

# Key figures on European business

STATISTICS ILLUSTRATED

2021 edition



KEY  
FIGURES

eurostat 

## List of countries

Belgium	BE
Bulgaria	BG
Czechia	CZ
Denmark	DK
Germany	DE
Estonia	EE
Ireland	IE
Greece	EL
Spain	ES
France	FR
Croatia	HR
Italy	IT
Cyprus	CY
Latvia	LV
Lithuania	LT
Luxembourg	LU
Hungary	HU
Malta	MT
Netherlands	NL
Austria	AT
Poland	PL
Portugal	PT
Romania	RO
Slovenia	SI
Slovakia	SK
Finland	FI
Sweden	SE
Iceland	IS
Liechtenstein	LI
Norway	NO
Switzerland	CH





Reykjavik  
ICELAND

NORWAY  
Oslo  
SWEDEN  
Stockholm  
FINLAND  
Helsinki  
ESTONIA  
Tallinn  
LATVIA  
Riga  
LITHUANIA  
Vilnius

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Amsterdam

GERMANY  
Berlin

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Warsaw

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Budapest

SLOVENIA  
Ljubljana

CROATIA  
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ROMANIA

Bucharest

PORTUGAL

Lisbon

SPAIN  
Madrid

ITALY  
Rome

BULGARIA  
Sofia

GREECE

Athens

MALTA  
Valletta

CYPRUS  
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0 500 km

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2021 edition

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# Foreword

I am pleased to present this first edition of *Key figures on European business — Statistics illustrated*. In line with the Eurostat publication, *Key figures on Europe — Statistics illustrated*, it aims to provide intuitive visualisations and innovative data presentations supported by concise texts.

*Key figures on European business — Statistics illustrated* presents a selection of key business statistics indicators for the European Union (EU), its individual Member States and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries, drawing from the rich collection of data that are available at Eurostat. Indeed, business statistics cover a broad array of information to provide an insight into the business economy across the EU. They can be used to describe the structure, conduct and performance of businesses in the EU at a detailed sectoral level or they can be used to analyse emerging trends within the EU's business economy, tracing monthly or quarterly developments for indicators such as output, output prices, employment or gross wages and salaries.

*Key figures on European business — Statistics illustrated* has been conceived to offer a balanced set of indicators. It starts with an overview of the business economy, followed by more detailed analyses that focus on four specific parts of the business economy — industry, construction, distributive trades and other non-financial services — while the publication closes with a chapter on tourism. Each of these chapters focusing on different parts of the business economy starts with an overview of the economic structure (in value added and employment terms) and continues with information on annual developments through to 2020.



The COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions have impacted on almost every aspect of life in the EU (and further afield) since March 2020. The pandemic itself and the accompanying restrictions have impacted on the supply of and demand for many goods and services produced and traded within the EU's business economy. Although it is too soon to evaluate the full impact of the crisis, not least because it continues at the time of writing, this publication seeks to provide an initial review of COVID-19 impacts and asymmetric patterns of development for different parts of the business economy. For monthly data this information is generally presented through to the end of 2020 when many parts of the EU experienced a significant upturn in infection rates and renewed containment measures were in force. In addition, links are provided to the latest information available (for those wishing to trace developments as and when additional data become available). Eurostat's most up-to-date statistics showing the economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 crisis can be found online at: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/covid-19/overview>.

I hope that you find this publication interesting and useful.

**Sophie Limpach**

Director of business and trade statistics, Eurostat

## Abstract

*Key figures on European business* — *Statistics illustrated* presents a selection of key business statistics indicators for the European Union (EU) and its individual Member States, as well as the EFTA countries. This publication may be viewed as an introduction to European business statistics and provides a starting point for those who wish to explore the wide range of data that are freely available on Eurostat's website at <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat> together with a range of online articles in *Statistics Explained*.

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### For more information please consult

Eurostat's website: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>  
Statistics Explained: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained>

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# Introduction

Eurostat is the statistical office of the European Union (EU) situated in Luxembourg. Its mission is to provide high quality statistics for Europe, which allow us to have the key information on Europe's economy, society and environment that we need both as citizens and as decision makers.

*Key figures on European business — Statistics illustrated* describes the situation in the EU's business economy. As a consequence, only initial findings of the COVID-19 related impact on the business economy are provided: short-term statistics are generally presented through to the end of 2020. The full scale of the impact of the crisis will only be revealed at a later date, not only when the pandemic has come to an end but also when structural business statistics become available (generally some 18 months after the end of each calendar year).

## Structure of the publication

*Key figures on European business — Statistics illustrated* provides users of official statistics with an overview of the wealth of information that is available on Eurostat's website and within its online databases concerning the business economy.

The publication is divided into an overview of the business economy as a whole, an overview of the structure of the business economy, four chapters focusing on the four parts of the business economy (industry, construction, distributive trades and other non-financial services), and a final chapter focusing on tourism.

Each of the four chapters focusing on different parts of the business economy starts with an overview of their structure. They continue with information on annual developments from 2000 or 2005 through until 2019 or 2020 (the latest year for which annual indices are available at the time of writing). Three of these chapters also include information focused on a particular aspect: high-tech sectors and products for industry, buildings for construction, and information and communication services for other non-financial services. These four chapters finish with a focus on the impact of the COVID-19 crisis, with an analysis of the latest developments through to late 2020. Although based on different data sources, the tourism chapter follows a similar structure.

## Data extraction and coverage

### Data extraction

The statistical data presented in this publication were generally extracted in November 2020. The data in the final sections of Chapters 3 to 7 pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic, short-term business statistics as well as international trade in services were extracted in February 2021. The online database may contain revised data.

### Spatial data coverage

This publication presents information for the **EU-27** (a sum/average covering the 27 Member States of the EU) as well as the individual EU Member States and EFTA countries. The order of the countries in the

figures usually reflects their ranking according to the values for (one of) the indicator(s) illustrated.

The map on the inside cover page identifies the **EU Member States** and the EFTA countries, as well as pinpointing their capital cities.

## Country codes

BE Belgium	HU Hungary
BG Bulgaria	MT Malta
CZ Czechia	NL Netherlands
DK Denmark	AT Austria
DE Germany	PL Poland
EE Estonia	PT Portugal
IE Ireland	RO Romania
EL Greece	SI Slovenia
ES Spain	SK Slovakia
FR France	FI Finland
HR Croatia	SE Sweden
IT Italy	
CY Cyprus	IS Iceland
LV Latvia	LI Liechtenstein
LT Lithuania	NO Norway
LU Luxembourg	CH Switzerland

## Temporal data coverage

If data for a reference year (or reference period) are not available for a particular country, then efforts have been made to complete the coverage using data for recent previous reference years (these exceptions are footnoted).

## Economic activity coverage

The statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community (NACE Rev. 2) is used to define economic activities. Within this publication, the following terms related to a range of economic activities are applied — all based on the NACE Rev. 2 classification.

- All economic activities — Sections A to U.
- Business economy — covers (as defined by Sections B to N and Division 95): industry, construction, distributive trades and most other services.
- Non-financial business economy — covers (as defined by Sections B to J and L to N and Division 95): industry, construction, distributive trades and most other services outside of financial services.
- Core innovation activities — covers (as defined by Sections B to E, H, J, K and Divisions 46 and 71-73): industry; transportation and storage services; information and communication services; financial and insurance activities; wholesale trade; architectural and engineering activities, technical testing and analysis; scientific research and development; advertising and market research.
- Industry — covers (as defined by Sections B to E): mining and quarrying; manufacturing; electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply; water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities.
- Manufacturing — Section C.



- High-tech manufacturing — covers (as defined by Divisions 21 and 26 and Group 30.3): the manufacture of basic pharmaceutical products and pharmaceutical preparations; the manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products; the manufacture of air and spacecraft and related machinery.
- Construction — covers (as defined by Section F): the construction of buildings; civil engineering; specialised construction activities.
- Non-financial services — covers (as defined by Sections G to J and L to N and Division 95): distributive trades and most other services outside of financial services.
- Non-financial services as used for short-term business statistics in Chapter 6 (sections on 'Developments' and 'Impact of COVID-19 pandemic') — covers (as defined by Sections H to J, Divisions 69, 71, 73, 74, 78, 79, 80 and 82, and Groups 70.2 and 81.2): transportation and storage services; accommodation and food service activities; information and communication services; professional, scientific and technical activities (other than activities of head offices, scientific research and development, and veterinary activities); administrative and support service activities (other than rental and leasing activities, combined facilities support activities, and landscape service activities).
- Other non-financial services — covers (as defined by Sections H to J and L to N and Division 95): most services outside of distributive trades and financial services.
- Core innovation services — covers (as defined by Sections H, J, K and Divisions 46 and 71 to 73): transportation and storage services; information and communication services; financial and insurance activities; wholesale trade; architectural and engineering activities, technical testing and analysis; scientific research and development; advertising and market research.
- Distributive trades — covers (as defined by Section G): wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles.
- Information and communication services — covers (as defined by Section J): publishing activities; motion picture, video and television programme production, sound recording and music publishing activities; programming and broadcasting activities; telecommunications; computer programming, consultancy and related activities; information service activities.
- Tourist accommodation — covers (as defined by Groups 55.1-55.3): hotels and similar accommodation; holiday and other short-stay accommodation; camping grounds, recreational vehicle parks and trailer parks.

For more information about the NACE Rev. 2 classification, please refer to: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/nace-rev2/overview>.

## Notes and flags

Notes and flags are means of explaining and defining specific characteristics of particular data. This publication includes only the main notes required for interpretation of the data and to highlight when a year has been replaced with another. Data that are not shown in individual figures may be simply not available or they may be confidential (in which case they are not published). A full set of notes and flags are available on Eurostat's website (see below) via the online data code(s). Notes and flags are means of explaining and defining specific characteristics of particular data. In this publication, these have been restricted as far as possible in order to allow more space for the illustrations. The publication includes only the main notes required for interpretation of the data and to highlight when a year has been replaced with another. A full set of notes and flags are available on Eurostat's website (see below) via the online data code(s).

## Accessing European statistics

The simplest way to obtain Eurostat's wide range of statistical information is through its website (<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>). Eurostat provides users with free access to its databases and its publications in portable document format (PDF). The website is updated daily and presents the latest and most comprehensive statistical information available on the EU, its Member States, the EFTA countries, as well as enlargement countries and potential candidates.

Eurostat online data codes, such as *sbs\_na\_sca\_r2*, allow easy access to the most recent data on Eurostat's website (<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database>). In this publication these online data codes are given as part of the source below each figure.

Some of the indicators presented in this publication are relatively complex. Statistics Explained provides a comprehensive online glossary with definitions for a broad range of statistical indicators, concepts and terms; it is organised under thematic headings ([https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Thematic\\_glossaries](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Thematic_glossaries)).



# 1

## Business dynamics

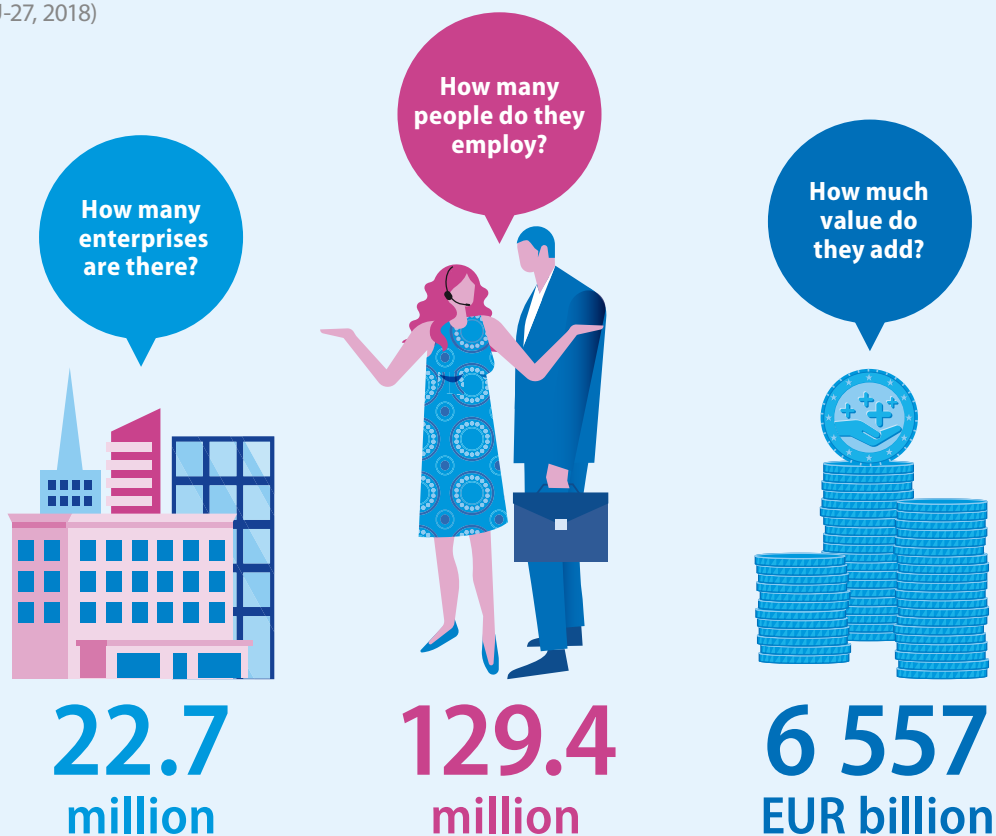


# Size of businesses

Business statistics cover industry, construction, distributive trades and most other services. It is important to underline that they exclude a range of economic activities, such as: agriculture, forestry and fishing; public administration; education; health and social work; arts, entertainment and recreation. Alongside these, financial and insurance activities are also frequently excluded, given their specific nature and the limited availability of statistics in this area.

## Key business statistics for the non-financial business economy

(EU-27, 2018)



In 2018, there were 22.7 million enterprises in the EU-27's non-financial business economy. Collectively they employed 129.4 million people and created EUR 6 557 billion of wealth as measured by value added at factor cost.

Note: the non-financial business economy covers industry, construction, distributive trades and most other market services outside of financial services.

