

Seasonally adjusted turnover recorded during the first quarter of 2020 decreased by 2.1 per cent over the previous quarter. When compared to the corresponding period of 2019, working-day adjusted industrial turnover increased by 3.5 per cent.

Short-term Industrial Indicators: Q1/2020

Cut-off date:
8 May 2020

Quarterly comparison

In the first quarter of 2020, seasonally adjusted industrial turnover decreased by 2.1 per cent over the previous quarter. This was due to a decrease of 5.8 per cent in the consumer goods sector. On the other hand, increases of 5.9 per cent, 4.1 per cent and 3.6 per cent were recorded in the capital goods, intermediate goods and energy sectors respectively (Table 1).

Seasonally adjusted industrial employment increased by 0.3 per cent (Table 3). During this period, seasonally adjusted industrial hours worked decreased by 1.0 per cent (Table 5) and seasonally adjusted industrial gross wages and salaries decreased by 4.0 per cent (Table 7).

Annual comparison

When compared to the corresponding quarter of 2019, working-day adjusted industrial turnover increased by 3.5 per cent. An increase in the industrial turnover was recorded across all sectors, namely capital goods (10.5 per cent), consumer goods (3.6 per cent), intermediate goods (1.2 per cent), and energy (0.2 per cent) (Table 2).

A decrease of 1.1 per cent was recorded in the year-on-year unadjusted industrial employment (Table 4). Working-day adjusted industrial hours worked decreased by 0.2 per cent (Table 6) while working-day adjusted industrial gross wages and salaries increased by 0.4 per cent (Table 8) ■

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

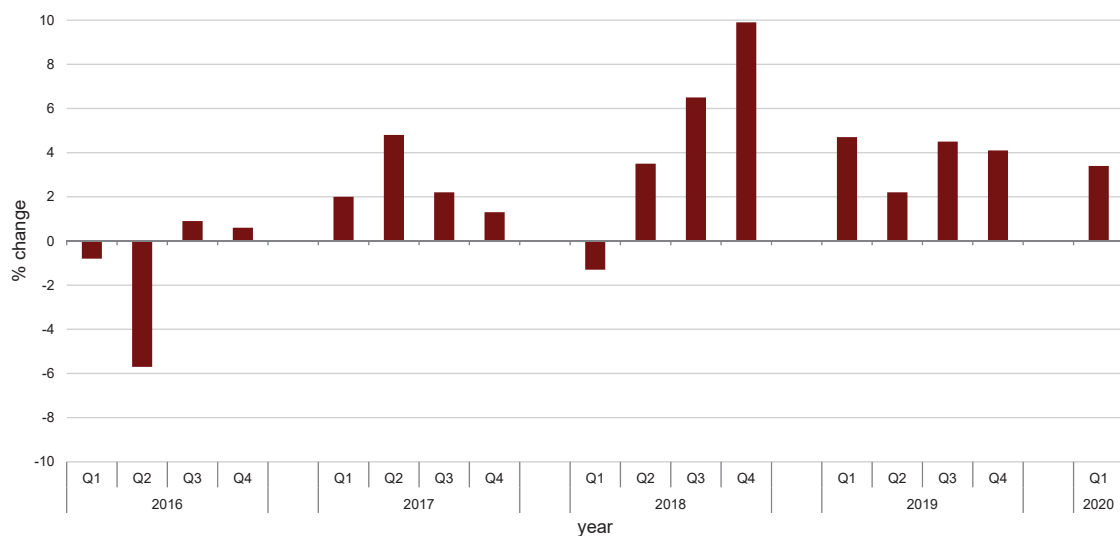


Table 1. Industrial turnover by main industrial grouping
(Seasonally adjusted; 2015=100)

