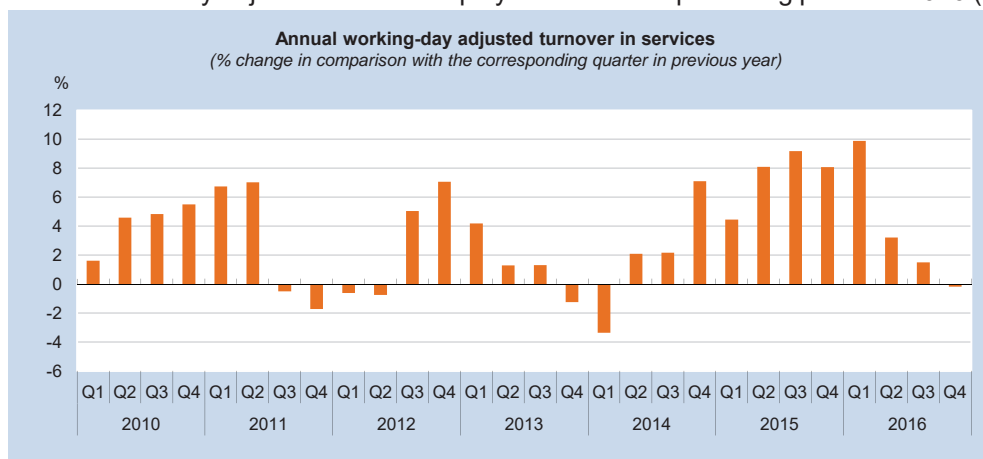


Table 1. Services turnover index by period and NACE classification
Working-day adjusted

NACE	2015	2016				% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
						2015	2016			
						Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	123.5	106.9	118.4	119.0	118.2	8.5	8.4	-0.1	-1.2	-4.3
Motor trade	147.7	158.3	156.0	145.6	145.0	35.0	29.1	10.7	3.0	-1.8
Wholesale trade	117.0	100.1	111.7	111.9	108.0	7.6	8.3	-2.3	-4.3	-7.7
Retail trade	130.3	109.8	123.4	126.5	130.6	6.1	4.7	1.3	2.7	0.2
Food	127.1	108.5	120.1	126.1	124.0	5.2	8.0	3.9	-1.3	-2.4
Non-food	131.9	110.5	125.0	126.7	133.9	6.5	3.2	0.0	4.8	1.5
Transportation and storage	120.3	121.6	144.1	156.6	147.9	6.0	19.2	12.0	15.2	22.9
Accommodation and food service activities	123.9	95.6	140.4	173.2	122.3	9.5	18.0	9.5	1.8	-1.3
Information and communication	97.3	85.2	89.2	92.1	96.0	5.4	3.2	-0.9	-1.7	-1.3
Real estate activities	139.9	95.7	117.3	129.9	131.9	11.8	1.9	5.6	-16.7	-5.7
Professional, scientific and technical activities	165.5	154.2	165.6	161.7	176.7	0.9	6.1	6.4	8.6	6.8
Administrative and support service activities	121.9	107.9	131.4	139.0	119.3	13.7	14.5	7.5	2.5	-2.1
Total	124.2	108.1	123.9	128.8	124.0	8.1	9.9	3.2	1.5	-0.2

^P Provisional

Table 2. Services turnover index by period and NACE classification
Seasonally adjusted

NACE	2015	2016				% change compared with previous quarter				
						2015	2016			
						Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	119.4	115.1	116.7	116.4	114.3	1.3	-3.6	1.4	-0.3	-1.8
Motor trade	148.9	161.5	149.5	147.8	146.2	3.8	8.5	-7.4	-1.1	-1.1
Wholesale trade	114.8	107.1	109.6	108.8	106.0	1.0	-6.7	2.3	-0.7	-2.6
Retail trade	122.9	121.3	122.1	123.6	123.2	2.0	-1.3	0.7	1.2	-0.3
Food	120.0	121.2	120.8	119.8	117.5	-1.4	1.0	-0.3	-0.8	-1.9
Non-food	123.9	122.2	122.7	125.4	125.8	3.6	-1.4	0.4	2.2	0.3
Transportation and storage	122.8	136.1	140.6	143.1	150.3	0.2	10.8	3.3	1.8	5.0
Accommodation and food service activities	133.4	132.0	133.4	134.0	132.2	1.8	-1.0	1.1	0.4	-1.3
Information and communication	97.3	85.2	89.2	92.1	96.0	3.8	-12.4	4.7	3.3	4.2
Real estate activities	139.9	95.7	117.3	129.9	131.9	-10.3	-31.6	22.6	10.7	1.5
Professional, scientific and technical activities	158.3	161.0	161.2	166.6	169.4	2.9	1.7	0.1	3.3	1.7
Administrative and support service activities	126.5	132.3	124.1	122.0	123.8	6.7	4.6	-6.2	-1.7	1.5
Total	122.1	120.2	121.2	121.3	121.9	2.2	-1.6	0.8	0.1	0.5

^P Provisional

Note: The calculation of growth rates from the indices tables may differ slightly from the published growth rates, due to rounding.