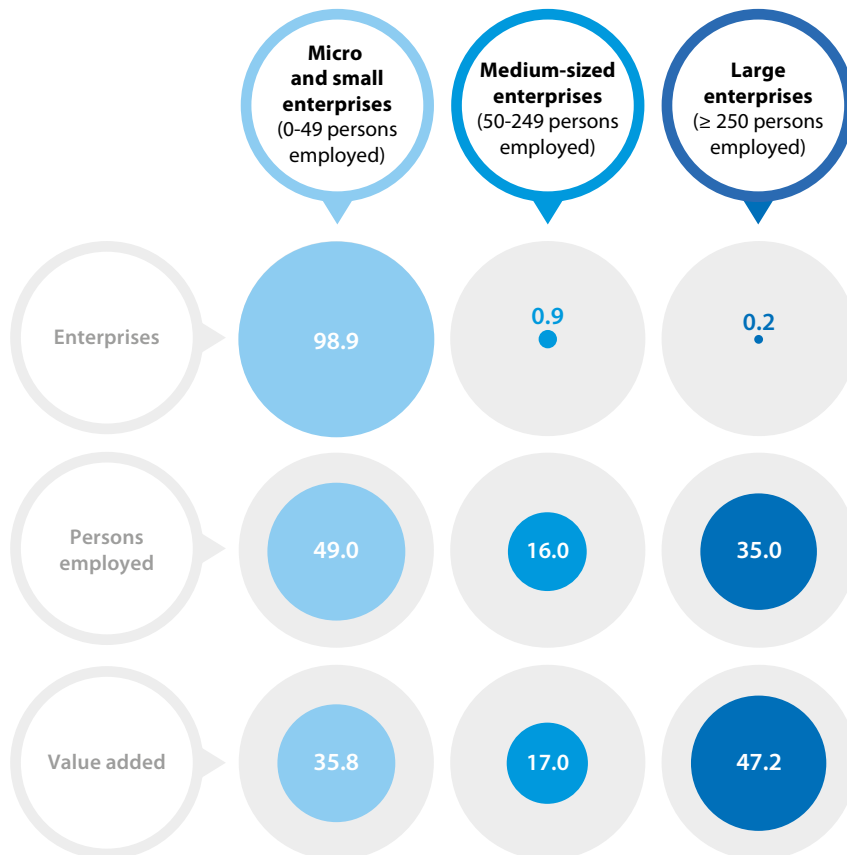
Source: Eurostat (online data code: sbs\_na\_sca\_r2)

## Key business statistics in the non-financial business economy

(% share for each enterprise size class, EU-27, 2018)

Data relating to enterprises that are active within the non-financial business economy can be presented according to enterprise size, measured in terms of the number of persons they employ. In 2018, the overwhelming majority (98.9 %) of EU-27 businesses were micro or small enterprises employing fewer than 50 persons. Their economic weight was lower in terms of their contribution to employment or value added: micro and small enterprises employed half (49.0 %) of the EU-27's non-financial business economy workforce, while they contributed just over one third (35.8 %) of the value added.

In 2018, there were 40 000 large enterprises (with 250 or more persons employed) in the EU-27's non-financial business economy. These large enterprises represented just 0.2 % of the total number of enterprises. However, their economic weight was considerably greater: large enterprises employed more than one third (35.0 %) of the EU-27's non-financial business economy workforce and generated an even higher share of its wealth (47.2 % of value added).

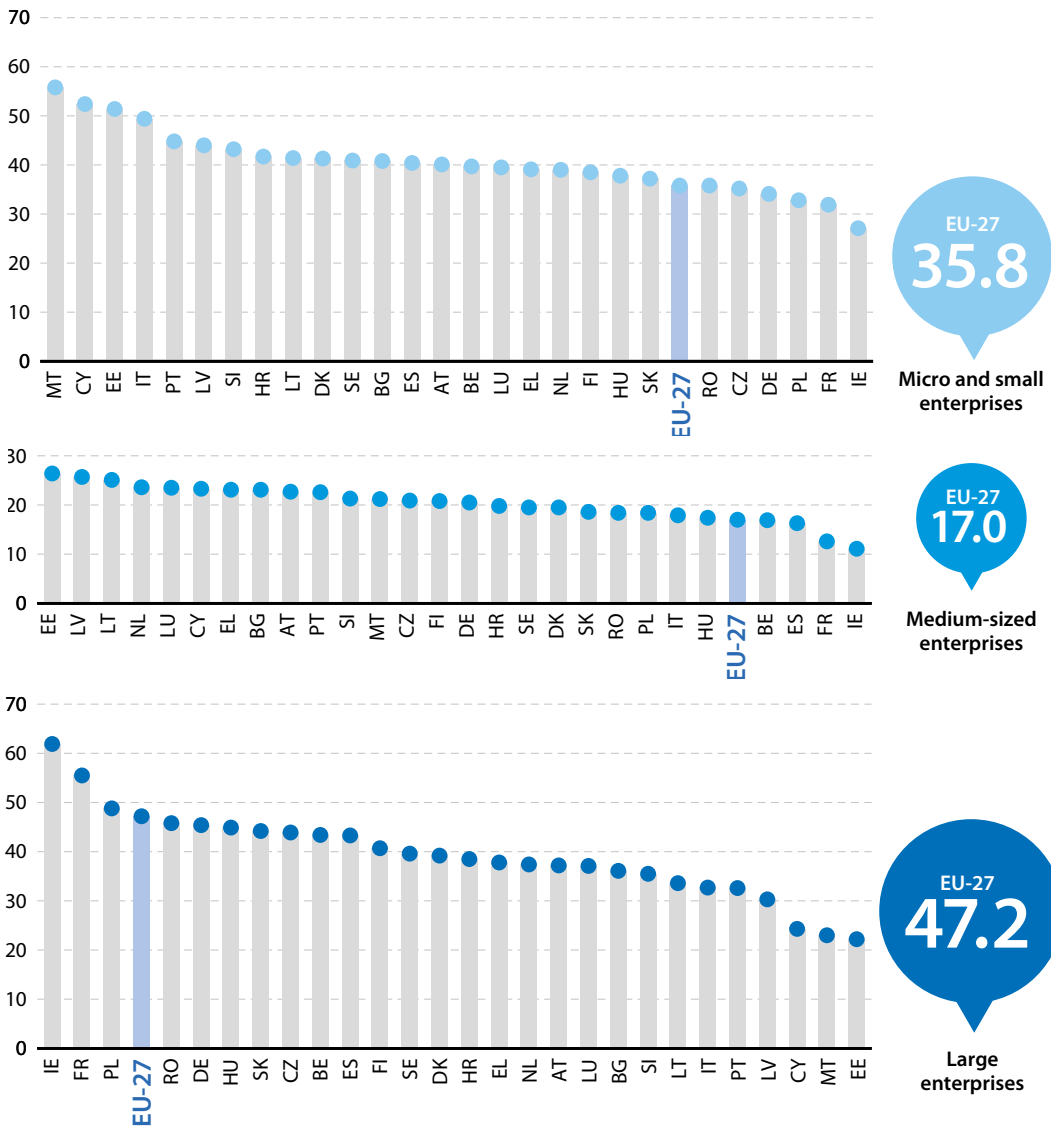


Note: estimates made for the purpose of this publication.

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

## Value added in the non-financial business economy

(% share of total value added for each enterprise size class, 2018)



In 2018, micro and small enterprises contributed a relatively high share of the value added in the non-financial business economies of most of the southern EU Member States and Estonia. By contrast, large enterprises were responsible for 45.0-50.0 % of value added in the non-financial business economies of Germany (2017 data), Romania and Poland, and 55.5 % in France; this share peaked at 61.9 % in Ireland.

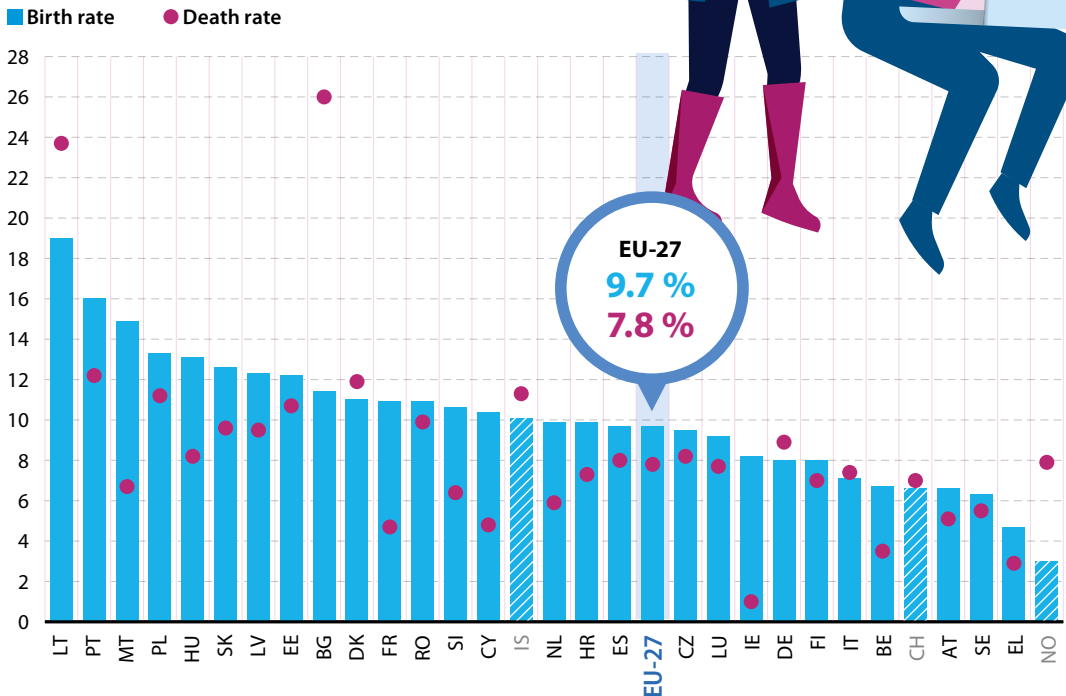
Note: data for the EU-27 are estimates made for the purpose of this publication. EL: excluding information and communication, real estate activities, and repair of computers and personal and household goods. PT: excluding real estate activities. DE, IE, NL, FI and SE: 2017. IT, CY and AT: 2016. DK: 2015.

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

# Entrepreneurship

## Enterprise birth and death rates in the business economy

(%, 2018)



Business demography is a term used for studying the characteristics of the enterprises. The creation (or birth) of new enterprises and the closure (or death) of enterprises are important indicators for business dynamics.

In 2018, the EU-27 enterprise birth rate (as measured by the number of births as a percentage of the total population of active enterprises) in the business economy was 9.7 %. This ratio ranged from highs of 19.0 % in Lithuania and 16.0 % in Portugal down to 4.7 % in Greece.

Enterprise deaths concern the permanent closure of an enterprise. The information shown here therefore excludes changes resulting from mergers, take-overs,

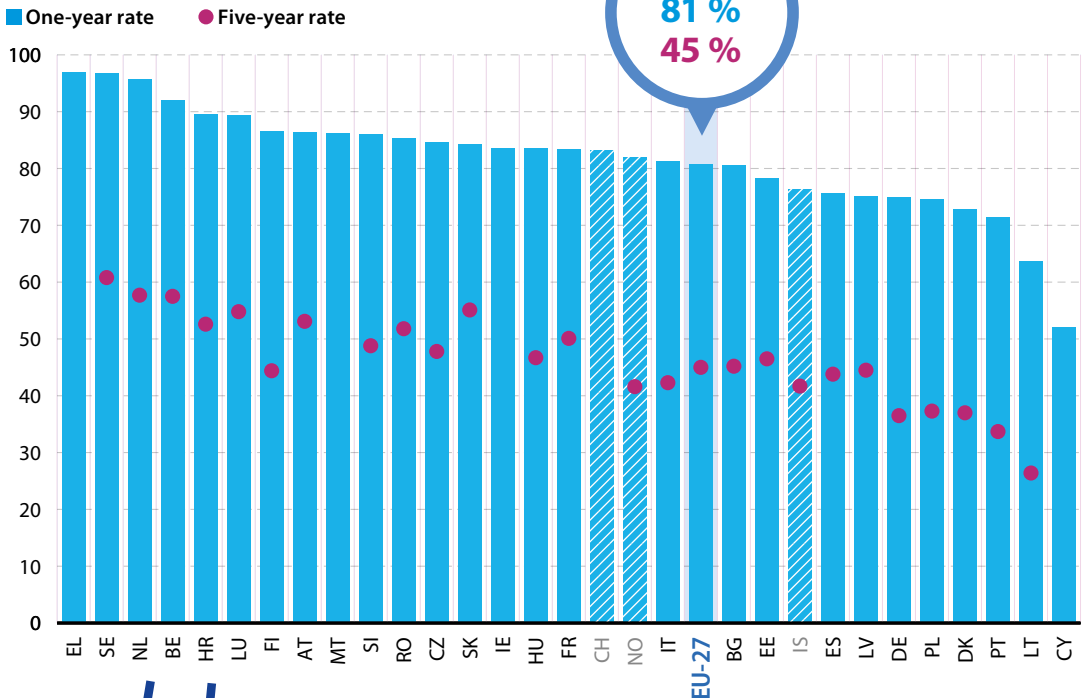
break-ups or other forms of restructuring such as a change of activity. In 2018, the enterprise death rate in the EU-27's business economy was 7.8 %, ranging from highs of 26.0 % in Bulgaria and 23.7 % in Lithuania down to lows of 2.9 % in Greece and 1.0 % in Ireland.

Note: data are preliminary and exclude the activities of holding companies (NACE Rev. 2 Group 64.2). CH: 2015.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [bd\\_9ac\\_l\\_form\\_r2](#))

## Enterprise survival rates in the business economy

(%, EU-27, 2018)



In 2018, more than four out of every five enterprises born in the previous year in the EU-27's business economy had survived their first year: the one-year survival rate was 81 %. This rate was particularly high in Greece and Sweden (97 % of newly-born enterprises survived one year), while more than 90 % of new enterprises survived at least one year in the Netherlands and Belgium. By contrast, less than 70 % of new enterprises in Lithuania and Cyprus (2015 data) survived their first year.

