

18 November 2022 | 1100 hrs | 210/2022

During the third quarter of 2022, seasonally adjusted services turnover increased by 5.0 per cent over the second quarter of 2022. When compared to the same quarter of 2021, working-day adjusted turnover in selected service activities increased by 27.2 per cent.

Short-term Services Indicators: Q3/2022

Cut-off date:
11 November 2022

Quarterly comparison

After adjusting for seasonal effects and the working-day pattern, the total services turnover index increased by 5.0 per cent between the second and third quarters of 2022.

The highest increase was registered in the administrative and support service activities (16.9 per cent) followed by increases in motor trade (8.7 per cent), wholesale trade (7.9 per cent), information and communication (5.7 per cent), retail trade (1.5 per cent), accommodation and food service activities (1.5 per cent) and professional, scientific and technical activities (1.5 per cent). On the other hand, a negative percentage change in turnover was registered in the real estate activities (5.8 per cent) and in transportation and storage (1.2 per cent) (Table 1).

Between the second and third quarters of 2022, the number of persons employed (Table 3) and gross wages and salaries (Table 5) increased by 0.7 per cent and 1.1 per cent respectively. On the other hand, the number of hours worked (Table 7) went down by 0.4 per cent.

Annual comparison

During the third quarter of 2022, the total services turnover index increased by 27.2 per cent on an annual basis after adjusting for the working-day pattern. Turnover went up in all the observed NACE categories. Increases were registered in the wholesale trade (59.4 per cent), administrative and support service activities (45.8 per cent), accommodation and food service activities (29.4 per cent), motor trade (25.1 per cent), information and communication (19.1 per cent), retail trade (11.2 per cent), transportation and storage (2.9 per cent), real estate activities (1.9 per cent) and professional, scientific and technical activities (1.3 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 3.6 per cent, 9.1 per cent and 3.2 per cent respectively over the third quarter of 2021 ■

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

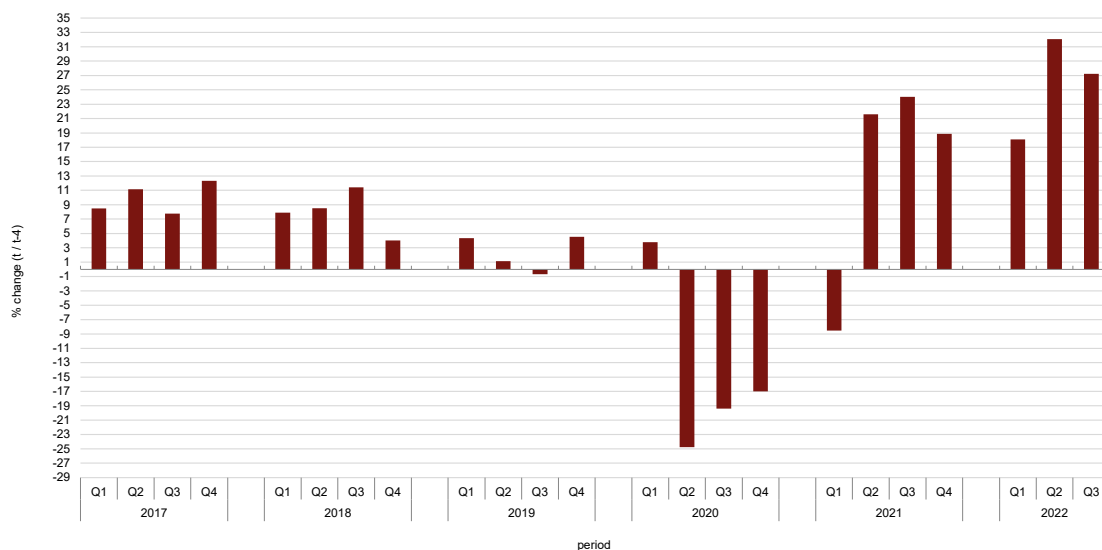


Table 1. Services turnover index by period and NACE classification
Seasonally adjusted