Table 3. Services employment index by period and NACE classification
Unadjusted

NACE	2015	2016				% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
						2015	2016			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	115.6	116.0	117.2	118.3	118.4	4.7	4.1	3.2	2.8	2.4
Motor trade	128.6	131.3	132.4	129.2	129.3	11.2	8.3	6.0	2.4	0.5
Wholesale trade	119.8	119.4	122.0	123.5	122.2	4.7	2.7	2.6	1.6	2.0
Retail trade	110.5	111.1	111.5	112.9	114.0	3.4	4.3	3.1	3.7	3.2
Food	108.8	109.1	110.6	112.9	113.4	5.7	3.7	5.1	6.6	4.2
Non-food	111.1	111.8	111.8	112.9	114.2	2.6	4.5	2.4	2.7	2.8
Transportation and storage	95.2	94.3	96.7	97.1	96.7	-1.2	0.9	0.2	0.7	1.6
Accommodation and food service activities	91.7	89.4	94.1	97.5	91.1	-0.4	5.0	2.3	0.5	-0.7
Information and communication	107.2	109.5	109.8	109.5	109.4	5.2	6.9	4.7	3.2	2.1
Real estate activities	120.6	122.6	117.4	120.9	119.1	15.9	20.4	5.9	1.1	-1.2
Professional, scientific and technical activities	128.6	121.9	141.1	123.1	123.0	11.0	3.1	13.7	0.2	-4.4
Administrative and support service activities	106.8	108.8	111.3	114.1	110.7	7.7	12.3	8.7	4.7	3.7
Total	108.6	108.0	111.4	111.9	110.0	4.7	5.6	5.0	2.5	1.3

^P Provisional

Table 4. Services employment index by period and NACE classification
Seasonally adjusted

NACE	2015	2016				% change compared with previous quarter				
						2015	2016			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	115.6	116.0	117.2	118.3	118.4	0.5	0.3	1.0	0.9	0.1
Motor trade	128.6	131.3	132.4	129.2	129.3	2.0	2.1	0.8	-2.4	0.1
Wholesale trade	119.8	119.4	122.0	123.5	122.2	-1.4	-0.3	2.2	1.2	-1.1
Retail trade	110.0	112.0	111.5	112.5	113.5	1.4	1.8	-0.4	0.9	0.9
Food	108.8	109.1	110.6	112.9	113.4	2.7	0.3	1.4	2.1	0.4
Non-food	111.1	111.8	111.8	112.9	114.2	1.1	0.6	0.0	1.0	1.2
Transportation and storage	95.0	95.6	96.4	96.3	96.5	-0.7	0.6	0.8	-0.1	0.2
Accommodation and food service activities	93.0	94.2	93.0	92.6	92.3	0.9	1.3	-1.3	-0.4	-0.3
Information and communication	107.9	109.5	109.4	109.2	110.1	2.1	1.5	-0.1	-0.2	0.8
Real estate activities	120.6	122.6	117.4	120.9	119.1	0.9	1.7	-4.2	3.0	-1.5
Professional, scientific and technical activities	128.6	121.9	141.1	123.1	123.0	4.7	-5.2	15.8	-12.8	-0.1
Administrative and support service activities	106.8	108.8	111.3	114.1	110.7	-2.0	1.9	2.3	2.5	-3.0
Total	108.8	109.8	111.2	110.1	110.1	1.3	0.9	1.3	-1.0	0.0

^P Provisional

Note: The calculation of growth rates from the indices tables may differ slightly from the published growth rates, due to rounding.

