

During the second quarter of 2020, working-day adjusted turnover in selected services activities decreased by 27.1 per cent over the same quarter in 2019. Seasonally adjusted services turnover went down by 27.3 per cent over the previous quarter.

Short-term Services Indicators: Q2/2020

Cut-off date:
13 August 2020

Annual comparison

When compared to the second quarter of 2019, the working-day adjusted turnover index decreased by 27.1 per cent (Table 1).

Decreases in turnover were recorded in the accommodation and food service activities (87.1 per cent), administrative and support service activities (49.3 per cent), transportation and storage (47.6 per cent), real estate activities (46.5 per cent), motor trade (37.3 per cent), wholesale trade (21.8 per cent), retail trade (13.5 per cent) and professional, scientific and technical activities (8.5 per cent). Conversely, an increase of 14.8 per cent was registered in the information and communication activities (Table 1).

Employment (Table 3), gross wages and salaries (Table 5), and hours worked (Table 7) declined by 7.8, 5.2 and 10.8 per cent respectively over the corresponding quarter in 2019.

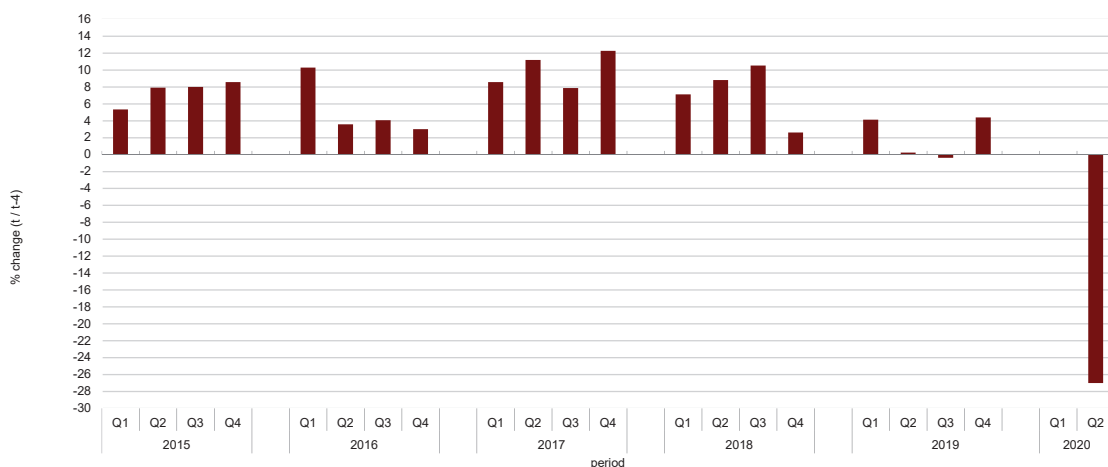
Quarterly comparison

When compared to the previous quarter, the seasonally adjusted services turnover index recorded a decrease of 27.3 per cent (Table 2).

Lower turnover was recorded in the accommodation and food service activities (94.3 per cent), transportation and storage (46.7 per cent), administrative and support service activities (44.0 per cent), motor trade (33.0 per cent), real estate activities (29.3 per cent), wholesale trade (24.2 per cent), retail trade (15.4 per cent) and professional, scientific and technical activities (15.1 per cent). On the other hand, an increase of 3.2 per cent was registered in the information and communication activities (Table 2).

The seasonally adjusted employment (Table 4) and gross wages and salaries (Table 6) and hours worked (Table 8) decreased by 9.8, 9.4 and 12.3 per cent respectively ■

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



Statistics in this News Release should be interpreted in the context of the COVID-19 situation.

