

Wholesale and retail trade businesses accounted for 19.0 per cent of the total registered units in 2016.

## Business Demographics: 2011-2016

Cut-off date:  
6 April 2017

The Business Register (BR) provides one of the most detailed local business profiles in Malta. It is classified by economic activity according to the NACE (Nomenclature Statistique des Activités Économiques dans la Communauté Européenne). Samples of business surveys are based on the national BR, which is also a tool that can be used as a source of statistics in its own right. This release shows the demographic patterns of business units in Malta and their evolvement over time.

In 2016, registered units amounted to 95,333, an increase of 8.1 per cent, or 7,153, over the number of registered units in 2015.

Furthermore, registered units in financial and insurance activities (Section K), professional, scientific and technical activities (Section M), administrative and support service activities (Section N), and construction (Section F) amounted to 15.9, 11.6, 8.0 and 7.4 per cent respectively of the total registered units in 2016 (Table 1).

By employment size class, 97.4 per cent of registered units employ less than 10 persons and are considered micro entities. This varies between 100.0 per cent in activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods- and services-producing activities of households for own use (Section T), activities of extraterritorial organisations and bodies (Section U) and 58.2 per cent in public administration and defence (Section O). On the other hand, only 104 registered units employ more than 250 persons and are classified as large undertakings (Table 4) ■

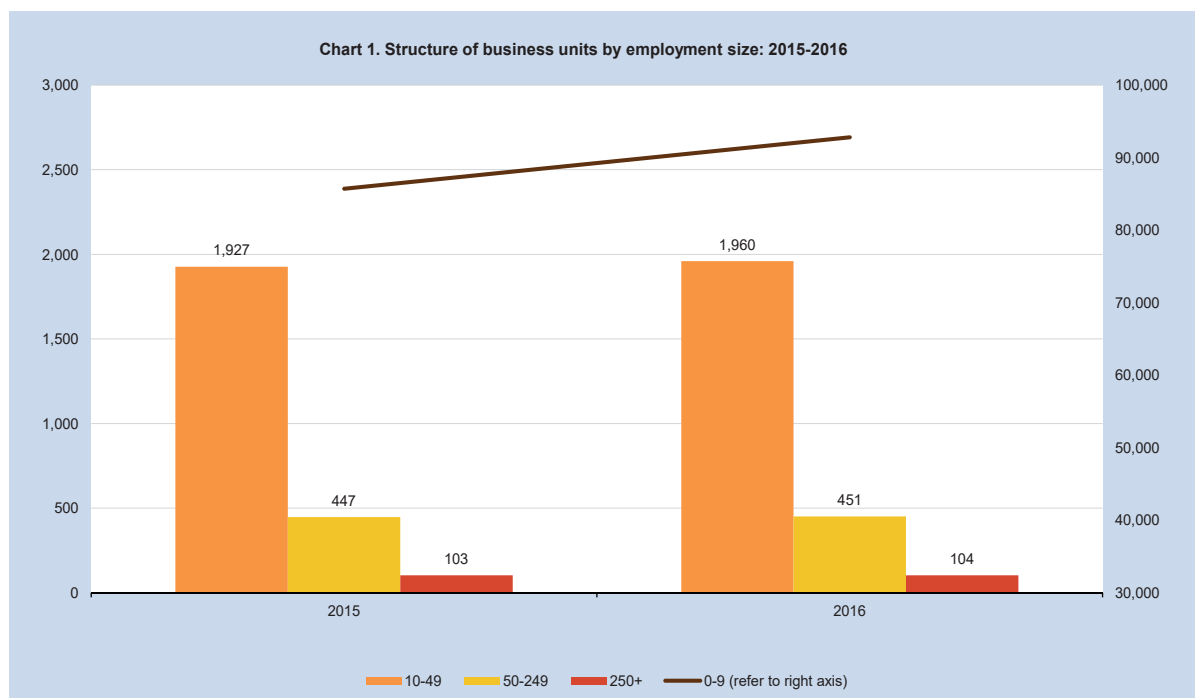


Table 1. Structure of business units by type of legal organisation: 2011-2016 ...