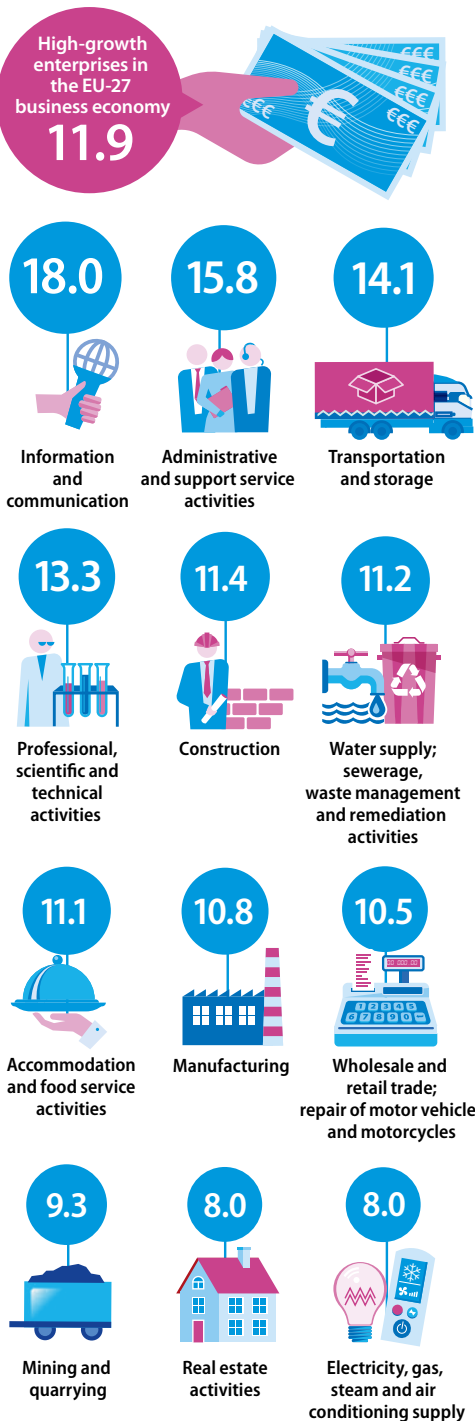
The EU-27 five-year survival rate for enterprises born in 2013 and still active in 2018 was 45 %; in other words, less than half of all newly-born enterprises from the 2013 cohort survived until 2018. Five-year enterprise survival rates were less than 50 % for a majority of the EU Member States, with the lowest rates recorded in Portugal (34 %) and Lithuania (26 %) and the highest in Sweden (60.8%), the Netherlands (57.5 %) and Belgium (57.5%).

Note: excluding the activities of holding companies (NACE Rev. 2 Group 64.2). EE, LU and CH: 2017. CY: one-year rate, 2015. EL, MT, IE, CY and CH: five-year rate, not available.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [bd\\_9bd\\_sz\\_cl\\_r2](#))

## High-growth enterprises

(% share of total number of enterprises in each sector, EU-27, 2018)



Enterprise creation and subsequent business growth can potentially have a considerable impact on employment.

In 2018, high-growth enterprises accounted for 11.9 % of all enterprises in the EU-27's business economy. These enterprises were particularly common in the information and communication sector (18.0 %) and in administrative and support service activities (15.8 %). At the other end of the range, three capital-intensive activities — mining and quarrying (9.3 %), real estate activities (8.0 %) and electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply (8.0 %) — had the lowest proportions of high-growth enterprises.

Note: a high-growth enterprise is defined within business demography statistics as one that had at least 10 employees at the beginning of the period studied and whose number of employees grew, on average, by more than 10 % per annum over a three-year period. Data for the business economy excluding the activities of holding companies (NACE Rev. 2 Group 64.2).

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [bd\\_9pm\\_r2](#))

## High-growth enterprises

(% share of total number of enterprises in the business economy, 2018)

In 2018, high-growth enterprises accounted for around one in six of all enterprises in the business economies of Greece, the Netherlands and Spain, while Ireland (15.8 %) also recorded a relatively high share. By contrast, there were four EU Member States where high-growth enterprises accounted for less than 1 in 10 enterprises, with particularly low shares in Cyprus (2.7 %; 2016 data) and Romania (2.6 %).

Note: for high-growth enterprise definition see above. Excluding the activities of holding companies (NACE Rev. 2 Group 64.2). LU and CH: 2017. CY: 2016.

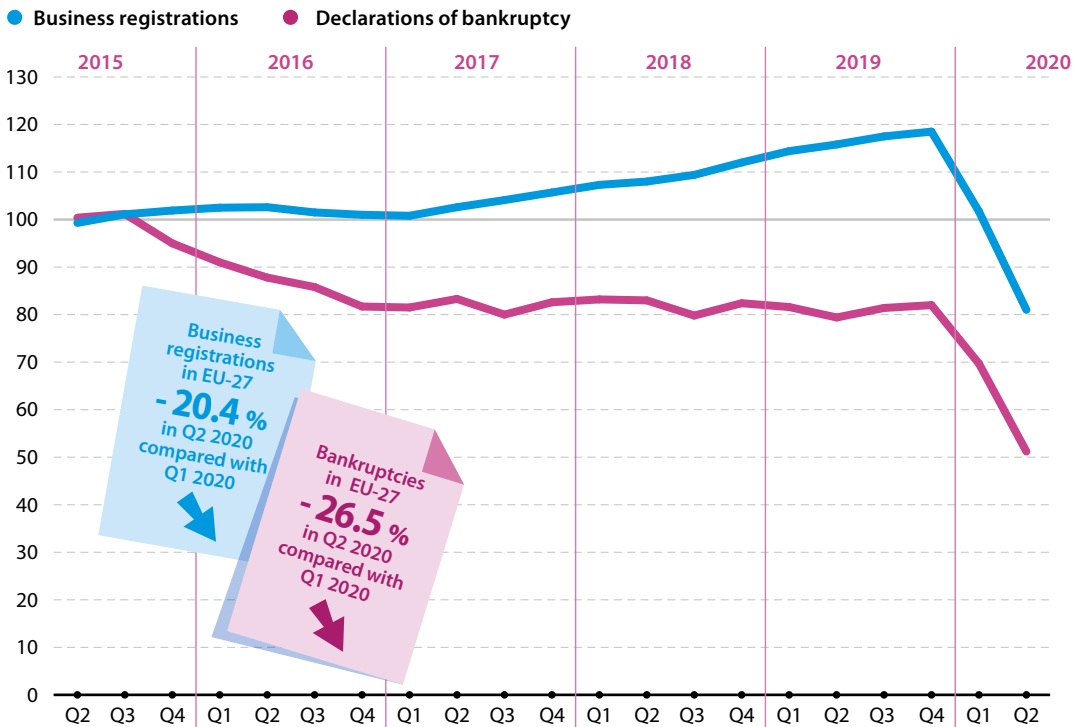
Source: Eurostat (online data code: [bd\\_9pm\\_r2](#))

EL	16.9
NL	16.3
ES	16.1
IE	15.8
SI	14.6
PT, MT	14.5
SE	13.9
SK	13.0
HU, PL	12.5
HR	12.1
<b>EU-27, FI</b>	<b>11.9</b>
IS	11.7
CZ, FR	11.6
IT	11.3
BG, LV	11.2
DE, LU	10.7
EE	10.5
NO	10.3
DK, LT	10.2

AT	8.5
BE	7.4
CH	6.8
CY	2.7
RO	2.6

## Business registrations and declarations of bankruptcy

(2015 = 100, EU-27, Q2 2015-Q2 2020)



In contrast to data for enterprise births, business registrations are an administrative procedure that may be considered as a declaration of intent. Between the start of 2017 and the end of 2019, there was a relatively stable upward trend for the number of business registrations in the EU. This pattern ended abruptly in the first quarter of 2020 when the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and related containment measures was felt.

Bankruptcy declarations provide an early sign for measuring sentiment in the business economy. Some businesses that file for bankruptcy may be sold off and hence they do not necessarily close permanently, in contrast to the situation for an enterprise death. Having fallen between the start of 2015 and the middle of 2017, the number of bankruptcy declarations in the EU remained relatively unchanged up until the first quarter of 2020 when the impact of the pandemic and containment measures was felt.



[For more and updated information on business registrations and declarations, please refer to the Statistics Explained article.](#)

Note: the activities covered are industry, construction, distributive trades and most other services (as defined by NACE Rev. 2 Sections B to N and P to R and NACE Rev. 2 Divisions 95 and 96). Excluding CZ, DK, IE, EL, HR, CY, LV, LU, MT, AT, SI, FI and SE. Declarations of bankruptcy: also excluding NL and SK.

Source: Eurostat

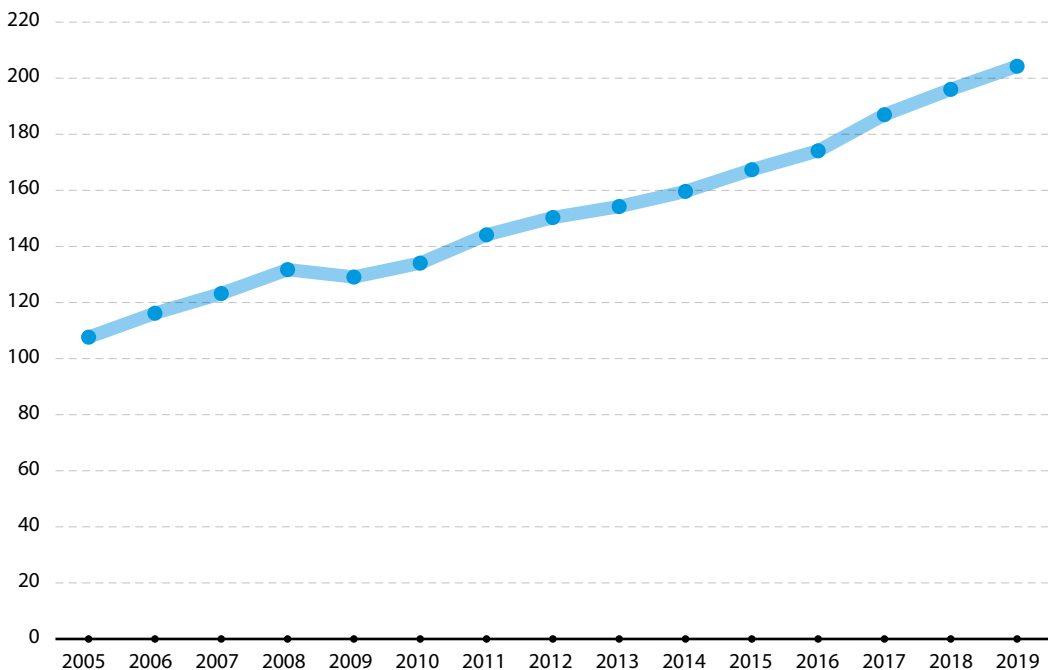
# Research and development

## Business expenditure on R&D

(EUR billion, EU-27, 2005-2019)

Business expenditure on R&D is a measure of intramural (within a country) R&D. The business enterprise sector usually accounts for the highest share of gross domestic expenditure on R&D when compared with the higher education, government and private non-profit sectors. Other than a slight reduction in 2009, EU-27 business expenditure on R&D rose consistently (in current price terms) between 2005 and 2019. It reached EUR 204 billion by the end of this period having grown more than 4 % from 2018 to 2019.

The share of business expenditure on R&D in gross domestic expenditure on R&D is very different among EU Member States. Sweden, Denmark, Austria, Germany, Belgium and Finland had some of the highest shares of business expenditure on R&D relative to their overall spend on R&D; they also recorded some of the highest rates of overall R&D intensity.

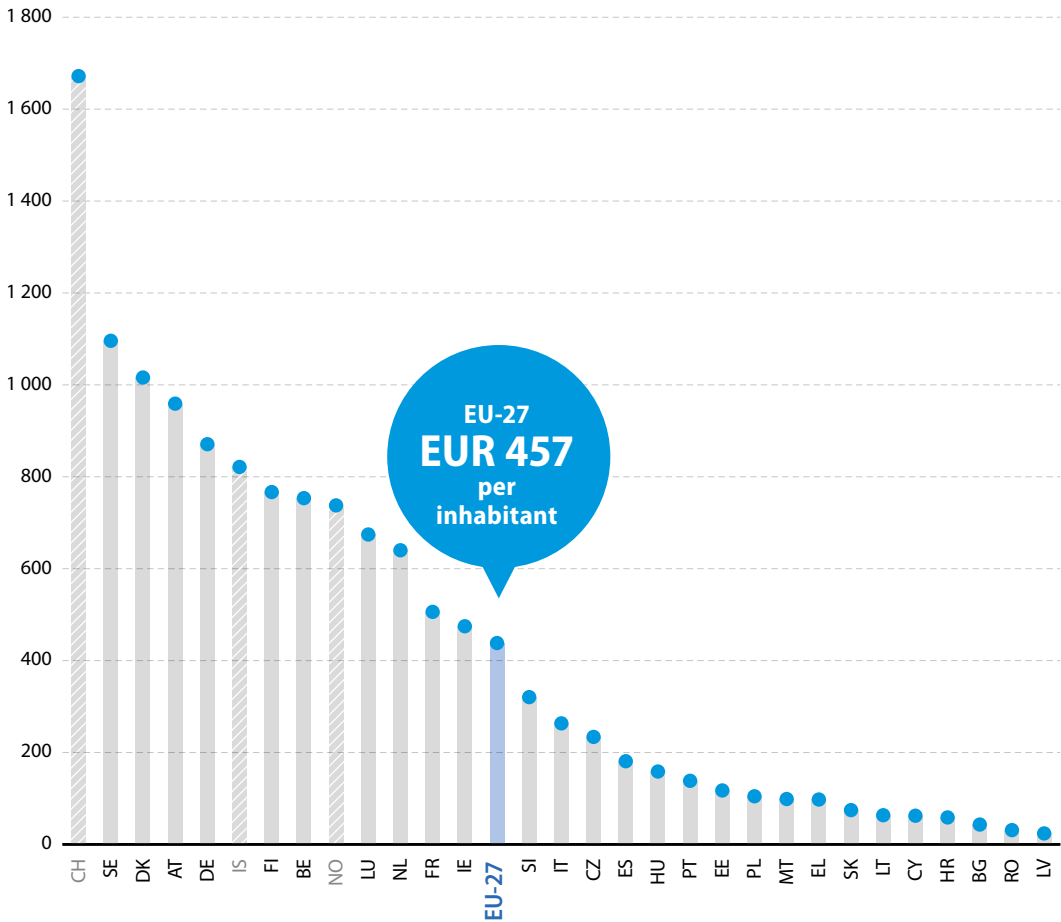


Note: business expenditure across all economic activities.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [rd\\_e\\_berdindr2](#))

## Business expenditure on R&D

(EUR per inhabitant, 2019)