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

NACE	2019			2020		% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	2019			2020	
						Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	118.8	121.1	120.8	109.1	95.0	2.0	1.9	1.0	2.8	-20.0
Motor trade	125.2	119.4	109.9	109.9	78.5	3.4	4.5	-13.3	-7.9	-37.3
Wholesale trade	117.2	120.5	118.3	109.0	91.6	0.8	0.0	1.9	3.8	-21.8
Retail trade	120.8	122.5	127.7	109.2	104.5	3.9	5.3	2.3	3.1	-13.5
Food	134.8	135.8	136.2	125.9	122.6	8.0	3.4	4.3	12.5	-9.1
Non-food	111.6	113.7	122.2	98.1	92.7	0.8	6.8	0.9	-3.6	-16.9
Transportation and storage	151.6	163.5	146.4	124.3	79.4	0.3	1.2	4.3	-6.7	-47.6
Accommodation and food service activities	129.6	155.6	105.8	65.0	16.7	-0.6	-1.1	5.5	-19.1	-87.1
Information and communication	127.8	130.7	157.2	142.1	146.7	8.2	5.7	22.2	11.5	14.8
Real estate activities	179.9	194.1	203.2	136.1	96.2	-29.8	-15.2	19.4	-5.0	-46.5
Professional, scientific and technical activities	104.3	101.6	125.4	104.3	95.4	-2.4	-15.1	1.5	3.1	-8.5
Administrative and support service activities	165.8	163.6	152.1	125.3	84.1	2.7	-2.0	-3.1	-11.5	-49.3
Total	128.2	132.4	131.5	113.1	93.5	0.2	-0.4	4.4	0.1	-27.1

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

NACE	2019			2020		% change compared with previous quarter				
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	2019			2020	
						Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	116.8	118.0	116.6	118.5	93.4	1.4	1.0	-1.2	1.6	-21.2
Motor trade	120.0	120.8	111.0	112.2	75.2	-1.5	0.7	-8.1	1.1	-33.0
Wholesale trade	114.8	116.1	115.7	118.4	89.7	0.7	1.1	-0.3	2.3	-24.2
Retail trade	118.8	120.3	119.9	121.5	102.8	0.9	1.3	-0.3	1.3	-15.4
Food	130.7	130.9	132.3	140.1	118.7	4.8	0.2	1.1	5.9	-15.3
Non-food	110.6	113.1	112.6	109.4	91.6	-2.0	2.3	-0.4	-2.8	-16.3
Transportation and storage	146.5	145.0	150.2	144.0	76.8	-5.0	-1.0	3.6	-4.1	-46.7
Accommodation and food service activities	118.6	119.0	119.7	98.8	5.6	3.9	0.3	0.6	-17.5	-94.3
Information and communication	127.8	130.7	157.2	142.1	146.7	0.3	2.3	20.3	-9.6	3.2
Real estate activities	179.9	194.1	203.2	136.1	96.2	25.6	7.9	4.7	-33.0	-29.3
Professional, scientific and technical activities	103.0	105.8	115.6	110.9	94.2	-4.3	2.7	9.3	-4.1	-15.1
Administrative and support service activities	157.2	156.8	153.8	142.2	79.6	-2.2	-0.3	-1.9	-7.5	-44.0
Total	125.3	124.8	129.3	125.8	91.4	-0.3	-0.4	3.6	-2.7	-27.3

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	2019			2020		% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	2019			2020	
						Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	112.1	113.5	112.5	112.3	109.6	2.7	2.3	2.2	1.7	-2.2
Motor trade	113.3	113.0	112.4	111.7	110.0	2.7	0.6	0.1	-0.1	-2.9
Wholesale trade	108.1	111.1	110.0	112.8	110.1	1.3	2.5	2.3	5.7	1.9
Retail trade	114.3	115.0	114.1	112.1	109.3	3.5	2.4	2.4	-0.4	-4.4
Food	120.5	121.3	116.7	117.6	113.4	4.2	1.5	-0.5	-1.1	-5.9
Non-food	111.4	112.1	112.9	109.6	107.4	3.2	2.8	3.8	0.0	-3.6
Transportation and storage	109.4	110.8	109.8	107.8	101.5	2.7	1.4	2.6	-1.7	-7.2
Accommodation and food service activities	94.1	97.4	94.7	91.5	80.6	-2.8	-0.6	0.7	0.6	-14.3
Information and communication	103.6	104.6	103.3	102.7	98.0	1.0	-0.1	-1.4	-2.0	-5.4
Real estate activities	107.7	104.8	103.9	105.6	103.1	0.7	-2.7	-3.4	0.4	-4.3
Professional, scientific and technical activities	110.9	113.8	114.9	112.7	107.6	6.7	6.0	-1.3	-2.4	-3.0
Administrative and support service activities	128.5	135.3	137.6	137.4	124.8	6.8	10.9	13.9	12.4	-2.9
Total	110.4	113.3	112.4	111.1	101.8	2.9	3.4	3.5	2.2	-7.8

