

During the fourth quarter of 2022, seasonally adjusted services turnover increased by 6.3 per cent over the third quarter of 2022. When compared to the same quarter of 2021, working-day adjusted turnover in selected service activities increased by 30.9 per cent.

## Short-term Services Indicators: Q4/2022

Cut-off date:  
20 February 2023

### Quarterly comparison

After adjusting for seasonal effects and the working-day pattern, the total services turnover index increased by 6.3 per cent between the third and fourth quarters of 2022.

The highest increase was registered in the information and communication (13.5 per cent), followed by increases in the accommodation and food service activities (11.6 per cent), transportation and storage (11.5 per cent), wholesale trade (7.7 per cent) and retail trade (2.5 per cent). On the other hand, declines in turnover were registered in the motor trade (6.6 per cent), professional, scientific and technical activities (6.6 per cent), administrative and support service activities (5.2 per cent) and real estate activities (3.4 per cent) (Table 1).

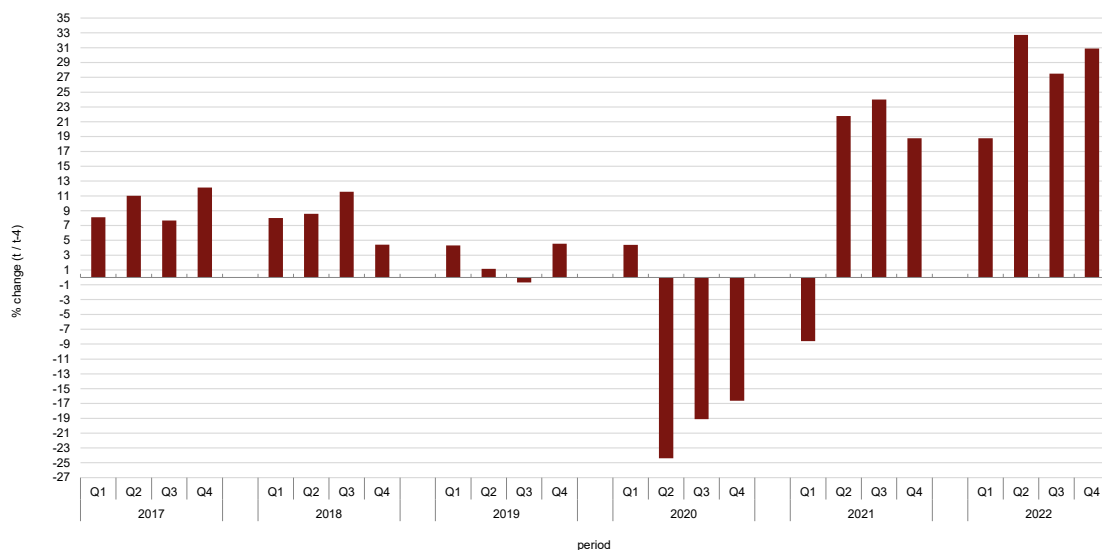
Between the third and fourth quarters of 2022, the number of persons employed (Table 3), gross wages and salaries (Table 5) and hours worked (Table 7) increased by 2.0 per cent, 1.3 per cent and 2.5 per cent respectively.

### Annual comparison

During the fourth quarter of 2022, the total services turnover index increased by 30.9 per cent on an annual basis after adjusting for the working-day pattern. Increases were registered in the wholesale trade (71.0 per cent), accommodation and food service activities (41.7 per cent), transportation and storage (23.3 per cent), information and communication (22.7 per cent), retail trade (11.8 per cent), administrative and support service activities (11.0 per cent) and professional, scientific and technical activities (2.7 per cent). On the other hand, decreases in turnover were registered in the real estate activities (6.0 per cent) and motor trade (1.6 per cent) (Table 2).

The indicators for the number of persons employed (Table 4), gross wages and salaries (Table 6) and hours worked (Table 8) increased by 4.7 per cent, 8.5 per cent and 5.3 per cent respectively over the fourth quarter of 2021 ■