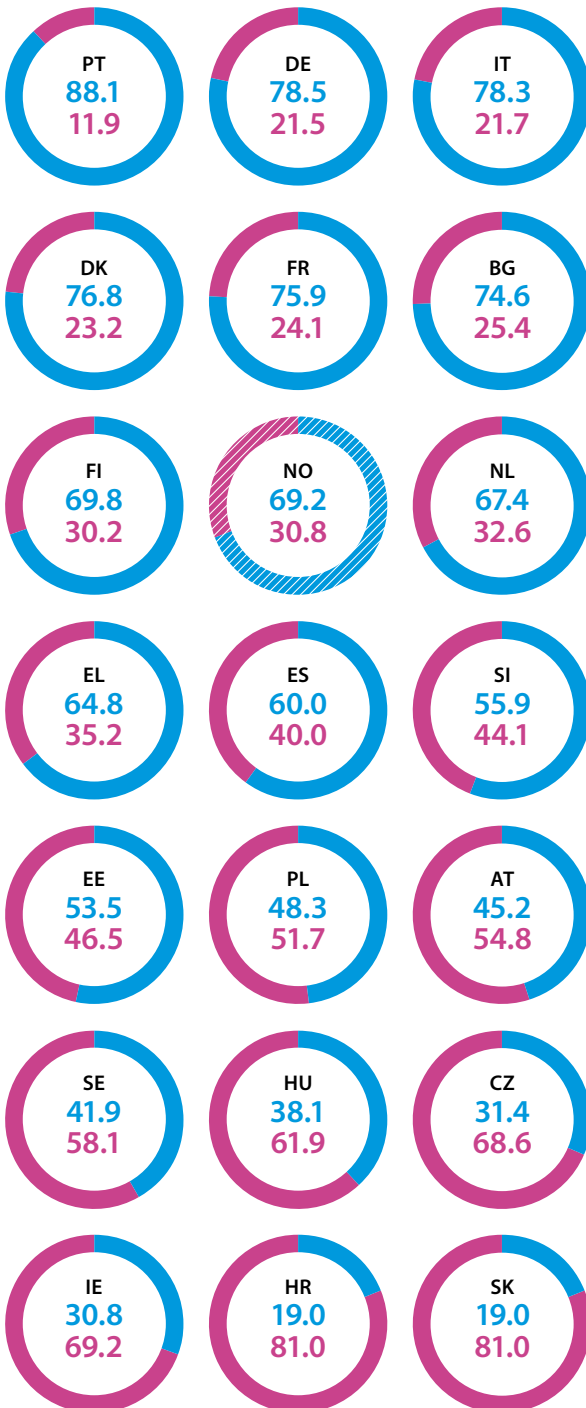
Business enterprise expenditure on R&D in the EU-27 averaged EUR 457 per inhabitant in 2019. This ratio stood at more than EUR 1 000 per inhabitant in Sweden and Denmark, but was less than EUR 200 per inhabitant in 14 EU Member States, with the lowest ratios in Latvia and Romania.

Note: business expenditure across all economic activities.  
CH: 2017; IS: 2018.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: rd\_e\_berdindr2)

## Intramural R&D expenditure in industry and construction

(% share of total intramural expenditure according to the control of the enterprise, 2017)



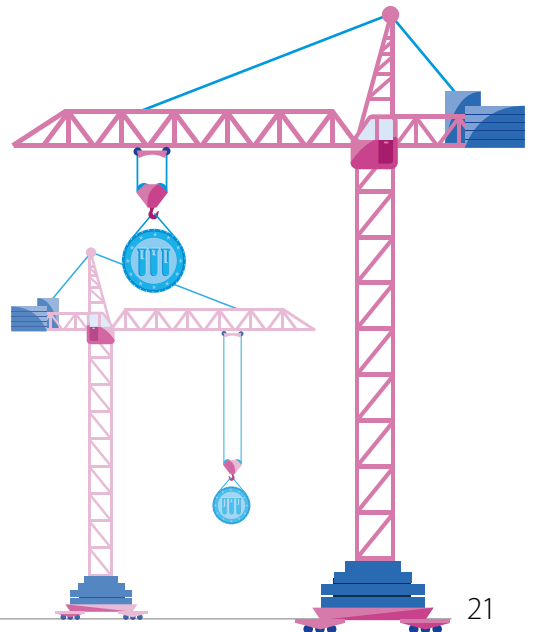
- Nationally-owned enterprises
- Foreign-owned enterprises

Part of the globalisation phenomenon observed in recent decades has been the growing internationalisation of R&D expenditure. This can have benefits for host economies as well as for multinational enterprises that carry out research abroad, especially in terms of a transfer of knowledge.

Within the activities of industry and construction, foreign-owned enterprises carried out more than half of all intramural R&D expenditure in eight of the EU Member States, namely, Poland, Austria, Sweden, Hungary, Czechia, Ireland, Croatia and Slovakia. At the other end of the range, almost four fifths of total R&D expenditure in industry and construction was carried out by nationally-owned enterprises in Italy and Germany, with an even higher share in Portugal (88.1 %).

Note: intramural R&D expenditures are all current expenditures plus gross fixed expenditure for R&D performed within a statistical unit. BG and EL: 2015. BE, CY, LV, LT, LU, MT and RO: not available.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: fats\_g1a\_rd)



# Innovation

## Innovation active enterprises

(EU-27, 2018)



Note: for all datasets displayed on pages 12 and 13 based on core innovation activities. Covers enterprises with 10 or more employees. Innovation active enterprises include those with ongoing and abandoned innovative activities, regardless of whether or not the activity results in the implementation of an innovation.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: inn\_cis11\_bas)

The Community innovation survey (CIS) focuses on the innovation activities of enterprises. It concentrates on a set of core innovation activities and only covers enterprises with 10 or more employees. In 2018, there were 730 thousand enterprises across the EU-27 in this target population, of which approximately half were engaged in some form of innovation (product, process, organisational and/or marketing innovations).

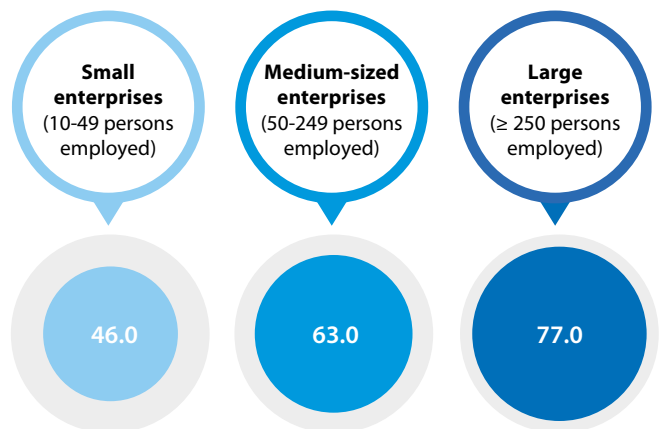
## Innovation active enterprises

(% share of enterprises that are innovation active for each enterprise size class, EU-27, 2018)

In 2018, across core innovation activities more than three quarters of all large enterprises (with 250 or more employees) in the EU-27 engaged in some form of innovative activity. By contrast, less than half of all small enterprises (with 10-49 employees) were engaged in some form of innovation.

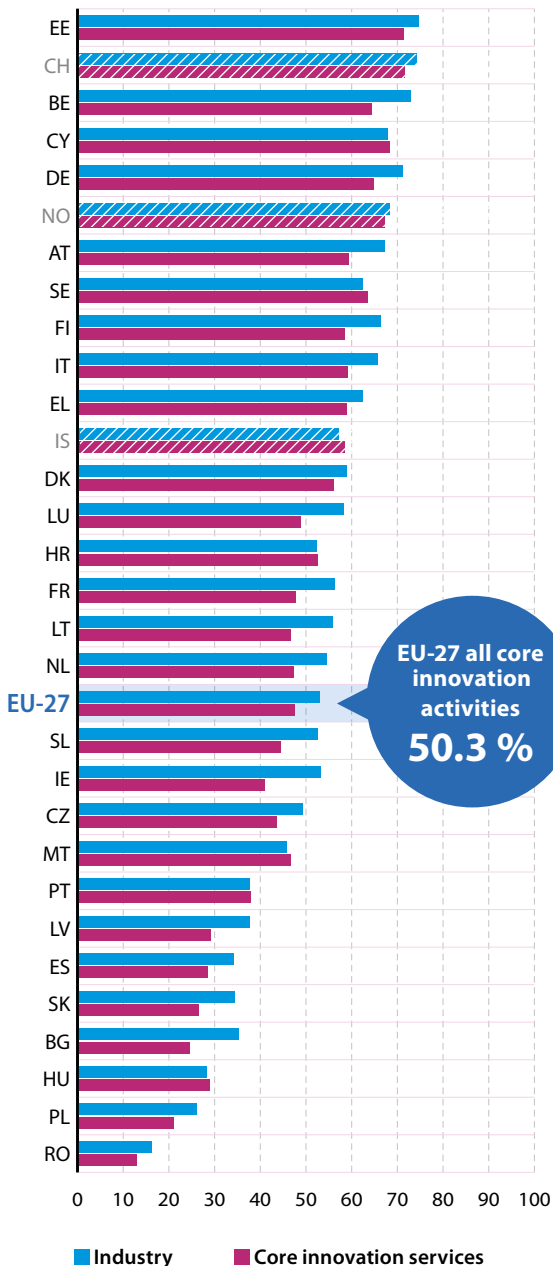
Note: see note above.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: inn\_cis11\_bas)



## Innovation active enterprises

(% share of innovative enterprises by type of activity, EU-27, 2018)



EU-27 all core innovation activities  
50.3 %

There appeared to be little difference in 2018 across the EU-27 between the share of enterprises within industry (53.1 %) and core innovation services (47.6 %) that were engaged in innovation.

In 2018, the proportion of industrial enterprises that were innovators peaked at 74.7 % in Estonia, while Belgium, Cyprus, Germany, Austria and Finland were the only other EU Member States to record shares of more than two thirds. By contrast, the lowest shares were recorded in Poland (26.1 %) and Romania (16.3 %).

In 2018, the proportion of core innovation service enterprises that were innovators peaked at 71.5 % in Estonia. The next highest shares — all within the range of 60-65 % — were recorded in Cyprus, Germany, Belgium and Sweden.

## Employees working in innovation active enterprises

(% share of total employees, 2018)

The proportion of employees working in innovative enterprises reflects, at least to some degree, the specialisation and concentration of particular economic activities and the size structure of enterprises within each economy: larger enterprises tend to have a greater propensity to be innovators.

Across core innovation activities in 2018, more than four out of every five employees in Germany, Estonia, Belgium, Finland, Austria and Sweden worked for an enterprise engaged in some form of innovation activity. In all but one of the remaining EU Member States, more than half of all employees worked for an innovative enterprise. The one exception was Romania, where approximately one quarter of all employees worked for an innovative enterprise.

Note: see note on page 22. CH: 2016.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [inn\\_cis11\\_bas](#))

CH	87.9
DE	86.5
EE	84.9
BE	84.6
FI	81.0
AT	80.8
SE	80.4
FR	78.9
CY	77.2
NO	77.0
IT, IS	76.7
EL	75.4
LT	71.1
SI	69.3
DK	68.7
HR	68.0
CZ	67.2
LU	66.7
NL	65.5
MT	62.7
PT	60.0
BG	57.8
ES	57.0
LV	55.5
SK	54.4
IE	53.4
HU	52.1
PL	50.4
RO	24.8



# 2

## 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.

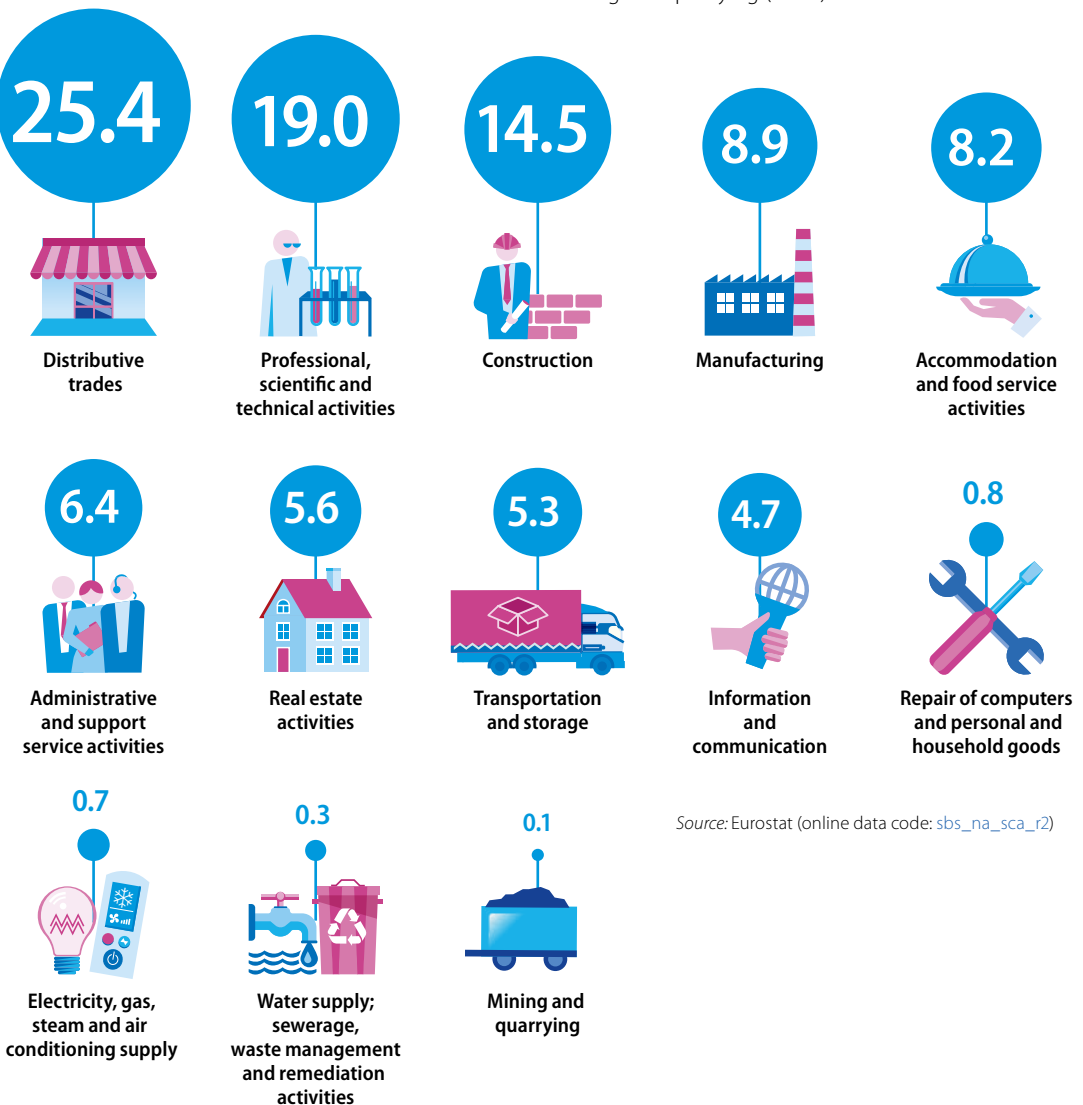
Source: Eurostat (online data code: [sbs\\_na\\_sca\\_r2](#))

