

During the first quarter of 2019, working-day adjusted turnover in selected services activities increased by 1.7 per cent over the same quarter in 2018. Seasonally adjusted services turnover increased by 1.8 per cent over the previous quarter.

Short-term Services Indicators: Q1/2019

Cut-off date:
23 May 2019

Annual comparison

When compared to the first quarter of 2018, working-day adjusted turnover increased by 1.7 per cent (Table 1). Increases in turnover were registered in the information and communication activities (8.2 per cent), in the real estate activities (6.2 per cent), in the wholesale trade (5.0 per cent), in the transportation and storage (4.3 per cent), in the retail trade (4.3 per cent), in the motor trade (1.9 per cent) and in the administrative and support service activities (0.8 per cent). Decreases were recorded in the professional, scientific and technical activities (-29.1 per cent) and in the accommodation and food service activities (-2.4 per cent).

Employment (Table 3), gross wages and salaries paid (Table 5) and hours worked (Table 7) rose by 0.3, 2.3 and 1.3 per cent respectively over the corresponding quarter in 2018.

Quarterly comparison

When compared to the previous quarter, the seasonally adjusted services turnover index increased by 1.8 per cent (Table 2).

Increases were recorded in the accommodation and food service activities (6.1 per cent), in the administrative and support service activities (4.7 per cent), in the retail trade (0.9 per cent) and in the transportation and storage (0.1 per cent). Decreases were registered in the professional, scientific and technical activities (-7.5 per cent), in the real estate activities (-4.7 per cent), in the motor trade (-2.5 per cent), in the information and communication (-1.0 per cent) and in the wholesale trade (-0.6 per cent).

The seasonally adjusted employment (Table 4), gross wages and salaries (Table 6) and hours worked (Table 8) increased by 0.3, 1.7 and 0.4 per cent respectively ■

Chart 1. Annual working-day adjusted turnover in services
(% change in comparison with the corresponding quarter in previous year)

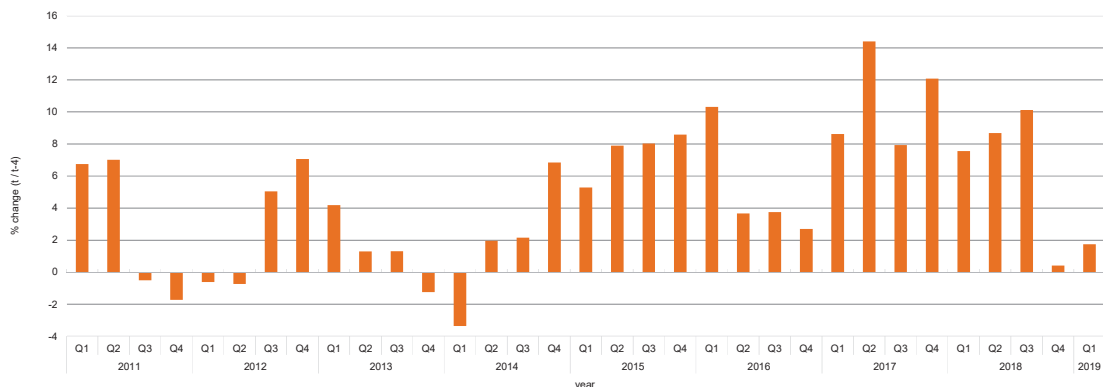


Table 1. Services turnover index by period and NACE classification
Working-day adjusted

NACE	2018				2019	% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	2018				2019
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	102.1	117.3	119.6	120.5	106.7	9.2	9.8	7.7	4.0	4.5
Motor trade	118.2	121.3	116.7	124.7	120.5	12.4	4.0	0.0	12.3	1.9
Wholesale trade	99.8	118.0	122.3	118.1	104.8	10.2	14.5	11.5	3.1	5.0
Retail trade	103.3	115.2	115.2	124.2	107.7	6.8	3.0	2.3	4.1	4.3
Food	108.4	124.8	130.3	131.9	114.7	11.9	6.7	13.2	8.5	5.8
Non-food	100.0	108.9	105.3	119.1	103.0	3.5	0.3	-5.2	1.1	3.0
Transportation and storage	126.5	149.8	162.3	139.4	132.0	11.3	13.5	16.0	10.3	4.3
Accommodation and food service activities	85.0	133.0	156.5	99.6	83.0	8.8	9.8	6.2	-2.7	-2.4
Information and communication	117.3	117.3	120.7	128.2	126.9	-1.1	-3.6	1.7	-1.9	8.2
Real estate activities	125.7	225.1	202.0	140.1	133.5	18.2	86.2	68.7	35.7	6.2
Professional, scientific and technical activities	107.4	108.6	117.1	94.7	76.1	5.8	-5.8	18.0	-15.3	-29.1
Administrative and support service activities	141.5	226.1	168.5	152.1	142.6	1.4	-1.2	4.2	-19.7	0.8
Total	109.0	131.6	132.1	122.7	110.9	7.6	8.7	10.1	0.4	1.7

