During the third quarter of 2020, working-day adjusted turnover in selected service activities decreased by 20.0 per cent over the same quarter in 2019. Seasonally adjusted services turnover increased by 7.8 per cent over the previous quarter.

Short-term Services Indicators: Q3/2020

Cut-off date:
10 November 2020

Annual comparison

When compared to the third quarter of 2019, the working-day adjusted turnover index decreased by 20.0 per cent.

Decreases in turnover were registered in the accommodation and food service activities (52.3 per cent), administrative and support service activities (40.5 per cent), real estate activities (37.1 per cent), transportation and storage (33.0 per cent), wholesale trade (20.0 per cent), motor trade (15.2 per cent), retail trade (8.9 per cent) and professional, scientific and technical activities (5.4 per cent). On the other hand, an increase of 14.4 per cent was registered in the information and communication activities (Table 1).

Unadjusted employment (Table 3), working-day adjusted gross wages and salaries (Table 5) and hours worked (Table 7) declined by 7.6, 9.0 and 8.4 per cent respectively over the corresponding quarter in 2019.
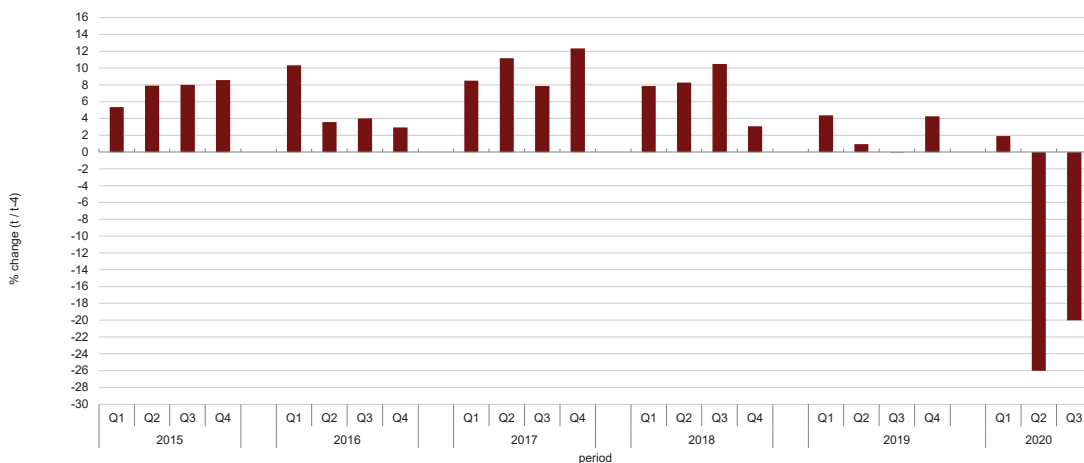
Quarterly comparison

When compared to the previous quarter, the seasonally adjusted services turnover index increased by 7.8 per cent.

The turnover indices increased in all the service activities when compared to the indices of the previous quarter. The largest increase was recorded in the accommodation and food service activities where the index went up from 8.0 to 41.9 points. Positive turnover percentage changes were recorded in the motor trade (35.4 per cent), real estate activities (22.6 per cent) transportation and storage (15.2 per cent), administrative and support service activities (14.8 per cent), retail trade (8.8 per cent), professional, scientific and technical activities (4.4 per cent), information and communication activities (3.8 per cent) and wholesale trade (2.1 per cent) (Table 2).

The seasonally adjusted employment (Table 4) and gross wages and salaries (Table 6) decreased by 0.4 and 0.9 per cent respectively. Hours worked increased by 8.5 per cent (Table 8) ■

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 | | | | |
| | | | | | | 2019 | | 2020 | | |
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	122.1	122.4	111.7	96.2	102.5	2.5	2.2	4.1	-19.6	-16.0
Motor trade	117.2	105.4	107.2	77.7	99.4	2.7	-16.6	-9.0	-37.5	-15.2
Wholesale trade	121.4	119.2	112.8	93.3	97.1	0.4	3.1	6.3	-20.2	-20.0
Retail trade	124.4	131.6	110.4	105.2	113.3	6.7	4.3	2.8	-15.2	-8.9
Food	139.4	138.0	123.8	119.2	126.8	4.3	4.6	6.3	-10.5	-9.0
Non-food	114.6	127.5	101.6	96.0	104.4	8.7	4.1	0.2	-18.7	-8.9
Transportation and storage	164.4	146.8	139.2	89.5	110.1	1.8	4.8	3.6	-41.2	-33.0
Accommodation and food service activities	155.7	105.7	64.7	16.6	74.3	-1.1	5.3	-19.5	-87.2	-52.3
Information and communication	134.3	155.6	144.6	148.1	153.7	11.1	23.9	11.9	14.1	14.4
Real estate activities	174.6	219.0	137.8	89.6	109.8	-24.4	16.9	-8.2	-46.5	-37.1
Professional, scientific and technical activities	102.3	112.9	102.5	97.9	96.7	-14.7	-8.7	0.4	-7.5	-5.4
Administrative and support service activities	161.9	153.7	123.5	83.8	96.3	-2.0	-3.9	-12.7	-49.4	-40.5
Total	**132.6**	**131.8**	**116.2**	**95.0**	**106.1**	**-0.1**	**4.3**	**1.9**	**-26.0**	**-20.0**