Economic activity (NACE)	2021		2022			% change compared with previous quarter				
						2021		2022		
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	118.0	121.1	133.0	153.5	165.0	6.5	2.7	9.8	15.4	7.5
Motor trade	120.9	143.5	142.0	139.1	151.2	16.9	18.7	-1.1	-2.0	8.7
Wholesale trade	109.7	113.3	126.2	161.9	174.7	4.6	3.2	11.4	28.3	7.9
Retail trade	131.4	134.5	140.0	144.0	146.1	4.9	2.3	4.1	2.8	1.5
Food	137.2	141.8	145.5	150.8	156.5	4.4	3.3	2.6	3.6	3.8
Non-food	127.8	129.3	136.3	139.9	139.4	5.1	1.2	5.4	2.6	-0.3
Transportation and storage	158.7	153.4	167.8	165.6	163.6	23.9	-3.3	9.4	-1.3	-1.2
Accommodation and food service activities	74.6	99.6	99.6	105.8	107.4	151.7	33.5	0.0	6.2	1.5
Information and communication	200.2	219.2	190.3	225.6	238.4	2.8	9.5	-13.2	18.5	5.7
Real estate activities	140.0	146.8	159.0	151.6	142.8	-6.4	4.9	8.3	-4.6	-5.8
Professional, scientific and technical activities	110.8	99.2	108.2	110.5	112.1	2.2	-10.5	9.1	2.1	1.5
Administrative and support service activities	104.3	119.7	134.4	128.6	150.3	9.6	14.7	12.4	-4.3	16.9
Total	125.4	129.9	141.9	151.9	159.5	9.0	3.6	9.2	7.0	5.0

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		
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	121.1	125.2	123.6	155.1	169.4	16.0	16.2	19.3	38.5	39.9
Motor trade	120.3	141.0	139.6	144.6	150.4	18.5	41.2	39.3	34.6	25.1
Wholesale trade	114.2	113.4	121.0	161.5	182.1	16.6	18.8	20.8	54.0	59.4
Retail trade	134.3	144.5	125.5	145.0	149.2	14.6	9.1	13.2	15.0	11.2
Food	143.6	147.7	132.7	150.2	163.9	12.3	10.0	10.2	14.6	14.1
Non-food	128.1	142.4	120.8	141.6	139.7	16.3	8.4	15.3	15.3	9.0
Transportation and storage	173.2	144.0	154.4	173.3	178.2	53.3	26.4	34.2	29.5	2.9
Accommodation and food service activities	115.2	84.9	57.8	121.2	149.1	74.1	89.5	68.1	175.2	29.4
Information and communication	200.2	219.2	190.3	225.6	238.4	26.9	22.0	9.8	15.9	19.1
Real estate activities	140.0	146.8	159.0	151.6	142.8	30.5	21.5	12.0	1.4	1.9
Professional, scientific and technical activities	108.9	103.8	102.6	112.6	110.3	11.0	2.2	-6.1	2.0	1.3
Administrative and support service activities	115.0	114.9	119.2	130.2	167.7	16.2	13.4	26.9	33.8	45.8
Total	132.9	131.6	127.9	155.8	169.0	24.0	18.9	18.1	32.1	27.2

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

Economic activity (NACE)	2021		2022			% change compared with previous quarter				
						2021		2022		
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	108.9	108.5	108.2	109.7	111.9	1.5	-0.4	-0.3	1.4	2.0
Motor trade	116.7	116.1	115.5	116.4	117.2	1.1	-0.5	-0.5	0.8	0.7
Wholesale trade	106.6	105.8	106.1	108.8	112.9	1.2	-0.8	0.3	2.5	3.8
Retail trade	109.2	109.0	108.4	109.3	110.5	1.8	-0.1	-0.5	0.8	1.1
Food	114.2	113.8	111.5	113.3	114.9	0.3	-0.3	-2.0	1.7	1.4
Non-food	106.9	106.9	107.1	107.4	108.5	2.6	0.0	0.2	0.3	1.0
Transportation and storage	100.0	101.2	102.1	102.4	101.6	2.2	1.2	0.9	0.3	-0.8
Accommodation and food service activities	80.9	84.9	84.8	88.1	89.2	5.7	4.9	-0.2	4.0	1.2
Information and communication	100.0	103.1	104.4	106.7	107.8	1.9	3.1	1.3	2.2	1.0
Real estate activities	107.1	106.7	110.8	111.6	111.4	0.4	-0.4	3.9	0.7	-0.1
Professional, scientific and technical activities	115.0	114.6	112.1	115.1	113.6	1.8	-0.3	-2.1	2.7	-1.3
Administrative and support service activities	126.4	126.0	126.0	127.9	129.9	-1.0	-0.3	0.0	1.6	1.6
Total	104.8	106.2	107.1	107.8	108.6	1.5	1.3	0.8	0.7	0.7