## 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 %).



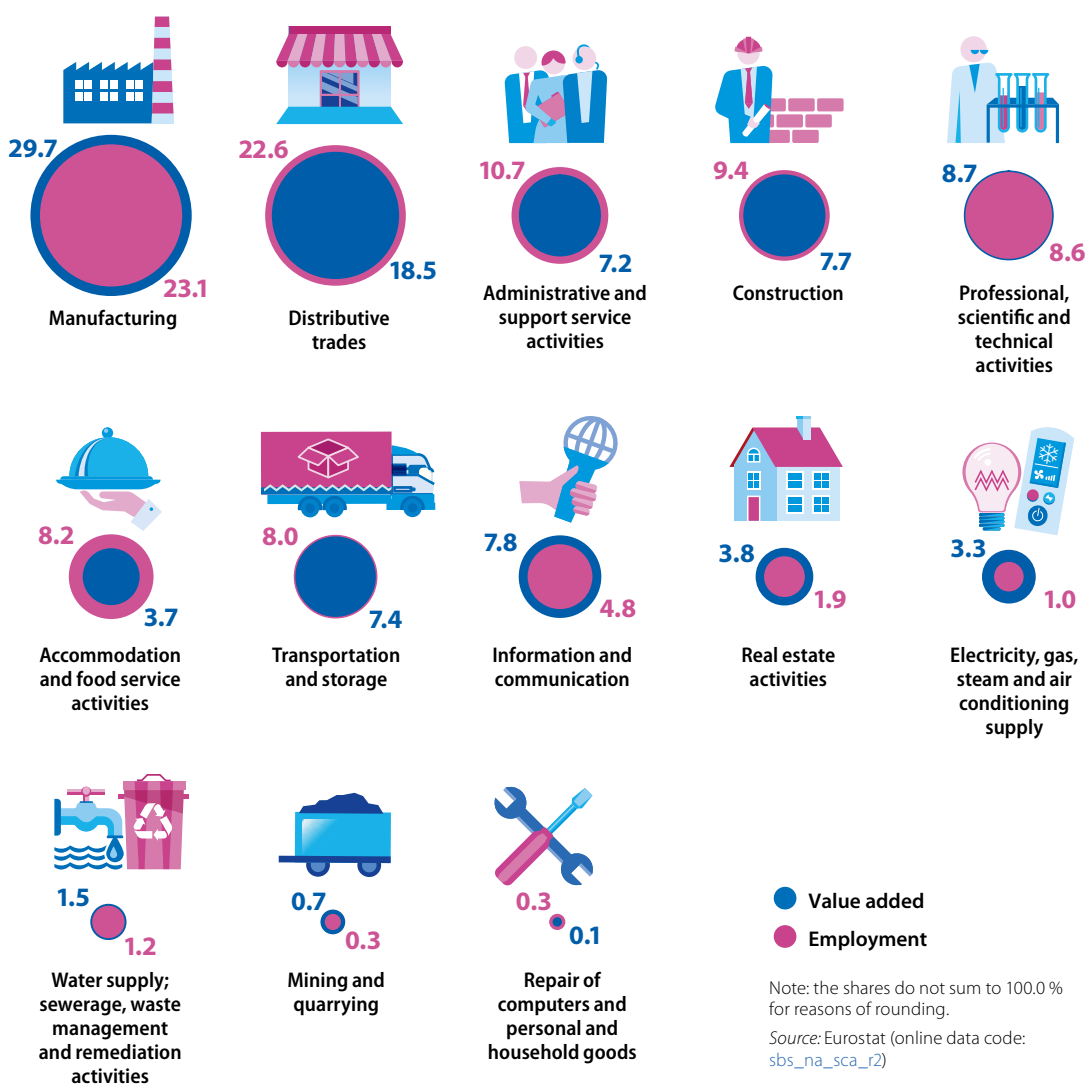
Source: Eurostat (online data code: sbs\_na\_sca\_r2)

## 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 %).

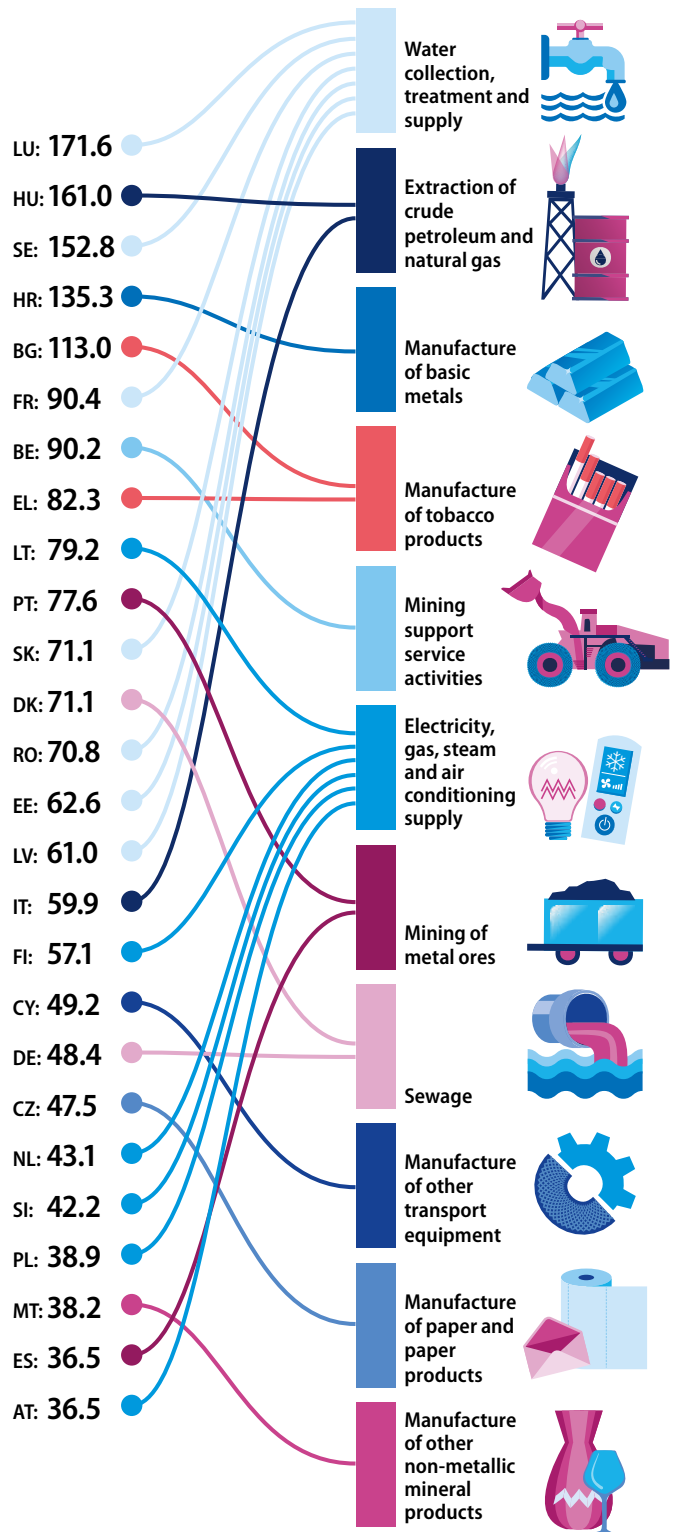
## Industrial activities in which EU Member States recorded their highest investment rates

(%, 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](#))



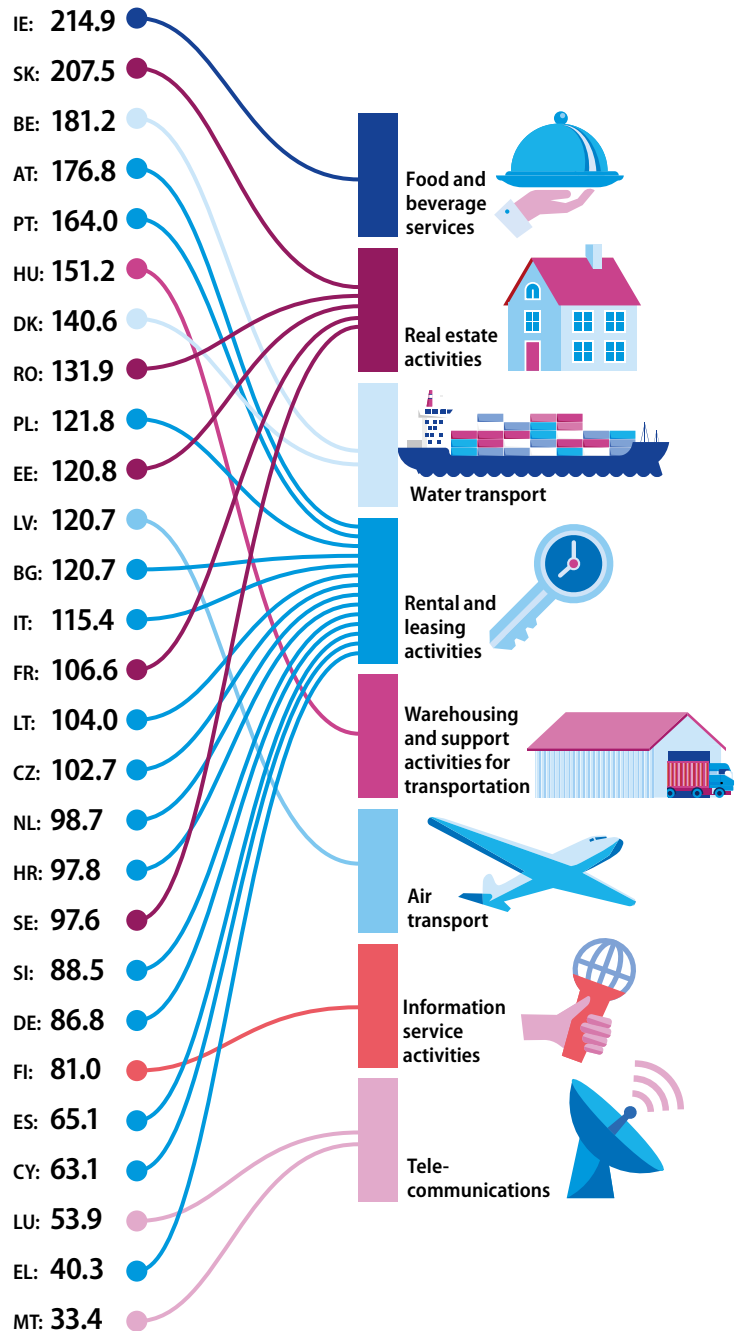
## Non-financial service activities in which EU Member States recorded their highest investment rates

(%, 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)





# 3

## Industry



# Structure

The EU-27's industrial economy covers: mining and quarrying; manufacturing; electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply; and water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities. Manufacturing was by far the largest of these four activities. In 2018, this sector accounted for 85 % of industrial value added and for 90 % of industrial employment in the EU-27.

## Concentration of industrial activity — top five EU Member States

(% share of EU-27 employment and value added for each activity, 2018)

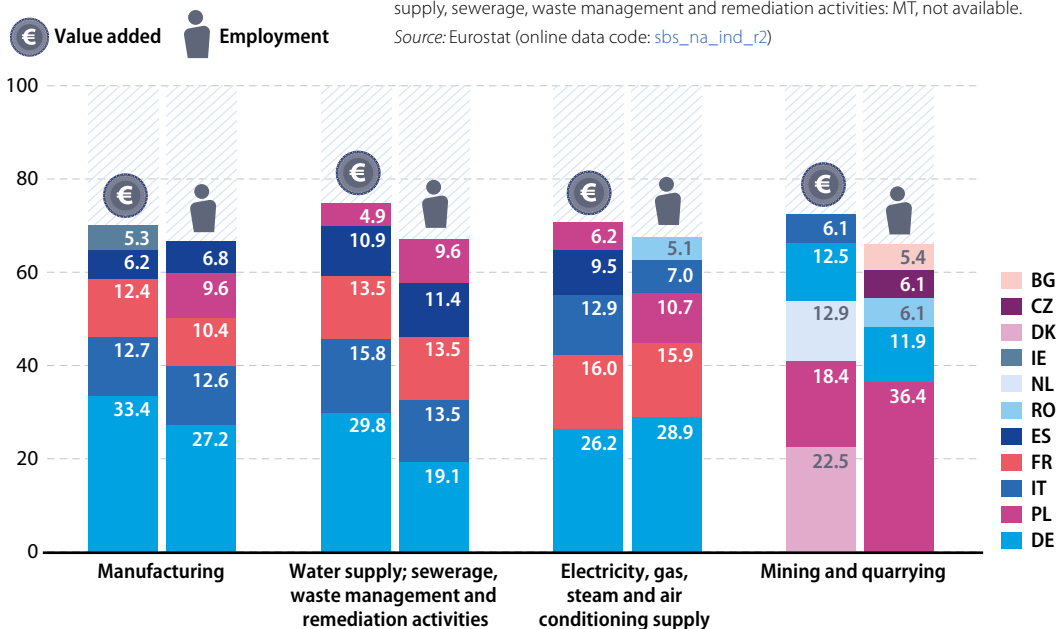
**EU-27 industry in 2018**  
**2.3 million enterprises**  
**33.1 million persons employed**  
**EUR 2.3 trillion value added**

In 2018, Germany had the highest share of EU-27 value added for the manufacturing sector (33.4 %), for water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (29.8 %) and for electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply (26.2 %). By contrast, Denmark contributed the largest share of value added to the EU-27's mining and quarrying sector (22.5 %).

