

During the first quarter of 2018, working-day adjusted turnover in selected services activities rose by 7.5 per cent over the same quarter in 2017. Seasonally adjusted services turnover increased by 4.0 per cent over the previous quarter.

Short-term Services Indicators: Q1/2018

Cut-off date:
28 May 2018

Annual comparison

When compared to the first quarter of 2017, working-day adjusted turnover increased by 7.5 per cent (Table 1). Increases in turnover were registered across all sectors within the services industry namely in the real estate activities (30.7 per cent), in the transportation and storage sector (12.4 per cent), in the accommodation and food service activities (9.8 per cent), in the administrative and support service activities (8.9 per cent), in the wholesale and retail activities (6.2 per cent), in the professional, scientific and technical activities (5.3 per cent) and in the information and communication sector (0.7 per cent).

Employment (Table 3), the gross amount of wages and salaries paid (Table 5) and hours worked (Table 7) rose by 1.4, 4.4 and 3.5 per cent respectively over the corresponding quarter in 2017.

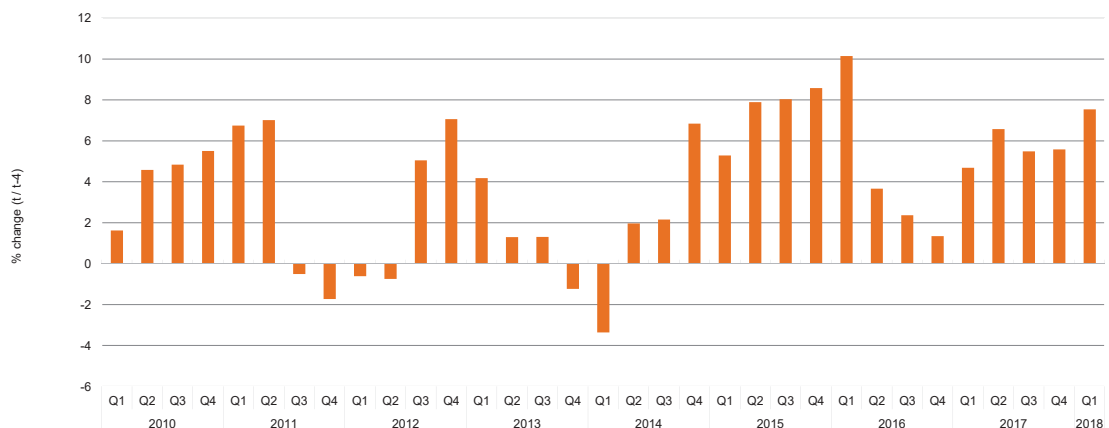
Quarterly comparison

When compared to the previous quarter of 2017, the seasonally adjusted services turnover index increased by 4.0 per cent (Table 2). Increases were recorded in the real estate activities (35.1 per cent), in the accommodation and food service activities (11.0 per cent), in the transportation and storage sector (8.6 per cent), in the administrative and support service activities (5.0 per cent) and in the professional, scientific and technical activities (0.8 per cent). Decreases were registered within the information and communication sector (5.3 per cent) and in the wholesale and retail trade sector (1.0 per cent).

Moreover, the seasonally adjusted employment (Table 4), gross wages and salaries (Table 6) and hours worked (Table 8) increased by 1.6, 1.5 and 3.0 per cent respectively ■

Annual working-day adjusted turnover in services

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



This is the first services indicators release with 2015 as the base year. Weights have also been updated from the year 2015 onwards with 2015 weights. Hence, previous releases with base year 2010 cannot be directly compared to this release.