Table 5. Services gross wages and salaries index by period and NACE classification
Working-day adjusted

NACE	2015	2016				% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
						2015	2016			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	143.2	138.5	139.8	140.2	153.3	10.0	7.2	5.9	4.5	7.0
Motor trade	145.9	150.3	154.5	155.7	166.5	12.6	16.0	11.8	8.6	14.1
Wholesale trade	152.9	144.5	145.5	146.3	159.1	12.3	5.9	4.7	3.0	4.0
Retail trade	131.1	129.2	130.2	130.0	143.9	6.4	7.0	6.2	5.7	9.7
Food	124.1	127.4	126.5	132.7	140.1	7.1	5.3	8.2	7.0	12.9
Non-food	133.4	130.0	131.3	129.2	145.3	6.2	7.5	5.4	5.4	8.9
Transportation and storage	116.4	113.4	113.5	114.2	114.1	0.5	5.1	-2.3	0.7	-2.0
Accommodation and food service activities	119.0	110.3	117.0	126.0	119.4	8.2	7.1	2.9	2.8	0.4
Information and communication	120.3	118.3	118.8	120.1	129.0	9.7	7.8	8.0	7.7	7.3
Real estate activities	134.3	125.5	139.2	126.5	138.3	21.7	23.8	16.3	3.6	3.0
Professional, scientific and technical activities	174.9	172.1	180.5	180.2	197.5	17.2	15.4	12.0	12.8	12.9
Administrative and support service activities	135.8	125.5	139.1	141.9	147.9	10.1	9.2	12.2	10.1	8.9
Total	133.4	128.2	132.1	134.6	141.3	9.1	8.3	6.0	5.8	5.9

^p Provisional

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

NACE	2015	2016				% change compared with previous quarter				
						2015	2016			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	138.1	139.8	141.7	143.6	146.4	1.7	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.9
Motor trade	143.3	151.1	155.4	157.0	163.5	-0.9	5.4	2.8	1.0	4.1
Wholesale trade	148.8	145.8	146.8	148.1	154.5	3.6	-2.0	0.7	0.9	4.3
Retail trade	128.2	130.5	131.3	130.6	141.0	3.8	1.8	0.6	-0.6	8.0
Food	124.1	127.4	126.5	132.7	140.1	0.1	2.7	-0.7	4.9	5.5
Non-food	128.5	131.5	132.3	131.9	140.1	2.9	2.3	0.6	-0.3	6.2
Transportation and storage	116.4	113.4	113.5	114.2	114.1	2.6	-2.5	0.0	0.6	-0.1
Accommodation and food service activities	120.0	118.5	116.7	117.4	120.4	5.2	-1.3	-1.5	0.6	2.6
Information and communication	120.3	118.3	118.8	120.1	129.0	7.8	-1.6	0.4	1.1	7.4
Real estate activities	134.3	125.5	139.2	126.5	138.3	10.0	-6.6	10.9	-9.1	9.3
Professional, scientific and technical activities	174.9	172.1	180.5	180.2	197.5	9.5	-1.6	4.9	-0.2	9.6
Administrative and support service activities	135.8	125.5	139.1	141.9	147.9	5.4	-7.6	10.8	2.0	4.2
Total	130.3	131.6	132.3	134.3	137.8	2.9	1.0	0.6	1.5	2.6

^p Provisional

Note: The calculation of growth rates from the indices tables may differ slightly from the published growth rates, due to rounding.

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

Working-day adjusted

NACE	2015	2016				% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
						2015		2016		
						Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	118.0	116.7	117.7	117.2	117.4	5.6	4.3	3.2	-0.4	-0.5
Motor trade	131.7	137.8	139.8	142.2	145.2	4.2	8.2	4.9	0.9	10.2
Wholesale trade	115.4	113.4	116.0	111.8	107.9	6.1	3.4	3.4	-5.2	-6.5
Retail trade	118.3	115.6	115.9	117.6	121.1	5.3	4.4	3.1	3.5	2.4
Food	113.4	115.4	112.5	120.7	120.5	8.9	8.4	6.1	7.5	6.2
Non-food	120.0	115.7	117.1	116.5	121.3	4.2	3.1	2.2	2.1	1.1
Transportation and storage	99.6	99.5	100.7	103.9	102.9	0.6	3.2	1.5	4.0	3.3
Accommodation and food service activities	95.0	86.8	94.7	99.7	93.4	4.2	2.6	0.2	-2.1	-1.7
Information and communication	110.4	107.0	109.7	111.6	113.8	8.3	3.7	3.6	4.0	3.1
Real estate activities	120.7	126.3	125.0	124.7	121.9	17.0	23.7	10.7	3.1	1.0
Professional, scientific and technical activities	144.6	145.7	150.3	145.7	147.8	12.0	10.4	8.3	3.9	2.2
Administrative and support service activities	127.2	129.7	139.2	145.0	147.1	7.6	13.9	16.7	10.4	15.6
Total	114.3	111.8	116.8	118.3	117.6	5.4	5.6	6.1	5.9	2.3