NACE Section	2011				2012				2013			
	Sole Ownership/ Partnership	Limited Liability/ Plc	Other	Total	Sole Ownership/ Partnership	Limited Liability/ Plc	Other	Total	Sole Ownership/ Partnership	Limited Liability/ Plc	Other	Total
A	3,728	111	24	3,863	3,294	111	14	3,419	3,189	114	14	3,317
B	c	60	c	103	39	63	4	106	42	69	3	114
C	2,372	1,277	61	3,710	1,987	1,314	54	3,355	1,890	1,357	50	3,297
D	-	c	c	12	-	c	c	12	-	c	c	15
E	154	76	7	237	143	79	7	229	140	84	7	231
F	4,601	2,189	108	6,898	4,095	2,204	89	6,388	4,108	2,256	97	6,461
G	9,906	5,834	287	16,027	9,197	6,215	221	15,633	9,082	6,735	223	16,040
H	1,802	1,894	95	3,791	1,491	2,111	68	3,670	1,453	2,108	72	3,633
I	2,301	1,185	86	3,572	2,233	1,245	44	3,522	2,330	1,303	34	3,667
J	1,230	1,252	80	2,562	931	1,411	60	2,402	898	1,609	62	2,569
K	71	8,003	172	8,246	60	9,063	209	9,332	58	10,465	269	10,792
L	1,255	1,845	34	3,134	955	1,889	30	2,874	966	1,930	31	2,927
M	4,706	3,161	142	8,009	3,505	3,514	109	7,128	3,456	4,034	117	7,607
N	2,108	2,357	189	4,654	1,601	2,809	163	4,573	1,540	3,341	192	5,073
O	-	-	211	211	-	-	220	220	-	-	239	239
P	2,101	202	284	2,587	1,389	228	268	1,885	1,291	252	261	1,804
Q	1,400	104	146	1,650	1,249	120	139	1,508	1,221	129	141	1,491
R	1,879	790	362	3,031	1,315	899	284	2,498	1,195	971	278	2,444
S	3,121	179	552	3,852	2,687	190	389	3,266	2,586	199	382	3,167
T	c	-	-	c	c	-	-	c	c	-	-	c
U	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
<b>Total</b>	<b>42,783</b>	<b>30,535</b>	<b>2,845</b>	<b>76,163</b>	<b>36,174</b>	<b>33,481</b>	<b>2,376</b>	<b>72,031</b>	<b>35,448</b>	<b>36,976</b>	<b>2,476</b>	<b>74,900</b>

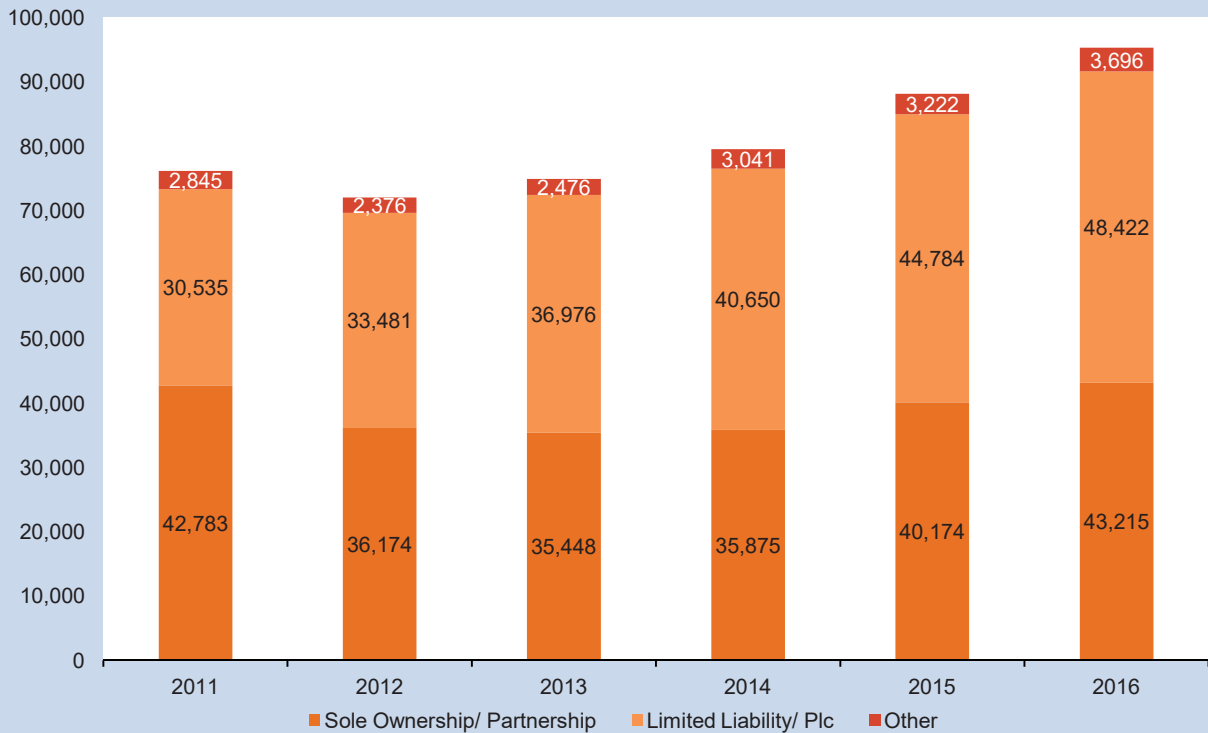
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... Table 1. Structure of business units by type of legal organisation: 2011-2016