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

| NACE | 2019 | | 2020 | | | % change compared with previous quarter | | | | |
| | | | | | | 2019 | | 2020 | | |
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	119.3	118.0	120.7	94.8	100.1	1.1	-1.1	2.3	-21.5	5.6
Motor trade	119.0	106.5	109.2	74.5	100.9	-0.2	-10.5	2.5	-31.8	35.4
Wholesale trade	116.9	116.8	121.9	91.7	93.6	1.8	-0.1	4.4	-24.8	2.1
Retail trade	123.5	122.9	121.9	103.6	112.7	1.0	-0.5	-0.8	-15.0	8.8
Food	134.9	133.1	134.8	117.8	123.3	2.4	-1.3	1.3	-12.6	4.7
Non-food	116.7	116.0	112.9	94.0	106.9	0.9	-0.6	-2.7	-16.7	13.7
Transportation and storage	148.5	151.7	157.5	86.3	99.4	1.2	2.2	3.8	-45.2	15.2
Accommodation and food service activities	121.2	116.0	95.8	8.0	41.9	0.5	-4.3	-17.4	-91.6	423.8*
Information and communication	134.3	155.6	144.6	148.1	153.7	3.5	15.9	-7.1	2.4	3.8
Real estate activities	174.6	219.0	137.8	89.6	109.8	4.2	25.4	-37.1	-35.0	22.6
Professional, scientific and technical activities	106.4	105.4	107.7	96.5	100.8	1.9	-0.9	2.2	-10.4	4.4
Administrative and support service activities	154.4	152.5	143.8	79.7	91.5	-1.9	-1.2	-5.7	-44.6	14.8
Total	**125.2**	**129.7**	**129.0**	**92.9**	**100.1**	**-0.3**	**3.6**	**-0.5**	**-28.0**	**7.8**

Notes:

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

2. * The change of 423.8 per cent when compared to the previous quarter should be interpreted with caution due to pronounced COVID-19 disruptions.

Table 3. Services employment index by period and NACE classification
Unadjusted

NACE	2019		2020			% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
						2019		2020		
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	112.8	111.8	111.6	107.3	106.1	2.2	2.2	1.5	-3.8	-5.9
Motor trade	112.6	111.9	112.1	109.0	108.0	0.5	-0.1	0.7	-3.5	-4.1
Wholesale trade	111.3	110.4	112.0	108.1	107.6	2.7	3.0	4.8	-0.2	-3.4
Retail trade	113.7	112.7	111.3	106.5	105.0	2.2	2.1	-0.3	-5.9	-7.7
Food	117.2	112.7	115.5	111.2	105.2	0.9	-1.1	-0.1	-4.9	-10.2
Non-food	112.1	112.7	109.4	104.4	104.9	2.9	3.7	-0.4	-6.3	-6.5
Transportation and storage	114.1	113.2	109.6	104.4	103.4	4.6	6.3	-1.6	-6.4	-9.4
Accommodation and food service activities	97.3	94.1	91.4	78.3	82.1	-0.6	0.3	0.8	-16.7	-15.7
Information and communication	106.0	105.1	104.9	99.4	99.4	1.0	0.0	-0.5	-5.1	-6.2
Real estate activities	101.5	100.1	96.5	91.9	96.1	-4.5	-5.0	-4.1	-11.8	-5.4
Professional, scientific and technical activities	116.4	118.0	114.1	107.3	110.4	7.5	0.0	-2.8	-4.8	-5.1
Administrative and support service activities	132.0	132.9	133.9	131.1	130.1	7.8	8.8	8.5	2.4	-1.5
Total	**113.2**	**111.9**	**110.5**	**104.4**	**104.6**	**3.4**	**3.0**	**1.4**	**-5.5**	**-7.6**