Main industrial grouping	2019				2020	% change compared with previous quarter				
						2019				2020
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Intermediate goods	111.0	111.2	111.8	107.9	112.3	0.3	0.2	0.5	-3.4	4.1
Energy	113.9	118.9	119.8	110.1	114.1	1.5	4.4	0.8	-8.1	3.6
Capital goods	107.0	109.4	107.7	111.6	118.2	-2.1	2.2	-1.6	3.6	5.9
Consumer goods	101.6	101.9	108.3	114.4	107.8	-1.9	0.3	6.3	5.6	-5.8
Durable consumer goods	113.6	116.2	123.7	119.9	103.6	-1.6	2.3	6.5	-3.1	-13.6
Non-durable consumer goods	100.3	100.8	107.7	114.1	107.5	-2.3	0.5	6.8	5.9	-5.8
Total industry	106.9	108.1	111.3	113.2	110.8	-2.0	1.1	3.0	1.7	-2.1

Table 2. Industrial turnover by main industrial grouping
(Working-day adjusted; 2015=100)

Main industrial grouping	2019				2020	% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
						2019				2020
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Intermediate goods	109.2	112.9	110.7	109.1	110.5	9.5	3.4	1.2	-2.5	1.2
Energy	107.5	110.9	137.4	107.5	107.7	5.4	8.4	6.2	-2.0	0.2
Capital goods	110.8	114.7	95.8	114.1	122.4	0.4	0.3	1.7	1.9	10.5
Consumer goods	92.6	101.0	108.8	128.5	95.9	1.3	-0.7	8.8	15.1	3.6
Durable consumer goods	100.9	122.6	126.3	124.3	91.9	15.0	4.5	-6.5	3.8	-8.9
Non-durable consumer goods	91.9	99.5	107.6	128.8	96.2	0.3	-1.1	10.3	16.0	4.7
Total industry	103.7	109.0	111.1	116.2	107.3	4.7	2.2	4.5	4.1	3.5

Table 3. Industrial employment by main industrial grouping
(Seasonally adjusted; 2015=100)

Main industrial grouping	2019				2020	% change compared with previous quarter				
						2019				2020
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Intermediate goods	103.6	103.5	102.9	102.8	103.2	0.6	-0.1	-0.6	-0.1	0.4
Energy	130.7	129.7	136.4	135.4	134.9	-3.1	-0.8	5.2	-0.7	-0.4
Capital goods	98.1	97.6	96.5	96.8	98.2	-0.5	-0.5	-1.1	0.3	1.4
Consumer goods	93.8	92.6	92.1	91.6	90.9	-0.5	-1.3	-0.5	-0.5	-0.8
Durable consumer goods	86.3	85.7	84.6	86.1	86.8	-3.3	-0.7	-1.3	1.8	0.8
Non-durable consumer goods	95.0	94.1	93.3	92.6	91.6	-0.1	-0.9	-0.9	-0.8	-1.1
Total industry	99.6	98.9	98.3	98.1	98.4	0.0	-0.7	-0.6	-0.2	0.3

Table 4. Industrial employment by main industrial grouping
(Unadjusted; 2015=100)

Main industrial grouping	2019				2020	% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
						2019				2020
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Intermediate goods	103.4	103.5	103.3	102.6	103.0	1.3	0.5	-0.6	-0.2	-0.4
Energy	130.7	129.7	136.4	135.4	134.9	-0.4	-2.9	0.4	0.4	3.2
Capital goods	97.5	97.6	97.1	96.8	97.5	-0.3	-1.7	-3.4	-1.8	0.0
Consumer goods	93.3	92.8	92.8	91.1	90.5	-1.5	-2.2	-2.9	-2.8	-3.0
Durable consumer goods	86.3	85.7	84.6	86.1	86.8	-7.0	-7.7	-6.8	-3.4	0.6
Non-durable consumer goods	94.6	94.1	94.3	92.0	91.1	-0.5	-1.3	-2.2	-2.7	-3.7
Total industry	99.1	98.9	99.0	97.9	98.0	-0.2	-1.3	-2.0	-1.5	-1.1