NACE Section	2014				2015				2016			
	Sole Ownership/ Partnership	Limited Liability/ Plc	Other	Total	Sole Ownership/ Partnership	Limited Liability/ Plc	Other	Total	Sole Ownership/ Partnership	Limited Liability/ Plc	Other	Total
A	3,105	117	13	3,235	3,096	119	13	3,228	3,085	126	13	3,224
B	45	76	5	126	46	78	5	129	42	78	5	125
C	1,846	1,423	52	3,321	2,012	1,494	53	3,559	2,097	1,539	54	3,690
D	-	c	c	18	c	27	c	c	c	c	c	42
E	135	88	7	230	135	99	8	242	131	100	8	239
F	4,144	2,296	98	6,538	4,366	2,347	110	6,823	4,489	2,408	121	7,018
G	9,060	7,287	219	16,566	9,348	8,062	245	17,655	9,548	8,338	271	18,157
H	1,447	2,060	69	3,576	1,577	2,033	66	3,676	1,662	2,030	63	3,755
I	2,445	1,408	25	3,878	2,627	1,526	30	4,183	2,730	1,611	36	4,377
J	936	1,827	63	2,826	1,229	2,053	69	3,351	1,404	2,311	70	3,785
K	69	11,886	340	12,295	97	13,214	395	13,706	116	14,613	425	15,154
L	1,065	2,011	29	3,105	1,436	2,119	31	3,586	1,823	2,218	37	4,078
M	3,639	4,607	129	8,375	4,542	5,274	149	9,965	5,138	5,760	166	11,064
N	1,523	3,868	232	5,623	2,004	4,519	259	6,782	2,378	5,009	281	7,668
O	-	-	174	174	-	-	172	172	-	-	170	170
P	1,311	296	253	1,860	1,540	329	262	2,131	1,707	358	280	2,345
Q	1,223	149	136	1,508	1,263	169	138	1,570	1,333	185	137	1,655
R	1,218	1,024	281	2,523	1,666	1,073	293	3,032	2,038	1,187	433	3,658
S	2,660	205	913	3,778	3,158	243	921	4,322	3,446	511	1,123	5,080
T	c	-	-	c	28	-	-	28	41	-	-	41
U	c	c	c	c	c	6	c	c	c	c	c	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,875</b>	<b>40,650</b>	<b>3,041</b>	<b>79,566</b>	<b>40,174</b>	<b>44,784</b>	<b>3,222</b>	<b>88,180</b>	<b>43,215</b>	<b>48,422</b>	<b>3,696</b>	<b>95,333</b>

