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## Sectoral overview



This chapter presents an overview of the structure and performance of the EU-27's non-financial business economy. The subsequent chapters provide more detailed presentations for each of these economic activities.

## Two largest activities within the non-financial business economy

(EU-27, 2018)



In 2018, the highest number of enterprises was recorded within the activity of distributive trades (5.8 million). Distributive trades also recorded the second highest number of persons employed and value added (with 29.2 million persons employed and EUR 1.2 trillion of value added), behind the manufacturing sector (with 29.9 million persons employed and EUR 1.9 trillion of value added).

Note: the largest and second largest activities are based on NACE Rev. 2 sections.

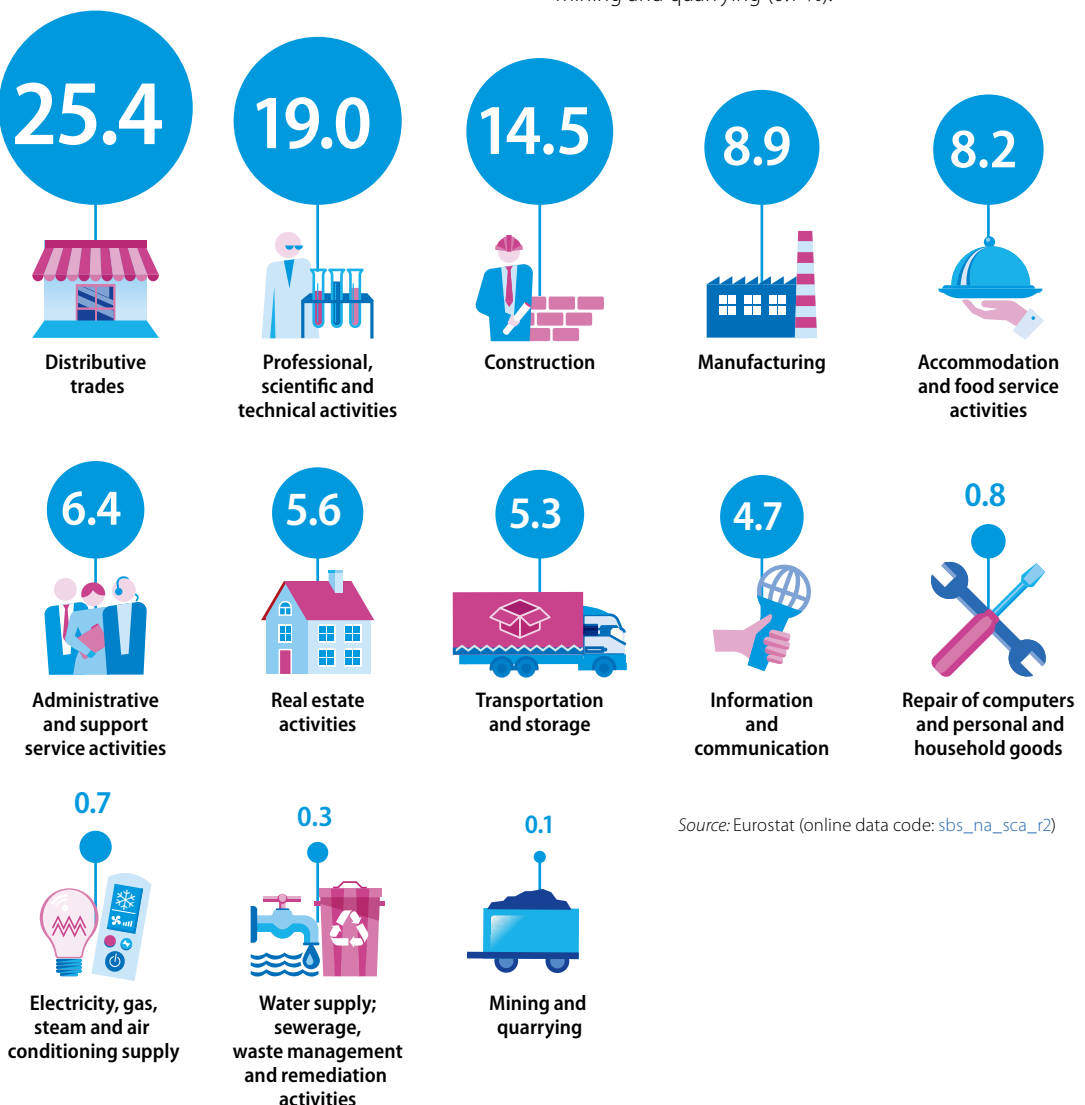
Source: Eurostat (online data code: [sbs\\_na\\_sca\\_r2](#))