Table 4. Services employment index by period and NACE classification
Unadjusted¹

Economic activity (NACE)	2021		2022			% change compared with same quarter of the previous year				
						2021		2022		
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	108.9	108.5	108.2	109.7	111.9	2.4	1.7	2.2	2.3	2.7
Motor trade	116.7	116.1	115.5	116.4	117.2	4.9	2.5	0.4	0.8	0.4
Wholesale trade	106.6	105.8	106.1	108.8	112.9	1.1	1.0	3.6	3.2	5.9
Retail trade	109.2	109.0	108.4	109.3	110.5	2.9	1.9	1.7	1.9	1.3
Food	114.2	113.8	111.5	113.3	114.9	3.1	1.0	-1.7	-0.4	0.6
Non-food	106.9	106.9	107.1	107.4	108.5	2.8	2.4	3.3	3.1	1.6
Transportation and storage	100.8	100.6	102.0	102.4	102.4	-1.0	0.1	2.6	4.7	1.6
Accommodation and food service activities	85.4	84.7	81.2	87.4	93.7	0.0	8.4	7.9	15.2	9.8
Information and communication	100.4	103.0	104.4	106.2	108.3	0.7	1.4	7.7	8.8	7.8
Real estate activities	107.1	106.7	110.8	111.6	111.4	4.4	3.4	4.7	4.5	4.0
Professional, scientific and technical activities	115.0	114.6	112.1	115.1	113.6	4.7	4.4	0.7	2.0	-1.2
Administrative and support service activities	126.4	126.0	126.0	127.9	129.9	-2.0	-0.9	1.1	0.2	2.8
Total	106.3	106.2	105.5	108.0	110.2	1.0	2.3	3.1	4.4	3.6

¹ 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				
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	2021		2022		
						Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	136.7	140.9	144.1	148.5	153.0	1.8	3.1	2.3	3.0	3.0
Motor trade	146.5	157.2	154.2	156.8	161.6	1.6	7.3	-1.9	1.7	3.0
Wholesale trade	131.9	140.7	141.7	146.1	151.3	1.3	6.7	0.7	3.1	3.5
Retail trade	137.6	142.4	144.5	148.4	152.1	1.6	3.5	1.5	2.7	2.5
Food	136.0	144.1	145.2	148.4	155.8	0.1	6.0	0.8	2.2	5.0
Non-food	138.3	142.3	143.9	148.0	150.7	2.8	2.9	1.1	2.8	1.9
Transportation and storage	120.8	119.3	127.0	137.1	124.6	4.3	-1.2	6.5	8.0	-9.1
Accommodation and food service activities	106.8	110.8	108.7	118.8	124.8	28.9	3.7	-1.9	9.3	5.0
Information and communication	128.4	129.7	132.8	141.7	136.5	2.2	1.0	2.3	6.7	-3.7
Real estate activities	117.5	127.2	120.2	123.8	133.2	-3.1	8.2	-5.5	3.0	7.6
Professional, scientific and technical activities	124.7	126.2	122.4	122.0	126.2	7.9	1.1	-3.0	-0.3	3.5
Administrative and support service activities	139.8	152.3	144.8	149.7	152.4	-2.6	8.9	-4.9	3.4	1.8
Total	129.3	131.6	134.9	139.6	141.1	5.1	1.8	2.5	3.4	1.1