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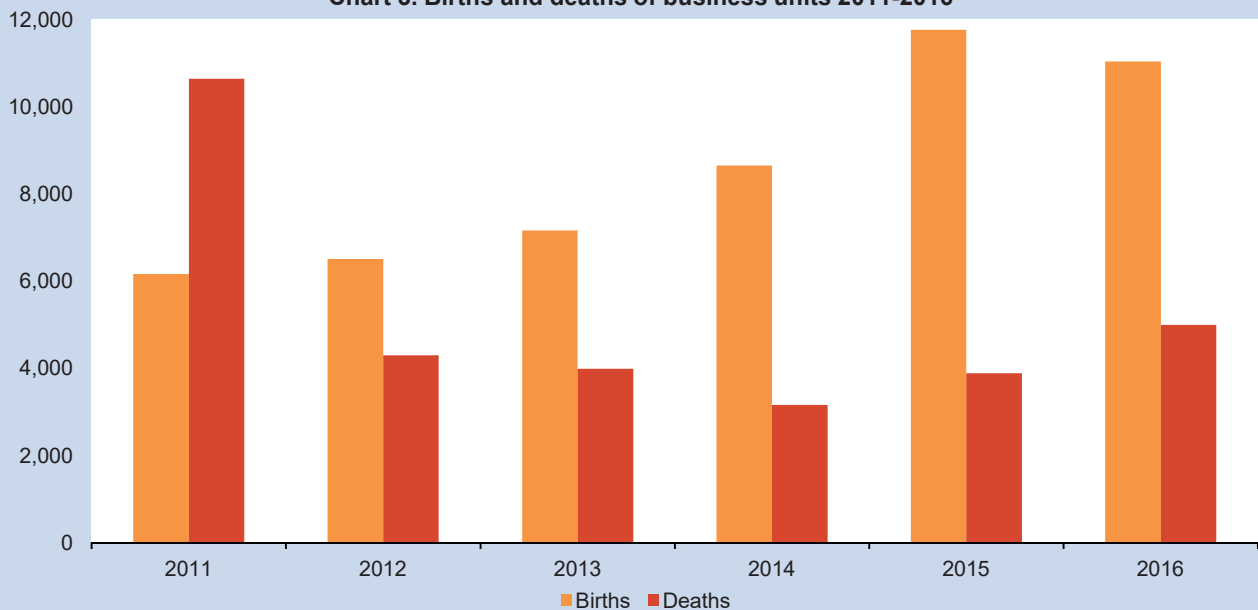
**Chart 2. Structure of business units by type of legal organisation: 2011-2016**



In 2016, 45 per cent of registered business units were sole owners or partnerships, 51 per cent were limited liability or public limited companies, while 4 per cent had other types of legal organisation. The number of Limited or Public Liability companies has increased systemically over the years. In 2016, the increase was of 8.1 per cent over 2015.

It is to be noted that on 1 January 2011, the Value Added Tax (Exemption from Registration) Regulations, which states that VAT Commissioner shall not register any taxable person established in Malta whose turnover does not exceed €7,000 in a calendar year, came into force, as notified in Legal Notice 524 of 2010. On 1 January 2015, this regulation was reversed as notified in Legal Notice 67 of 2015. Therefore business demographics deaths for 2011 and business demographics births from 2015 onwards may not be strictly comparable to previous years and should be treated with caution.

**Chart 3. Births and deaths of business units 2011-2016**



**Table 2. Births of business units: 2011-2016**

NACE Section	Births					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
A	72	45	50	64	112	114
B	c	10	12	17	6	7
C	137	148	153	179	355	268
D	c	c	3	c	13	11
E	14	c	12	13	17	c
F	274	344	406	409	563	557
G	1,010	1,217	1,280	1,434	1,819	1,307
H	446	354	204	151	273	259
I	343	299	374	438	499	529
J	282	301	333	385	639	594
K	1,187	1,416	1,797	1,953	1,891	2,005
L	144	179	175	277	570	601
M	733	726	959	1,166	1,877	1,504
N	602	747	859	895	1,420	1,239
O	c	19	30	25	c	c
P	86	80	70	102	313	220
Q	31	47	21	50	76	107
R	307	294	194	269	618	743
S	485	263	222	812	666	944
T	-	-	-	c	25	14
U	-	-	-	-	c	-
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>6,159</b>	<b>6,500</b>	<b>7,154</b>	<b>8,644</b>	<b>11,756</b>	<b>11,032</b>