## Distribution of enterprises within the non-financial business economy

(% share of the total number of enterprises, EU-27, 2018)

There were considerably more enterprises active within distributive trades (25.4 % of the total) than for any other section of the EU-27's non-financial business economy in 2018. Indeed, there were only two other sections that recorded double-digit shares: professional, scientific and technical activities (a 19.0 % share of the total number of enterprises) and construction (14.5 %).

At the other end of the range, there were four activities which each contributed less than 1.0 % of the total number of enterprises in the EU-27's non-financial business economy in 2018: the repair of computers and personal and household goods (0.8 %); electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply (0.7 %); water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (0.3 %); and mining and quarrying (0.1 %).



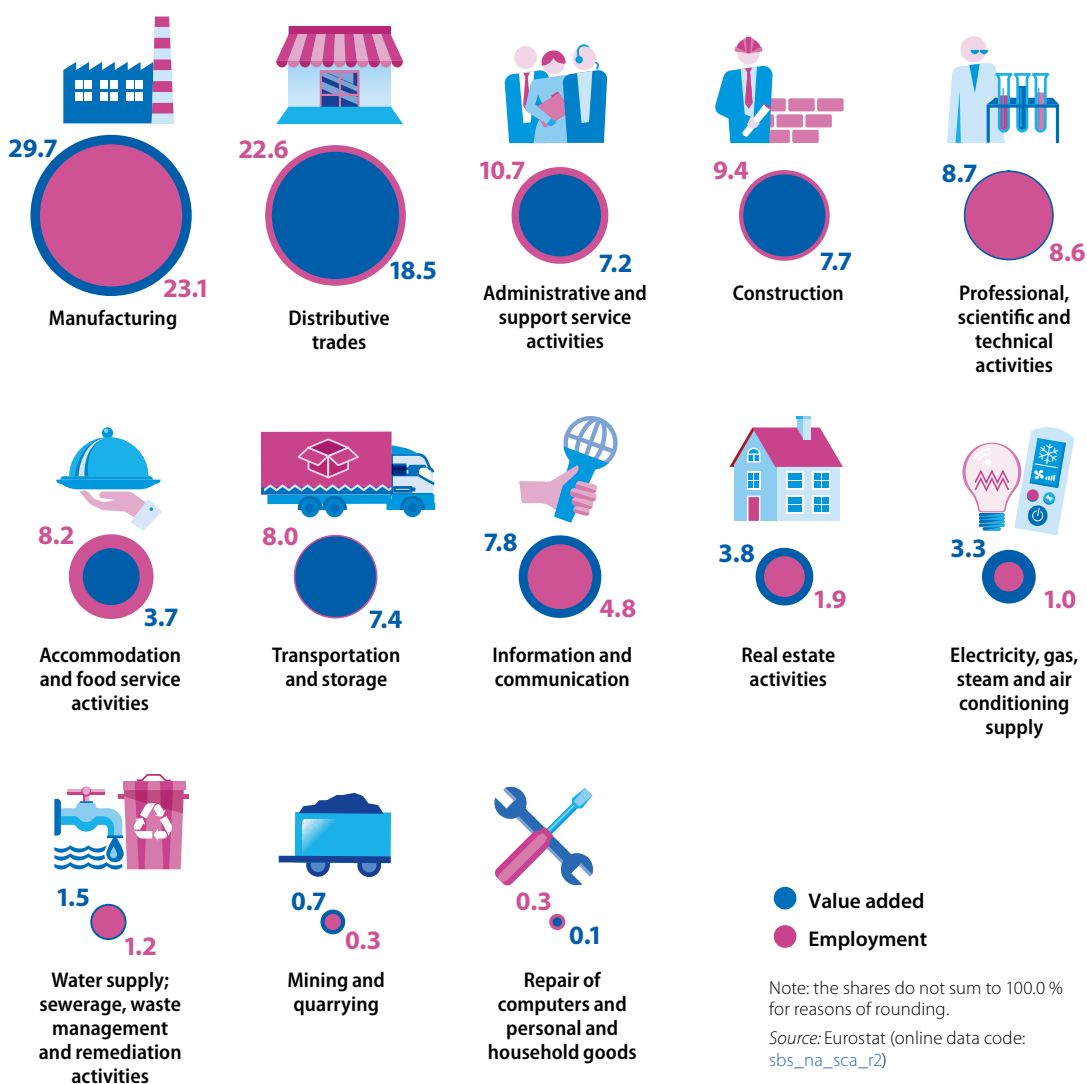
Source: Eurostat (online data code: sbs\_na\_sca\_r2)

## Value added and employment within the non-financial business economy

(% share of total value added and the total number of persons employed, EU-27, 2018)

In 2018, some 29.7 % (or EUR 1.9 trillion) of the added value in the EU-27's non-financial business economy was contributed by the manufacturing sector. This was considerably greater than the second highest share, recorded for distributive trades (18.5 %), which in turn was much greater than the share registered for professional, scientific and technical activities (8.7 %).

More than one fifth of the EU-27's non-financial business economy workforce in 2018 was employed in each of manufacturing (23.1 %) and distributive trades (22.6 %). Administrative and support service activities — which are relatively labour-intensive — employed just over one tenth (10.7 %) of the non-financial business economy workforce; this was the only other sector to record a double-digit share.



## Performance and productivity within the non-financial business economy

(%, EU-27, 2018)



Note: different scales are used for the two indicators in the chart.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [sbs\\_na\\_sca\\_r2](#))

The wage-adjusted labour productivity ratio is defined as value added divided by personnel costs (subsequently adjusted by the share of paid employees in the total number of persons employed). The highest wage-adjusted labour productivity ratio in the EU-27's non-financial business economy was recorded for the capital-intensive activity of mining and quarrying. Value added per person employed in mining and quarrying was 2.9 times as high as average personnel costs per employee. At the other end of the range, the repair of computers and personal and

household goods was the only activity where value added per person employed did not cover average personnel costs per employee.

The gross operating rate is a measure of profitability and is defined as value added at factor cost minus personnel costs (the gross operating surplus) divided by total turnover. In 2018, the highest gross operating rate across the EU-27's non-financial business economy was recorded for real estate activities (41.1 %) and the lowest was recorded for distributive trades (5.4 %).

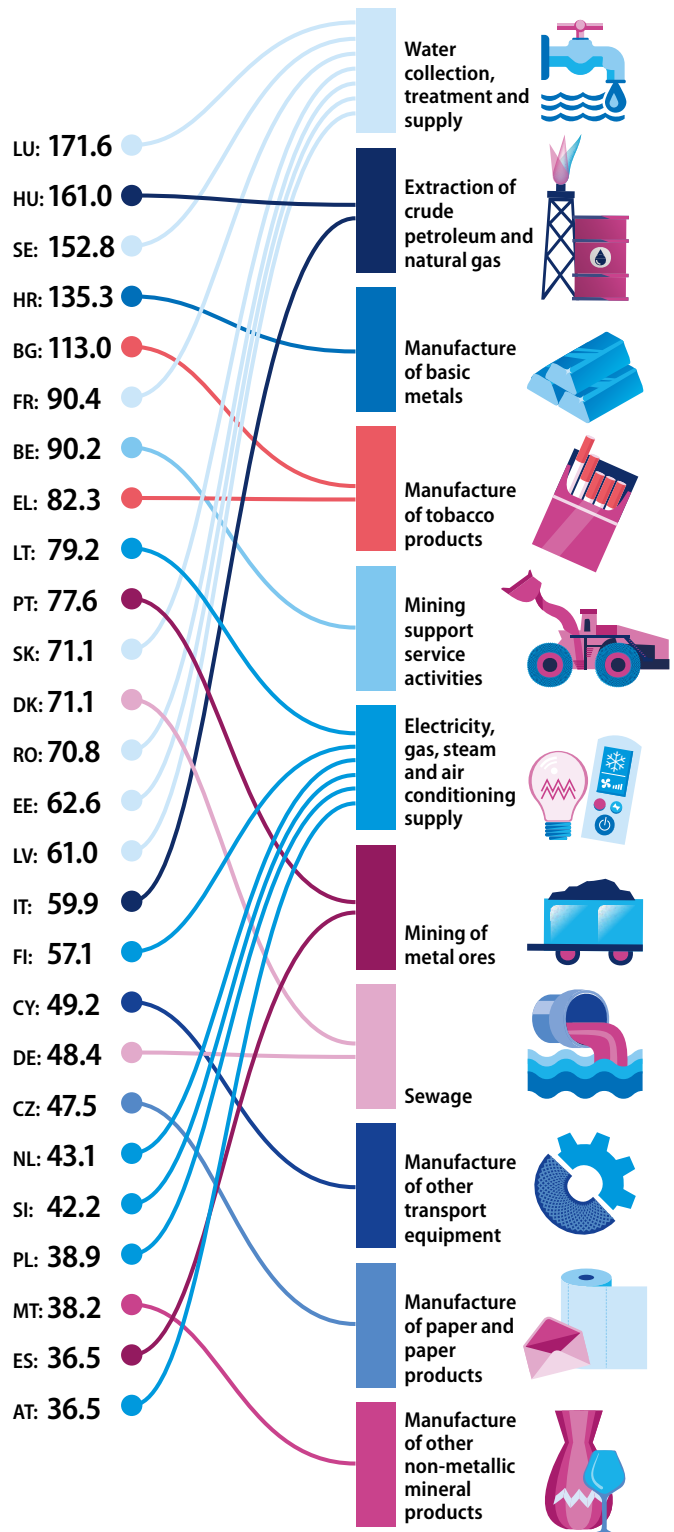
## Industrial activities in which EU Member States recorded their highest investment rates

(%, 2018)

The investment rate is defined as gross investment in tangible goods divided by value added at factor cost. Across the EU Member States, some of the highest investment rates in 2018 were recorded for capital-intensive activities. This was particularly the case for: water collection, treatment and supply; the extraction of crude petroleum and natural gas, and the manufacture of basic metals. The highest investment rate among industrial activities was recorded in Luxembourg for water collection, treatment and supply (172 %), followed by Hungary for the extraction of crude petroleum and natural gas (161 %).

Note: the highest investment rates for industrial and non-financial service activities are based on NACE Rev. 2 divisions. For nearly all EU Member States some NACE Rev. 2 divisions are confidential. IE: industrial activities, not available.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [sbs\\_na\\_sca\\_r2](#))



## Non-financial service activities in which EU Member States recorded their highest investment rates

(%, 2018)

Among the divisions that compose non-financial services, just over half of the EU Member States recorded their highest investment rate in 2018 for rental and leasing activities. The highest investment rates among non-financial services were recorded in Ireland for food and beverage service activities (215 %) and in Slovakia for real estate activities (208 %).

Note: the highest investment rates for industrial and non-financial service activities are based on NACE Rev. 2 divisions. For nearly all EU Member States some NACE Rev. 2 divisions are confidential.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sbs\_na\_sca\_r2)