Table 4. Services employment index by period and NACE classification

Seasonally adjusted

NACE	2019			2020		% change compared with previous quarter				
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	2019			2020	
						Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	112.1	113.5	112.5	112.3	109.6	1.4	1.2	-0.9	-0.2	-2.4
Motor trade	113.3	113.0	112.4	111.7	110.0	1.2	-0.3	-0.5	-0.6	-1.5
Wholesale trade	108.1	111.1	110.0	112.8	110.1	1.3	2.8	-1.0	2.5	-2.4
Retail trade	114.3	115.0	114.1	112.1	109.3	1.6	0.6	-0.8	-1.8	-2.5
Food	120.5	121.3	116.7	117.6	113.4	1.3	0.7	-3.8	0.8	-3.6
Non-food	111.4	112.1	112.9	109.6	107.4	1.7	0.6	0.7	-2.9	-2.0
Transportation and storage	109.1	109.9	110.4	108.4	101.2	-1.0	0.7	0.5	-1.8	-6.6
Accommodation and food service activities	93.8	93.8	95.4	94.7	80.3	-0.4	0.0	1.7	-0.7	-15.2
Information and communication	103.7	104.0	103.6	103.0	98.1	-1.3	0.3	-0.4	-0.6	-4.8
Real estate activities	107.7	104.8	103.9	105.6	103.1	2.4	-2.7	-0.9	1.6	-2.4
Professional, scientific and technical activities	110.9	113.8	114.9	112.7	107.6	-4.0	2.6	1.0	-1.9	-4.5
Administrative and support service activities	128.5	135.3	137.6	137.4	124.8	5.1	5.3	1.7	-0.1	-9.2
Total	110.2	111.6	112.6	112.8	101.7	-0.1	1.3	0.9	0.2	-9.8

Table 5. Services gross wages and salaries index by period and NACE classification
Working-day adjusted

NACE	2019			2020		% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	2019			2020	
						Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	125.5	128.4	134.5	133.0	121.4	6.2	8.0	7.6	6.5	-3.3
Motor trade	139.0	141.6	144.6	136.5	117.5	9.8	9.1	5.4	2.8	-15.5
Wholesale trade	120.4	122.4	130.3	133.2	120.0	5.6	7.8	9.7	8.9	-0.3
Retail trade	129.0	133.0	137.7	132.2	123.7	6.2	8.0	5.8	4.5	-4.1
Food	134.1	140.1	138.5	135.9	125.6	4.9	10.2	1.6	4.7	-6.3
Non-food	126.9	130.0	137.3	130.6	122.8	6.8	7.0	7.7	4.3	-3.2
Transportation and storage	119.2	124.1	122.5	125.4	110.6	2.8	3.6	4.1	7.8	-7.2
Accommodation and food service activities	112.9	121.3	115.0	106.5	90.1	-2.3	5.9	3.0	-1.0	-20.2
Information and communication	118.6	117.6	121.1	123.9	123.7	7.7	3.6	2.6	2.8	4.3
Real estate activities	129.6	116.3	127.7	121.5	117.5	5.0	0.6	7.2	3.6	-9.3
Professional, scientific and technical activities	115.4	114.6	113.7	113.0	107.8	-6.5	-2.0	-3.3	-3.5	-6.6
Administrative and support service activities	141.7	140.4	162.1	152.3	138.6	1.8	5.7	14.8	12.5	-2.2
Total	123.9	126.3	131.3	128.5	117.5	3.0	5.1	6.2	5.3	-5.2

Table 6. Services gross wages and salaries index by period and NACE classification
Seasonally adjusted