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**Table 3. Deaths of business units: 2011-2016**

NACE Section	Deaths					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
A	498	151	147	121	118	128
B	7	4	6	4	10	3
C	506	208	147	118	139	158
D	c	-	c	c	c	-
E	17	11	12	5	10	8
F	858	335	329	274	366	363
G	1,580	872	882	726	805	1042
H	477	237	200	175	180	228
I	347	239	250	201	333	330
J	456	163	130	119	156	222
K	329	345	449	471	559	847
L	443	129	102	98	107	171
M	1,616	483	410	298	406	583
N	836	351	339	245	355	515
O	9	9	89	5	c	c
P	784	146	56	44	9	18
Q	194	38	33	13	20	6
R	831	250	194	112	119	163
S	845	322	210	123	182	202
T	c	-	-	-	-	c
U	-	-	c	c	-	c
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>10,638</b>	<b>4,293</b>	<b>3,987</b>	<b>3,154</b>	<b>3,879</b>	<b>4,990</b>

<sup>c</sup> confidential

Table 4. Structure of business units by employment size: 2011-2016...

NACE Section	2011					2012				
	0-9	10-49	50-249	250+	Total	0-9	10-49	50-249	250+	Total
A	3,845	13	c	c	3,863	3,402	11	c	c	3,419
B	93	10	-	-	103	100	6	-	-	106
C	3,428	211	57	14	3,710	3,083	204	55	13	3,355
D	c	-	-	c	c	c	-	-	c	c
E	225	c	c	c	237	215	12	c	c	229
F	6,759	116	20	3	6,898	6,250	115	20	3	6,388
G	15,513	449	c	c	16,027	15,120	447	c	c	15,633
H	3,685	82	18	6	3,791	3,550	96	18	6	3,670
I	3,333	170	63	6	3,572	3,283	167	66	6	3,522
J	2,470	69	19	4	2,562	2,304	74	20	4	2,402
K	8,153	68	21	4	8,246	9,240	68	20	4	9,332
L	3,119	c	c	-	3,134	2,859	12	3	-	2,874
M	7,835	156	14	4	8,009	6,952	158	c	c	7,128
N	4,512	94	36	12	4,654	4,427	100	34	12	4,573
O	104	54	46	7	211	106	60	45	9	220
P	2,489	60	32	6	2,587	1,787	56	35	7	1,885
Q	1,581	37	20	12	1,650	1,440	37	21	10	1,508
R	2,965	50	c	c	3,031	2,432	46	17	3	2,498
S	3,825	24	c	c	3,852	3,239	23	c	c	3,266
T	c	-	-	-	c	c	-	-	-	c
U	9	-	-	-	9	c	-	-	-	c
<b>Total</b>	<b>73,959</b>	<b>1,686</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>76,163</b>	<b>69,811</b>	<b>1,692</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>72,031</b>

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... Table 4. Structure of business units by employment size: 2011-2016

