

During the third quarter of 2019, working-day adjusted turnover in selected services activities increased by 1.2 per cent over the same quarter in 2018. Seasonally adjusted services turnover increased by 3.3 per cent over the previous quarter.

Short-term Services Indicators: Q3/2019

Cut-off date:
15 November 2019

Annual comparison

When compared to the third quarter of 2018, the working-day adjusted turnover index increased by 1.2 per cent (Table 1). Increases in turnover were registered in the wholesale trade (6.5 per cent), in the retail trade (4.7 per cent), in the information and communication activities (4.7 per cent) and in the motor trade (3.2 per cent). Decreases were recorded in the real estate activities (13.6 per cent), in the professional, scientific and technical activities (9.3 per cent), in the accommodation and food service activities (4.1 per cent), in the administrative and support service activities (2.9 per cent) and in the transportation and storage (1.6 per cent) (Table 1).

Employment (Table 3), gross wages and salaries paid (Table 5) and hours worked (Table 7) rose by 0.5, 2.9 and 1.2 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 3.3 per cent (Table 2). Increases were recorded in the real estate activities (18.2 per cent), in the wholesale trade (10.1 per cent), in the professional, scientific and technical activities (9.9 per cent), in the administrative and support service activities (6.2 per cent), in the motor trade (2.4 per cent), in the information and communication (1.6 per cent), in the retail trade (1.5 per cent) and in the transportation and storage (1.0 per cent). A decrease was registered in the accommodation and food service activities (3.3 per cent) (Table 2).

The seasonally adjusted gross wages and salaries (Table 6) and the seasonally adjusted hours worked (Table 8) both rose by 1.0 per cent ■

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

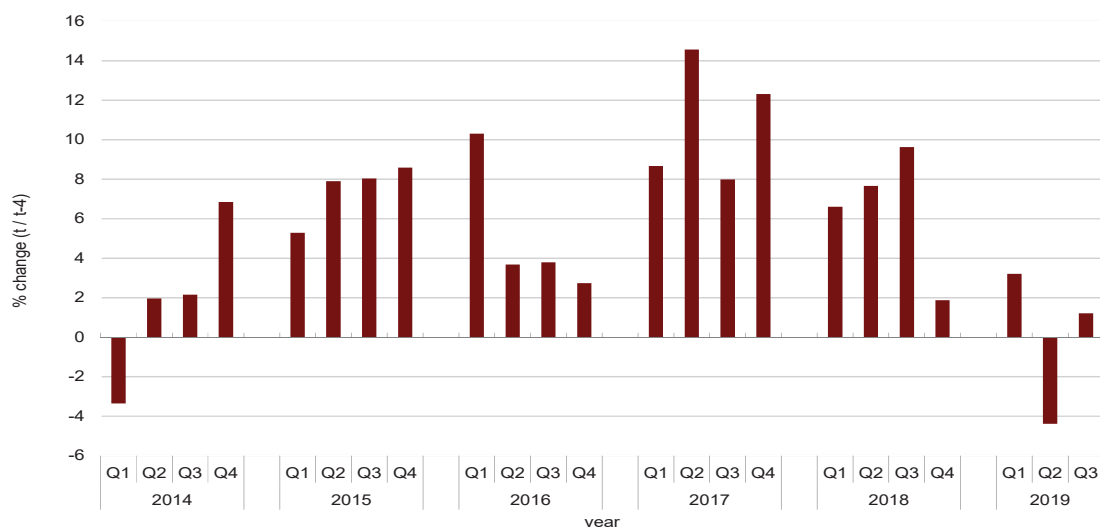


Table 1. Services turnover index by period and NACE classification
Working-day adjusted