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

NACE	2017				2018	% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
						2017				2018
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	93.3	106.3	110.6	112.3	99.1	0.9	3.6	7.6	8.6	6.2
Motor trade	105.2	116.6	116.7	103.8	111.8	-8.2	3.3	11.7	2.3	6.3
Wholesale trade	90.6	103.0	109.6	110.0	96.1	0.2	2.4	8.5	11.9	6.0
Retail trade	96.0	110.4	111.3	118.3	102.3	4.5	5.8	5.2	4.3	6.6
Food	97.1	116.9	115.0	122.4	106.9	5.2	13.6	6.8	10.1	10.0
Non-food	95.3	106.1	108.9	115.6	99.4	4.1	0.9	4.1	0.7	4.3
Transportation and storage	113.3	130.6	136.4	125.7	127.3	11.7	9.6	5.1	5.2	12.4
Accommodation and food service activities	76.9	115.1	146.6	97.1	84.4	3.8	4.1	7.6	3.3	9.8
Information and communication	107.7	110.8	104.1	114.5	108.5	9.2	6.2	-0.6	0.1	0.7
Real estate activities	99.0	107.8	111.9	95.8	129.5	33.3	15.1	7.4	-7.6	30.7
Professional, scientific and technical activities	101.5	114.9	100.6	115.4	106.9	4.7	8.2	-2.5	0.4	5.3
Administrative and support service activities	103.6	135.0	129.1	115.6	112.8	0.0	18.5	2.3	2.8	8.9
Total	97.6	112.8	115.7	113.6	104.9	4.7	6.6	5.5	5.6	7.5

^p Provisional

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

NACE	2017				2018	% change compared with previous quarter				
						2017				2018
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	100.8	104.8	108.1	108.3	107.1	1.1	3.9	3.2	0.1	-1.0
Motor trade	107.4	111.5	117.9	105.3	114.1	4.4	3.8	5.7	-10.7	8.3
Wholesale trade	98.0	101.2	106.0	107.5	104.0	1.9	3.2	4.8	1.4	-3.3
Retail trade	106.5	108.9	109.5	111.1	112.8	0.3	2.3	0.5	1.4	1.5
Food	108.3	114.9	111.8	116.1	119.1	2.8	6.1	-2.7	3.8	2.6
Non-food	104.5	105.5	107.7	108.2	108.6	-2.7	0.9	2.1	0.4	0.4
Transportation and storage	124.8	127.6	125.7	127.9	138.9	2.6	2.2	-1.5	1.8	8.6
Accommodation and food service activities	109.8	108.0	109.5	108.5	120.5	4.5	-1.6	1.4	-0.9	11.0
Information and communication	107.7	110.8	104.1	114.5	108.5	-5.8	2.9	-6.0	10.0	-5.3
Real estate activities	99.0	107.8	111.9	95.8	129.5	-4.5	8.8	3.8	-14.4	35.1
Professional, scientific and technical activities	106.0	111.7	104.4	110.4	111.4	-3.7	5.4	-6.6	5.8	0.8
Administrative and support service activities	118.7	127.1	119.6	122.1	128.2	0.4	7.1	-5.9	2.1	5.0
Total	108.3	110.2	109.1	112.0	116.4	2.1	1.8	-1.0	2.7	4.0

^p Provisional

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

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

NACE	2017				2018	% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	2017				2018
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	105.7	106.4	107.5	109.0	108.1	3.6	3.2	2.5	3.6	2.3
Motor trade	109.9	109.8	110.8	107.7	110.5	4.8	3.9	3.9	0.8	0.6
Wholesale trade	104.8	105.0	105.9	105.9	104.6	4.5	2.7	0.9	2.9	-0.1
Retail trade	105.6	106.8	108.0	111.0	109.8	2.9	3.3	3.2	4.4	4.0
Food	109.7	111.1	111.5	116.1	114.4	6.5	5.5	4.2	6.6	4.2
Non-food	103.7	104.8	106.4	108.6	107.7	1.3	2.3	2.8	3.3	3.9
Transportation and storage	101.4	101.3	100.2	100.5	101.0	2.6	0.7	-1.5	-0.3	-0.5
Accommodation and food service activities	97.1	98.8	103.5	96.7	96.9	0.2	-1.9	-1.9	0.7	-0.2
Information and communication	103.3	102.8	100.4	101.9	102.5	-1.2	-2.1	-4.6	-1.8	-0.8
Real estate activities	106.9	107.1	107.2	105.9	108.8	-2.1	0.0	-1.6	-2.6	1.7
Professional, scientific and technical activities	102.7	105.5	104.8	103.9	104.0	2.9	-2.8	0.4	-0.4	1.3
Administrative and support service activities	112.2	117.7	118.2	114.8	116.0	5.8	6.8	4.9	4.6	3.4
Total	104.1	105.6	106.5	105.3	105.5	2.7	1.5	0.6	1.7	1.4