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				
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	2021		2022		
						Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	133.2	147.5	143.7	145.3	149.9	7.4	11.2	8.5	10.8	12.5
Motor trade	146.0	161.3	151.8	155.6	161.1	12.6	23.7	5.6	8.7	10.3
Wholesale trade	127.8	147.3	142.5	142.9	146.7	7.2	12.6	9.7	12.1	14.7
Retail trade	137.1	145.7	143.8	146.5	151.6	6.8	7.7	7.6	9.8	10.6
Food	136.0	144.1	145.2	148.4	155.8	4.6	7.6	9.7	9.2	14.5
Non-food	137.5	146.3	143.2	145.6	149.9	7.7	7.8	6.8	10.1	9.0
Transportation and storage	120.8	119.3	127.0	137.1	124.6	18.1	8.9	16.8	18.4	3.1
Accommodation and food service activities	113.1	110.0	101.9	119.9	132.2	21.4	32.8	27.9	43.5	16.9
Information and communication	128.4	129.7	132.8	141.7	136.5	4.8	-2.0	3.7	12.8	6.3
Real estate activities	117.5	127.2	120.2	123.8	133.2	5.2	3.6	2.0	2.1	13.4
Professional, scientific and technical activities	124.7	126.2	122.4	122.0	126.2	12.5	9.0	6.8	5.5	1.2
Administrative and support service activities	139.8	152.3	144.8	149.7	152.4	6.8	4.4	5.7	4.2	9.0
Total	128.7	134.8	132.9	139.0	140.4	10.7	9.0	10.6	13.6	9.1

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		
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	106.9	107.9	108.6	108.9	110.1	0.2	0.9	0.6	0.3	1.2
Motor trade	120.0	118.7	122.4	119.9	121.8	3.9	-1.1	3.1	-2.0	1.6
Wholesale trade	104.5	103.2	103.2	105.4	107.5	-0.1	-1.3	0.0	2.1	2.0
Retail trade	108.5	109.7	110.4	110.4	111.9	0.9	1.1	0.7	0.0	1.4
Food	117.2	119.1	120.0	119.1	119.8	0.7	1.7	0.7	-0.7	0.5
Non-food	105.0	105.7	106.0	106.5	108.4	1.4	0.7	0.3	0.5	1.8
Transportation and storage	98.7	104.0	103.6	104.7	103.3	-0.7	5.3	-0.4	1.0	-1.3
Accommodation and food service activities	89.1	92.9	93.4	98.5	98.5	25.2	4.3	0.5	5.4	0.0
Information and communication	99.3	94.3	97.0	97.7	98.8	8.5	-5.1	2.8	0.8	1.1
Real estate activities	97.3	99.2	102.6	103.1	98.6	-1.6	2.0	3.4	0.5	-4.4
Professional, scientific and technical activities	115.2	115.1	112.8	115.4	115.6	3.1	-0.1	-2.0	2.3	0.1
Administrative and support service activities	132.1	134.9	135.4	136.5	134.2	2.7	2.1	0.4	0.8	-1.6
Total	107.9	109.4	110.3	111.9	111.4	5.0	1.3	0.8	1.5	-0.4

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		
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	108.0	108.4	107.3	108.6	111.2	0.9	2.6	2.5	2.0	3.0
Motor trade	120.0	118.7	122.4	119.9	121.8	2.9	3.5	6.8	3.9	1.5
Wholesale trade	104.5	103.2	103.2	105.4	107.5	0.4	1.8	4.5	0.8	2.8
Retail trade	109.3	111.3	108.7	109.7	112.7	1.0	3.0	0.7	2.7	3.2
Food	118.1	121.2	118.7	117.4	120.7	-1.6	0.3	3.3	2.4	2.2
Non-food	105.4	107.0	104.6	106.2	108.9	2.5	4.4	0.1	2.8	3.3
Transportation and storage	99.8	104.9	101.8	104.5	104.4	-2.9	5.9	4.5	5.3	4.6
Accommodation and food service activities	97.6	91.8	85.5	98.9	107.0	14.0	22.3	27.8	38.2	9.6
Information and communication	99.3	94.3	97.0	97.7	98.8	4.3	-3.4	4.4	6.8	-0.5
Real estate activities	97.3	99.2	102.6	103.1	98.6	4.0	-1.7	1.2	4.3	1.3
Professional, scientific and technical activities	115.2	115.1	112.8	115.4	115.6	3.4	3.1	0.1	3.3	0.3
Administrative and support service activities	135.5	135.6	130.8	136.9	137.6	4.2	6.5	4.1	6.1	1.6
Total	110.7	109.7	107.3	111.6	114.3	4.2	5.7	6.9	8.8	3.2

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, 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: <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:

https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx

European statistics comparable to data in this News Release are available at:

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