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

NACE	2019		2020			% change compared with previous quarter				
						2019		2020		
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	112.8	111.8	111.6	107.3	106.1	1.2	-0.9	-0.2	-3.9	-1.1
Motor trade	112.6	111.9	112.1	109.0	108.0	-0.3	-0.6	0.2	-2.8	-0.9
Wholesale trade	111.3	110.4	112.0	108.1	107.6	2.7	-0.8	1.4	-3.5	-0.5
Retail trade	113.7	112.7	111.3	106.5	105.0	0.5	-0.9	-1.2	-4.3	-1.4
Food	117.2	112.7	115.5	111.2	105.2	0.3	-3.8	2.5	-3.7	-5.4
Non-food	112.1	112.7	109.4	104.4	104.9	0.6	0.5	-2.9	-4.6	0.5
Transportation and storage	113.4	113.8	109.9	104.1	102.8	2.0	0.4	-3.4	-5.3	-1.2
Accommodation and food service activities	94.5	95.0	93.3	77.9	79.7	0.9	0.5	-1.8	-16.5	2.3
Information and communication	105.8	105.4	104.7	99.5	99.3	0.9	-0.4	-0.7	-5.0	-0.2
Real estate activities	101.5	100.1	96.5	91.9	96.1	-2.5	-1.4	-3.6	-4.8	4.6
Professional, scientific and technical activities	116.4	118.0	114.1	107.3	110.4	3.3	1.4	-3.3	-6.0	2.9
Administrative and support service activities	132.0	132.9	133.9	131.1	130.1	3.1	0.7	0.8	-2.1	-0.8
Total	**112.3**	**112.0**	**110.8**	**104.5**	**104.1**	**1.5**	**-0.3**	**-1.1**	**-5.7**	**-0.4**

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 | | | | |
| | | | | | | 2019 | | 2020 | | |
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	129.0	135.3	133.6	122.1	124.9	8.4	8.0	6.1	-3.1	-3.2
Motor trade	142.5	144.7	146.0	122.8	134.9	9.4	5.0	10.2	-12.3	-5.3
Wholesale trade	123.6	132.1	132.5	123.1	120.4	8.5	10.2	6.5	1.5	-2.6
Retail trade	132.8	137.5	133.0	120.9	128.4	8.1	6.3	4.9	-6.4	-3.3
Food	138.4	135.9	136.9	125.4	128.3	8.7	0.9	5.6	-6.0	-7.3
Non-food	130.5	138.1	131.4	119.0	128.4	7.9	8.7	4.6	-6.5	-1.6
Transportation and storage	125.9	123.1	128.6	107.7	100.6	4.8	5.1	6.7	-13.4	-20.1
Accommodation and food service activities	121.4	114.7	106.3	86.4	88.5	5.9	2.7	-1.2	-23.9	-27.1
Information and communication	118.3	122.9	127.5	125.0	119.8	4.0	4.6	5.4	3.1	1.3
Real estate activities	110.9	123.7	115.6	111.0	107.6	-2.8	5.1	3.8	-12.3	-3.0
Professional, scientific and technical activities	115.8	118.0	114.7	108.7	108.9	-1.3	-0.4	-4.0	-7.2	-6.0
Administrative and support service activities	138.1	161.1	147.6	139.9	132.6	3.8	13.2	7.8	-1.6	-4.0
Total	**126.6**	**132.0**	**129.0**	**117.1**	**115.2**	**5.2**	**6.6**	**4.5**	**-6.8**	**-9.0**

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

| NACE | 2019 | | 2020 | | | % change compared with previous quarter | | | | |
| | | | | | | 2019 | | 2020 | | |
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	133.2	132.4	131.6	122.1	130.1	5.4	-0.6	-0.6	-7.2	6.6
Motor trade	143.5	141.6	147.6	123.3	136.0	2.1	-1.3	4.2	-16.5	10.3
Wholesale trade	127.1	128.5	130.7	124.5	124.2	3.7	1.1	1.7	-4.7	-0.2
Retail trade	133.4	134.8	134.3	121.7	129.0	2.6	1.0	-0.4	-9.4	6.0
Food	138.4	135.9	136.9	125.4	128.3	3.7	-1.8	0.7	-8.4	2.3
Non-food	132.1	134.2	132.3	120.3	130.2	2.7	1.6	-1.4	-9.1	8.2
Transportation and storage	125.9	123.1	128.6	107.7	100.6	1.2	-2.2	4.5	-16.3	-6.6
Accommodation and food service activities	114.5	115.9	113.0	85.8	83.5	1.6	1.2	-2.5	-24.1	-2.7
Information and communication	118.3	122.9	127.5	125.0	119.8	-2.5	3.9	3.7	-2.0	-4.2
Real estate activities	110.9	123.7	115.6	111.0	107.6	-12.3	11.5	-6.5	-4.0	-3.1
Professional, scientific and technical activities	115.8	118.0	114.7	108.7	108.9	-1.1	1.9	-2.8	-5.2	0.2
Administrative and support service activities	138.1	161.1	147.6	139.9	132.6	-2.8	16.7	-8.4	-5.2	-5.2
Total	**127.4**	**129.6**	**130.6**	**117.0**	**115.9**	**1.5**	**1.7**	**0.8**	**-10.4**	**-0.9**

