

Wholesale and retail trade businesses accounted for 18.0 per cent of the total registered units in 2017.

Business Demographics: 2012-2017

Cut-off date:
3 April 2018

The Business Register 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) classification of economic activities in the European Union. 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 evolution over time.

In 2017, registered business units amounted to 103,458, an increase of 6.9 per cent, or 6,642, over 2016 (Table 1).

Furthermore, registered units in wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (Section G), financial and insurance activities (Section K), professional, scientific and technical activities (Section M) and administrative and support service activities (Section N) amounted to 18.0, 15.8, 12.0 and 8.2 per cent respectively of the total registered units in 2017 (Table 1).

In terms of employment, 97.3 per cent of registered units were micro entities as they employed less than 10 persons. This percentage varied between 100.0 per cent in Sections T and U (activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods- and services-producing activities of households for own use and activities of extraterritorial organisations and bodies respectively), and a minimum of 60.4 per cent in public administration and defence (Section O). On the other hand, only 112 registered units employ more than 250 persons and are hence classified as large undertakings (Table 4) ■

Chart 1. Number of business units by employment size: 2016-2017

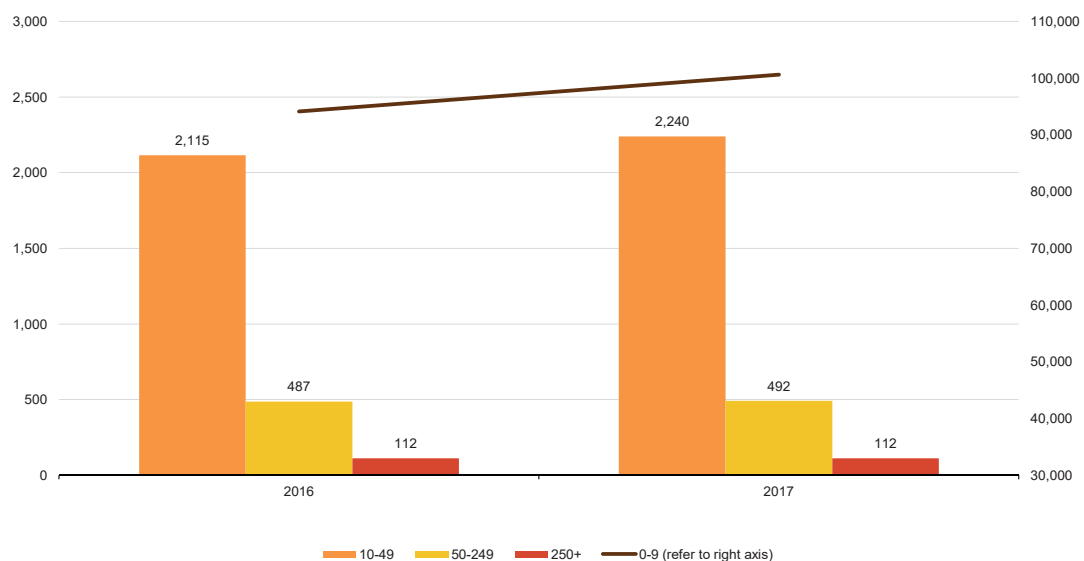


Table 1. Structure of business units by type of legal organisation: 2012-2017 ...