^P Provisional

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

NACE	2017				2018	% change compared with previous quarter				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	2017				2018
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	105.7	106.4	107.5	109.0	108.1	0.4	0.7	1.0	1.4	-0.8
Motor trade	109.9	109.8	110.8	107.7	110.5	2.8	0.0	0.9	-2.8	2.7
Wholesale trade	104.8	105.0	105.9	105.9	104.6	1.8	0.2	0.9	0.0	-1.2
Retail trade	105.6	106.8	108.0	111.0	109.8	-0.7	1.1	1.1	2.8	-1.1
Food	109.7	111.1	111.5	116.1	114.4	0.7	1.3	0.4	4.1	-1.5
Non-food	103.7	104.8	106.4	108.6	107.7	-1.4	1.0	1.5	2.1	-0.8
Transportation and storage	102.3	100.9	99.6	100.6	101.8	1.4	-1.4	-1.3	1.0	1.1
Accommodation and food service activities	101.1	98.1	98.4	98.8	100.7	3.2	-3.0	0.4	0.3	2.0
Information and communication	103.3	102.4	100.4	102.3	102.4	-0.9	-0.8	-2.0	1.9	0.1
Real estate activities	106.9	107.1	107.2	105.9	108.8	-1.7	0.2	0.1	-1.2	2.7
Professional, scientific and technical activities	102.7	105.5	104.8	103.9	104.0	-1.6	2.7	-0.6	-0.9	0.2
Administrative and support service activities	112.2	117.7	118.2	114.8	116.0	2.1	5.0	0.4	-2.8	1.0
Total	105.8	105.4	104.8	105.5	107.2	1.9	-0.3	-0.6	0.6	1.6

^P Provisional

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

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

NACE	2017				2018	% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
						2017				2018
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	107.8	110.4	111.6	119.2	115.1	4.1	5.7	6.1	6.7	6.7
Motor trade	112.5	118.4	124.6	131.1	123.0	4.2	6.8	11.7	10.7	9.3
Wholesale trade	105.2	107.2	107.3	116.0	110.4	3.4	4.6	4.0	5.8	4.9
Retail trade	110.0	112.7	114.4	120.9	119.0	4.9	6.6	7.3	6.9	8.2
Food	110.8	114.3	117.8	125.7	120.3	4.7	8.1	8.0	11.8	8.6
Non-food	109.5	112.2	113.2	119.1	118.4	4.7	6.2	7.2	5.0	8.2
Transportation and storage	105.7	103.9	104.2	110.3	109.3	5.8	5.8	3.8	8.4	3.4
Accommodation and food service activities	101.2	107.2	112.1	106.5	106.4	5.4	6.1	3.9	3.5	5.1
Information and communication	110.3	106.1	108.4	114.9	113.1	5.2	0.5	4.2	6.6	2.5
Real estate activities	109.5	124.5	108.1	117.0	116.0	3.4	3.1	1.0	-1.0	6.0
Professional, scientific and technical activities	118.7	121.8	121.8	121.3	115.1	10.9	7.9	7.6	4.6	-3.0
Administrative and support service activities	117.3	126.0	130.1	132.1	126.4	15.6	11.7	12.5	5.5	7.7
Total	109.6	111.9	113.8	117.5	114.5	7.3	6.2	6.1	5.4	4.4