**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**  
Seasonally adjusted

Economic activity (NACE)	2021	2022				% change compared with previous quarter				
						2021	2022			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	120.7	133.5	154.1	165.8	173.3	2.0	10.6	15.4	7.6	4.5
Motor trade	144.4	141.9	140.7	152.2	142.1	18.6	-1.7	-0.9	8.2	-6.6
Wholesale trade	111.5	127.3	162.5	176.7	190.4	1.1	14.2	27.7	8.8	7.7
Retail trade	134.3	140.4	144.4	146.5	150.1	1.7	4.5	2.9	1.4	2.5
Food	141.3	145.5	150.2	155.8	158.3	3.4	3.0	3.3	3.7	1.6
Non-food	129.7	137.1	140.8	140.3	144.7	0.5	5.7	2.7	-0.4	3.2
Transportation and storage	150.9	167.8	168.9	166.4	185.6	-6.0	11.2	0.6	-1.5	11.5
Accommodation and food service activities	92.9	97.1	107.6	113.8	127.0	14.9	4.5	10.9	5.7	11.6
Information and communication	218.1	189.2	228.3	235.8	267.7	10.1	-13.2	20.6	3.3	13.5
Real estate activities	146.8	159.0	151.6	142.8	138.0	4.8	8.3	-4.7	-5.8	-3.4
Professional, scientific and technical activities	101.6	112.7	110.9	112.3	104.9	-8.2	10.9	-1.6	1.2	-6.6
Administrative and support service activities	124.0	133.8	129.1	146.3	138.6	22.6	7.9	-3.5	13.3	-5.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>130.3</b>	<b>143.3</b>	<b>153.6</b>	<b>160.5</b>	<b>170.6</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>6.3</b>

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

**Table 2. Services turnover index by period and NACE classification**  
Working-day adjusted

Economic activity (NACE)	2021	2022				% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
						2021	2022			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	124.9	124.1	155.6	170.1	179.3	15.8	19.4	38.7	40.2	43.6
Motor trade	141.1	140.3	146.1	151.5	138.9	41.3	37.5	34.9	25.0	-1.6
Wholesale trade	112.8	121.5	162.0	183.0	192.9	18.1	21.2	54.4	60.2	71.0
Retail trade	144.4	126.0	145.4	149.5	161.4	8.9	13.2	14.8	10.8	11.8
Food	146.7	133.0	150.0	163.2	164.2	9.3	10.2	14.0	14.1	12.0
Non-food	142.9	121.4	142.4	140.5	159.5	8.7	15.4	15.3	8.5	11.6
Transportation and storage	143.7	154.2	176.4	178.7	177.1	26.0	33.9	31.8	3.2	23.3
Accommodation and food service activities	84.8	57.9	120.9	147.1	120.1	89.3	68.2	173.2	28.0	41.7
Information and communication	218.1	189.2	228.3	235.8	267.7	22.0	10.3	18.3	19.1	22.7
Real estate activities	146.8	159.0	151.6	142.8	138.0	21.4	12.0	1.4	2.0	-6.0
Professional, scientific and technical activities	103.7	108.6	112.7	112.2	106.6	2.2	-0.6	2.1	1.7	2.7
Administrative and support service activities	114.6	118.0	131.9	170.2	127.2	11.2	25.6	35.0	47.8	11.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>132.1</b>	<b>129.3</b>	<b>157.6</b>	<b>169.9</b>	<b>172.9</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>18.8</b>	<b>32.7</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>30.9</b>

**Table 3. Services employment index by period and NACE classification**  
Seasonally adjusted

Economic activity (NACE)	2021	2022				% change compared with previous quarter				
						2021	2022			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	108.7	108.3	109.6	111.1	113.3	-0.3	-0.4	1.2	1.4	1.9
Motor trade	116.1	115.5	116.4	117.4	118.8	-0.5	-0.5	0.8	0.9	1.2
Wholesale trade	106.0	106.3	108.9	110.9	111.9	-0.7	0.3	2.4	1.8	0.9
Retail trade	109.3	108.5	109.1	110.4	113.3	0.0	-0.7	0.5	1.2	2.6
Food	115.6	114.4	115.8	117.7	118.4	-0.2	-1.0	1.2	1.7	0.6
Non-food	106.4	105.8	106.0	107.1	111.0	0.1	-0.5	0.2	1.0	3.7
Transportation and storage	100.8	101.8	102.2	102.3	104.5	0.8	0.9	0.4	0.0	2.2
Accommodation and food service activities	84.5	85.1	89.0	90.0	92.4	4.0	0.6	4.6	1.1	2.7
Information and communication	104.9	106.5	108.8	110.0	110.1	3.1	1.4	2.2	1.1	0.1
Real estate activities	106.7	110.8	111.6	111.4	113.0	-0.4	3.8	0.7	-0.2	1.4
Professional, scientific and technical activities	114.6	112.1	115.2	114.2	114.5	-0.3	-2.2	2.7	-0.8	0.3
Administrative and support service activities	126.9	126.6	128.2	129.6	130.7	-0.2	-0.3	1.3	1.1	0.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>106.2</b>	<b>107.4</b>	<b>108.1</b>	<b>109.0</b>	<b>111.3</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>2.0</b>

