

The fourth quarter of 2017 recorded an overall increase of 1.8 per cent in working-day adjusted turnover of selected services activities when compared to the corresponding period in 2016. When seasonally adjusted, the services turnover rose by 0.3 per cent over the previous quarter.

Short-term Services Indicators: Q4/2017

Cut-off date:
13 February 2018

Annual comparison

When compared to the fourth quarter of 2016, working-day adjusted turnover went up by 1.8 per cent (Table 1). Turnover increased in the retail trade (5.4 per cent), in the administrative and support service activities (3.0 per cent), in the accommodation and food service activities (2.5 per cent), in the real estate activities (2.2 per cent), and in the motor trade (1.1 per cent). In contrast, decreases were registered in the professional, scientific and technical activities (0.9 per cent), in the information and communication sector (0.6 per cent), in the transportation and storage sector (0.2 per cent) and in the wholesale trade (0.2 per cent).

The unadjusted index for employment (Table 3) and the working-day adjusted index for both gross wages and salaries (Table 5) and hours worked (Table 7) rose by 1.7, 3.2 and 1.4 per cent respectively over the same quarter in 2016.

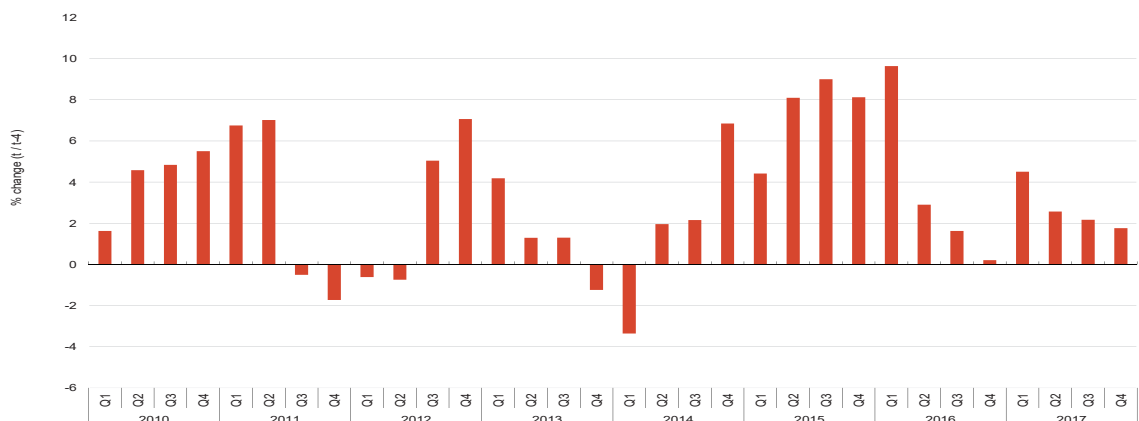
Quarterly comparison

When compared to the previous quarter in 2017, seasonally adjusted turnover increased by 0.3 per cent (Table 2). Increases were registered in the information and communication activities (5.1 per cent), in the administrative and support service activities (3.3 per cent), in the professional, scientific and technical activities (2.8 per cent) and in the retail trade (2.3 per cent). On the other hand, decreases were recorded in the motor trade sector (7.3 per cent), in the real estate activities (6.7 per cent), in the transportation and storage sector (1.9 per cent), in the accommodation and food service activities (1.0 per cent) and in the wholesale trade (0.9 per cent).

Seasonally adjusted employment (Table 4) increased by 0.8 per cent while gross wages and salaries (Table 6) and hours worked (Table 8) increased by 0.3 and 0.4 per cent respectively ■

Annual working-day adjusted services turnover

(% change in comparison with corresponding quarter in previous year)



This is the last release on Short-term Services Indicators with the base year 2010 = 100. The next release would rebase the indices to year 2015 = 100.