Germany also recorded the highest shares of EU-27 employment for the same three industrial activities as noted above, with shares of 27.2 %, 19.1 % and 28.9 % respectively. Poland had the largest employment share within the EU-27's mining and quarrying sector, at 36.4 %.

Note: electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, IE and MT, not available. Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities: MT, not available.

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



## Value added specialisation — top five EU Member States

(% share of industrial value added, 2018)

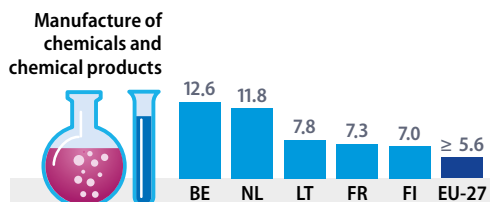
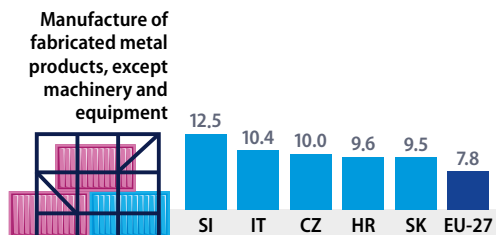
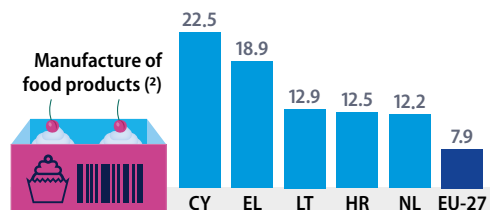
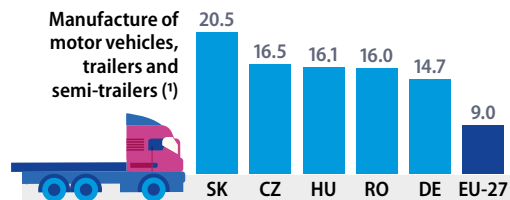
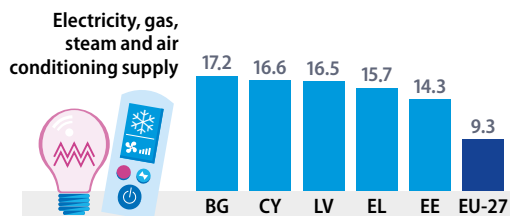
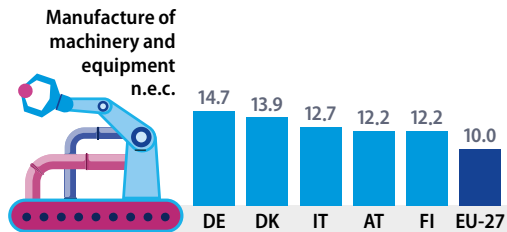
In 2018, measured by value added the six largest activities (based on NACE divisions) within the EU-27's industrial economy were: the manufacture of machinery and equipment not elsewhere classified (10.0 % of industrial value added); electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply (9.3 %); the manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers (9.0 %), the manufacture of food products (7.9 %), the manufacture of fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment (7.8 %); and the manufacture of chemicals and chemical products (at least 5.6 %; excluding the share for Ireland).

Among the EU Member States, Germany had the highest share of its industrial value added within the manufacture of machinery and equipment (14.7 %). For electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning, Bulgaria (17.2 %) had the highest proportion, while for the manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers, the highest share was recorded in Slovakia (20.5 %).

In Cyprus, the manufacture of food products accounted for 22.5 % of industrial value added in 2018. In Slovenia, the manufacture of fabricated metal products except machinery and equipment accounted for 12.5 % of industrial value added. Belgium had the highest degree of relative specialisation across the EU Member States for the manufacture of chemicals and chemical products, with 12.6 % of its industrial value added being generated in this subsector.

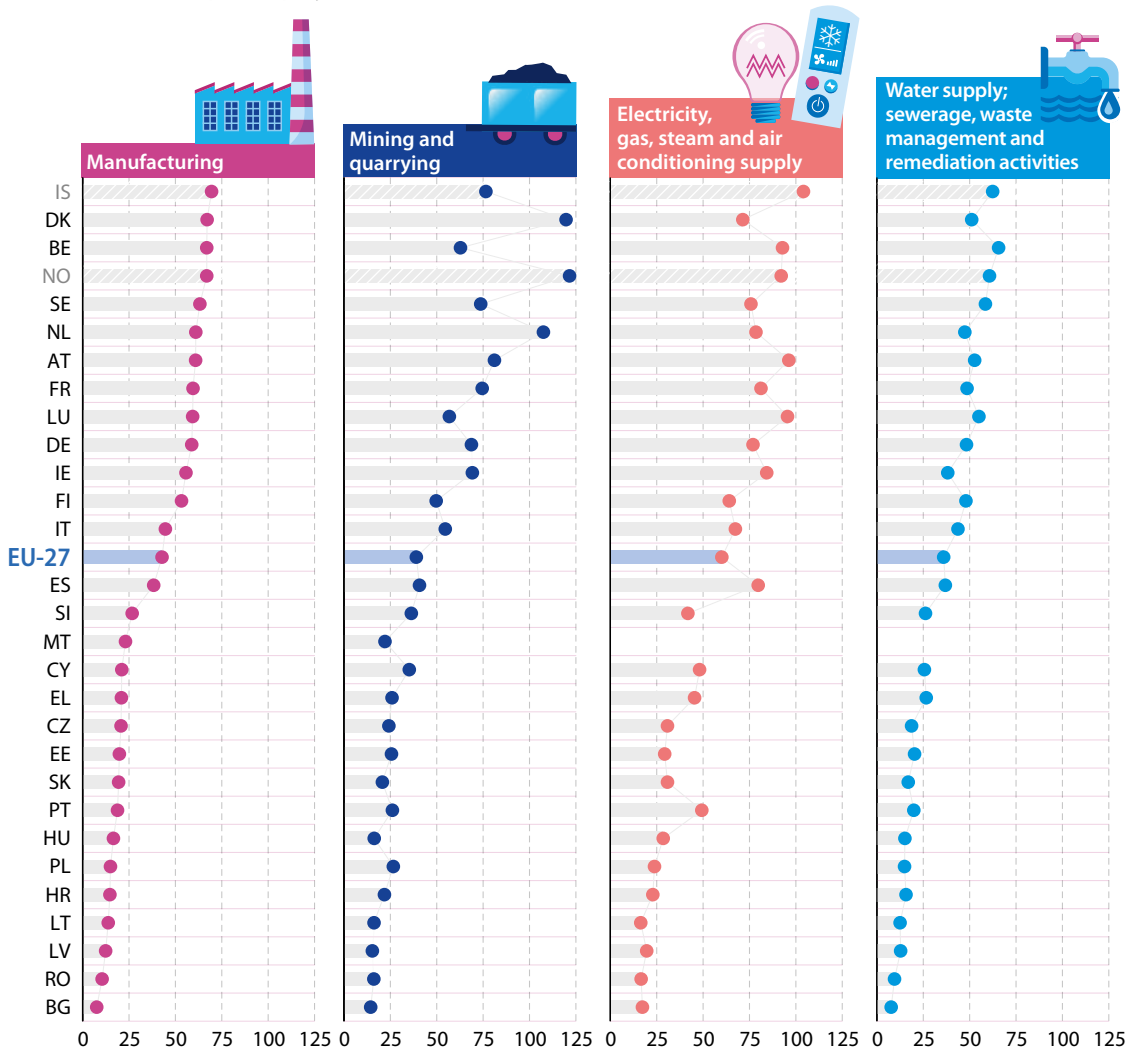
Note: data are shown for the six largest industries based on EU-27 value added for NACE Rev. 2 industrial divisions. IE and MT: not available. (1) LU: not available. (2) FR: not available.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sbs\_na\_1a\_se\_r2)



## Average personnel costs within industrial sections

(EUR thousand per employee, 2018)



In 2018, average personnel costs across the four sections within the EU-27's industrial economy ranged from a high of EUR 60.1 thousand per employee for electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply down to EUR 36.0 thousand per employee for water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities.

In the vast majority of EU Member States, the highest average personnel costs

across industrial activities were registered for electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply. The only exceptions in 2018 were Denmark, the Netherlands and Poland (incomplete data for Malta): in all three cases, average personnel costs were higher for mining and quarrying. By contrast, the lowest average personnel costs were often recorded for water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities.

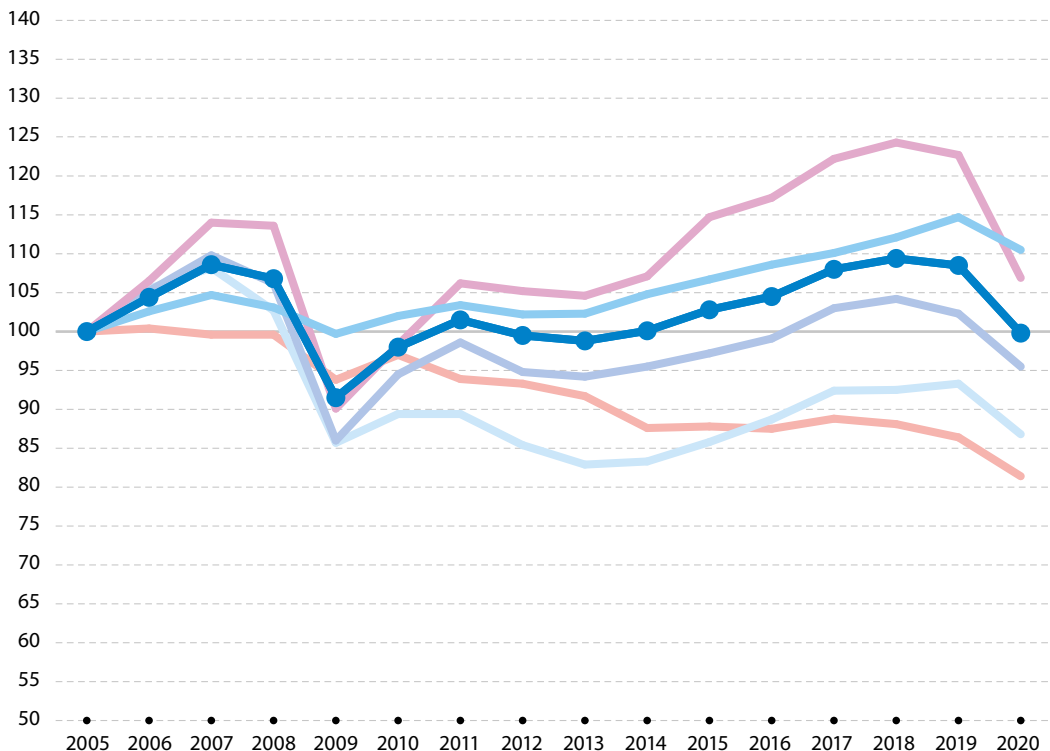
Note: ranked on average personnel costs for manufacturing. Mining and quarrying: CY, 2015. Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply: IE, 2016; CY, 2015; MT, not available. Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities: MT, not available. IS: 2017.

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

# Developments

## Industrial production index

(2005 = 100, EU-27, 2005-2020)



### Total

### Non-durable consumer goods

### Capital goods

### Intermediate goods

### Durable consumer goods

### Energy

Note: the index covers NACE Rev. 2 Sections B to D.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sts\_inpr\_a)

The industrial production index is an important indicator for monitoring the business cycle; it is a volume index that reflects real changes in industrial output.

Industrial output in the EU-27 contracted sharply in 2008 and 2009 as a result of the recession associated with the global financial and economic crisis. Output declined by 1.7 % in 2008 (compared with a year before) and by as much as 14.3 % in 2009; after two years of recovery there were also modest decreases in 2012 and 2013 before industrial output in the EU-27 resumed its upward trajectory. Having grown for five consecutive years, there was a 0.8 % decline for the EU-27's industrial production index in 2019, followed by a decline of 8.0 % in 2020 reflecting the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This most recent decline was driven by falling output for all types of manufacturing, most notably for capital goods (-12.9 % in 2020).

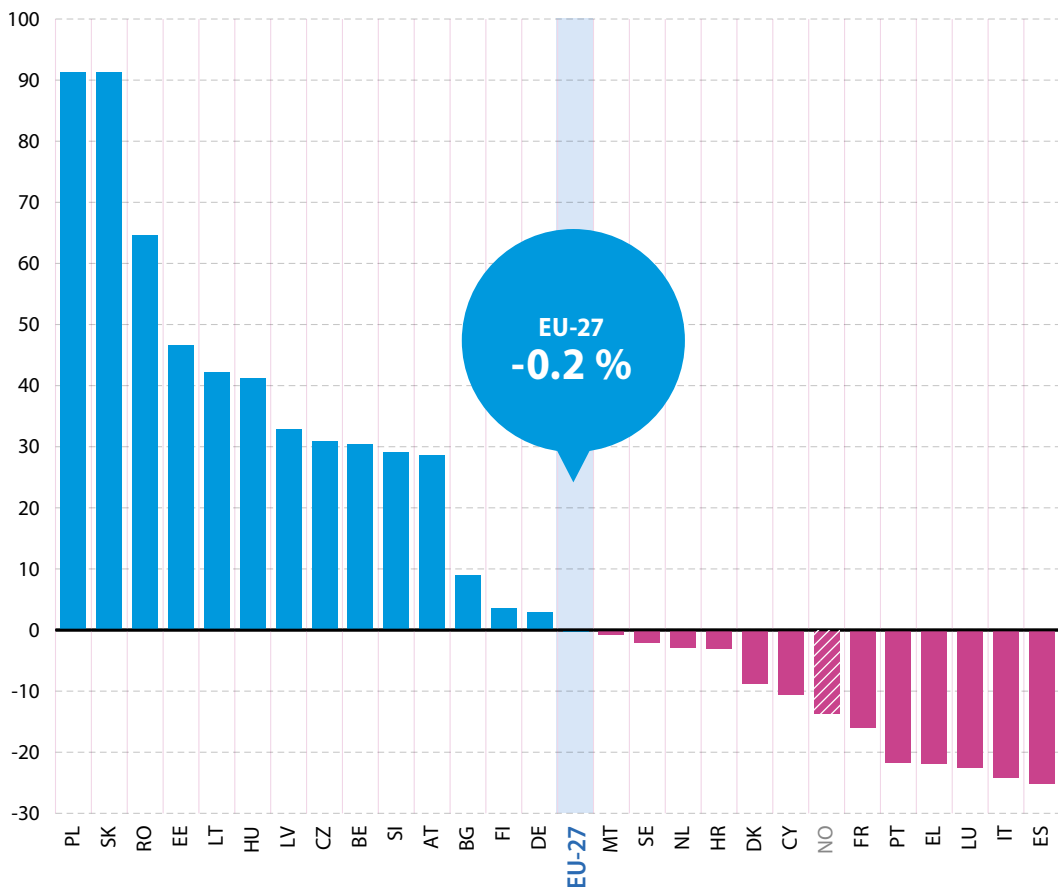
When considering the information shown in the figures on pages 28 and 29 it should be remembered that the period covered (2005-2020) includes the global financial and economic crisis and subsequent recovery. Furthermore, by ending in 2020, the overall rates of change reflect the combination of the long-term developments and the often substantial (downward) impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the results for 2020.