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

NACE	2018				2019	% change compared with previous quarter				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	2018				2019
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	110.8	115.4	116.8	116.1	115.9	-0.7	4.1	1.2	-0.5	-0.2
Motor trade	120.7	116.3	118.3	126.0	122.9	7.5	-3.6	1.7	6.5	-2.5
Wholesale trade	109.0	115.4	117.7	115.3	114.6	-2.5	5.8	2.0	-2.1	-0.6
Retail trade	113.5	113.7	114.0	116.7	117.8	1.4	0.2	0.3	2.3	0.9
Food	120.0	122.4	126.2	126.5	126.7	3.3	2.0	3.1	0.2	0.2
Non-food	109.3	107.9	106.1	110.3	112.0	0.1	-1.3	-1.7	4.0	1.5
Transportation and storage	139.2	142.3	148.0	146.0	146.2	5.0	2.2	4.1	-1.4	0.1
Accommodation and food service activities	121.4	123.9	117.2	111.8	118.6	5.7	2.1	-5.5	-4.6	6.1
Information and communication	117.3	117.3	120.7	128.2	126.9	-10.2	0.0	2.9	6.2	-1.0
Real estate activities	125.7	225.1	202.0	140.1	133.5	21.8	79.0	-10.3	-30.6	-4.7
Professional, scientific and technical activities	114.6	105.3	122.9	87.9	81.3	10.3	-8.1	16.7	-28.5	-7.5
Administrative and support service activities	167.8	183.8	171.9	162.3	170.0	-16.7	9.5	-6.5	-5.5	4.7
Total	121.2	128.1	124.6	121.1	123.3	0.5	5.7	-2.7	-2.8	1.8

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

NACE	2018				2019	% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	2018				2019
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	109.0	109.6	111.5	110.3	109.8	3.2	3.0	3.7	1.1	0.7
Motor trade	111.4	112.2	114.4	113.9	113.6	1.3	2.1	3.2	5.6	2.0
Wholesale trade	105.5	106.3	109.5	107.4	106.0	0.6	1.1	3.1	1.0	0.5
Retail trade	110.8	111.3	112.3	111.6	111.6	5.0	4.3	4.1	0.5	0.7
Food	117.7	119.2	121.8	124.3	118.7	7.3	7.3	9.3	7.3	0.8
Non-food	107.6	107.7	108.0	105.8	108.3	3.8	2.9	1.6	-2.8	0.7
Transportation and storage	101.7	103.1	104.3	103.8	104.1	0.2	1.4	3.7	2.8	2.4
Accommodation and food service activities	94.6	97.9	97.5	93.9	92.0	-2.1	0.3	-4.6	-1.2	-2.7
Information and communication	101.9	103.7	105.7	105.5	105.8	-3.3	-1.4	2.8	3.9	3.8
Real estate activities	107.6	104.8	105.5	105.0	105.5	0.7	-2.1	-1.7	0.6	-2.0
Professional, scientific and technical activities	105.8	103.5	104.8	110.5	104.3	3.6	-14.7	0.6	-5.3	-1.4
Administrative and support service activities	122.2	121.0	122.0	121.9	121.6	6.4	-0.7	-1.3	-0.3	-0.5
Total	106.7	107.5	109.0	108.2	107.0	2.1	0.1	1.5	0.8	0.3