NACE Section *	2012				2013				2014			
	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	3,327	111	14	3,452	3,223	114	14	3,351	3,142	117	13	3,272
B	39	63	4	106	42	69	3	114	45	76	6	127
C	2,037	1,316	54	3,407	1,947	1,361	50	3,358	1,911	1,430	53	3,394
D	-	c	c	12	-	c	c	15	-	c	c	18
E	147	79	7	233	144	84	7	235	139	89	7	235
F	4,208	2,206	91	6,505	4,248	2,257	100	6,605	4,298	2,295	101	6,694
G	9,371	6,221	221	15,813	9,280	6,737	225	16,242	9,291	7,288	226	16,805
H	1,529	2,117	69	3,715	1,499	2,116	73	3,688	1,499	2,070	70	3,639
I	2,277	1,245	46	3,568	2,385	1,303	36	3,724	2,510	1,408	26	3,944
J	974	1,414	61	2,449	952	1,612	63	2,627	997	1,836	64	2,897
K	62	9,044	210	9,316	60	10,439	271	10,770	71	11,858	341	12,270
L	987	1,892	32	2,911	1,001	1,933	34	2,968	1,109	2,016	33	3,158
M	3,636	3,522	107	7,265	3,601	4,049	115	7,765	3,796	4,616	128	8,540
N	1,664	2,840	162	4,666	1,613	3,366	194	5,173	1,604	3,873	242	5,719
O	-	-	220	220	-	-	239	239	-	-	174	174
P	1,423	229	262	1,914	1,330	253	257	1,840	1,354	297	250	1,901
Q	1,253	119	140	1,512	1,224	129	143	1,496	1,226	149	138	1,513
R	1,366	899	285	2,550	1,256	971	282	2,509	1,288	1,025	287	2,600
S	2,762	189	391	3,342	2,684	197	388	3,269	2,775	204	920	3,899
T	c	-	-	c	c	-	-	c	c	-	-	c
U	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
Total	37,064	33,522	2,380	72,966	36,491	37,010	2,498	75,999	37,058	40,669	3,082	80,809

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* Refer to methodological section for NACE section descriptions

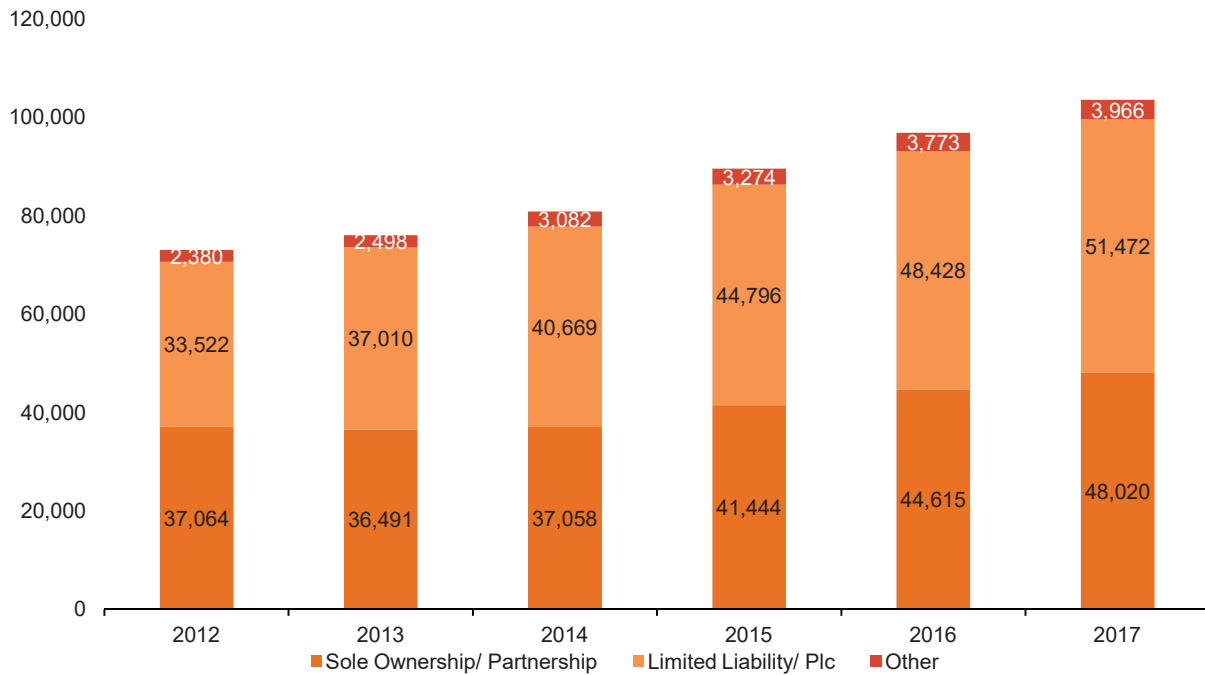
... Table 1. Structure of business units by type of legal organisation: 2012-2017