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

NACE	2016	2017				% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
						2016	2017			
						Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	119.6	108.1	116.9	120.7	122.2	-3.2	1.1	-1.3	1.7	2.2
Motor trade	144.7	143.0	157.8	157.8	146.4	-2.0	-9.6	1.3	9.0	1.1
Wholesale trade	109.0	100.4	104.8	110.6	108.8	-6.9	0.2	-6.3	-1.3	-0.2
Retail trade	133.0	115.2	130.1	131.2	140.2	1.9	4.8	5.7	4.7	5.4
Food	130.2	113.5	136.6	131.9	141.1	2.1	4.2	13.9	3.6	8.4
Non-food	134.4	116.0	126.7	130.8	139.7	1.9	5.0	1.6	5.3	3.9
Transportation and storage	144.5	136.8	156.5	163.2	144.2	20.2	12.4	8.5	4.1	-0.2
Accommodation and food service activities	117.0	96.9	141.7	181.2	120.0	-3.7	5.0	2.9	6.9	2.5
Information and communication	94.0	88.9	92.6	88.9	93.4	-3.4	4.5	3.5	-2.9	-0.6
Real estate activities	129.9	124.4	133.7	142.4	132.8	-7.1	33.6	14.0	9.1	2.2
Professional, scientific and technical activities	166.8	150.6	167.4	148.3	165.4	1.6	2.8	5.4	-4.2	-0.9
Administrative and support service activities	131.4	121.7	148.2	151.5	135.3	8.3	6.5	12.3	0.3	3.0
Total	124.2	112.7	126.5	131.6	126.4	0.2	4.5	2.6	2.2	1.8

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

NACE	2016	2017				% change compared with previous quarter				
						2016	2017			
						Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	115.3	116.3	115.4	118.2	117.8	-0.8	0.8	-0.7	2.4	-0.3
Motor trade	146.3	146.2	151.2	159.7	148.0	-0.1	-0.1	3.4	5.6	-7.3
Wholesale trade	106.7	107.2	103.3	107.5	106.5	-2.0	0.4	-3.6	4.1	-0.9
Retail trade	125.0	126.5	128.8	129.2	132.1	1.5	1.2	1.8	0.3	2.3
Food	123.1	126.6	134.4	128.4	133.5	0.0	2.8	6.1	-4.5	4.0
Non-food	125.6	126.8	126.0	129.6	130.9	2.1	1.0	-0.6	2.9	1.0
Transportation and storage	147.1	151.4	152.8	149.7	146.8	2.7	2.9	0.9	-2.0	-1.9
Accommodation and food service activities	130.6	138.6	132.9	135.3	134.0	3.2	6.1	-4.1	1.8	-1.0
Information and communication	94.0	88.9	92.6	88.9	93.4	2.7	-5.5	4.1	-4.0	5.1
Real estate activities	129.9	124.4	133.7	142.4	132.8	-0.4	-4.3	7.5	6.5	-6.7
Professional, scientific and technical activities	159.4	157.4	162.7	153.6	158.0	-0.4	-1.3	3.4	-5.6	2.8
Administrative and support service activities	136.2	143.9	142.1	135.6	140.1	1.3	5.6	-1.3	-4.5	3.3
Total	122.2	125.2	123.8	124.0	124.4	0.7	2.4	-1.1	0.1	0.3

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	2016	2017				% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
						2016	2017			
						Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	119.5	120.3	120.5	122.2	122.5	3.2	3.5	2.7	2.2	2.6
Motor trade	133.8	137.5	137.6	138.6	133.7	4.0	4.8	4.0	3.8	0.0
Wholesale trade	122.6	124.8	123.9	126.2	126.4	2.4	4.5	1.7	0.9	3.1
Retail trade	114.9	114.2	115.3	116.7	118.1	3.6	2.6	3.2	2.8	2.8
Food	114.6	115.7	116.7	116.2	117.2	5.0	5.7	5.2	1.5	2.2
Non-food	114.9	113.7	114.7	116.9	118.4	3.1	1.5	2.5	3.3	3.0
Transportation and storage	95.7	96.5	96.2	95.2	94.4	0.8	2.6	0.4	-1.4	-1.3
Accommodation and food service activities	88.4	89.1	90.8	94.9	89.7	-4.2	0.1	-2.0	-2.1	1.5
Information and communication	108.3	107.7	107.4	105.2	106.8	0.7	-1.4	-1.9	-3.8	-1.4
Real estate activities	132.0	131.7	130.0	130.2	130.0	1.3	-0.7	0.0	-1.6	-1.5
Professional, scientific and technical activities	125.3	123.2	126.9	126.4	124.9	0.3	2.4	-3.2	0.5	-0.4
Administrative and support service activities	116.2	118.2	123.6	124.1	123.4	6.7	5.4	6.2	4.0	6.2
Total	110.6	111.2	112.5	113.6	112.5	1.5	2.7	1.3	0.5	1.7