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

NACE	2018				2019	% change compared with previous quarter				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	2018				2019
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	109.0	109.6	111.5	110.3	109.8	-0.1	0.6	1.7	-1.1	-0.5
Motor trade	111.4	112.2	114.4	113.9	113.6	3.2	0.7	2.0	-0.4	-0.3
Wholesale trade	105.5	106.3	109.5	107.4	106.0	-0.8	0.8	3.0	-1.9	-1.3
Retail trade	110.8	111.3	112.3	111.6	111.6	-0.2	0.5	0.9	-0.7	0.0
Food	117.7	119.2	121.8	124.3	118.7	1.7	1.2	2.2	2.0	-4.5
Non-food	107.6	107.7	108.0	105.8	108.3	-1.1	0.1	0.3	-2.0	2.4
Transportation and storage	102.5	102.7	103.6	104.0	105.0	1.4	0.2	0.9	0.3	1.0
Accommodation and food service activities	98.1	97.0	93.5	95.6	95.3	1.3	-1.1	-3.6	2.3	-0.3
Information and communication	102.3	103.4	105.1	106.0	106.2	0.2	1.1	1.6	0.9	0.2
Real estate activities	107.6	104.8	105.5	105.0	105.5	3.2	-2.6	0.7	-0.5	0.5
Professional, scientific and technical activities	105.8	103.5	104.8	110.5	104.3	-9.4	-2.2	1.3	5.5	-5.6
Administrative and support service activities	122.2	121.0	122.0	121.9	121.6	-0.1	-0.9	0.8	-0.1	-0.2
Total	108.4	107.3	107.4	108.3	108.7	0.9	-1.0	0.1	0.8	0.3

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

NACE	2018				2019	% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
						2018				2019
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	116.5	116.7	117.0	120.9	121.2	7.8	5.4	4.4	1.2	4.0
Motor trade	125.9	125.6	129.7	134.0	128.4	11.8	6.1	4.1	2.2	2.0
Wholesale trade	112.0	112.5	111.8	117.5	118.5	6.4	4.9	4.0	1.5	5.8
Retail trade	120.0	119.9	120.9	122.6	123.1	8.7	5.9	4.9	0.8	2.6
Food	124.2	125.9	124.1	132.5	125.6	11.6	10.5	5.2	5.5	1.1
Non-food	118.3	117.4	119.5	118.4	122.0	7.5	3.9	4.7	-1.3	3.1
Transportation and storage	113.1	111.2	114.7	110.9	113.9	6.4	7.3	9.4	0.2	0.7
Accommodation and food service activities	106.9	116.3	113.7	111.5	109.5	5.2	7.9	0.5	4.3	2.4
Information and communication	109.3	110.1	111.7	120.0	115.8	0.1	1.6	2.8	8.1	5.9
Real estate activities	116.4	116.9	112.2	114.4	113.5	6.4	-5.6	4.7	-1.3	-2.5
Professional, scientific and technical activities	115.5	123.1	115.3	119.3	117.6	-2.8	0.4	-5.0	-5.9	1.8
Administrative and support service activities	135.6	133.4	125.2	137.3	133.3	14.6	3.0	-5.3	-2.5	-1.7
Total	116.9	118.3	117.1	120.6	119.6	6.4	4.7	2.3	1.0	2.3

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

NACE	2018				2019	% change compared with previous quarter				
						2018				2019
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	117.2	118.1	119.2	116.9	121.6	1.5	0.7	0.9	-1.9	4.0
Motor trade	128.1	126.9	129.8	130.4	130.6	0.4	-0.9	2.3	0.5	0.2
Wholesale trade	112.6	113.4	113.8	114.3	118.9	0.1	0.7	0.4	0.5	4.0
Retail trade	120.9	120.6	121.2	120.7	123.9	0.9	-0.2	0.5	-0.4	2.7
Food	124.2	125.9	124.1	132.5	125.6	-1.1	1.3	-1.4	6.8	-5.2
Non-food	119.4	118.2	120.6	115.3	123.2	2.2	-1.0	2.1	-4.4	6.9
Transportation and storage	113.1	111.2	114.7	110.9	113.9	2.2	-1.7	3.2	-3.3	2.7
Accommodation and food service activities	112.5	114.5	108.7	113.0	115.2	3.9	1.8	-5.1	4.0	1.9
Information and communication	109.3	110.1	111.7	120.0	115.8	-1.5	0.7	1.4	7.5	-3.5
Real estate activities	116.4	116.9	112.2	114.4	113.5	0.4	0.4	-4.1	1.9	-0.8
Professional, scientific and technical activities	115.5	123.1	115.3	119.3	117.6	-8.9	6.6	-6.3	3.5	-1.4
Administrative and support service activities	135.6	133.4	125.2	137.3	133.3	-3.7	-1.6	-6.1	9.7	-2.9
Total	118.1	118.3	118.1	118.6	120.6	1.0	0.2	-0.2	0.4	1.7