## Overall change in the industrial production index

(%, 2005-2020)

EU-27 industrial production was at a similar level in 2020 as in 2005, down just 0.2 % overall. The highest growth rates among the EU Member States during this period were recorded in Poland and Slovakia (both up 91.3 % overall), followed by Romania (up 64.6 %).

A total of 12 EU Member States recorded lower levels of industrial production in 2020 than in 2005. The largest contractions during this period were in Spain (-25.2 %), followed by Italy (-24.1 %), Luxembourg (-22.5 %), Greece (-21.9 %) and Portugal (-21.7 %).

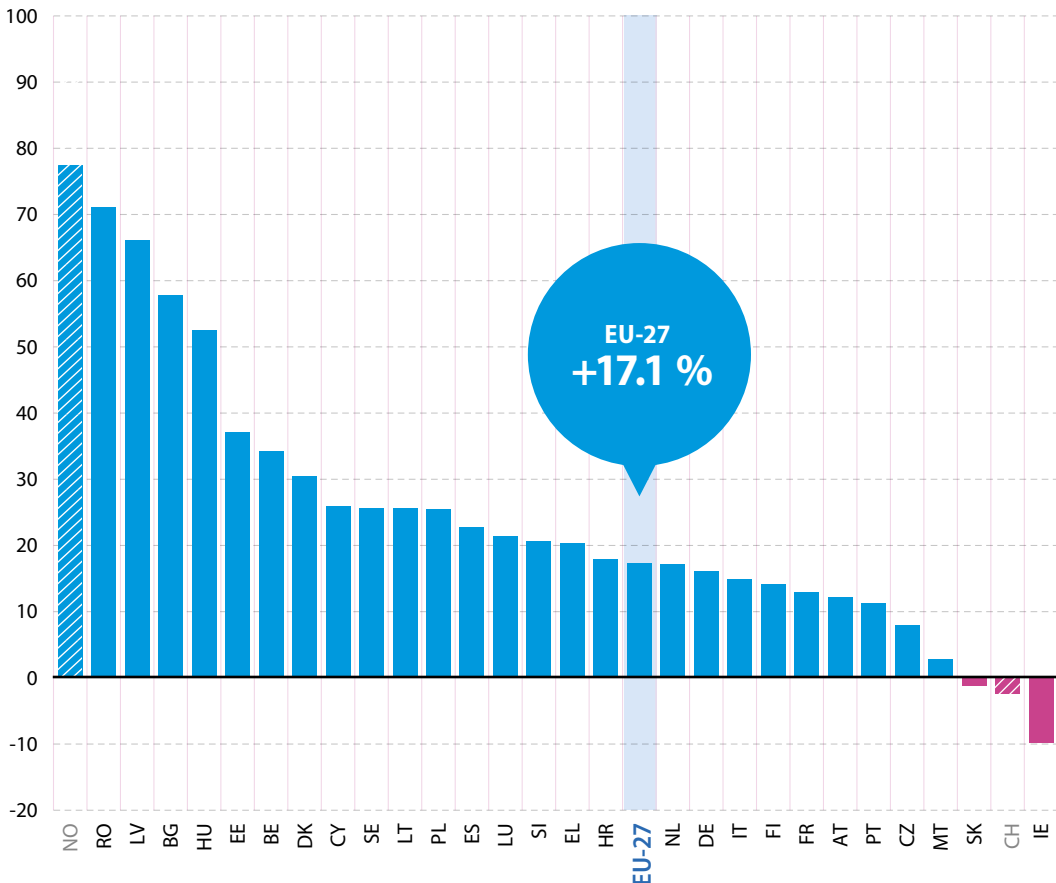


Note: the index covers NACE Rev. 2 Sections B to D. IE: not available.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sts\_inpr\_a)

## Overall change in industrial producer prices

(%, 2005-2020)



The industrial producer price index is based on selling prices reported by a sample of producers across the EU. This indicator is used to monitor price developments at different stages of industrial processes; changes in producer prices can be an early indicator of inflationary pressures within an economy.

Note: the index covers NACE Rev. 2 Sections B to D and NACE Rev. 2 Division 36.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sts\_inpp\_a)

Industrial producer prices in the EU-27 rose at a relatively subdued pace between 2005 and 2020. The overall change in prices during this period was an increase of 17.1 %. They increased in all but two of the EU Member States: the highest industrial producer price increases were recorded in Romania (up 70.9 % overall), Latvia (65.9 %) and Bulgaria (57.7 %). The two decreases were recorded in Slovakia (-1.4 %) and Ireland (- 10.1 %)

42.5 CH

# Focus on high-tech industry

## High-tech industries

(% share of manufacturing value added, 2018)

High-tech industries cover the manufacture of: pharmaceuticals; computer, electronic and optical products; air and spacecraft and related machinery. In 2018, these activities provided work to almost 2.0 million people in the EU-27, while they accounted for 14.1 % of manufacturing value added.

In 2018, high-tech industries accounted for 26.3 % of manufacturing value added in Denmark, while the next largest shares were recorded in Belgium (21.3 %), Malta (18.6 %)

and France (17.4 %). In a majority of the EU Member States less than 10.0 % of added value in manufacturing was derived from high-tech industries. The lowest shares — less than 5.0 % — were recorded in Lithuania, Portugal, Slovakia and Poland.

Note: NL and FI: 2017. DK and SK: 2016. IE, CY, LU and SE: not available.

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

26.3 DK

21.3 BE

18.6 MT

17.4 FR

15.0 HU

14.7 SI

14.1 EU-27

13.6 FI

10.2 DE

8.9 NL

8.5 NO

8.3 AT

8.1 HR, IT

7.8 ES

7.7 LV

6.6 EL

6.1 CZ

6.0 EE

5.8 BG

5.6 RO

4.8 PL

4.4 SK

4.3 PT, LT

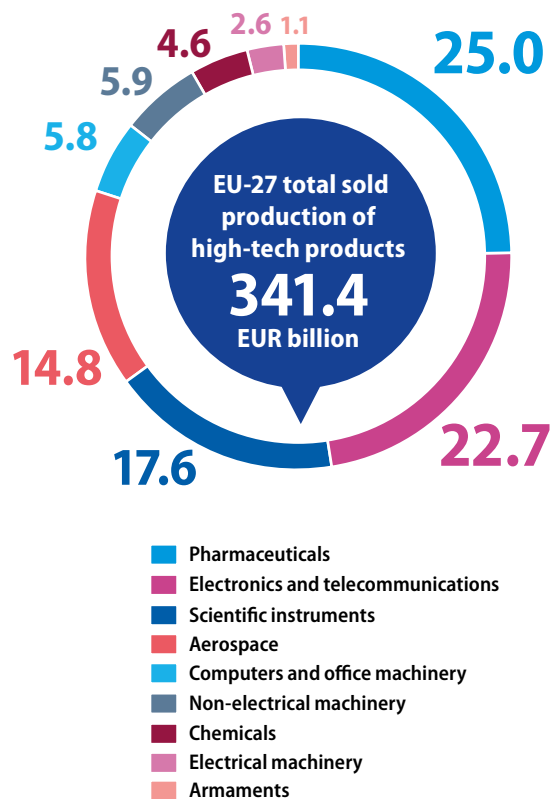
## High-tech products

(% share of total sold production of high-tech products, EU-27, 2019)

In 2019, 25 % the EU-27's sold production of high-tech products was made-up of pharmaceuticals, while electronics and telecommunications (22.7 %) also contributed a relatively high proportion. Scientific instruments (17.6 %) and aerospace (14.8 %) were the only other categories to record double-digit shares. At the other end of the range, armaments accounted for just 1.1 % of the sold production of high-tech products in the EU-27.

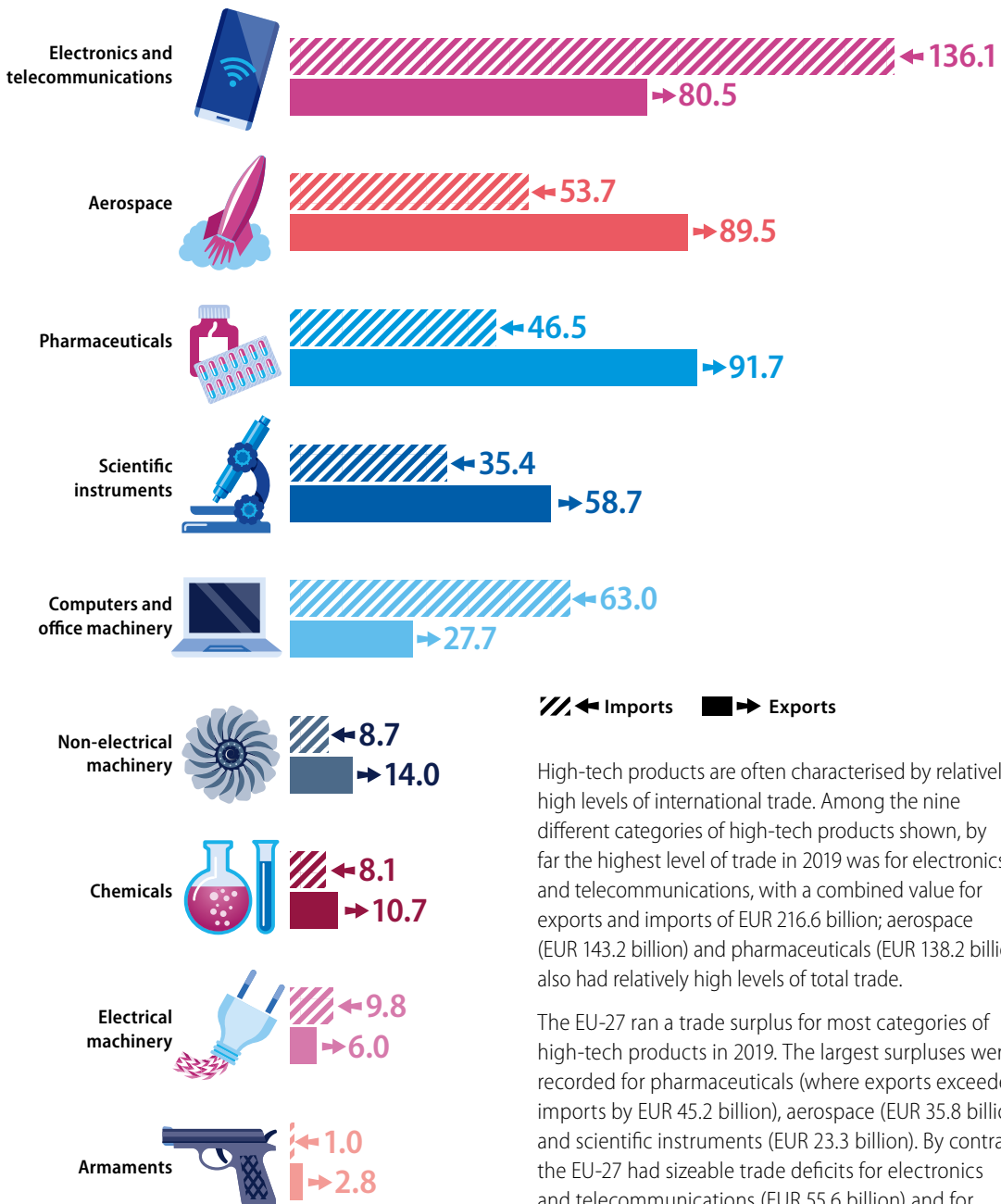
Note: based on information in value terms. High-tech products are defined according to their level of technological intensity based on R & D intensity (R & D expenditure / total sales) on the basis of the standard international trade classification (SITC).

Source: Eurostat (online data code: DS-066341)



## Trade in high-tech products

(EUR billion, EU-27, 2019)



High-tech products are often characterised by relatively high levels of international trade. Among the nine different categories of high-tech products shown, by far the highest level of trade in 2019 was for electronics and telecommunications, with a combined value for exports and imports of EUR 216.6 billion; aerospace (EUR 143.2 billion) and pharmaceuticals (EUR 138.2 billion) also had relatively high levels of total trade.

The EU-27 ran a trade surplus for most categories of high-tech products in 2019. The largest surpluses were recorded for pharmaceuticals (where exports exceeded imports by EUR 45.2 billion), aerospace (EUR 35.8 billion) and scientific instruments (EUR 23.3 billion). By contrast, the EU-27 had sizeable trade deficits for electronics and telecommunications (EUR 55.6 billion) and for computers and office machinery (EUR 35.3 billion).

Source: Eurostat (online data code: DS-018995)

Note: ranked on total trade (imports + exports). High-tech products are defined according to their level of technological intensity based on R & D intensity (R & D expenditure / total sales) on the basis of the standard international trade classification (SITC).