NACE Section	2013					2014				
	0-9	10-49	50-249	250+	Total	0-9	10-49	50-249	250+	Total
A	3,300	12	c	c	3,317	3,222	9	c	c	3,235
B	108	6	-	-	114	122	c	c	-	126
C	3,018	214	52	13	3,297	3,028	225	55	13	3,321
D	c	-	-	c	c	c	-	-	c	c
E	217	c	c	c	231	219	9	c	c	230
F	6,316	124	18	3	6,461	6,399	118	c	c	6,538
G	15,488	484	c	c	16,040	16,013	481	c	c	16,566
H	3,509	101	17	6	3,633	3,449	103	18	6	3,576
I	3,395	202	63	7	3,667	3,594	218	58	8	3,878
J	2,461	81	24	3	2,569	2,717	78	27	4	2,826
K	10,694	73	21	4	10,792	12,186	85	20	4	12,295
L	2,911	c	c	-	2,927	3,088	c	c	-	3,105
M	7,426	160	c	c	7,607	8,176	176	19	4	8,375
N	4,919	106	35	13	5,073	5,460	112	35	16	5,623
O	116	71	44	8	239	102	27	32	13	174
P	1,693	70	35	6	1,804	1,741	72	41	6	1,860
Q	1,407	50	22	12	1,491	1,422	54	20	12	1,508
R	2,358	64	c	c	2,444	2,426	72	22	3	2,523
S	3,137	27	c	c	3,167	3,749	26	c	c	3,778
T	c	-	-	-	c	c	-	-	-	c
U	c	-	-	-	c	c	-	-	-	c
<b>Total</b>	<b>72,499</b>	<b>1,872</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>74,900</b>	<b>77,141</b>	<b>1,884</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>79,566</b>

<sup>c</sup> confidential

... Table 4. Structure of business units by employment size: 2011-2016

NACE Section	2015					2016				
	0-9	10-49	50-249	250+	Total	0-9	10-49	50-249	250+	Total
A	3,215	10	3	-	3,228	3,212	9	3	-	3,224
B	125	c	c	-	129	121	4	-	-	125
C	3,270	220	57	12	3,559	3,395	226	56	13	3,690
D	c	c	-	-	c	39	c	c	-	42
E	228	12	c	c	242	226	11	c	c	239
F	6,685	115	20	3	6,823	6,882	113	20	3	7,018
G	17,089	491	72	3	17,655	17,597	482	75	3	18,157
H	3,556	97	17	6	3,676	3,638	92	18	7	3,755
I	3,889	230	56	8	4,183	4,074	239	57	7	4,377
J	3,233	90	24	4	3,351	3,668	91	21	5	3,785
K	13,598	82	22	4	13,706	15,040	89	21	4	15,154
L	3,563	19	4	-	3,586	4,053	21	4	-	4,078
M	9,755	183	23	4	9,965	10,850	186	24	4	11,064
N	6,614	114	38	16	6,782	7,492	121	38	17	7,668
O	99	26	29	18	172	99	25	28	18	170
P	2,010	75	39	7	2,131	2,218	79	41	7	2,345
Q	1,485	54	18	13	1,570	1,565	61	18	11	1,655
R	2,935	74	20	3	3,032	3,555	78	22	3	3,658
S	4,287	31	c	c	4,322	5,045	c	3	c	5,080
T	28	-	-	-	28	41	-	-	-	41
U	c	-	-	-	c	8	-	-	-	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>85,703</b>	<b>1,927</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>88,180</b>	<b>92,818</b>	<b>1,960</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>95,333</b>

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## Methodological Notes

1. Births and Deaths record the demographic change in the number of units, that is, registrations and/or deregistrations, and do not precisely record commencement or cessation of an activity by a unit. Demographic events such as takeovers, mergers, split-offs are not catered for and may affect the data presented. The recorded births and deaths from 2011 are being affected by Legal Notice 524 of 2010 and Legal Notice 67 of 2015.
2. For the purpose of this news release all legal units, irrespective of any threshold, are deemed to be equal to an enterprise and are recorded. Other types of enterprise legal structures may include corporations, cooperatives and joint ventures.
3. Updates in the Business Register are ongoing and all figures reported are subject to revision.
4. Business units that have ceased operating as indicated in Table 3, are included in the registered business units in Tables 1 and 4 respectively if they have operated for at least one day in the year that they ceased operation.
5. 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=24>  
Classifications: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/classificationdetails.aspx?id=NACE Rev. 2>
6. Kindly indicate source when quoting from this release.
7. The advanced news release calendar may be accessed at [www.nso.gov.mt](http://www.nso.gov.mt)

## Definitions

The following are the definitions of the employment size class breakdowns shown in Table 4:

<b>Size class</b>	<b>Persons employed</b>
Micro	0-9
Small	10-49
Medium	50-249
Large	250+