**Table 4. Services employment index by period and NACE classification**  
Unadjusted<sup>1</sup>

Economic activity (NACE)	2021	2022				% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
						2021	2022			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	108.7	108.3	109.6	111.1	113.3	1.8	2.2	2.1	1.9	4.2
Motor trade	116.1	115.5	116.4	117.4	118.8	2.5	0.4	0.8	0.6	2.4
Wholesale trade	106.0	106.3	108.9	110.9	111.9	1.2	3.6	3.2	3.8	5.5
Retail trade	109.3	108.5	109.1	110.4	113.3	2.1	1.6	1.7	1.0	3.7
Food	115.6	114.4	115.8	117.7	118.4	1.5	-0.1	0.5	1.6	2.4
Non-food	106.4	105.8	106.0	107.1	111.0	2.4	2.5	2.3	0.7	4.4
Transportation and storage	100.5	101.6	102.1	102.9	104.1	0.0	2.3	4.3	2.1	3.6
Accommodation and food service activities	84.7	81.7	88.0	94.0	92.7	7.7	8.7	16.1	10.1	9.4
Information and communication	104.9	106.4	108.3	110.5	110.0	1.1	7.6	8.7	8.0	4.9
Real estate activities	106.7	110.8	111.6	111.4	113.0	3.4	4.7	4.6	4.0	5.9
Professional, scientific and technical activities	114.6	112.1	115.2	114.2	114.5	4.4	0.6	2.0	-0.7	-0.1
Administrative and support service activities	126.9	126.6	128.2	129.6	130.7	-0.2	1.5	-0.1	1.9	3.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>106.2</b>	<b>105.8</b>	<b>108.2</b>	<b>110.6</b>	<b>111.3</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.7</b>

<sup>1</sup> Refer to methodological note no. 4 - Employment.

**Table 5. Services gross wages and salaries index by period and NACE classification**  
*Seasonally adjusted*

Economic activity (NACE)	2021	2022				% change compared with previous quarter				
						2021	2022			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	141.7	144.0	147.5	150.8	153.0	3.4	1.7	2.4	2.2	1.4
Motor trade	157.7	154.3	156.9	157.7	160.2	7.6	-2.1	1.7	0.5	1.6
Wholesale trade	141.6	142.1	145.2	149.3	150.0	7.7	0.4	2.1	2.8	0.5
Retail trade	143.0	144.5	148.3	152.1	154.0	3.5	1.0	2.6	2.5	1.3
Food	145.2	146.6	148.8	158.0	163.0	5.8	1.0	1.5	6.2	3.2
Non-food	143.1	143.3	147.2	149.8	151.0	3.2	0.2	2.7	1.7	0.9
Transportation and storage	119.1	126.9	137.4	128.6	129.6	-1.4	6.6	8.3	-6.4	0.8
Accommodation and food service activities	109.9	109.4	119.7	126.5	132.4	2.2	-0.4	9.4	5.7	4.7
Information and communication	132.1	135.4	144.5	139.6	147.5	0.6	2.5	6.7	-3.4	5.7
Real estate activities	127.3	120.1	123.8	127.8	131.6	8.6	-5.7	3.1	3.2	3.0
Professional, scientific and technical activities	126.2	122.8	123.0	127.5	130.7	1.1	-2.7	0.2	3.7	2.5
Administrative and support service activities	152.9	145.6	151.0	152.6	159.5	9.4	-4.8	3.7	1.1	4.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>132.5</b>	<b>135.5</b>	<b>140.2</b>	<b>141.9</b>	<b>143.8</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.3</b>

**Table 6. Services gross wages and salaries index by period and NACE classification**  
*Working-day adjusted*

Economic activity (NACE)	2021	2022				% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
						2021	2022			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	148.0	143.9	144.9	148.8	157.2	11.4	8.5	10.4	11.6	6.2
Motor trade	161.6	152.0	155.9	157.1	164.2	23.9	5.7	8.9	7.6	1.6
Wholesale trade	147.3	143.0	142.4	145.2	155.9	12.6	10.1	11.7	13.5	5.9
Retail trade	146.7	143.7	145.9	151.6	157.6	8.2	7.2	9.1	10.2	7.4
Food	145.2	146.6	148.8	158.0	163.0	7.8	9.8	8.7	15.2	12.3
Non-food	147.3	142.5	144.7	148.9	155.2	8.4	6.1	9.3	8.1	5.4
Transportation and storage	119.1	126.9	137.4	128.6	129.6	8.8	16.8	18.5	6.4	8.8
Accommodation and food service activities	110.0	102.5	120.8	133.1	132.8	32.8	28.6	44.6	17.7	20.6
Information and communication	132.1	135.4	144.5	139.6	147.5	-2.7	3.3	12.8	6.3	11.6
Real estate activities	127.3	120.1	123.8	127.8	131.6	3.6	1.1	1.8	9.0	3.4
Professional, scientific and technical activities	126.2	122.8	123.0	127.5	130.7	9.0	7.1	6.4	2.2	3.6
Administrative and support service activities	152.9	145.6	151.0	152.6	159.5	4.9	6.3	5.7	9.2	4.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>135.3</b>	<b>133.6</b>	<b>139.7</b>	<b>141.6</b>	<b>146.7</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>8.5</b>

