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Business

Wholesale and retail trade and other services indicators: Jan-Mar 2005

This release provides indices for 2004 and for Quarter 1 2005, for the services sectors. Tables 1 to 4 provide data in respect of Turnover, Employment, Gross Wages and Salaries and Hours Worked on a quarterly basis. The base year used for these indices is the average for the whole of 2000 (2000=100). This series was not seasonally adjusted.

The Air Transport sector registered a decrease in its Turnover Index of 19.2 per cent in the first quarter of 2005, when compared with the same quarter in 2004, from 143.0 to 115.6. The Post and Telecommunications sector and the Retail Trade sector also recorded a decrease in their Turnover Index of 11.2 per cent and 10.3 per cent respectively when compared to the same period under review of 2004.

In the course of the first quarter this year, the Turnover Index of the Water Transport sector increased by 87.8 per cent. The Motor Trade sector Index increased from 155.0 in 2004 to 263.1 in 2005, an increase of 69.7 per cent. The Land Transport sector registered an increase of 17.3 per cent, in its Turnover Index.

In the first quarter this year, most of the job losses were registered in the Post and Telecommunications sector. The fall was of 28.1 per cent. The Wholesale Trade sector Employment Index decreased by 19.0 per cent, from 116.4 in Q1 2004 to 94.3 in Q1 2005. The Computer and Related Activities sector registered a fall of 10.4 per cent, for the same period under review.

An increase in the Employment was registered in the Motor Trade sector, where the Index increased from 86.3 in 2004 to 96.4 in 2005, an increase of 11.7 per cent. Increases were also registered in the Supporting and Auxiliary Transport sector and in the Other Business Activities, where the Employment Index increased by 9.3 per cent and 8.9 per cent respectively.

The sectors that registered the highest decrease in the Gross Wages and Salaries Index, were the Post and Telecommunications (38 per cent), the Motor Trade sector (38 per cent) and the Other Business Activities (33.7 per cent).

In Q1 2005, increases in the Gross Wages and Salaries were recorded in the Retail Trade sector (9.8 per cent) and in the Supporting and Auxiliary Transport (6.7 per cent).

In the Hours Worked Index for quarter 1 of 2004 and 2005, the Post and Telecommunications, Computer and Related Activities and in the Land Transport gave the most prominent falls.

For the period under review, the most significant increases were registered in the Motor Trade sector and the Retail Trade. In fact the index for the Motor Trade increased by 40.7 per cent from 91.7 to 129.0 and the index for the Retail Trade increased by 9.8 per cent, from 81.8 in Q1 2004 to 89.9 in Q1 2005. The Supporting and Auxiliary Transport registered an increase of 5.2 per cent in Q1 in the period 2004 to 2005 ■

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Table 1. Indices - Turnover (Net of VAT)

Nace	2004				2005	Annual (Q1) % Change
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	
Motor trade	155.0	191.6	243.1	111.7	263.1	69.7
Wholesale trade	101.0	115.1	117.2	109.9	93.3	-7.6
Retail trade	98.5	105.4	108.1	72.8	88.8	-9.8
Hotels and restaurants	57.5	108.6	140.6	112.8	67.4	17.2
Land transport	77.4	98.2	119.7	122.4	90.8	17.3
Water transport	60.8	102.3	104.9	102.4	114.2	87.9
Air transport	43.0	134.9	176.9	98.6	115.6	168.7
Supporting and auxiliary transport	84.1	92.6	81.8	73.1	95.2	13.2
Post and telecommunications	268.6	113.3	124.3	111.5	105.3	-60.8
Computer and related activities	74.7	67.5	86.9	66.4	87.8	17.5
Other business activities	85.4	77.6	76.4	104.9	69.3	-18.9