NACE Section *	2015				2016				2017			
	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	3,135	119	13	3,267	3,120	126	13	3,259	3,108	130	15	3,253
B	45	77	6	128	45	77	6	128	51	75	6	132
C	2,080	1,489	53	3,622	2,165	1,539	54	3,758	2,304	1,569	56	3,929
D	c	26	c	29	c	32	c	39	c	44	c	56
E	137	101	8	246	133	102	8	243	137	102	8	247
F	4,551	2,351	114	7,016	4,696	2,422	125	7,243	4,915	2,477	130	7,522
G	9,620	8,025	256	17,901	9,846	8,307	286	18,439	9,898	8,467	308	18,673
H	1,632	2,047	65	3,744	1,717	2,035	64	3,816	1,831	2,037	58	3,926
I	2,697	1,520	32	4,249	2,808	1,607	38	4,453	3,047	1,708	46	4,801
J	1,285	2,073	72	3,430	1,463	2,337	76	3,876	1,673	2,560	75	4,308
K	101	13,191	397	13,689	121	14,611	430	15,162	144	15,764	388	16,296
L	1,482	2,150	35	3,667	1,889	2,251	41	4,181	2,307	2,344	41	4,692
M	4,708	5,284	149	10,141	5,340	5,776	166	11,282	6,105	6,188	161	12,454
N	2,082	4,521	267	6,870	2,455	5,017	295	7,767	2,786	5,328	327	8,441
O	-	-	172	172	-	-	170	170	c	c	170	187
P	1,589	333	261	2,183	1,761	364	278	2,403	1,933	398	283	2,614
Q	1,267	169	140	1,576	1,338	187	139	1,664	1,406	207	138	1,751
R	1,739	1,075	299	3,113	2,126	1,193	441	3,760	2,426	1,328	470	4,224
S	3,265	239	932	4,436	3,545	438	1,140	5,123	3,871	736	1,282	5,889
T	27	-	-	27	41	-	-	41	c	c	-	54
U	c	c	c	8	c	c	c	9	c	c	c	9
Total	41,444	44,796	3,274	89,514	44,615	48,428	3,773	96,816	48,020	51,472	3,966	103,458

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* Refer to methodological section for NACE section descriptions

Chart 2. Number of business units by type of legal organisation: 2012-2017



In 2017, 46.4 per cent of registered business units were sole owners or partnerships, 49.8 per cent were limited liability or public limited companies, while 3.8 per cent had other types of legal organisation. The number of Limited or Public Liability companies has increased systemically over the years. In 2017, the increase was of 6.9 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 the 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 2012-2017

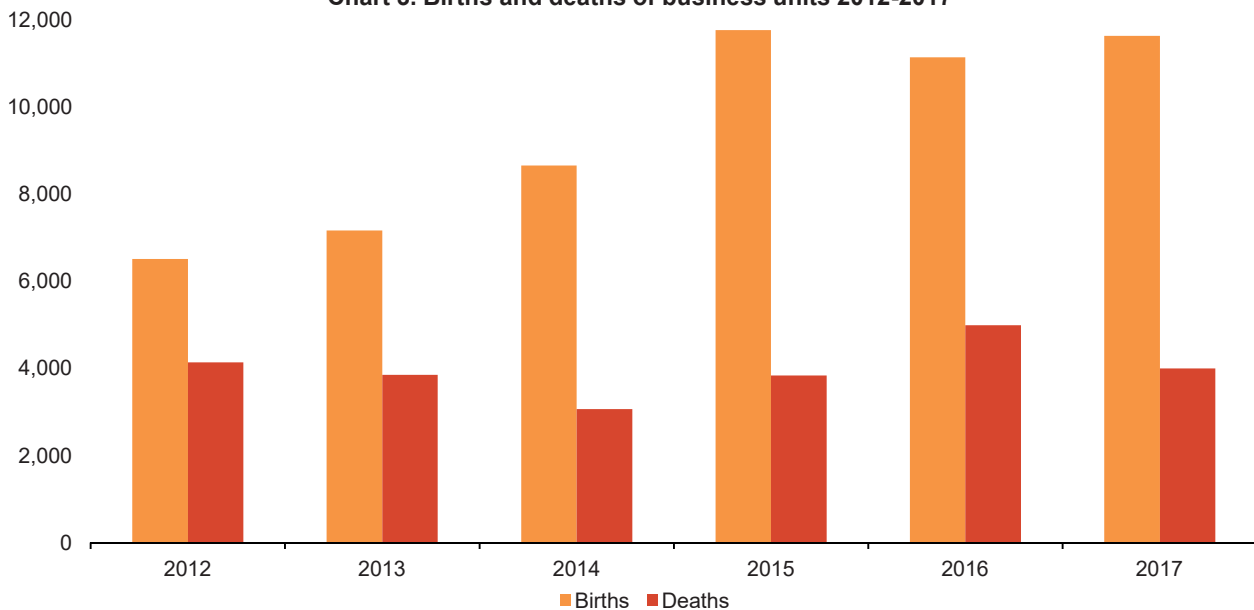


Table 2. Births of business units: 2012-2017

NACE Section *	Births					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
A	44	49	64	112	113	124
B	10	12	18	6	9	c
C	150	154	181	350	272	325
D	c	3	4	11	10	16
E	c	12	13	17	8	13
F	344	405	407	568	574	642
G	1,219	1,278	1,438	1,823	1,313	1,281
H	354	205	151	276	254	338
I	300	374	437	498	530	672
J	303	333	392	643	604	656
K	1,412	1,792	1,951	1,898	2,029	1,969
L	181	175	279	563	615	688
M	729	966	1,162	1,871	1,549	1,755
N	746	858	887	1,414	1,245	1,181
O	19	30	25	c	c	18
P	79	70	103	318	228	226
Q	47	22	50	79	111	94
R	292	196	271	618	763	626
S	264	224	813	659	883	974
T	-	-	-	24	14	15
U	-	-	-	c	c	c
Total	6,504	7,158	8,646	11,752	11,127	11,621

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* Refer to methodological section for NACE section descriptions

Table 3. Deaths of business units: 2012-2017

NACE Section *	Deaths					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
A	148	144	111	117	128	132
B	4	6	4	9	3	c
C	201	138	113	138	157	140
D	-	c	c	c	-	c
E	11	12	5	10	9	11
F	308	315	252	357	364	308
G	848	847	699	796	1046	759
H	229	195	171	176	229	156
I	228	240	195	325	331	242
J	152	124	118	153	223	148
K	345	448	468	560	843	748
L	125	93	94	101	167	157
M	468	400	292	405	582	425
N	344	331	245	352	509	389
O	9	89	5	c	c	-
P	139	52	43	8	18	21
Q	38	33	13	20	7	30
R	239	184	111	117	163	137
S	297	193	115	178	201	177
T	-	-	-	-	c	5
U	-	c	c	-	c	c
Total	4,133	3,846	3,056	3,827	4,983	3,989

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* Refer to methodological section for NACE section descriptions

Table 4. Structure of business units by employment size: 2012-2017...

NACE Section *	2012					2013				
	0-9	10-49	50-249	250+	Total	0-9	10-49	50-249	250+	Total
A	3,435	11	c	c	3,452	3,334	12	c	c	3,351
B	100	6	-	-	106	c	c	-	-	114
C	3,134	205	55	13	3,407	3,077	216	52	13	3,358
D	c	-	-	c	12	c	-	-	c	15
E	219	12	c	c	233	221	12	c	c	235
F	6,368	114	20	3	6,505	6,462	122	18	3	6,605
G	15,300	447	c	c	15,813	15,691	484	c	c	16,242
H	3,595	96	18	6	3,715	3,564	101	17	6	3,688
I	3,328	168	66	6	3,568	3,451	203	63	7	3,724
J	2,352	73	20	4	2,449	2,519	81	24	3	2,627
K	9,228	65	19	4	9,316	10,677	69	20	4	10,770
L	2,897	11	3	-	2,911	2,953	c	c	-	2,968
M	7,087	159	c	c	7,265	7,582	161	c	c	7,765
N	4,520	100	34	12	4,666	5,019	106	35	13	5,173
O	106	60	45	9	220	116	71	44	8	239
P	1,819	53	35	7	1,914	1,732	67	35	6	1,840
Q	1,443	38	21	10	1,512	1,411	51	22	12	1,496
R	2,484	46	17	3	2,550	2,423	64	c	c	2,509
S	3,316	22	c	c	3,342	3,240	26	c	c	3,269
T	c	-	-	-	c	c	-	-	-	c
U	9	-	-	-	c	c	-	-	-	c
Total	70,752	1,686	443	85	72,966	73,605	1,866	443	85	75,999