^p Provisional

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

NACE	2017				2018	% change compared with previous quarter				
						2017				2018
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	109.4	111.3	113.1	115.0	116.8	1.3	1.8	1.6	1.8	1.5
Motor trade	115.0	119.2	124.6	127.5	125.7	-0.3	3.7	4.5	2.3	-1.4
Wholesale trade	106.6	108.2	108.9	111.7	112.0	0.9	1.5	0.7	2.5	0.3
Retail trade	111.0	113.4	115.0	118.6	120.0	0.2	2.2	1.4	3.1	1.2
Food	110.8	114.3	117.8	125.7	120.3	-1.5	3.2	3.0	6.7	-4.3
Non-food	110.7	112.7	114.4	116.2	119.6	0.2	1.8	1.5	1.6	2.9
Transportation and storage	105.7	103.9	104.2	110.3	109.3	3.8	-1.6	0.3	5.9	-0.9
Accommodation and food service activities	107.4	106.8	104.9	108.0	112.9	2.9	-0.5	-1.9	3.0	4.5
Information and communication	110.3	106.1	108.4	114.9	113.1	2.3	-3.8	2.2	6.0	-1.6
Real estate activities	109.5	124.5	108.1	117.0	116.0	-7.4	13.7	-13.2	8.3	-0.9
Professional, scientific and technical activities	118.7	121.8	121.8	121.3	115.1	2.4	2.6	0.0	-0.4	-5.1
Administrative and support service activities	117.3	126.0	130.1	132.1	126.4	-6.3	7.4	3.2	1.5	-4.3
Total	111.9	112.1	113.6	115.1	116.9	2.6	0.2	1.3	1.3	1.5

^p Provisional

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

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

Working-day adjusted

NACE	2017				2018	% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
						2017				2018
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	103.2	105.6	106.5	108.4	107.5	1.8	2.9	3.5	4.9	4.1
Motor trade	108.5	108.6	110.8	110.0	112.4	5.0	3.6	4.1	3.7	3.7
Wholesale trade	99.7	100.7	101.5	102.2	100.9	0.0	-1.2	2.9	4.2	1.2
Retail trade	105.8	109.0	109.9	113.2	112.4	3.4	5.8	3.7	5.4	6.2
Food	109.2	114.7	118.2	124.1	117.9	2.6	9.4	6.9	13.2	8.0
Non-food	104.0	106.7	106.5	108.6	109.8	3.2	4.5	2.3	2.0	5.6
Transportation and storage	102.8	103.1	105.4	108.5	108.7	1.6	0.2	-0.6	4.0	5.7
Accommodation and food service activities	94.6	101.6	106.4	96.9	96.1	1.7	1.8	-0.2	-1.6	1.6
Information and communication	105.5	102.6	105.5	105.7	103.0	0.1	0.2	1.2	0.2	-2.4
Real estate activities	107.1	112.9	108.6	106.5	109.8	-4.2	-0.5	-2.7	-2.1	2.5
Professional, scientific and technical activities	109.3	110.8	110.1	109.1	107.1	5.4	1.2	1.7	-1.0	-2.1
Administrative and support service activities	113.5	126.1	132.7	127.0	126.0	6.5	10.8	7.7	5.0	11.0
Total	105.1	107.3	110.1	108.1	108.7	4.1	2.2	2.1	1.9	3.5

^p Provisional

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

Seasonally adjusted

NACE	2017				2018	% change compared with previous quarter				
						2017				2018
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	104.1	105.3	106.1	108.1	108.4	1.0	1.2	0.7	1.9	0.2
Motor trade	108.5	108.6	110.8	110.0	112.4	2.2	0.1	2.0	-0.7	2.2
Wholesale trade	99.7	100.7	101.5	102.2	100.9	1.7	1.0	0.7	0.7	-1.3
Retail trade	107.7	109.5	109.3	111.4	114.4	1.8	1.7	-0.2	2.0	2.6
Food	110.9	115.7	117.3	122.0	119.8	2.8	4.4	1.3	4.0	-1.8
Non-food	105.5	106.5	106.3	107.4	111.4	0.2	0.9	-0.2	1.1	3.7
Transportation and storage	104.7	103.5	104.3	107.2	110.7	1.5	-1.1	0.8	2.8	3.2
Accommodation and food service activities	101.5	100.7	98.8	98.9	102.7	1.2	-0.7	-1.9	0.1	3.9
Information and communication	105.5	102.6	105.5	105.7	103.0	0.0	-2.8	2.8	0.2	-2.6
Real estate activities	107.1	112.9	108.6	106.5	109.8	-1.6	5.4	-3.8	-1.9	3.0
Professional, scientific and technical activities	109.3	110.8	110.1	109.1	107.1	-0.8	1.3	-0.6	-0.9	-1.8
Administrative and support service activities	118.6	125.8	127.1	127.6	131.7	-2.4	6.1	1.0	0.4	3.2
Total	107.7	107.1	107.6	108.2	111.4	1.4	-0.5	0.4	0.6	3.0

^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.

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](#)

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