Table 5. Industrial hours worked by main industrial grouping
(Seasonally adjusted; 2015=100)

Main industrial grouping	2019				2020	% change compared with previous quarter				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	2019				2020
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Intermediate goods	104.1	105.0	103.7	103.5	103.7	2.6	0.9	-1.2	-0.2	0.2
Energy	134.0	130.5	132.7	135.0	136.1	2.6	-2.6	1.7	1.7	0.8
Capital goods	99.1	97.5	97.7	97.7	97.9	-0.4	-1.6	0.2	0.0	0.2
Consumer goods	97.0	97.0	98.3	98.5	95.9	-1.5	0.0	1.3	0.2	-2.6
Durable consumer goods	90.1	91.9	89.5	90.8	90.3	-2.6	2.0	-2.6	1.5	-0.6
Non-durable consumer goods	97.7	97.8	99.1	99.6	96.6	-1.6	0.1	1.3	0.5	-3.0
Total industry	101.1	101.3	101.4	101.9	100.9	-0.1	0.2	0.1	0.5	-1.0

Table 6. Industrial hours worked by main industrial grouping
(Working-day adjusted; 2015=100)

Main industrial grouping	2019				2020	% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	2019				2020
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Intermediate goods	104.2	106.6	104.0	101.6	103.8	-0.8	0.0	-1.7	2.0	-0.4
Energy	132.2	131.7	133.9	134.4	134.3	1.9	-5.9	1.8	3.4	1.6
Capital goods	98.3	97.7	97.7	98.2	97.2	2.2	-0.1	0.5	-1.8	-1.1
Consumer goods	95.2	97.4	99.4	99.3	93.7	-4.9	-3.1	0.3	0.5	-1.6
Durable consumer goods	90.1	91.9	89.5	90.8	90.3	-4.0	-4.1	-2.8	-1.8	0.2
Non-durable consumer goods	95.7	98.1	100.5	100.3	94.3	-5.0	-3.0	0.4	0.8	-1.5
Total industry	100.4	102.3	101.7	101.4	100.2	-1.6	-1.6	-1.0	0.7	-0.2

Table 7. Industrial gross wages and salaries by main industrial grouping
(Seasonally adjusted; 2015=100)

Main industrial grouping	2019				2020	% change compared with previous quarter				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	2019				2020
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Intermediate goods	117.8	120.4	121.3	120.3	120.9	0.7	2.2	0.7	-0.8	0.5
Energy	206.6	204.9	213.8	247.5	220.6	6.7	-0.8	4.3	15.8	-10.9
Capital goods	113.8	114.2	117.0	118.9	116.6	1.8	0.4	2.5	1.6	-1.9
Consumer goods	105.2	103.5	104.9	106.7	104.3	1.6	-1.6	1.4	1.7	-2.2
Durable consumer goods	94.2	93.0	92.5	93.6	92.3	-3.5	-1.3	-0.5	1.2	-1.4
Non-durable consumer goods	106.2	104.1	106.0	108.1	105.3	2.0	-2.0	1.8	2.0	-2.6
Total industry	116.6	117.2	119.5	122.0	117.1	1.6	0.5	1.9	2.1	-4.0

Table 8. Industrial gross wages and salaries by main industrial grouping
(Working-day adjusted; 2015=100)

Main industrial grouping	2019				2020	% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	2019				2020
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Intermediate goods	117.2	121.1	121.3	120.2	120.3	3.6	3.3	4.5	2.8	2.6
Energy	206.6	204.9	213.8	247.5	220.6	9.9	16.6	18.2	27.8	6.8
Capital goods	113.8	114.2	117.0	118.9	116.6	2.8	3.8	3.2	6.4	2.5
Consumer goods	104.8	103.2	105.6	107.0	103.8	1.2	-1.6	0.4	3.3	-1.0
Durable consumer goods	94.2	93.0	92.5	93.6	92.3	1.3	-2.9	-3.0	-4.1	-2.0
Non-durable consumer goods	105.6	104.0	106.7	108.1	104.7	1.2	-1.5	0.6	3.9	-0.9
Total industry	116.6	117.2	119.5	122.0	117.1	3.1	2.8	4.0	6.2	0.4