NACE	2018		2019			% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	2018		2019		
						Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	118.3	118.8	105.1	114.9	125.0	6.4	2.4	3.7	-1.2	5.7
Motor trade	114.2	126.7	118.2	121.7	117.8	-2.1	13.3	0.2	0.5	3.2
Wholesale trade	120.5	115.3	103.5	112.2	128.3	9.9	0.6	4.5	-3.3	6.5
Retail trade	115.0	123.8	105.7	118.5	120.4	1.6	3.7	3.2	2.4	4.7
Food	129.4	129.9	111.6	131.5	135.0	12.5	7.0	3.1	5.4	4.3
Non-food	105.5	119.8	101.9	110.0	110.8	-5.7	1.4	3.3	0.2	5.0
Transportation and storage	162.2	140.6	132.6	149.9	159.6	16.0	10.6	5.0	-1.2	-1.6
Accommodation and food service activities	157.4	99.8	81.9	125.4	150.9	6.7	-2.7	-3.1	-4.7	-4.1
Information and communication	120.9	127.2	125.0	124.6	126.6	1.9	-2.8	9.2	7.8	4.7
Real estate activities	197.9	148.4	121.9	144.6	170.9	70.0	42.7	0.3	-33.9	-13.6
Professional, scientific and technical activities	120.1	125.0	100.6	99.6	108.9	19.3	10.9	-6.0	-4.9	-9.3
Administrative and support service activities	168.0	155.3	141.3	185.5	163.2	4.0	-18.2	-0.2	-18.2	-2.9
Total	131.6	124.8	111.6	124.8	133.2	9.6	1.9	3.2	-4.4	1.2

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

NACE	2018		2019			% change compared with previous quarter				
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	2018		2019		
						Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	115.1	114.4	114.2	113.4	121.6	0.3	-0.6	-0.2	-0.7	7.2
Motor trade	116.0	127.6	120.4	116.9	119.7	-0.3	10.0	-5.6	-2.9	2.4
Wholesale trade	114.9	112.5	113.1	110.9	122.1	0.4	-2.1	0.5	-1.9	10.1
Retail trade	113.4	116.4	116.2	117.0	118.8	-0.7	2.7	-0.2	0.7	1.5
Food	125.1	124.8	124.4	128.4	130.3	2.7	-0.2	-0.3	3.2	1.5
Non-food	105.0	111.8	111.2	109.2	110.3	-3.6	6.4	-0.5	-1.8	1.0
Transportation and storage	148.4	145.5	146.2	145.1	146.6	2.4	-2.0	0.5	-0.8	1.0
Accommodation and food service activities	118.0	111.8	116.9	116.9	113.1	-3.9	-5.3	4.6	0.0	-3.3
Information and communication	120.9	127.2	125.0	124.6	126.6	4.6	5.2	-1.7	-0.3	1.6
Real estate activities	197.9	148.4	121.9	144.6	170.9	-9.5	-25.0	-17.9	18.6	18.2
Professional, scientific and technical activities	122.4	115.9	106.5	100.7	110.7	16.4	-5.3	-8.1	-5.4	9.9
Administrative and support service activities	170.4	162.3	166.6	156.0	165.6	-10.2	-4.8	2.6	-6.4	6.2
Total	124.2	123.0	124.0	121.7	125.7	-2.4	-1.0	0.8	-1.9	3.3

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	2018		2019			% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	2018		2019		
						Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	111.9	110.9	110.6	112.1	113.9	4.3	1.7	1.5	2.5	1.8
Motor trade	112.4	112.3	112.1	114.3	115.1	1.4	4.1	0.7	3.6	2.4
Wholesale trade	110.2	107.5	107.3	108.7	111.2	3.8	1.1	1.7	1.8	0.9
Retail trade	112.9	112.7	112.4	113.9	115.3	5.1	1.7	1.4	2.7	2.1
Food	120.6	119.1	118.6	119.5	123.8	9.8	4.3	1.3	2.1	2.7
Non-food	109.3	109.8	109.5	111.3	111.5	2.8	0.5	1.5	3.0	2.0
Transportation and storage	109.4	107.1	109.3	109.1	109.9	9.1	7.1	5.0	2.6	0.5
Accommodation and food service activities	97.0	92.8	90.1	91.9	92.7	-4.7	-1.7	-3.8	-5.3	-4.4
Information and communication	105.2	105.1	105.4	104.3	104.8	2.5	3.6	3.2	1.0	-0.4
Real estate activities	106.9	106.3	108.0	108.1	106.1	-0.6	0.4	-2.7	1.7	-0.7
Professional, scientific and technical activities	104.9	109.5	107.9	103.2	103.8	0.5	-4.5	2.3	-0.1	-1.0
Administrative and support service activities	123.2	122.4	121.8	125.8	129.0	-2.4	-2.0	-2.9	2.0	4.7
Total	110.6	109.4	108.7	109.8	111.2	2.5	1.5	0.5	0.9	0.5

Table 4. Services employment index by period and NACE classification

Seasonally adjusted

NACE	2018		2019			% change compared with previous quarter				
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	2018		2019		
						Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	111.9	110.9	110.6	112.1	113.9	2.3	-0.9	-0.3	1.4	1.6
Motor trade	112.4	112.3	112.1	114.3	115.1	1.9	0.0	-0.2	2.0	0.7
Wholesale trade	110.2	107.5	107.3	108.7	111.2	3.2	-2.4	-0.2	1.3	2.3
Retail trade	112.9	112.7	112.4	113.9	115.3	1.8	-0.1	-0.3	1.3	1.2
Food	120.6	119.1	118.6	119.5	123.8	3.0	-1.3	-0.4	0.8	3.6
Non-food	109.3	109.8	109.5	111.3	111.5	1.2	0.5	-0.3	1.6	0.2
Transportation and storage	108.5	108.0	109.7	108.6	109.0	2.5	-0.4	1.6	-1.0	0.4
Accommodation and food service activities	93.1	94.4	93.2	91.1	89.1	-3.3	1.5	-1.3	-2.3	-2.2
Information and communication	104.8	105.5	105.5	104.3	104.3	1.5	0.7	0.0	-1.1	0.0
Real estate activities	106.9	106.3	108.0	108.1	106.1	0.7	-0.6	1.6	0.1	-1.9
Professional, scientific and technical activities	104.9	109.5	107.9	103.2	103.8	1.6	4.4	-1.5	-4.4	0.6
Administrative and support service activities	123.2	122.4	121.8	125.8	129.0	0.0	-0.7	-0.5	3.3	2.5
Total	109.0	109.6	110.3	109.6	109.6	0.4	0.5	0.6	-0.6	0.0

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		
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	118.6	125.2	124.5	124.1	127.8	5.8	4.3	6.5	5.5	7.8
Motor trade	129.8	137.2	132.7	137.1	137.1	4.2	4.5	5.3	8.3	5.6
Wholesale trade	113.2	119.2	122.4	119.3	124.3	5.3	2.8	9.2	5.0	9.8
Retail trade	122.8	129.9	125.6	127.4	130.3	6.5	5.9	3.8	5.6	6.1
Food	125.5	135.7	129.1	131.8	135.0	6.6	8.2	4.0	4.7	7.6
Non-food	121.6	127.5	124.1	125.6	128.3	6.5	4.9	3.8	6.1	5.5
Transportation and storage	120.0	117.8	116.5	118.0	119.5	12.7	3.6	1.6	1.9	-0.4
Accommodation and food service activities	112.7	111.0	108.6	112.3	115.6	-0.5	3.4	1.6	-2.6	2.6
Information and communication	114.3	118.4	119.0	117.9	117.0	5.8	7.0	8.6	6.7	2.4
Real estate activities	113.7	115.8	116.2	119.2	113.4	5.9	-1.2	-0.7	0.6	-0.3
Professional, scientific and technical activities	115.3	115.9	115.1	112.6	109.2	-5.0	-8.1	-0.2	-8.5	-5.3
Administrative and support service activities	129.8	138.4	133.2	137.1	134.2	-2.8	-2.7	-2.8	-0.6	3.4
Total	119.6	123.3	121.5	122.5	123.1	4.1	2.6	3.2	2.0	2.9

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		
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	120.3	122.0	124.4	126.2	128.8	1.0	1.4	2.0	1.4	2.1
Motor trade	130.4	133.6	134.9	138.1	137.8	2.3	2.5	1.0	2.4	-0.2
Wholesale trade	114.8	116.0	122.5	120.9	126.0	-0.1	1.0	5.6	-1.3	4.2
Retail trade	123.6	126.9	126.6	128.5	131.2	1.6	2.6	-0.2	1.5	2.1
Food	125.5	135.7	129.1	131.8	135.0	-0.3	8.1	-4.9	2.1	2.4
Non-food	122.6	124.1	125.3	126.7	129.4	2.6	1.2	1.0	1.1	2.1
Transportation and storage	120.0	117.8	116.5	118.0	119.5	3.6	-1.8	-1.1	1.3	1.3
Accommodation and food service activities	108.6	112.0	113.2	111.0	111.7	-4.7	3.1	1.1	-1.9	0.6
Information and communication	114.3	118.4	119.0	117.9	117.0	3.4	3.6	0.5	-0.9	-0.8
Real estate activities	113.7	115.8	116.2	119.2	113.4	-4.1	1.8	0.3	2.6	-4.9
Professional, scientific and technical activities	115.3	115.9	115.1	112.6	109.2	-6.2	0.5	-0.7	-2.2	-3.0
Administrative and support service activities	129.8	138.4	133.2	137.1	134.2	-5.9	6.6	-3.8	2.9	-2.1
Total	120.5	121.1	122.4	122.8	124.0	0.2	0.5	1.1	0.3	1.0

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				
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	2018		2019		
						Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	111.5	110.6	109.4	110.9	113.5	4.5	1.7	1.5	2.6	1.8
Motor trade	118.9	118.7	114.3	118.1	118.3	7.4	7.0	0.3	2.2	-0.5
Wholesale trade	105.8	102.8	104.5	105.4	110.5	4.1	0.2	3.2	1.7	4.4
Retail trade	115.3	115.9	112.8	114.6	115.1	4.3	1.8	0.4	3.5	-0.2
Food	127.4	129.6	124.9	127.1	129.4	9.1	6.2	2.6	5.4	1.6
Non-food	109.7	110.0	107.7	108.9	109.2	2.3	0.4	-0.7	2.5	-0.5
Transportation and storage	111.2	109.2	108.6	109.2	109.0	5.2	2.5	-0.1	-2.1	-2.0
Accommodation and food service activities	104.8	98.7	93.9	98.1	103.7	-1.0	1.7	-0.9	-6.0	-1.0
Information and communication	104.1	102.6	101.1	100.9	103.3	1.3	2.5	3.0	0.2	-0.8
Real estate activities	107.3	107.9	109.4	111.1	105.4	-0.8	-1.1	0.4	4.2	-1.8
Professional, scientific and technical activities	108.1	107.0	107.6	105.8	106.8	-2.3	-7.2	0.3	0.6	-1.2
Administrative and support service activities	130.8	131.3	129.5	134.6	136.9	-4.3	-3.5	-1.5	-1.2	4.7
Total	113.2	111.6	110.0	111.5	114.6	2.1	1.4	0.6	-0.5	1.2

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

Seasonally adjusted

NACE	2018		2019			% change compared with previous quarter				
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	2018		2019		
						Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	110.8	110.3	110.4	111.0	112.8	2.5	-0.5	0.1	0.5	1.6
Motor trade	118.9	118.7	114.3	118.1	118.3	3.0	-0.2	-3.7	3.3	0.2
Wholesale trade	105.8	102.8	104.5	105.4	110.5	2.1	-2.8	1.7	0.9	4.8
Retail trade	114.8	114.1	114.7	115.0	114.5	3.2	-0.5	0.5	0.3	-0.4
Food	126.9	127.1	126.8	128.2	128.9	4.4	0.2	-0.2	1.1	0.5
Non-food	109.3	108.7	109.3	108.9	108.9	2.9	-0.6	0.6	-0.4	0.0
Transportation and storage	110.1	108.1	110.6	109.4	107.9	-1.6	-1.8	2.3	-1.1	-1.4
Accommodation and food service activities	98.5	100.3	100.0	96.9	97.5	-4.3	1.8	-0.3	-3.1	0.6
Information and communication	104.1	102.6	101.1	100.9	103.3	3.4	-1.4	-1.5	-0.2	2.4
Real estate activities	107.3	107.9	109.4	111.1	105.4	0.7	0.6	1.4	1.6	-5.1
Professional, scientific and technical activities	108.1	107.0	107.6	105.8	106.8	2.8	-1.0	0.6	-1.7	0.9
Administrative and support service activities	127.4	131.4	133.7	134.0	133.4	-6.1	3.1	1.8	0.2	-0.4
Total	111.4	111.7	111.8	111.6	112.7	-0.5	0.3	0.1	-0.2	1.0

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](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/)

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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