## NACE Rev. 2 Classification

Section	Description
A	Agriculture, forestry and fishing
B	Mining and quarrying
C	Manufacturing
D	Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply
E	Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities
F	Construction
G	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles
H	Transportation and storage
I	Accommodation and food service activities
J	Information and communication
K	Financial and insurance activities
L	Real estate activities
M	Professional, scientific and technical activities
N	Administrative and support service activities
O	Public administration and defence; compulsory social security
P	Education
Q	Human health and social work activities
R	Arts, entertainment and recreation
S	Other service activities
T	Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods- and services-producing activities of households for own use
U	Activities of extraterritorial organisations and bodies

**NACE Rev. 2 Classification**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Division</b>	<b>Description</b>
A	01	Crop and animal production, hunting and related service activities
	02	Forestry and logging
	03	Fishing and aquaculture
B	05	Mining of coal and lignite
	06	Extraction of crude petroleum and natural gas
	07	Mining of metal ores
	08	Other mining and quarrying
	09	Mining support service activities
C	10	Manufacture of food products
	11	Manufacture of beverages
	12	Manufacture of tobacco products
	13	Manufacture of textiles
	14	Manufacture of wearing apparel
	15	Manufacture of leather and related products
	16	Manufacture of wood and products of wood and cork, except furniture; manufacture of articles of straw and plaiting materials
	17	Manufacture of paper and paper products
	18	Printing and reproduction of recorded media
	19	Manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products
	20	Manufacture of chemicals and chemical products
	21	Manufacture of basic pharmaceuticals products and pharmaceutical preparations
	22	Manufacture of rubber and plastic products
	23	Manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products
	24	Manufacture of basic metals
	25	Manufacture of fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment
	26	Manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products
	27	Manufacture of electrical equipment
	28	Manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c
	29	Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers
30	Manufacture of other transport equipment	
31	Manufacture of furniture	
32	Other manufacturing	
33	Repair and installation of machinery and equipment	
D	35	Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply
E	36	Water collection, treatment and supply
	37	Sewerage
	38	Waste collection, treatment and disposal activities; materials recovery
	39	Remediation activities and other waste management services
F	41	Construction of buildings
	42	Civil engineering
	43	Specialised construction activities
G	45	Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles
	46	Wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles
	47	Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles
H	49	Land transport and transport via pipelines
	50	Water transport
	51	Air transport
	52	Warehousing and support activities for transportation
	53	Postal and courier activities

## NACE Rev. 2 Classification

Section	Division	Description
I	55	Accommodation
	56	Food and beverage service activities
J	58	Publishing activities
	59	Motion picture, video and television programme production, sound recording and music publishing activities
	60	Broadcasting and programming activities
	61	Telecommunications
	62	Computer programming, consultancy and related activities
	63	Information service activities
K	64	Financial service activities, except insurance and pension funding
	65	Insurance, reinsurance and pension funding, except compulsory social security
	66	Activities auxiliary to financial services and insurance activities
L	68	Real estate activities
M	69	Legal and accounting activities
	70	Activities of head offices; management consultancy activities
	71	Architectural and engineering activities; technical testing and analysis
	72	Scientific research and development
	73	Advertising and market research
	74	Other professional, scientific and technical activities
	75	Veterinary activities
N	77	Rental and leasing activities
	78	Employment activities
	79	Travel agency, tour operator reservation service and related activities
	80	Security and investigation activities
	81	Services to buildings and landscape activities
	82	Office administrative, office support and other business support activities
O	84	Public administration and defence; compulsory social security
P	85	Education
Q	86	Human health activities
	87	Residential care activities
	88	Social work activities without accommodation
R	90	Creative, arts and entertainment activities
	91	Libraries, archives, museums and other cultural activities
	92	Gambling and betting activities
	93	Sports activities and amusement and recreation activities
S	94	Activities of membership organisations
	95	Repair of computers and personal and household goods
	96	Other personal service activities
T	97	Activities of households as employers of domestic personnel
	98	Undifferentiated goods- and services-producing activities of private households for own use
U	99	Activities of extraterritorial organisations and bodies