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

Economic activity (NACE)	2021	2022				% change compared with previous quarter				
						2021	2022			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	108.1	108.7	108.9	110.1	113.0	0.7	0.5	0.2	1.1	2.7
Motor trade	118.7	122.3	119.9	120.0	119.3	-1.1	3.0	-1.9	0.0	-0.6
Wholesale trade	103.3	103.1	105.2	107.5	109.7	-1.2	-0.3	2.1	2.2	2.0
Retail trade	110.1	110.9	110.7	111.7	114.3	1.0	0.7	-0.1	0.9	2.3
Food	120.3	121.6	121.1	121.3	121.9	1.7	1.1	-0.4	0.2	0.5
Non-food	105.7	105.9	106.1	107.4	110.8	0.5	0.2	0.1	1.3	3.1
Transportation and storage	103.7	103.3	104.5	107.1	106.0	5.0	-0.3	1.2	2.5	-1.0
Accommodation and food service activities	92.3	93.7	98.6	101.5	106.0	1.9	1.6	5.2	2.9	4.4
Information and communication	95.9	98.7	100.0	102.2	99.8	-5.4	2.9	1.4	2.2	-2.4
Real estate activities	99.0	102.5	103.0	99.0	99.6	1.7	3.5	0.5	-3.9	0.6
Professional, scientific and technical activities	112.9	110.9	116.1	116.9	118.4	-1.1	-1.8	4.7	0.7	1.3
Administrative and support service activities	135.4	136.3	137.0	133.5	138.1	3.1	0.7	0.5	-2.6	3.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>109.2</b>	<b>110.4</b>	<b>112.2</b>	<b>112.1</b>	<b>115.0</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>2.5</b>

**Table 8. Services hours worked index by period and NACE classification**  
*Working-day adjusted*

Economic activity (NACE)	2021	2022				% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
						2021	2022			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	108.6	107.5	108.7	111.0	113.6	2.7	2.4	1.8	2.5	4.6
Motor trade	118.7	122.3	119.9	120.0	119.3	3.5	6.7	3.9	0.0	0.5
Wholesale trade	103.3	103.1	105.2	107.5	109.7	2.0	4.2	0.5	2.8	6.1
Retail trade	111.7	109.2	110.0	112.5	116.0	3.1	0.7	2.6	2.5	3.8
Food	122.4	120.3	119.4	122.3	123.9	0.5	3.8	3.2	2.5	1.3
Non-food	107.1	104.5	105.7	107.8	112.2	4.5	-0.1	2.3	2.1	4.8
Transportation and storage	104.7	101.4	104.2	108.3	107.1	5.7	4.2	5.0	8.6	2.3
Accommodation and food service activities	91.8	86.1	99.7	108.5	105.6	22.3	28.6	39.2	11.2	15.0
Information and communication	95.9	98.7	100.0	102.2	99.8	-4.6	4.3	7.3	0.9	4.1
Real estate activities	99.0	102.5	103.0	99.0	99.6	-1.9	-1.2	2.9	1.7	0.6
Professional, scientific and technical activities	112.9	110.9	116.1	116.9	118.4	1.8	-0.2	3.6	2.4	4.9
Administrative and support service activities	136.6	131.9	137.3	136.0	139.4	7.3	5.0	6.9	1.5	2.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>109.5</b>	<b>107.5</b>	<b>111.9</b>	<b>115.0</b>	<b>115.3</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>5.3</b>

## Methodological Notes

1. The aim of this news release 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 business units 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. For NACE Division 68 (real estate activities), the contracts data from the Inland Revenue Department was also used. 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 2015.

The index numbers in this release are working-day and seasonally adjusted. These statistical methods aid in the 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. When there are no working-day or seasonal adjustments to be made, the index is published in its unadjusted form.

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, since adjustments are made directly to the individual indices.

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, 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. **Weighting Structure by activity/industry and variables.**

NACE Section/ Division	NACE label	Turnover	Employment	Hours Worked	Wages and Salaries
G	Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	54.1	33.0	30.5	26.5
G45	Motor trade	3.4	2.7	2.2	1.8
G46	Wholesale trade	33.1	11.4	12.9	13.0
G47	Retail trade	17.6	19.0	15.3	11.7
H	Transportation and storage	10.6	11.1	12.7	16.5
I	Accommodation and food services activities	6.4	18.8	17.6	13.4
J	Information and communication	9.6	7.9	9.7	13.6
L	Real estate activities	3.1	1.8	1.3	1.4
M	Professional, scientific and technical activities	9.7	11.6	11.1	13.5
N	Administrative and support services activities	6.5	15.8	17.1	15.1

7. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:

Statistical Concepts: <https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/concepts.aspx>

Metadata: <https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/reports.aspx?id=13>

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

9. A detailed news release calendar is available on:

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