NACE	2019			2020		% change compared with previous quarter				
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	2019			2020	
						Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	126.9	129.4	131.5	133.6	123.0	1.6	2.0	1.6	1.6	-7.9
Motor trade	140.1	141.6	140.7	139.5	118.4	3.3	1.1	-0.6	-0.9	-15.1
Wholesale trade	121.5	124.7	127.4	132.4	121.2	-0.2	2.6	2.2	3.9	-8.5
Retail trade	129.8	133.6	134.8	133.7	124.5	1.4	2.9	0.9	-0.8	-6.9
Food	134.1	140.1	138.5	135.9	125.6	3.4	4.5	-1.1	-1.9	-7.6
Non-food	128.0	131.0	133.6	132.2	124.0	1.1	2.3	2.0	-1.0	-6.2
Transportation and storage	119.2	124.1	122.5	125.4	110.6	2.5	4.1	-1.3	2.4	-11.8
Accommodation and food service activities	112.1	114.4	116.1	113.2	89.4	-1.8	2.1	1.5	-2.5	-21.0
Information and communication	118.6	117.6	121.1	123.9	123.7	-1.5	-0.8	3.0	2.3	-0.2
Real estate activities	129.6	116.3	127.7	121.5	117.5	10.6	-10.3	9.8	-4.9	-3.3
Professional, scientific and technical activities	115.4	114.6	113.7	113.0	107.8	-1.5	-0.7	-0.8	-0.6	-4.6
Administrative and support service activities	141.7	140.4	162.1	152.3	138.6	4.7	-0.9	15.5	-6.0	-9.0
Total	124.2	126.8	128.8	130.1	117.9	0.6	2.1	1.6	1.0	-9.4

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

Working-day adjusted

NACE	2019			2020		% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	2019			2020	
						Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	110.8	113.7	113.7	112.8	109.1	3.0	2.7	3.7	3.8	-1.5
Motor trade	117.7	117.7	116.4	118.2	113.1	1.9	-1.0	-2.0	3.4	-3.9
Wholesale trade	105.3	111.1	109.5	111.7	109.0	1.8	5.3	7.3	7.2	3.5
Retail trade	114.4	115.1	116.7	113.2	108.5	4.1	1.0	1.9	1.4	-5.2
Food	123.7	129.0	123.6	122.4	115.6	4.7	3.8	-1.8	1.3	-6.5
Non-food	110.2	109.4	113.8	108.7	105.3	3.8	0.3	3.8	0.9	-4.4
Transportation and storage	110.0	112.4	111.6	106.1	98.0	-1.7	0.9	2.2	-2.3	-10.9
Accommodation and food service activities	101.3	108.9	103.8	95.7	55.1	-4.1	2.2	3.8	1.1	-45.6
Information and communication	100.0	100.9	100.9	97.3	95.3	0.1	-1.8	-1.1	-3.4	-4.7
Real estate activities	109.8	104.2	108.0	106.7	88.5	2.7	-2.6	-0.6	1.1	-19.4
Professional, scientific and technical activities	110.8	114.8	114.0	110.6	108.2	4.6	4.2	3.0	-1.1	-2.3
Administrative and support service activities	138.5	147.2	143.6	140.7	134.1	3.0	11.5	7.9	8.1	-3.2
Total	113.1	118.3	116.1	112.0	100.9	1.2	4.5	3.7	1.7	-10.8

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

Seasonally adjusted

NACE	2019			2020		% change compared with previous quarter				
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	2019			2020	
						Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	110.8	112.9	113.3	113.9	109.1	1.0	1.9	0.4	0.5	-4.2
Motor trade	117.7	117.7	116.4	118.2	113.1	3.0	0.0	-1.1	1.5	-4.3
Wholesale trade	105.3	111.1	109.5	111.7	109.0	1.1	5.5	-1.4	2.0	-2.4
Retail trade	114.9	114.3	114.9	115.2	109.0	1.2	-0.5	0.5	0.3	-5.4
Food	124.7	128.0	121.6	124.4	116.6	1.6	2.6	-5.0	2.3	-6.3
Non-food	110.2	109.2	112.3	110.4	105.3	0.7	-0.9	2.8	-1.7	-4.6
Transportation and storage	110.3	111.1	110.5	108.2	98.3	-0.4	0.7	-0.5	-2.1	-9.1
Accommodation and food service activities	100.2	101.7	104.8	102.9	54.0	-1.6	1.5	3.0	-1.8	-47.5
Information and communication	100.0	100.9	100.9	97.3	95.3	-0.7	0.9	0.0	-3.6	-2.1
Real estate activities	109.8	104.2	108.0	106.7	88.5	4.1	-5.1	3.6	-1.2	-17.1
Professional, scientific and technical activities	110.8	114.8	114.0	110.6	108.2	-0.9	3.6	-0.7	-3.0	-2.2
Administrative and support service activities	138.1	143.2	143.7	145.3	133.7	2.8	3.7	0.3	1.1	-8.0
Total	112.9	115.6	116.0	114.9	100.8	-0.1	2.4	0.3	-0.9	-12.3

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 2015. 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. **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: <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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