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 | | | | |
| | | | | | | 2019 | | 2020 | | |
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	114.3	114.2	112.9	106.2	109.0	2.8	3.7	3.4	-4.9	-4.7
Motor trade	116.7	115.2	118.6	103.3	112.2	-1.4	-2.1	4.8	-11.3	-3.9
Wholesale trade	110.8	109.0	110.0	105.7	107.0	5.0	6.2	5.6	0.5	-3.5
Retail trade	117.1	118.4	114.5	107.1	110.3	1.8	2.6	1.4	-8.2	-5.8
Food	133.5	128.4	127.4	116.5	128.4	3.8	-1.8	1.8	-10.0	-3.8
Non-food	110.4	114.1	108.3	102.8	102.4	1.6	5.0	0.5	-7.2	-7.2
Transportation and storage	116.1	113.1	107.2	111.6	103.2	0.5	0.0	-4.7	-2.4	-11.1
Accommodation and food service activities	109.3	104.0	92.4	56.7	90.0	2.1	3.5	-2.7	-44.2	-17.7
Information and communication	101.6	101.3	98.1	95.7	94.4	-1.1	-0.4	-2.7	-4.8	-7.1
Real estate activities	100.6	103.7	100.4	81.3	87.8	-7.6	-6.3	0.5	-23.3	-12.7
Professional, scientific and technical activities	116.4	116.6	111.1	109.2	114.7	5.4	5.2	-1.1	-2.2	-1.4
Administrative and support service activities	143.9	138.6	134.6	128.1	138.0	9.1	3.2	2.2	-7.8	-4.1
Total	**118.7**	**115.9**	**110.5**	**101.0**	**108.7**	**4.1**	**2.7**	**-0.6**	**-11.4**	**-8.4**

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

| NACE | 2019 | | 2020 | | | % change compared with previous quarter | | | | |
| | | | | | | 2019 | | 2020 | | |
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	113.6	113.8	114.1	106.1	108.3	1.8	0.2	0.3	-7.0	2.1
Motor trade	116.7	115.2	118.6	103.3	112.2	0.2	-1.4	3.0	-12.9	8.6
Wholesale trade	110.8	109.0	110.0	105.7	107.0	5.3	-1.7	0.9	-3.9	1.2
Retail trade	116.4	116.7	116.5	107.4	109.7	-0.4	0.2	-0.1	-7.8	2.2
Food	132.5	126.8	129.3	117.3	127.4	1.7	-4.3	2.0	-9.3	8.6
Non-food	110.1	112.7	110.0	102.7	102.1	-0.6	2.3	-2.4	-6.6	-0.6
Transportation and storage	114.6	112.1	109.4	111.8	101.8	0.1	-2.1	-2.4	2.2	-8.9
Accommodation and food service activities	103.4	104.3	98.7	55.7	84.5	2.9	0.8	-5.3	-43.6	51.8
Information and communication	101.6	101.3	98.1	95.7	94.4	1.1	-0.2	-3.2	-2.5	-1.4
Real estate activities	100.6	103.7	100.4	81.3	87.8	-5.0	3.1	-3.2	-19.0	8.1
Professional, scientific and technical activities	116.4	116.6	111.1	109.2	114.7	4.2	0.2	-4.7	-1.7	5.0
Administrative and support service activities	140.2	138.5	139.1	127.6	134.4	1.3	-1.2	0.5	-8.3	5.3
Total	**118.0**	**115.5**	**112.6**	**100.0**	**108.5**	**4.4**	**-2.2**	**-2.5**	**-11.2**	**8.5**

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 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

Data Navigation Tree
Database by themes
  > Industry, trade and services
    > Short-term business statistics
      > Trade and services
        > Wholesale and retail trade
        > Services

Tables by themes
  > Industry, trade and services
    > Short-term business statistics
      > Trade and services
        > Services

For further assistance send a request from:
http://nso.gov.mt/en/Services/Pages/Request-for-Information.aspx

---