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* Refer to methodological section for NACE section descriptions

... Table 4. Structure of business units by employment size: 2012-2017

NACE Section *	2014					2015				
	0-9	10-49	50-249	250+	Total	0-9	10-49	50-249	250+	Total
A	3,259	9	c	c	3,272	3,254	10	3	-	3,267
B	123	c	c	-	127	c	c	-	-	128
C	3,097	229	55	13	3,394	3,323	229	58	12	3,622
D	c	-	-	c	18	c	c	-	-	29
E	224	9	c	c	235	232	12	c	c	246
F	6,558	114	c	c	6,694	6,857	125	31	3	7,016
G	16,250	482	c	c	16,805	17,304	515	78	4	17,901
H	3,513	102	18	6	3,639	3,619	99	20	6	3,744
I	3,660	218	58	8	3,944	3,952	233	57	7	4,249
J	2,788	78	27	4	2,897	3,306	97	23	4	3,430
K	12,166	80	20	4	12,270	13,574	86	25	4	13,689
L	3,140	c	c	-	3,158	3,643	21	3	-	3,667
M	8,335	182	19	4	8,540	9,913	202	22	4	10,141
N	5,554	114	35	16	5,719	6,687	129	37	17	6,870
O	102	27	32	13	174	99	26	29	18	172
P	1,785	69	41	6	1,901	2,063	74	39	7	2,183
Q	1,422	59	20	12	1,513	1,482	62	19	13	1,576
R	2,503	72	22	3	2,600	3,008	79	23	3	3,113
S	3,872	24	c	c	3,899	4,400	32	c	c	4,436
T	c	-	-	-	c	27	-	-	-	27
U	c	-	-	-	c	8	-	-	-	8
Total	78,378	1,888	446	97	80,809	86,901	2,038	471	104	89,514

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* Refer to methodological section for NACE section descriptions

... Table 4. Structure of business units by employment size: 2012-2017

NACE Section *	2016					2017				
	0-9	10-49	50-249	250+	Total	0-9	10-49	50-249	250+	Total
A	3,247	9	3	-	3,259	3,242	8	3	-	3,253
B	c	c	-	-	128	126	6	-	-	132
C	3,465	223	57	13	3,758	3,626	233	57	13	3,929
D	c	c	-	-	39	52	4	-	-	56
E	232	9	c	c	243	234	11	c	c	247
F	7,098	117	22	6	7,243	7,370	123	23	6	7,522
G	17,827	523	86	3	18,439	18,049	535	86	3	18,673
H	3,688	103	17	8	3,816	3,795	106	17	8	3,926
I	4,133	255	57	8	4,453	4,443	291	59	8	4,801
J	3,738	107	26	5	3,876	4,166	113	24	5	4,308
K	15,032	99	25	6	15,162	16,159	108	23	6	16,296
L	4,151	26	4	-	4,181	4,659	28	5	-	4,692
M	11,040	209	29	4	11,282	12,197	222	31	4	12,454
N	7,575	131	42	19	7,767	8,237	141	44	19	8,441
O	96	28	32	14	170	113	28	32	14	187
P	2,276	80	40	7	2,403	2,485	82	40	7	2,614
Q	1,566	66	20	12	1,664	1,652	67	20	12	1,751
R	3,645	87	23	5	3,760	4,098	97	24	5	4,224
S	5,084	35	c	c	5,123	5,848	37	c	c	5,889
T	41	-	-	-	41	54	-	-	-	54
U	9	-	-	-	9	9	-	-	-	9
Total	94,102	2,115	487	112	96,816	100,614	2,240	492	112	103,458

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* Refer to methodological section for NACE section descriptions

Methodological Notes

1. Business births and deaths record the demographic change in the number of units, namely 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:

Sources and Methods:

https://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources_and_Methods/Unit_B4/Business_Registers/Pages/Business-Demography.aspx

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. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.
7. A detailed news release calendar is available on https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx

Definitions

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

Size class	Persons employed
Micro	0-9
Small	10-49
Medium	50-249
Large	250 or more

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

Section	Division	Description
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