Methodological notes

1. This news release comprises a number of business cycle indicators showing the quarterly evolution of the market of goods and services in the industrial sector. It records the evolution of turnover, employment, wages and salaries, and hours worked over long periods of time. The objective of these indicators is to measure the market activity in the industrial sector. These indicators are compiled as a "5 year chain-linked index". The current base year is 2015 (index 2015=100). The results are compiled and published according to the statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community, NACE Rev. 2.
2. The data is collected by means of a monthly questionnaire which is sent to a representative sample of enterprises categorised within the industrial sector. The data is then grossed up to represent the entire industrial population.
3. For the scope of the index calculation, NACE divisions 09, 12, 15, 19, 24 and NACE groups 27.5 and 30.9 are excluded because of their negligible activity.
4. The calendar and seasonal adjustments for this release are done directly on quarterly indices. These indices cannot be compared directly to the indices published by Eurostat, since quarterly adjusted European aggregates are calculated from monthly adjusted series, which are provided by the Member States.
5. Calendar 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 particular weekdays or holidays in different months or other time periods (quarters, years). 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 compare the same quarter of the previous year.
6. Working day adjustment is the part of calendar adjustment which focuses on the changing number of working days (Monday to Friday) in the various months/quarters and their effect on statistical indicators for these months/quarters.
7. Seasonal adjustment removes variations which include effects due to quarter lengths, 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 with the previous quarter.
8. The objective of Main Industrial Groupings (MIGs) is to provide an activity breakdown of industry (NACE Rev. 2 Sections B, C, D and E). These regroup all the activities between Sections B to E and cover economic activities of companies in the quarrying, manufacturing, water and energy sectors. There are four MIGs, namely intermediate goods, energy, capital goods and consumer goods, of which the consumer goods grouping is further broken down into durable consumer goods and non-durable consumer goods.
9. **Definitions:**
 - **Turnover:** Includes total sales and other income presented in current prices and is expressed net of VAT.
 - **Wages and salaries:** Covers wages and salaries including bonuses, weekly allowances (cost of living allowances), overtime and national social security contributions by employees. It does not include employers' social security charges.
 - **Employment:** Covers all persons employed, regardless of whether they are part-time or full-time, and includes paid employees, working proprietors and unpaid family workers. Employment is not working-day adjusted since the number of employees does not depend on the factors that make up the working-day effect.
 - **Hours worked:** Covers total amount of hours actually worked; regular working hours and hours worked during overtime, during nights, Sundays or Public holidays. Hours worked but not paid are also considered.

A distribution of the aggregation weights by variable and main industrial grouping is presented in the following table:

Main industrial grouping	Turnover	Employment	Wages and salaries	Hours worked
Intermediate goods	35.8	31.9	31.4	33.8
Energy	13.7	4.3	5.6	4.8
Capital goods	17.3	22.0	24.6	22.2
Consumer goods	33.2	41.8	38.4	39.2
Durable consumer goods	2.3	6.4	2.9	4.4
Non-durable consumer goods	30.9	35.4	35.5	34.8
Total industry	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

10. The calculation of growth rates from the indices table may slightly differ from the growth rates published due to rounding.
11. The data contained in this release should be considered as provisional and thereby subject to revision. Each release may include revisions of the past quarterly data in respect of a rolling two-year period.
12. As from January 2018, the index has been re-referenced from 2010 = 100 to 2015 = 100. Hence, news releases published before January 2018 cannot be directly compared with those published afterwards.

13. 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>

Classifications: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/classificationdetails.aspx?id=NACE Rev. 2>

14. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.

15. A detailed news release calendar is available on: https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx