

Specialisations within the EU's non-financial services sector

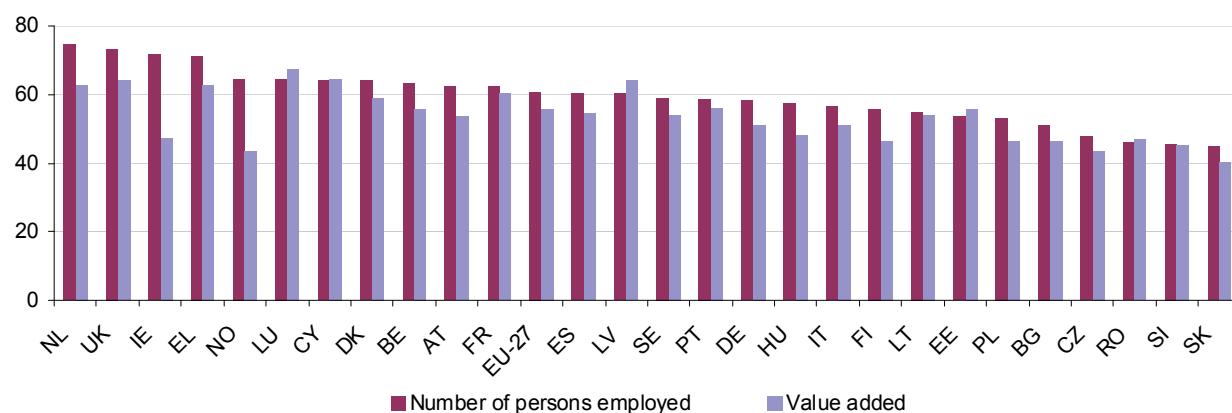
The EU-27 non-financial services sector employed approximately 79 million persons, close to two thirds of the non-financial business economy's workforce. The non-financial services sector as a whole is characterised by a predominance of small enterprises, although large enterprises generated a proportionately large share of value added within the air transport and post and telecommunications subsectors.

The non-financial services sector's turnover in the EU-27 increased on average by 5.3 % per annum between 2000 and 2007, while employment grew by 1.9 % per annum. At the NACE division level, the fastest turnover growth between 2000 and 2008 was observed for the EU-27 water transport sector, while the weakest growth was recorded for hotels and restaurants.

In 2006 the non-financial services sector contributed 56 % of the value added generated in the non-financial business economy of the EU-27. Among the Member States this contribution was generally between 45 % and 65 %: the share was higher in Luxembourg (68 %) and lower in Slovakia (40 %) and the Czech Republic (44 %), as well as in Norway (44 %) – see Figure 1.

The non-financial services sector's contribution to non-financial business economy employment in the EU-27 was 61 % in 2006, 5 percentage points higher than its value added share: this indicates an apparent labour productivity in non-financial services that was below the average for the non-financial business economy. Nevertheless, five Member States reported a lower share for non-financial services in employment terms than in value added terms: Latvia, Luxembourg, Estonia, Romania and Cyprus.

Figure 1: Value added and employment in non-financial services, Member States and Norway, 2006 (1)
Share in the non-financial business economy (%)



(1) Malta, not available.

Source: Eurostat ([ebd_all](#))

Non-financial services subsectors

Close to 79 million persons worked in the EU-27 non-financial services sector in 2006. The two largest workforces among the 14 non-financial services NACE divisions were in other business activities and retail trade and repair (Divisions 74 and 52) – see Table 1 below.

The EU-27 non-financial services sector generated EUR 12 774 billion of turnover in 2006, of which EUR 3 136 billion was value added. On average, EUR 39 700 of value added in non-financial services was generated by each person employed. The subsectors with the highest apparent labour productivity ratios were renting, water transport,

and real estate activities (Divisions 71, 61 and 70), while the lowest productivity by this measure was recorded for hotels and restaurants (Division 55). The employment measure used for these calculations is based on a simple head count: activities with a high incidence of part-time employment, such as hotels and restaurants, and retail trade and repair, record relatively low levels of apparent labour productivity. Total investment by the EU-27 non-financial services sector was valued at EUR 657 billion in 2006, equivalent to 21 % of the non-financial services sector's value added.

Table 1: Structural profile of non-financial services by division, EU-27, 2006

Activity	Number of enterprises		Number of persons employed		Turnover (EUR million)	Value added (EUR million)	Apparent labour product. (EUR 1000)	Gross operating rate (%)	Invest. rate
	(1 000)								
Non-financial services [G,H,I,K]	14 892	78 936			12 774 122	3 136 013	39.7	10.9	20.9
Motor trades [50]	809	4 242	1 326 723	161 796	38.1	5.4	14.0		
Wholesale trade [51]	1 729	9 962	4 603 296	518 842	52.1	5.2	10.2		
Retail trade & repair [52]	3 797	17 472	2 271 831	418 397	24.0	7.0	14.7		
Hotels & restaurants [55]	1 682	9 266	433 696	181 912	19.6	14.6	19.4		
Land transport; pipelines [60]	928	5 500	420 000	180 000	32.0	13.0	27.0		
Water transport [61]	19	214	100 000	22 000	100.0	20.0	45.2		
Air transport [62]	4	400	110 000	30 000	70.0	:	24.8		
Support. & auxil. transport [63]	188	2 671	537 474	159 109	59.6	13.5	31.4		
Post & telecommunications [64]	73	3 037	532 335	252 663	83.2	26.7	19.0		
Real estate activities [70]	1 101	2 900	570 000	270 000	95.0	37.9	65.0		
Renting [71]	150	600	150 000	70 000	113.0	40.0	105.0		
Computer & related act. [72]	551	2 789	369 811	180 443	64.7	15.4	7.4		
Research & development [73]	41	400	43 300	21 800	50.0	8.0	97.7		
Other business activities [74]	3 821	19 412	1 393 522	711 636	36.7	18.1	7.5		

Source: Eurostat ([ebd_all](#))

**Table 2: The most specialised Member States (1)
Share of non-financial business economy value added, 2006**

Activity	Most specialised		Second most specialised		Third most specialised	
	Country	(%)	Country	(%)	Country	(%)
Non-financial services [G to I & K]	Luxembourg	67.6	Cyprus	64.5	United Kingdom	64.0
Motor trades [50]	Latvia	5.0	Greece	4.0	Lithuania	3.9
Wholesale trade [51]	Greece	16.0	Latvia	15.4	Netherlands	13.4
Retail trade & repair [52]	Greece	12.0	Cyprus	10.1	France	8.3
Hotels & restaurants [55]	Cyprus	12.2	Greece	5.0	Spain	4.7
Land transport; pipelines [60]	Lithuania	7.7	Latvia	7.2	Luxembourg	5.6
Water transport [61]	Denmark	3.4	Cyprus	2.1	Greece	1.5
Air transport [62]	Luxembourg	3.3	Cyprus	1.4	Netherlands	1.2
Support. & auxil. transport [63]	Estonia	6.3	Cyprus	4.4	Latvia	4.4
Post & telecommunications [64]	Bulgaria	9.3	Luxembourg	7.8	Romania	6.7
Real estate activities [70]	Denmark	11.3	Latvia	7.4	Sweden	7.2
Renting [71]	Austria	1.9	Luxembourg	1.7	United Kingdom	1.7
Computer & related act. [72]	United Kingdom	4.9	Sweden	4.4	Ireland	4.3
Research & development [73]	Netherlands	0.6	United Kingdom	0.6	Slovenia	0.5
Other business activities [74]	Luxembourg	19.2	United Kingdom	17.5	France	15.6

(1) Malta, not available.

Source: Eurostat ([ebd_all](#))

The United Kingdom had the largest non-financial services sector in the EU-27 with EUR 686 billion of value added in 2006 and 13 million persons employed. Furthermore, in value added terms the United Kingdom was the largest Member State in nine of the 14 non-financial services divisions, and second or third largest in the others.

Analysing for each Member State the share of a particular activity within the non-financial business economy gives an idea of which countries were the most or least specialised in a certain activity, regardless of whether the country or the activity considered are large or small. As such, in terms of the contribution of non-financial services to the total value added of the non-financial business economy, Luxembourg, Cyprus and the United Kingdom were the most specialised in non-financial services as a whole. Specialisations in particular activities may, for example, be due to historical traditions, weather/climate, the natural or man-made environment, or proximity to a critical mass of potential customers. Several countries traditionally associated with tourism, notably Cyprus, Greece and Spain, are among the most specialised in hotels and restaurants,

and in activities that support hotels and restaurants, notably retail trade and transport activities. Transport services are also influenced by location, with water transport important for coastal countries.

The United Kingdom was not only the largest Member State in many of the non-financial services NACE divisions, it was also among the three most specialised Member States in four of these divisions, namely renting (70), research and development (73) and the two business services divisions (72 and 74). France was the third most specialised in two divisions, and Spain in one, while neither Italy nor Germany reached the top three in any of the 14 divisions studied. In several of the non-financial services NACE divisions the most specialised Member State showed very high specialisations relative to the next most specialised, particularly Cyprus in hotels and restaurants (Division 55) and Luxembourg in air transport (Division 62). The same was true, to a slightly lesser extent for Denmark in water transport and real estate activities (Divisions 61 and 70), as well as for Estonia in supporting and auxiliary transport activities (Division 63).

Table 3: Non-financial services in the Member States and Norway, 2006 (1)

EU-27	Number of persons employed (1 000)	Turnover (EUR million)	Value added (EUR million)	Gross tangible invest. (EUR million)	Average personnel costs (EUR 1 000)	Apparent labour prod. (/ person empl.)	Wage adjusted labour prod. ratio	Gross operating rate	Gross Invest. rate
					26.4	39.7	150.3	10.9	20.9
					(/ employee)	(/ person empl.)	(%)		
BE	1 548	475 834	85 790	19 428	41.1	55.4	134.7	7.4	22.6
BG	925	36 037	4 555	2 915	2.6	4.9	191.6	7.5	64.0
CZ	1 691	158 372	29 480	6 695	11.6	17.4	150.7	9.3	22.7
DK	1 144	292 558	69 499	25 007	36.2	60.8	167.9	10.7	36.0
DE	12 529	2 120 120	587 001	83 070	27.8	46.9	168.6	13.2	14.2
EE	228	23 791	4 158	1 662	9.2	18.3	198.8	9.1	40.0
IE	781	182 641	42 952	9 450	32.2	55.0	170.7	11.1	22.0
EL	1 842	210 066	43 710	11 350	20.6	23.7	115.2	10.7	26.0
ES	8 412	1 165 243	292 544	69 920	23.7	34.8	146.8	11.5	23.9
FR	9 126	1 950 990	479 839	115 878	39.1	52.6	134.5	7.4	24.1
IT	8 598	1 417 619	322 196	60 955	29.2	37.5	128.5	12.1	18.9
CY	136	14 641	4 490	558	21.4	33.1	154.7	13.4	12.4
LV	388	27 360	5 583	2 744	5.2	14.4	277.2	13.3	49.1
LT	511	28 988	5 395	2 346	5.7	10.6	186.0	9.9	43.5
LU	136	45 279	9 741	994	42.7	71.8	168.3	9.7	10.2
HU	1 458	128 407	20 288	6 245	9.5	13.9	146.3	7.0	30.8
NL	3 802	699 817	163 496	26 876	27.3	43.0	157.7	10.0	16.4
AT	1 520	307 184	73 886	24 394	33.5	48.6	145.3	9.7	33.0
PL	4 201	321 824	60 501	12 246	8.2	14.4	175.9	11.7	20.2
PT	1 939	194 819	39 948	15 112	12.9	20.6	159.8	8.3	37.8
RO	1 895	97 074	16 492	12 549	3.8	8.7	226.3	9.8	76.1
SI	274	36 513	7 142	3 246	18.3	26.1	142.3	7.6	45.5
SK	429	38 024	7 261	3 237	8.6	16.9	197.1	9.6	44.6
FI	706	167 284	38 503	6 838	36.9	54.5	148.0	9.1	17.8
SE	1 611	350 979	87 170	25 078	42.4	54.1	127.7	8.3	28.8
UK	13 001	2 401 246	686 409	106 414	30.9	52.8	171.0	13.0	15.5
NO	860	241 206	63 441	18 658	45.2	73.7	163.2	11.3	29.4

(1) Malta, not available.

Source: Eurostat ([ebd_all](#))

Table 4 shows the specialisations of each of the Member States, both in terms of value added and employment. These activities are not the largest in each country, but they are the ones that contribute proportionally more to that country's non-financial business economy than the average for the EU-27 as a whole. As such, a country may be relatively specialised in quite a small activity. For example, water transport was the second smallest (in value added terms) division within non-financial services in the EU-27 as a whole, but nine of the countries presented in Table 4 were most specialised in this activity – this can be explained by the fact that

several countries with little or no coast were very unspecialised in this activity, making many of the remaining countries relatively highly specialised.

Half of the Member States that joined the EU in 2004 or 2007 were most specialised in value added terms in land transport and transport via pipelines. The only other activities which featured among the principal specialisations in several countries were air transport, which was the most specialised activity in value added terms in France, Luxembourg, Portugal and the United Kingdom, and post and telecommunications, which was the most specialised activity in Italy and Slovakia.

Table 4: Specialisation in non-financial services subsectors, Member States and Norway, 2006 (1)

Activity	Share of non-financial business economy value added		Share of non-financial business economy employment	
	Most specialised Division		Second most specialised	
	(%)	Activity	(%)	Activity
BE	Wholesale trade	11.5	Post & telecom.	5.4
BG	Water transport	1.0	Post & telecom.	9.3
CZ	Land trans.; pipelines	5.0	Wholesale trade	9.4
DK	Water transport	3.4	Real estate act.	11.3
DE	Water transport	0.6	Renting	1.5
EE	Support./auxil. trans.	6.3	Wholesale trade	12.7
IE	Computer activities	4.3	Renting	1.6
EL	Water transport	1.5	Wholesale trade	16.0
ES	Hotels & restaurants	4.7	Real estate act.	6.2
FR	Air transport	0.8	Other business act.	15.6
IT	Post & telecom.	4.9	Water transport	0.4
CY	Water transport	2.1	Hotels & restaurants	12.2
LV	Land trans.; pipelines	7.2	Motor trades	5.0
LT	Land trans.; pipelines	7.7	Water transport	0.6
LU	Air transport	3.3	Post & telecom.	7.8
HU	Land trans.; pipelines	5.5	Post & telecom.	5.7
NL	Water transport	0.9	Air transport	1.2
AT	Renting	1.9	Hotels & restaurants	4.6
PL	Land trans.; pipelines	5.0	Wholesale trade	11.7
PT	Air transport	1.0	Hotels & restaurants	4.3
RO	Land trans.; pipelines	5.3	Post & telecom.	6.7
SI	Research & develop.	0.5	Land trans.; pipelines	4.0
SK	Post & telecom.	5.5	Wholesale trade	10.2
FI	Water transport	0.7	Land trans.; pipelines	4.5
SE	Water transport	0.6	Real estate activities	7.2
UK	Air transport	0.9	Computer activities	4.9
NO	Water transport	3.0	Land trans.; pipelines	4.0

(1) Malta, not available.

Note: The activity in which a country is most specialised is not the largest activity, but the one that contributes proportionally more to that country's economy (in this case the non-financial business economy) than it does in other countries: for the analysis here the benchmark used is the average for the EU as a whole.

Source: Eurostat ([ebd_all](#))

Services developments

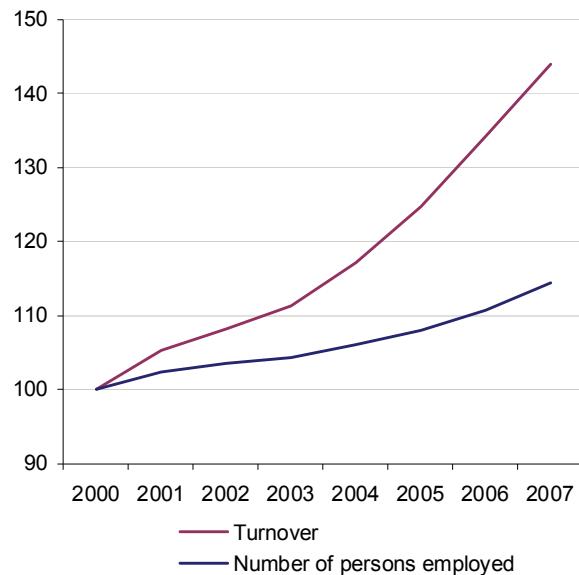
Turnover for non-financial services as a whole (see Figure 2) increased on average by 5.3 % per annum in the EU-27 between 2000 and 2007. At the NACE division level a longer series is available, through to 2008 (see Table 5). The fastest average growth rates were recorded for water transport and for land transport and transport via pipelines

(Divisions 61 and 60), while the two business services divisions (Divisions 72 and 74) also grew on average by at least 6 % per annum. The slowest rates of growth in turnover were recorded for hotels and restaurants, retail trade and repair, and motor trades (Divisions 55, 52 and 50), all less than 4 % per annum on average.

Employment in the EU-27 non-financial services sector grew on average by 1.9 % per annum between 2000 and 2007. Again looking at the period 2000 to 2008 only two non-financial services divisions posted a decrease in employment: air transport (Division 62) recorded an average fall of 0.7 % per annum, while for post and telecommunications (Division 64) the average rate was twice as high, 1.5 % per annum. The largest increases in employment were recorded for business services: computer and related activities and other business activities, both with an average growth rate of 3.7 % per annum between 2000 and 2008.

Among the Member States (see Table 6), some of the highest turnover growth rates across non-financial services between 2000 and 2007 were recorded in the Baltic Member States, Bulgaria and Romania; the majority of the other Member States that joined the EU since 2004 also out-performed the EU-15 average. The only negative rate of change among the Member States to have recently joined the EU was recorded in Malta for hotels and restaurants where turnover fell by an average of 0.4 % per annum. Within the EU-15 Member States, growth rates were generally more subdued, especially for wholesale trade activities. Nevertheless, there were only two negative rates over the period 2000 to 2007, as sales in Germany for hotels and restaurants were down, on average, by 1.2 % per annum, while turnover in Ireland for business services was down by 0.4 % per annum.

Figure 2: Turnover and employment indices in non-financial services, EU-27, 2000-2007 (2000=100)



Source: Eurostat ([sts_setu_a](#), [sts_selb_a](#))

**Table 5: Turnover and employment indices, EU-27, 2000-2008
Annual average rate of change (%)**

	Index	
	Turnover	Number of persons employed
Non-fin. services [G,H,I,72,74] (1)	5.3	1.9
Motor trades [50]	3.8	1.0
Wholesale trade [51]	5.4	1.1
Retail trade & repair [52]	3.4	1.7
Hotels & restaurants [55]	3.2	2.0
Land transp.; pipelines [60]	7.0	0.8
Water transport [61]	7.3	0.2
Air transport [62]	5.4	-0.7
Support. & auxil. transp. [63]	5.8	2.3
Post & telecom. [64]	5.1	-1.5
Computer & related act. [72]	6.3	3.7
Other business act. [74]	6.9	3.7

(1) 2000-2007.

Source: Eurostat ([sts_trtu_a](#), [sts_setu_a](#), [sts_selb_a](#))

**Table 6: Turnover indices in non-financial services, Member States, 2000-2007 (1)
Annual average rate of change (%)**

	Distrubutive trades [G]	Hotels & restaurants [H]	Transport, storage & comm. [I]	Business services [72+74]
BE	5.7	3.7	6.3	10.6
BG	15.4	14.6	8.7	20.6
CZ	6.8	3.2	6.6	5.7
DK	5.2	4.4	6.0	8.4
DE	1.3	-1.2	5.8	4.9
EE	16.4	17.2	13.8	14.4
IE	6.5	2.2	6.6	-0.4
ES	6.8	3.1	7.0	7.3
FR	3.6	:	:	:
IT	2.1	:	:	:
CY	7.3	2.6	5.9	9.5
LV	21.0	23.0	15.1	24.0
LT	14.6	14.6	16.4	21.7
LU	8.2	2.8	6.8	6.1
HU	10.4	9.8	10.3	12.1
MT	3.4	-0.4	3.2	3.1
NL	3.8	2.4	:	4.3
AT	2.3	2.5	3.6	2.3
PL	8.2	7.4	10.4	9.1
PT (2)	1.4	0.7	4.1	:
RO	37.3	29.3	38.3	54.1
SI	10.9	9.3	9.6	11.5
SK	6.0	1.7	11.2	8.2
FI	5.6	3.9	4.8	7.8
SE	4.5	4.1	3.8	5.0
UK	5.1	5.3	7.4	7.7

(1) Greece, not available.

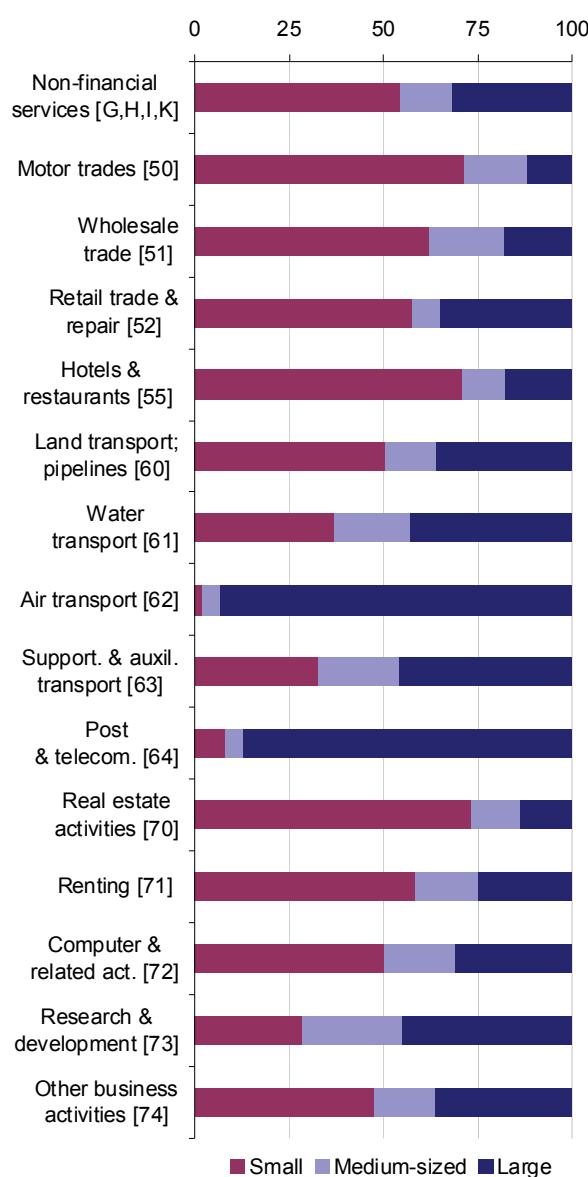
(2) Gross.

Source: Eurostat ([sts_trtu_a](#), [sts_setu_a](#))

Dominance of non-financial services by small enterprises

The non-financial services sector as a whole is characterised by a predominance of small enterprises, as enterprises with less than 50 persons employed accounted for 55 % of all employment in the EU-27 non-financial services. The prevalence of small enterprises was particularly evident in real estate activities, motor trades, and hotels and restaurants (Divisions 70, 55 and 50). In contrast, large enterprises accounted for approximately nine out of every ten persons employed in air transport, as well as post and telecommunications (Divisions 62 and 64).

Figure 3: Employment in non-financial services by division and size class, EU-27, 2006
Share of sectoral employment (%)

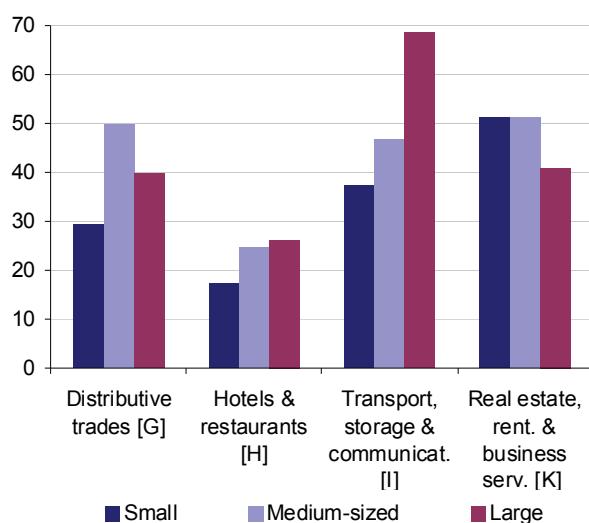


Source: Eurostat ([sbs_sc_3ce_tr02](#), [sbs_sc_1b_se02](#))

Among the 26 Member States with data available for 2005 or 2006 a total of 19 recorded small enterprises contributing more than half of all persons employed in the non-financial services sector, with Greece (78 %) registering the highest share. In six of the seven Member States where the employment share of small enterprises was less than 50 %, small enterprises had, nevertheless, a larger share of employment than either medium-sized or large enterprises: the one exception was the United Kingdom where large enterprises contributed 47 % of the total non-financial services workforce, compared with a 40 % share for small enterprises.

In hotels and restaurants, as well as transport, storage and communications (NACE Sections H and I) large enterprises in the EU-27 generated the highest average value added per person employed and small enterprises the lowest. For the two other non-financial services sections presented in Figure 4 the situation was less clear cut. In distributive trades as well as real estate, renting and business services, large enterprises recorded a lower apparent labour productivity than medium-sized enterprises. For real estate, renting and business services, small enterprises also recorded a higher apparent labour productivity than large enterprises.

Figure 4: Apparent labour productivity by section and size class, EU-27, 2006
(EUR 1 000 per person employed)



Source: Eurostat ([sbs_sc_3ce_tr02](#), [sbs_sc_1b_se02](#))

METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The sources for the data presented in this publication are Eurostat's structural business statistics (SBS) and short-term business statistics (STS). Business statistics are available from Eurostat's database within the industry, trade and services theme. Note that SBS data for the EU-27 may be rounded estimates.

SBS data have been collected within the legal framework provided by [Council Regulation No 58/97](#) of 20 December 1996 concerning structural business statistics, which aims to provide data which is comparable between the Member States on the structure, activity, competitiveness and performance of businesses. Note that SBS data for the EU-27 may include rounded estimates. Data for 2005 has been used in cases where data for 2006 were not available or were confidential.

Definitions

The **number of enterprises** is a count of enterprises active during at least a part of the reference period.

The **number of persons employed** is all persons who work in the observation unit (inclusive of working proprietors and unpaid family workers), as well as persons who work outside the unit who belong to it and are paid by it. Part-time, seasonal and home workers on the payroll are included, as well as apprentices.

Turnover comprises the totals invoiced by the observation unit during the reference period, and this corresponds to market sales of goods or services supplied to third parties.

Value added (at factor cost) can be calculated from turnover, plus capitalised production, plus other operating income, plus or minus the changes in stocks, minus the purchases of goods and services, minus other taxes on products which are linked to turnover but not deductible, minus the duties and taxes linked to production.

Gross tangible investment includes new and existing capital goods bought or produced for own use having a useful life of more than one year, and includes also land.

Apparent labour productivity is calculated as value added divided by the number of persons employed.

Average personnel costs are calculated as personnel costs divided by the number of (paid) employees.

The **wage adjusted labour productivity ratio** is calculated by dividing the apparent labour productivity by average personnel costs, and is expressed a percentage.

The **gross operating rate** is the gross operating surplus divided by turnover, expressed as a percentage. Gross operating surplus is calculated as value added less personnel costs.

The **investment rate** is tangible investment divided by value added expressed as a percentage.

The **turnover index** reflects the totals invoiced by the observation unit during the reference period. This corresponds to market sales of goods or services supplied to third parties.

The **employment index** shows the evolution of the number of persons employed.

STS: forms of indices

The basic form of an index is its gross (also known as unadjusted) form and this is the form used for the employment index in this publication. The turnover index has been adjusted for working day effects, to adjust for the impact of calendar effects (such as weekdays/ weekends, official holidays) on the index. Non-financial services are defined as NACE Sections G, H and I and NACE Divisions 72 and 74 for the purposes of STS.

Classifications

The classification of activities used in this publication is NACE Rev. 1.1. For the purposes of this publication the non-financial business economy is defined as Sections C to I and K, the non-financial services sector is defined as Sections G to I and K and business services are defined as Divisions 72 and 74.

The following employment size classes are used: small enterprises (including micro enterprise) 1-49 persons employed; medium-sized enterprises 50-249 persons employed; large enterprises 250 or more persons employed.

Abbreviations and symbols

EU-27	European Union of 27 Member States
BE	Belgium
BG	Bulgaria
CZ	Czech Republic
DK	Denmark
DE	Germany
EE	Estonia
IE	Ireland
EL	Greece
ES	Spain
FR	France
IT	Italy
CY	Cyprus
LV	Latvia
LT	Lithuania
LU	Luxembourg
HU	Hungary
MT	Malta
NL	Netherlands
AT	Austria
PL	Poland
PT	Portugal
RO	Romania
SI	Slovenia
SK	Slovakia
FI	Finland
SE	Sweden
UK	United Kingdom
NO	Norway
:	(in tables) not available

For more information:

A parallel Statistics in Focus publication (62/2009) presents the manufacturing sector. A wide-ranging analysis of the non-financial business economy can be found in European business – Facts and figures, available at:
http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/european_business/publications/facts_figures

Further information

Data: [Eurostat Website: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat)

Data on "Structural business statistics ":

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/european_business/data/database

More information about "Structural business statistics":

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/european_business/introduction

Data on "Short-term business statistics ":

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/short_term_business_statistics/data/database

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