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

NACE	2016	2017				% change compared with previous quarter				
						2016	2017			
						Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	119.5	120.3	120.5	122.2	122.5	-0.1	0.7	0.2	1.4	0.3
Motor trade	133.8	137.5	137.6	138.6	133.7	0.2	2.8	0.1	0.7	-3.5
Wholesale trade	122.6	124.8	123.9	126.2	126.4	-1.9	1.8	-0.8	1.9	0.1
Retail trade	114.9	114.2	115.3	116.7	118.1	1.2	-0.5	0.9	1.3	1.2
Food	114.6	115.7	116.7	116.2	117.2	0.1	1.0	0.9	-0.5	0.8
Non-food	114.9	113.7	114.7	116.9	118.4	1.6	-1.1	0.9	1.9	1.3
Transportation and storage	95.7	97.5	95.9	94.6	94.5	-0.2	1.8	-1.7	-1.3	-0.1
Accommodation and food service activities	89.8	93.1	90.1	90.2	91.1	-2.5	3.6	-3.2	0.1	1.0
Information and communication	108.7	107.8	107.1	105.2	107.2	-0.5	-0.9	-0.7	-1.7	1.8
Real estate activities	132.0	131.7	130.0	130.2	130.0	-0.3	-0.3	-1.3	0.1	-0.1
Professional, scientific and technical activities	125.3	123.2	126.9	126.4	124.9	-0.3	-1.7	3.0	-0.4	-1.2
Administrative and support service activities	116.2	118.2	123.6	124.1	123.4	-2.6	1.7	4.5	0.4	-0.6
Total	110.8	113.0	112.3	111.8	112.7	-0.3	1.9	-0.6	-0.4	0.8

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	2016	2017				% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
						2016	2017			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	151.1	145.4	148.6	150.4	156.3	4.7	4.0	5.3	5.6	3.5
Motor trade	166.7	158.5	166.2	173.7	177.3	13.4	4.6	6.9	10.8	6.3
Wholesale trade	156.3	150.0	153.0	153.5	163.1	2.0	3.4	4.7	4.4	4.4
Retail trade	141.9	137.4	140.0	142.3	144.4	6.6	4.6	5.7	6.0	1.7
Food	143.0	139.7	142.6	145.2	146.3	9.1	4.0	7.1	3.5	2.3
Non-food	141.6	136.4	139.3	141.5	143.9	5.8	4.6	5.5	7.0	1.6
Transportation and storage	115.1	120.1	118.5	117.5	116.8	-0.9	6.4	5.6	3.1	1.4
Accommodation and food service activities	117.9	115.6	122.5	128.5	119.6	-1.1	4.9	5.3	3.3	1.4
Information and communication	126.2	125.7	120.5	123.0	129.6	3.9	6.3	1.7	3.8	2.7
Real estate activities	147.7	137.5	154.7	132.6	149.7	3.8	3.9	2.5	-0.9	1.4
Professional, scientific and technical activities	176.3	178.7	185.0	185.8	183.2	7.3	9.5	7.4	8.5	3.9
Administrative and support service activities	162.7	151.4	160.7	167.6	174.4	15.1	16.2	10.7	12.2	7.2
Total	140.5	137.4	140.2	142.7	145.0	5.0	7.0	5.9	5.7	3.2

