

During the fourth quarter of 2019, working-day adjusted turnover in selected services activities increased by 3.2 per cent over the same quarter in 2018. Seasonally adjusted services turnover increased by 0.5 per cent over the previous quarter.

Short-term Services Indicators: Q4/2019

Cut-off date:
14 February 2020

Annual comparison

When compared to the fourth quarter of 2018, the working-day adjusted turnover index increased by 3.2 per cent (Table 1). Increases in turnover were registered in the real estate activities (18.3 per cent), the information and communication activities (11.3 per cent), the wholesale trade (4.6 per cent), the retail trade (3.4 per cent) and the transportation and storage (1.6 per cent). Decreases were recorded in the motor trade (8.8 per cent), the professional, scientific and technical activities (5.3 per cent), the administrative and support service activities (1.4 per cent) and the accommodation and food service activities (0.8 per cent) (Table 1).

Employment (Table 3), gross wages and salaries (Table 5) and hours worked (Table 7) rose by 1.3, 3.6 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 0.5 per cent (Table 2). Increases were recorded in the information and communication (9.9 per cent), the retail trade (0.8 per cent) and the professional, scientific and technical activities (0.2 per cent). Decreases were registered in the real estate activities (4.1 per cent), the motor trade (2.8 per cent), the wholesale trade (2.5 per cent), the accommodation and food service activities (1.9 per cent), the administrative and support service activities (1.3 per cent) and the transportation and storage (0.3 per cent) (Table 2).

The seasonally adjusted employment (Table 4) and gross wages and salaries (Table 6) rose by 0.5 and 0.6 per cent respectively. The seasonally adjusted hours worked decreased by 0.5 per cent (Table 8) ■

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

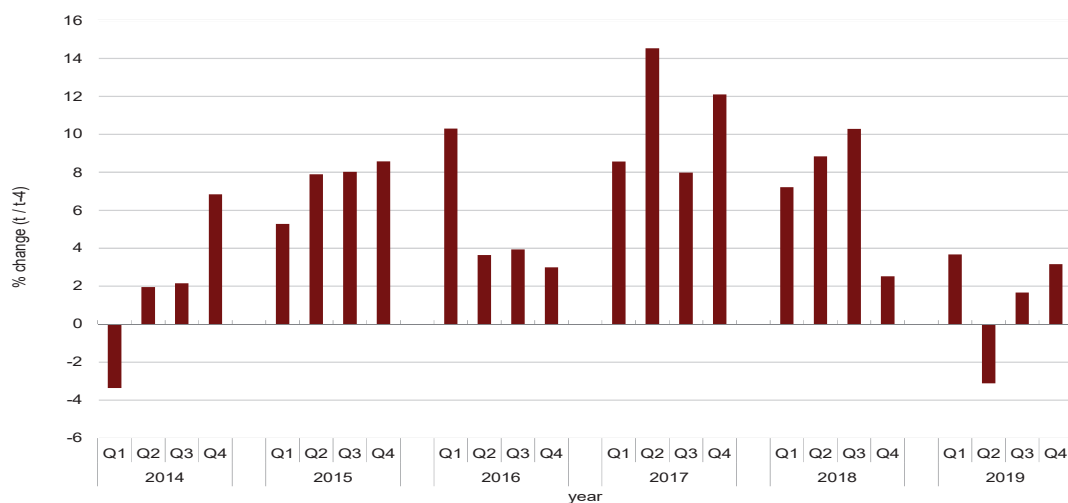


Table 1. Services turnover index by period and NACE classification
Working-day adjusted