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

Working-day adjusted

NACE	2018				2019	% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
						2018				2019
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	107.4	108.5	110.8	108.9	108.5	4.0	2.4	3.7	0.4	1.0
Motor trade	113.8	114.9	116.9	118.0	116.2	5.0	5.9	5.5	6.5	2.1
Wholesale trade	101.3	103.1	105.0	102.4	102.6	1.6	2.2	3.2	-0.2	1.3
Retail trade	111.5	112.1	114.9	113.1	112.3	5.8	2.0	3.7	-0.3	0.7
Food	121.7	120.4	126.0	127.2	121.7	9.6	6.0	7.9	4.2	0.0
Non-food	107.3	108.3	109.6	106.9	108.4	3.6	0.5	1.9	-1.7	1.0
Transportation and storage	109.1	106.8	109.2	109.7	108.1	6.2	3.6	3.3	1.3	-0.9
Accommodation and food service activities	95.7	105.7	107.7	99.3	97.1	0.9	3.6	0.8	1.1	1.5
Information and communication	98.3	103.7	103.7	105.3	103.4	-5.8	-0.3	0.3	4.0	5.2
Real estate activities	109.0	105.2	105.9	106.6	106.9	1.7	-6.7	-2.2	-0.7	-1.9
Professional, scientific and technical activities	107.6	105.2	108.6	108.0	106.6	-1.1	-14.0	-1.8	-7.5	-0.9
Administrative and support service activities	129.2	132.6	127.0	132.4	130.2	9.4	3.3	-5.7	-1.2	0.8
Total	108.9	111.4	112.2	111.6	110.3	3.3	2.2	1.3	1.3	1.3

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

Seasonally adjusted

NACE	2018				2019	% change compared with previous quarter				
						2018				2019
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	108.4	108.3	110.1	108.7	109.5	0.1	-0.1	1.7	-1.3	0.7
Motor trade	113.8	114.9	116.9	118.0	116.2	2.7	1.0	1.7	1.0	-1.5
Wholesale trade	101.3	103.1	105.0	102.4	102.6	-1.2	1.7	1.9	-2.5	0.2
Retail trade	113.5	112.4	114.2	111.5	114.3	1.5	-0.9	1.6	-2.4	2.5
Food	123.6	121.4	125.5	124.8	123.6	3.2	-1.8	3.4	-0.5	-1.0
Non-food	108.9	108.1	109.2	105.9	110.0	1.1	-0.7	1.0	-3.0	3.9
Transportation and storage	111.1	107.2	108.1	108.5	110.0	3.8	-3.5	0.8	0.3	1.4
Accommodation and food service activities	102.1	103.5	101.2	101.8	103.4	1.6	1.4	-2.2	0.5	1.6
Information and communication	98.3	103.7	103.7	105.3	103.4	-2.9	5.5	0.0	1.6	-1.8
Real estate activities	109.0	105.2	105.9	106.6	106.9	1.6	-3.5	0.7	0.6	0.3
Professional, scientific and technical activities	107.6	105.2	108.6	108.0	106.6	-7.8	-2.3	3.2	-0.5	-1.3
Administrative and support service activities	133.2	132.4	123.6	132.3	134.2	-0.5	-0.6	-6.7	7.1	1.4
Total	110.8	110.9	111.0	111.6	112.1	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.5	0.4

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](#)

Data Navigation Tree

Database by themes

- > Industry, trade and services
 - > Short-term business statistics
 - > Trade and services
 - > Wholesale and retail trade
 - > Services

Tables by themes

- > Industry, trade and services
 - > Short-term business statistics
 - > Trade and services
 - > Services

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