Table 2. Indices - Employment

Nace	2004				2005	Annual (Q1) % Change
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	
Motor trade	86.3	107.2	94.8	94.2	96.4	11.7
Wholesale trade	116.4	115.8	115.5	110.9	94.3	-19.0
Retail trade	90.3	88.6	94.6	98.4	95.2	5.4
Hotels and restaurants	96.6	101.7	109.0	98.7	100.4	4.0
Land Transport	129.4	137.0	139.1	110.8	118.7	-8.3
Water Transport	86.2	86.3	87.6	85.6	82.1	-4.7
Air Transport	103.2	99.3	119.6	105.6	102.8	-0.4
Supporting and Auxiliary Transport	10.8	10.9	11.2	11.8	11.8	9.7
Post and Telecommunications	133.2	90.1	90.6	86.5	95.8	-28.1
Computer and Related Activities	98.4	92.8	101.5	99.0	88.2	-10.4
Other Business Activities	102.6	121.7	116.6	127.5	111.7	8.8

Table 3. Indices - Gross wages and salaries

Nace	2004				2005	Annual (Q1) % Change
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	
Motor trade	103.1	103.7	102.7	77.8	63.9	-38.0
Wholesale trade	128.0	130.8	124.9	135.2	116.0	-9.4
Retail trade	140.6	148.4	158.6	166.0	154.4	9.8
Hotels and restaurants	89.8	92.8	104.6	91.0	86.7	-3.5
Land Transport	142.7	140.1	150.8	155.3	128.4	-10.0
Water Transport	94.5	93.5	93.9	97.5	91.8	-2.9
Air Transport	118.9	105.8	96.9	99.6	98.7	-17.0
Supporting and Auxiliary Transport	109.0	113.7	116.6	115.7	116.3	6.7
Post and Telecommunications	126.7	91.1	91.6	96.7	96.2	-24.1
Computer and Related Activities	98.5	93.3	97.5	100.4	79.2	-19.6
Other Business Activities	105.3	97.9	99.1	97.7	69.8	-33.7

Table 4. Indices - Hours worked

Nace	2004				2005	Annual (Q1) % Change
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	
Motor trade	91.7	114.5	100.3	102.7	129.0	40.6
Wholesale trade	106.1	109.4	112.6	106.9	104.5	-1.6
Retail trade	81.8	81.8	89.6	87.2	89.8	9.8
Hotels and restaurants	87.6	91.2	105.3	91.3	84.2	-3.9
Land Transport	112.9	118.2	121.9	97.4	101.7	-9.9
Water Transport	89.7	106.8	96.7	95.0	87.7	-2.2
Air Transport	111.4	105.4	106.5	100.1	103.6	-7.0
Supporting and Auxiliary Transport	109.0	108.3	112.4	117.2	114.7	5.2
Post and Telecommunications	121.2	58.3	172.3	92.2	90.7	-25.1
Computer and Related Activities	102.2	116.2	102.4	100.4	89.3	-12.6
Other Business Activities	93.9	93.8	95.2	103.8	91.1	-3.0

METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

These indices are published from the NSO'quarterly surveys of economic activity in Malta. The data presented cover motor trade, wholesale and retail trade. The results are compiled and published according to NACE (the statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community).

DATA COLLECTION AND INDEX COMPILATION

Data has been collected by means of a statistical sample survey. For each NACE division (for example NACE Division 50 for motor trade), a sample was selected. On a quarterly basis the selected enterprises were requested to provide information, including turnover, employment and wages and salaries. On the basis of the information provided, indices have been calculated for each Division, showing the level of the specified variable (for example employment), relative to the average level throughout the base year 2002, in the case of the data presented here. Note that the data presented have not been seasonally adjusted.

STATUS OF THE DATA

This data set is considered provisional as the methodology of the data collection and the index calculation is still being developed. Furthermore, efforts to increase the response rate are likely to lead to revisions of the index.

OBJECTIVES

The aim of the short-term statistics is to provide users with information on the business cycle.

SUMMARY DEFINITIONS OF KEY VARIABLES:

Turnover: includes total sales and other income and is expressed net of VAT. Turnover is presented in current prices.

Wages & Salaries: covers wages and salaries including bonuses, weekly allowances (cost of living allowances), overtime and national social security contributions by the employee. It does not include employer's social security charges.

Employment: This 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.

Hours worked: Cover total amount of hours actually worked; regular working hours and also during overtime; during nights, Sundays or Public holidays. Hours worked but not paid are also considered.