NACE	2018	2019				% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
						2018	2019			
		Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	119.4	106.0	118.2	124.9	123.3	3.0	4.6	1.6	5.5	3.3
Motor trade	126.7	119.3	125.1	118.3	115.5	13.3	1.1	3.3	3.6	-8.8
Wholesale trade	116.0	104.9	117.2	127.4	121.3	1.3	6.0	1.0	5.8	4.6
Retail trade	124.4	105.4	118.8	121.6	128.6	4.1	2.7	2.3	5.2	3.4
Food	130.0	111.2	131.5	135.4	134.7	7.1	2.7	5.4	4.4	3.6
Non-food	120.8	101.5	110.4	112.5	124.6	2.2	2.8	0.0	5.9	3.1
Transportation and storage	140.6	133.3	151.3	164.3	142.9	10.6	5.6	0.2	1.7	1.6
Accommodation and food service activities	100.7	82.0	126.7	152.9	99.9	-1.7	-2.8	-3.7	-3.9	-0.8
Information and communication	127.2	125.0	125.4	128.9	141.6	-2.8	9.2	8.5	6.7	11.3
Real estate activities	163.9	144.5	173.9	202.2	193.9	50.5	3.9	-32.2	-10.8	18.3
Professional, scientific and technical activities	124.7	99.7	98.5	107.0	118.1	10.6	-6.8	-7.8	-11.0	-5.3
Administrative and support service activities	157.2	140.8	186.2	164.4	155.0	-17.2	-0.6	-18.3	-2.5	-1.4
Total	125.7	112.7	127.8	134.8	129.7	2.5	3.7	-3.1	1.7	3.2

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

NACE	2018	2019				% change compared with previous quarter				
						2018	2019			
		Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	115.2	115.1	116.4	121.6	119.0	-0.1	-0.1	1.1	4.4	-2.1
Motor trade	127.9	121.5	120.0	120.0	116.6	10.4	-5.0	-1.3	0.0	-2.8
Wholesale trade	113.5	114.6	115.2	121.8	118.7	-1.6	0.9	0.5	5.8	-2.5
Retail trade	116.7	116.3	117.3	119.8	120.8	2.5	-0.3	0.9	2.1	0.8
Food	125.3	124.2	128.2	130.1	130.1	0.2	-0.8	3.2	1.5	0.0
Non-food	111.2	111.5	109.9	112.8	114.8	4.5	0.3	-1.4	2.6	1.8
Transportation and storage	146.0	148.2	145.6	148.6	148.2	-0.8	1.5	-1.7	2.0	-0.3
Accommodation and food service activities	113.1	117.1	118.1	114.4	112.2	-5.0	3.6	0.8	-3.2	-1.9
Information and communication	127.2	125.0	125.4	128.9	141.6	5.2	-1.7	0.4	2.8	9.9
Real estate activities	163.9	144.5	173.9	202.2	193.9	-27.7	-11.8	20.3	16.3	-4.1
Professional, scientific and technical activities	115.6	105.8	99.1	109.1	109.3	-6.0	-8.5	-6.3	10.1	0.2
Administrative and support service activities	165.4	166.4	155.6	165.5	163.4	-2.8	0.6	-6.5	6.3	-1.3
Total	123.9	125.2	124.5	127.2	127.8	-0.9	1.1	-0.6	2.2	0.5

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				
						2018	2019			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	110.5	110.6	111.9	113.4	113.0	1.4	1.5	2.3	2.0	2.3
Motor trade	112.3	111.9	113.6	113.3	111.2	4.1	0.5	3.0	0.8	-1.0
Wholesale trade	107.5	106.7	108.0	110.9	110.2	1.1	1.4	1.3	2.5	2.5
Retail trade	112.1	112.7	114.0	115.0	115.0	1.1	1.7	2.8	2.0	2.6
Food	119.1	119.4	120.0	121.8	121.2	4.3	2.0	2.5	0.9	1.8
Non-food	108.9	109.6	111.2	111.8	112.2	-0.4	1.6	3.0	2.5	3.0
Transportation and storage	107.1	109.4	109.3	111.1	108.7	7.1	5.0	2.8	1.6	1.5
Accommodation and food service activities	94.8	91.9	94.5	96.5	94.2	0.3	-1.8	-2.9	-1.7	-0.6
Information and communication	105.5	105.2	104.1	105.3	104.8	3.7	3.0	0.8	-0.2	-0.7
Real estate activities	107.0	104.6	107.1	104.3	103.5	-0.8	-4.9	0.3	-3.0	-3.3
Professional, scientific and technical activities	109.5	108.0	103.6	104.7	104.2	-4.6	2.2	0.1	-0.6	-4.8
Administrative and support service activities	122.3	121.3	125.3	128.7	126.9	-2.1	-3.3	1.6	4.4	3.8
Total	108.7	108.4	109.6	111.4	110.1	1.2	1.0	1.4	1.5	1.3

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

NACE	2018	2019				% change compared with previous quarter				
						2018	2019			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	110.5	110.6	111.9	113.4	113.0	-0.6	0.0	1.2	1.4	-0.4
Motor trade	112.3	111.9	113.6	113.3	111.2	0.0	-0.4	1.5	-0.2	-1.9
Wholesale trade	107.5	106.7	108.0	110.9	110.2	-0.7	-0.7	1.2	2.7	-0.6
Retail trade	112.1	112.7	114.0	115.0	115.0	-0.6	0.5	1.2	0.9	0.0
Food	119.1	119.4	120.0	121.8	121.2	-1.3	0.3	0.5	1.5	-0.5
Non-food	108.9	109.6	111.2	111.8	112.2	-0.2	0.7	1.5	0.5	0.4
Transportation and storage	108.1	109.8	108.9	110.0	109.8	-0.2	1.6	-0.8	1.0	-0.2
Accommodation and food service activities	96.0	95.1	93.9	92.9	95.3	1.7	-0.9	-1.2	-1.1	2.6
Information and communication	105.8	105.4	104.2	104.8	105.1	0.8	-0.4	-1.1	0.5	0.3
Real estate activities	107.0	104.6	107.1	104.3	103.5	-0.5	-2.2	2.4	-2.6	-0.8
Professional, scientific and technical activities	109.5	108.0	103.6	104.7	104.2	4.0	-1.4	-4.0	1.0	-0.5
Administrative and support service activities	122.3	121.3	125.3	128.7	126.9	-0.8	-0.8	3.3	2.7	-1.4
Total	109.0	109.8	109.3	109.9	110.4	0.6	0.7	-0.4	0.5	0.5

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			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	125.4	124.7	124.7	127.9	131.8	4.6	6.6	5.9	8.0	5.1
Motor trade	137.2	132.7	138.8	138.4	137.9	4.5	5.3	9.6	6.6	0.5
Wholesale trade	119.4	122.2	119.8	122.7	127.6	3.2	9.1	5.3	8.4	6.9
Retail trade	130.1	126.2	128.0	132.2	135.6	6.0	4.2	6.0	7.9	4.2
Food	135.7	129.5	133.3	139.3	137.7	8.2	4.4	5.8	11.0	1.5
Non-food	127.8	124.7	125.8	129.1	134.7	5.1	4.1	6.1	6.6	5.4
Transportation and storage	117.6	116.3	119.0	124.0	121.6	3.4	1.4	2.8	3.6	3.4
Accommodation and food service activities	112.6	109.0	114.3	120.1	114.4	4.7	1.8	-1.9	5.0	1.6
Information and communication	119.0	120.3	119.2	119.5	123.5	7.5	9.9	7.8	4.5	3.8
Real estate activities	118.3	116.5	128.8	115.8	125.9	-5.9	-3.0	4.2	0.1	6.4
Professional, scientific and technical activities	116.2	115.4	112.9	110.8	109.9	-7.9	-0.1	-8.2	-4.4	-5.4
Administrative and support service activities	137.1	131.6	136.6	134.0	147.7	-3.6	-4.0	-1.6	3.2	7.7
Total	123.4	121.3	123.1	124.8	127.8	2.5	3.2	2.3	4.3	3.6

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			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	122.5	124.5	126.3	128.6	129.9	1.8	1.7	1.4	1.8	1.0
Motor trade	134.1	135.3	139.4	138.4	134.8	3.2	0.9	3.1	-0.7	-2.6
Wholesale trade	116.4	122.3	121.0	124.4	124.6	1.4	5.0	-1.1	2.8	0.2
Retail trade	127.6	127.2	129.0	132.8	133.0	3.6	-0.3	1.5	2.9	0.2
Food	135.7	129.5	133.3	139.3	137.7	8.1	-4.6	2.9	4.5	-1.1
Non-food	124.4	125.8	127.0	130.2	131.4	1.8	1.1	0.9	2.5	0.9
Transportation and storage	117.6	116.3	119.0	124.0	121.6	-1.9	-1.1	2.4	4.2	-1.9
Accommodation and food service activities	113.7	114.2	113.2	114.9	115.5	4.1	0.4	-0.8	1.5	0.5
Information and communication	119.0	120.3	119.2	119.5	123.5	4.1	1.1	-0.9	0.2	3.3
Real estate activities	118.3	116.5	128.8	115.8	125.9	2.2	-1.5	10.5	-10.0	8.7
Professional, scientific and technical activities	116.2	115.4	112.9	110.8	109.9	0.3	-0.7	-2.2	-1.9	-0.8
Administrative and support service activities	137.1	131.6	136.6	134.0	147.7	5.7	-4.1	3.8	-1.9	10.2
Total	121.3	122.7	123.3	125.2	125.9	0.8	1.2	0.5	1.5	0.6

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			
		Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	110.3	109.4	111.2	114.0	113.0	1.4	1.5	3.0	2.5	2.4
Motor trade	118.7	114.3	118.1	116.7	116.2	7.0	0.3	2.2	-1.8	-2.1
Wholesale trade	102.3	104.1	105.2	110.6	107.2	-0.3	3.0	1.7	4.9	4.8
Retail trade	115.9	113.0	115.3	116.2	117.4	1.7	0.5	4.2	1.1	1.3
Food	129.7	125.2	127.1	133.1	128.6	6.3	2.8	5.4	4.4	-0.8
Non-food	109.8	107.9	109.9	109.3	112.6	0.2	-0.6	3.5	0.2	2.6
Transportation and storage	109.1	108.6	109.3	110.9	110.4	2.4	-0.1	-1.9	-0.3	1.2
Accommodation and food service activities	99.4	94.6	100.2	106.7	101.5	2.4	-0.1	-4.5	1.2	2.1
Information and communication	103.1	101.9	101.1	103.0	103.1	2.6	3.9	0.2	-0.9	0.0
Real estate activities	108.2	105.1	109.4	103.9	106.1	-1.1	-4.9	2.4	-2.9	-1.9
Professional, scientific and technical activities	107.2	107.4	106.1	108.3	107.8	-7.0	0.2	0.7	0.0	0.6
Administrative and support service activities	133.9	130.6	136.8	140.7	133.7	-1.6	-0.6	-2.5	4.7	-0.1
Total	112.0	110.2	112.3	116.2	113.3	1.7	1.0	-0.4	2.3	1.2

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

NACE	2018	2019				% change compared with previous quarter				
						2018	2019			
		Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	110.1	110.4	111.2	113.2	112.8	-0.3	0.3	0.8	1.7	-0.3
Motor trade	118.7	114.3	118.1	116.7	116.2	-0.2	-3.7	3.3	-1.1	-0.4
Wholesale trade	102.3	104.1	105.2	110.6	107.2	-3.1	1.8	1.0	5.2	-3.1
Retail trade	114.1	114.9	115.8	115.4	115.7	0.0	0.7	0.8	-0.4	0.3
Food	128.0	126.9	128.7	131.4	126.9	1.6	-0.8	1.4	2.1	-3.4
Non-food	108.5	109.4	109.8	109.0	111.2	-0.2	0.8	0.4	-0.7	2.0
Transportation and storage	108.0	110.6	109.6	109.7	109.3	-1.8	2.3	-0.9	0.1	-0.4
Accommodation and food service activities	100.7	101.2	99.0	100.4	102.6	1.6	0.5	-2.1	1.4	2.2
Information and communication	103.1	101.9	101.1	103.0	103.1	-0.9	-1.1	-0.8	1.9	0.1
Real estate activities	108.2	105.1	109.4	103.9	106.1	1.2	-2.9	4.1	-5.0	2.1
Professional, scientific and technical activities	107.2	107.4	106.1	108.3	107.8	-1.0	0.2	-1.2	2.1	-0.5
Administrative and support service activities	134.3	135.4	135.8	136.5	134.2	3.0	0.8	0.3	0.5	-1.7
Total	112.1	112.6	112.1	114.0	113.4	0.7	0.4	-0.4	1.6	-0.5

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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