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

NACE	2016	2017				% change compared with previous quarter				
						2016	2017			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	146.3	147.6	149.6	151.2	152.3	1.4	0.9	1.3	1.1	0.7
Motor trade	163.1	161.2	167.1	173.8	173.5	3.9	-1.2	3.7	4.0	-0.2
Wholesale trade	151.5	151.7	154.3	155.5	158.0	1.7	0.2	1.7	0.8	1.6
Retail trade	139.6	138.6	140.8	142.7	142.1	3.7	-0.7	1.6	1.4	-0.4
Food	143.0	139.7	142.6	145.2	146.3	2.0	-2.3	2.0	1.8	0.8
Non-food	138.3	138.2	139.9	142.4	140.7	3.8	-0.1	1.2	1.8	-1.2
Transportation and storage	115.1	120.1	118.5	117.5	116.8	1.0	4.3	-1.4	-0.8	-0.6
Accommodation and food service activities	119.5	123.2	122.0	120.0	121.2	2.8	3.1	-1.0	-1.6	1.0
Information and communication	126.2	125.7	120.5	123.0	129.6	6.4	-0.4	-4.2	2.1	5.3
Real estate activities	147.7	137.5	154.7	132.6	149.7	10.4	-6.9	12.5	-14.3	12.9
Professional, scientific and technical activities	176.3	178.7	185.0	185.8	183.2	2.9	1.3	3.6	0.4	-1.4
Administrative and support service activities	162.7	151.4	160.7	167.6	174.4	8.9	-6.9	6.1	4.3	4.1
Total	137.9	140.4	140.4	142.0	142.4	2.6	1.8	0.0	1.1	0.3

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	2016	2017				% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
						2016	2017			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	119.1	118.8	121.1	122.5	121.8	0.7	1.6	2.4	3.0	2.3
Motor trade	142.7	145.8	146.5	149.9	147.3	7.5	5.1	4.0	4.9	3.2
Wholesale trade	111.6	113.4	114.3	115.9	114.9	-3.2	0.0	-1.4	3.2	3.0
Retail trade	121.8	119.5	122.7	123.4	123.3	2.7	2.9	5.0	2.3	1.2
Food	119.5	118.0	123.0	125.4	124.9	4.7	1.1	7.7	2.0	4.5
Non-food	122.7	120.0	122.6	122.9	122.9	2.1	3.4	4.2	2.4	0.2
Transportation and storage	101.6	100.8	99.6	101.7	104.7	2.3	2.1	-1.0	-1.5	3.1
Accommodation and food service activities	92.5	88.7	95.3	100.0	91.0	-2.2	1.8	1.4	-0.7	-1.7
Information and communication	112.2	111.8	110.0	112.3	114.9	1.0	4.4	0.5	1.0	2.3
Real estate activities	132.2	131.8	135.8	132.1	130.2	2.2	-2.9	-1.5	-2.6	-1.6
Professional, scientific and technical activities	148.9	147.5	149.9	149.3	148.2	5.6	4.4	0.1	1.8	-0.5
Administrative and support service activities	154.8	143.5	159.0	167.7	162.5	17.5	6.5	9.5	8.2	5.0
Total	118.8	117.3	119.8	122.9	120.5	3.5	4.4	1.8	2.1	1.4

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

Seasonally adjusted

NACE	2016	2017				% change compared with previous quarter				
						2016	2017			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	118.9	119.9	120.9	121.8	121.7	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.8	-0.1
Motor trade	142.7	145.8	146.5	149.9	147.3	-0.2	2.2	0.5	2.3	-1.8
Wholesale trade	111.6	113.4	114.3	115.9	114.9	-0.7	1.7	0.8	1.4	-0.8
Retail trade	120.1	121.6	123.0	122.8	121.6	0.0	1.3	1.1	-0.2	-1.0
Food	118.6	119.3	124.0	123.7	124.0	-2.2	0.6	4.0	-0.3	0.3
Non-food	121.3	121.9	122.6	122.3	121.5	1.6	0.5	0.6	-0.2	-0.7
Transportation and storage	100.3	102.7	100.0	100.6	103.4	-1.8	2.4	-2.7	0.6	2.7
Accommodation and food service activities	93.9	96.2	94.6	92.1	92.4	1.3	2.4	-1.7	-2.6	0.3
Information and communication	112.2	111.8	110.0	112.3	114.9	0.9	-0.4	-1.6	2.1	2.3
Real estate activities	132.2	131.8	135.8	132.1	130.2	-2.5	-0.3	3.1	-2.7	-1.5
Professional, scientific and technical activities	148.9	147.5	149.9	149.3	148.2	1.5	-0.9	1.6	-0.4	-0.7
Administrative and support service activities	154.7	149.2	159.0	161.6	162.4	3.6	-3.6	6.6	1.6	0.5
Total	118.8	120.4	119.6	120.0	120.5	1.1	1.3	-0.7	0.4	0.4

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>

7. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.

8. A detailed news release calendar is available on

https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx

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

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

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