^p Provisional

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

Seasonally adjusted

NACE	2015	2016				% change compared with previous quarter				
						2015		2016		
						Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	117.8	117.6	117.4	116.8	117.2	0.5	-0.1	-0.2	-0.5	0.4
Motor trade	131.7	137.8	139.8	142.2	145.2	-6.6	4.6	1.5	1.7	2.1
Wholesale trade	115.4	113.4	116.0	111.8	107.9	-2.2	-1.7	2.3	-3.6	-3.5
Retail trade	116.4	117.7	116.5	116.9	119.1	3.0	1.1	-1.0	0.3	1.9
Food	112.3	116.2	114.1	119.4	119.3	1.0	3.5	-1.7	4.6	-0.1
Non-food	118.6	117.3	117.0	116.3	119.9	4.1	-1.1	-0.3	-0.6	3.1
Transportation and storage	98.4	101.5	101.0	102.8	101.7	-0.4	3.2	-0.5	1.7	-1.1
Accommodation and food service activities	96.0	94.9	94.0	91.7	94.3	2.6	-1.1	-1.0	-2.4	2.8
Information and communication	110.4	107.0	109.7	111.6	113.8	2.9	-3.1	2.5	1.7	2.0
Real estate activities	120.7	126.3	125.0	124.7	121.9	-0.3	4.6	-1.0	-0.2	-2.3
Professional, scientific and technical activities	144.6	145.7	150.3	145.7	147.8	3.1	0.7	3.1	-3.0	1.4
Administrative and support service activities	128.1	132.5	139.2	141.1	148.1	0.2	3.4	5.1	1.3	4.9
Total	114.2	114.7	116.6	115.6	117.5	1.2	0.4	1.7	-0.9	1.7

^p Provisional

Note: The calculation of growth rates from the indices tables may differ slightly from the published growth rates, due to rounding.

Methodological Notes

1. The aim of short-term statistics 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. Every quarter, questionnaires are sent to approximately 900 enterprises 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. The selected enterprises were requested to provide information, including turnover, employment and wages and salaries, on a quarterly basis. 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 2010. The index numbers in this release are working-day and seasonally adjusted. These statistical methods aid 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.

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. 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 and refers to the adjustments of aggregated raw component.

3. In line with the Regulation on Short-term Statistics, services exclude Financial and Insurance Activities and Gambling and Betting Activities.
4. **Definitions:**
 - **Turnover:** includes total sales and other income and is expressed net of VAT. Turnover is presented in current prices.
 - **Wages and Salaries:** covers wages and salaries including bonuses, weekly allowances (cost of living allowances), overtime and national social security contributions by the employee. The definition does not include employer's social security charges.
 - **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; during nights, Sundays or public holidays. Hours worked but not paid are also considered.
5. The data contained in this release should be considered as provisional and therefore subject to revision. Each release may include revisions of the past quarterly data in respect of a rolling two-year period.

A distribution of the aggregation weights by NACE classification is presented in the following table:

NACE	Turnover	Employment	Wages and salaries	Hours worked
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	59.8	35.4	30.2	33.4
Motor trade	3.3	3.5	2.4	2.8
Wholesale trade	34.9	12.5	15.1	14.8
Retail trade	21.6	19.4	12.8	15.9
Food	7.3	5.2	3.2	4.1
Non-food	14.3	14.2	9.6	11.8
Transportation and storage	10.4	11.2	17.8	13.0
Accommodation and food service activities	7.2	19.1	15.4	18.8
Information and communication	7.6	7.2	11.9	8.8
Real estate activities	2.2	1.7	1.2	1.3
Professional, scientific and technical activities	6.3	10.9	10.8	9.0
Administrative and support service activities	6.5	14.5	12.7	15.7

6. 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>

European statistics comparable to data in this News Release are available at:

[EUROSTAT Website/Homepage/Statistics Database](#)

Data Navigation Tree

Database by themes

>Industry, trade and services

> Short-term business statistics

> Trade and services

> Wholesale and retail trade

> Other services

Tables by themes

>Short-term business statistics

> Trade and services - Services

For further assistance send a request from:

<http://nso.gov.mt/en/Services/Pages/Request-for-Information.aspx>

7. Kindly indicate source when quoting from this release.

8. The advanced news release calendar may be accessed at www.nso.gov.mt