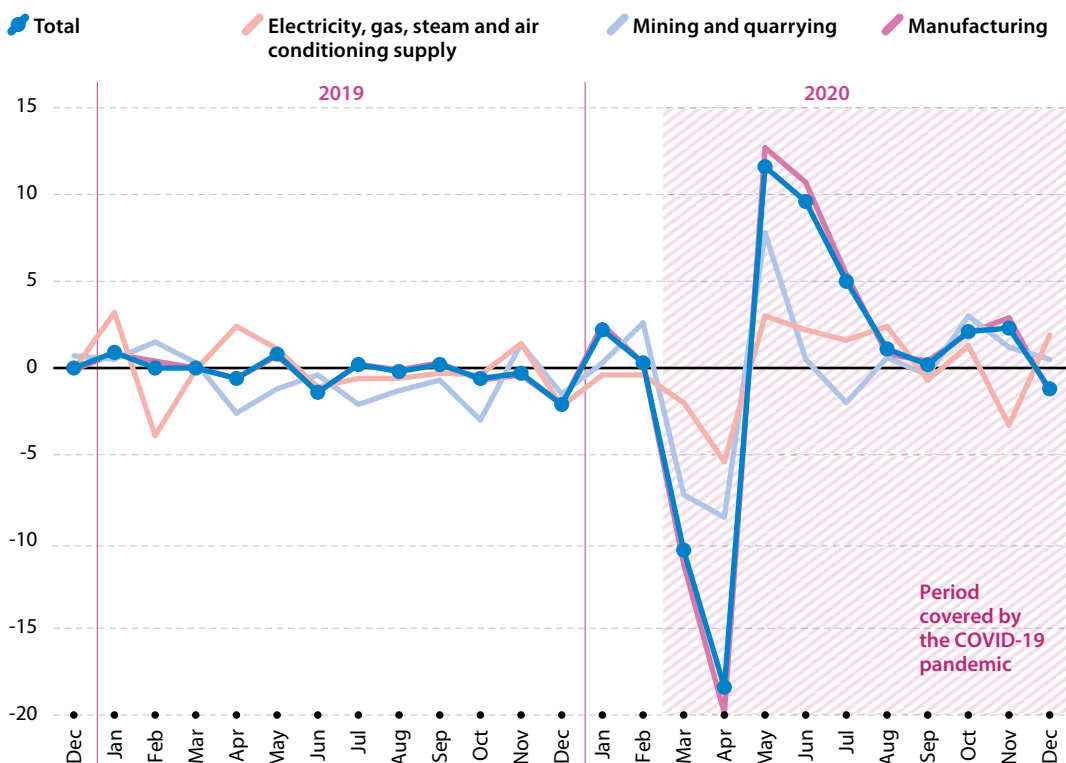
# Impact of COVID-19 pandemic



During the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic in spring 2020, virtually all EU Member States implemented containment measures. For industry, these often included restrictions linked to social distancing requirements on the operation of factories.

## Industrial production indices

(% change compared with the previous month, EU-27, December 2018-December 2020)

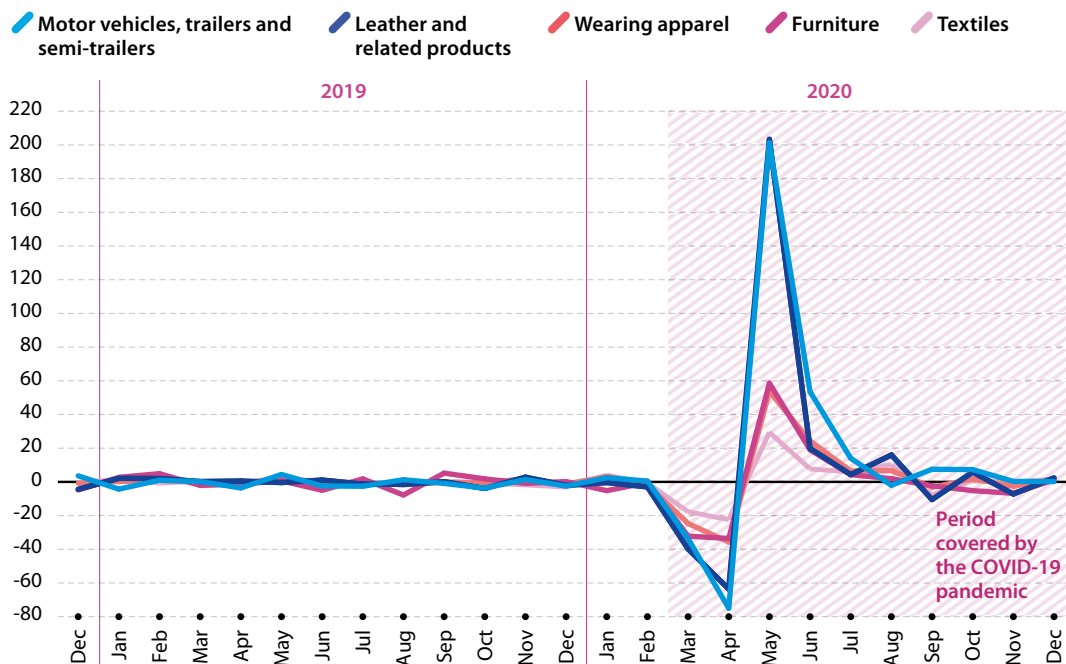


The largest month-on-month decreases in EU-27 industrial output during the first wave of the pandemic were registered in March 2020 (down 10.5 %) and April 2020 (down 18.4 %). These decreases were followed by a rebound in activity, with output increasing in May 2020 (up 11.6 %) and June 2020 (up 9.6 %), while there were smaller monthly increases through to November 2020, followed by a small fall in December 2020 (down 1.2 %).

Note: the total covers mining and quarrying (NACE Rev. 2 Section B), manufacturing (Section C), and electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply (Section D).  
Source: Eurostat (online data code: sts\_inpr\_m)

## Industrial production indices for the five manufacturing divisions most impacted during the COVID-19 pandemic

(% change compared with the previous month, EU-27, December 2018-December 2020)



Across the EU-27, the industrial activities that suffered the largest impacts during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in March and April 2020 included the manufacture of: motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers; leather; wearing apparel; furniture; and textiles. However, output for these activities rebounded strongly in May and June 2020. Comparing the production index level for December 2020 with that of February 2020, summarises the impact of: the large falls in March and April; strong growth in May and June; and subsequent less volatile developments. Output in December 2020 was between 79 % and 98 % of its pre-crisis level in four of the five activities in the figure, while for the manufacture of furniture it was 103 % (therefore, 3 % higher).

The impact of short-term developments on the whole of the EU-27's business economy depends not only on the developments for each detailed activity, but also on their relative weight. For example, the manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers was one of the largest manufacturing activities (3.1 % of EU-27's non-financial business economy value added in 2018). By contrast, the manufacture of leather and related products accounted for just 0.2 % of the total. As such, although these two activities recorded broadly similar developments at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the overall impact of the decline (and subsequent rebound) in output for motor vehicle manufacturing was considerably greater, given it was 13.4 times as large — in value added terms — as leather manufacturing.

Note: the five manufacturing divisions most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic were selected on the basis of the change in EU-27 production indices between February and April 2020.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: sts\_inpr\_m and sbs\_na\_sca\_r2)

**For more and updated information on industrial activities during the pandemic, please refer to:**





# 4

## Construction



# Structure

The construction section covers construction of buildings, civil engineering and specialised construction activities. Across the EU-27, by far the largest of these three divisions was specialised construction activities: in 2018, these activities accounted for nearly three fifths (59.0 %) of construction value added and for an even higher share of construction employment (62.9 %).

## Concentration of construction activity — top five EU Member States

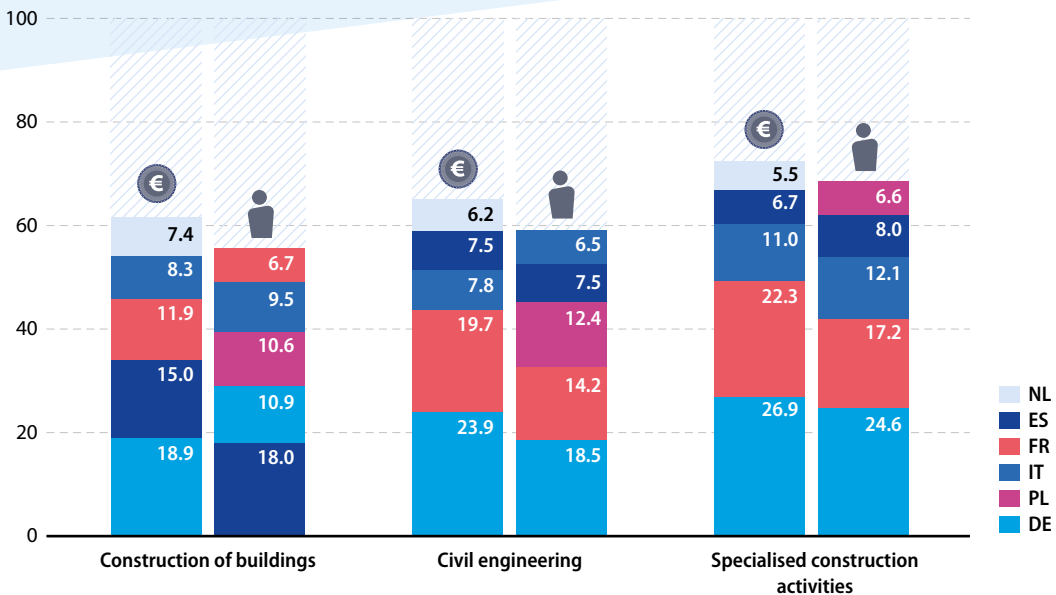
(% share of EU-27 employment and value added for each activity, 2018)

EU-27 construction sector in 2018  
**3.3 million** enterprises  
**12.1 million** persons employed  
**EUR 506.9 billion** value added

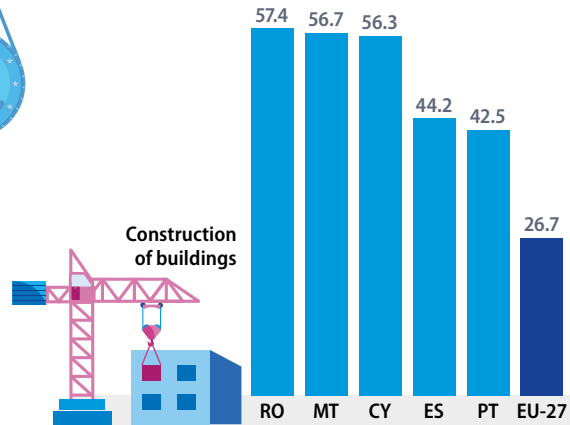
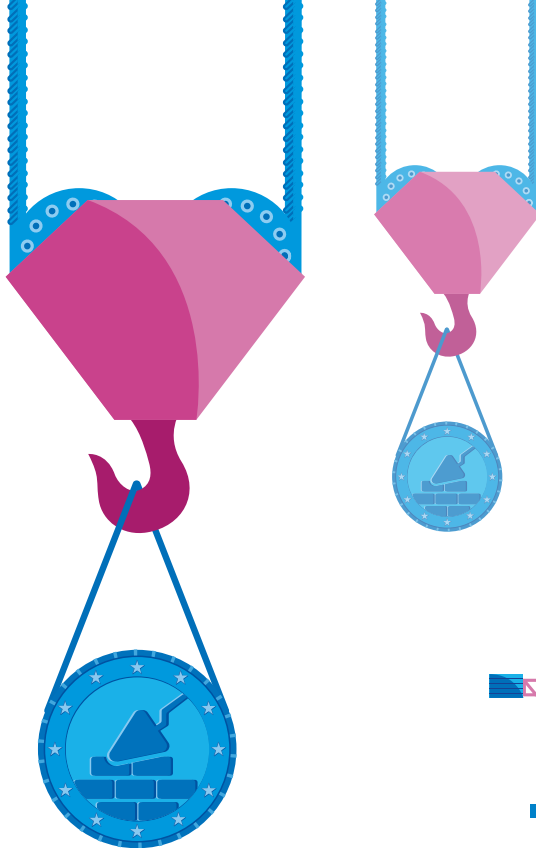
In all three of the construction divisions, the five largest EU Member States in value added terms were Germany, France, Italy, Spain and the Netherlands. In 2018, Germany had the largest value added for all three divisions; France had the second largest value added for civil engineering and specialised construction activities, whereas Spain had the second largest value added for the construction of buildings.

In terms of employment, the five largest EU Member States in all three construction divisions were Germany, France, Italy, Spain and Poland. While Germany and France were the largest employers for civil engineering and for specialised construction activities, Spain had the largest workforce for the construction of buildings.

€ Value added    Person icon Employment



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

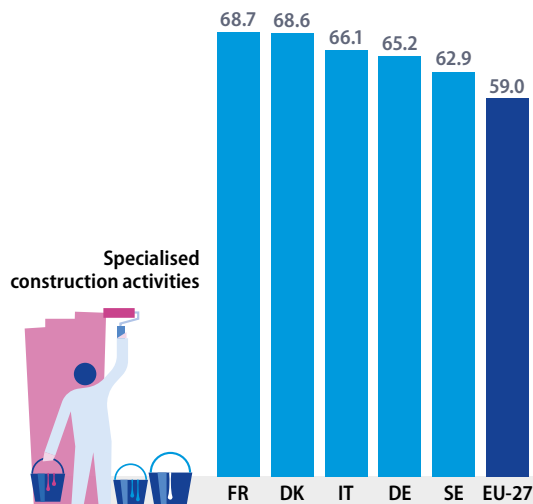
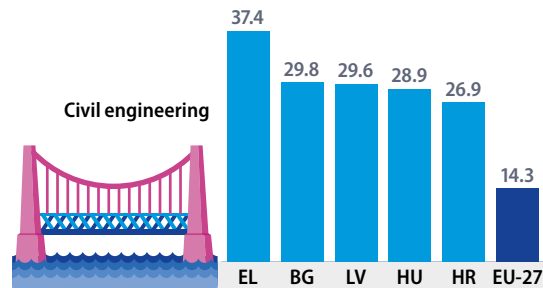


### Value added specialisation — top five EU Member States

(% share of construction value added, 2018)

Although a lot of construction is done by enterprises serving a relatively small geographical market, with little international trade compared with many industrial activities, there are nevertheless quite large specialisations in the three construction divisions.

In 2018, over half of construction value added in Romania, Malta and Cyprus resulted from the construction of buildings, more than double the average for the EU-27 (26.7 %). In Greece, civil engineering contributed more than a third of the construction total and in Bulgaria, Latvia and Hungary the share was just under 30 %, also more than double the average for the EU-27 (14.3 %). It was commonplace for specialised construction activities to account for more than half of construction value added, the EU-27 average was 59.0 %; this share rose to around two thirds in Germany, Italy, Denmark and France.



Note: data are shown for the three NACE Rev. 2 construction divisions.

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

### Average personnel costs within construction divisions

(EUR thousand per employee, 2018)

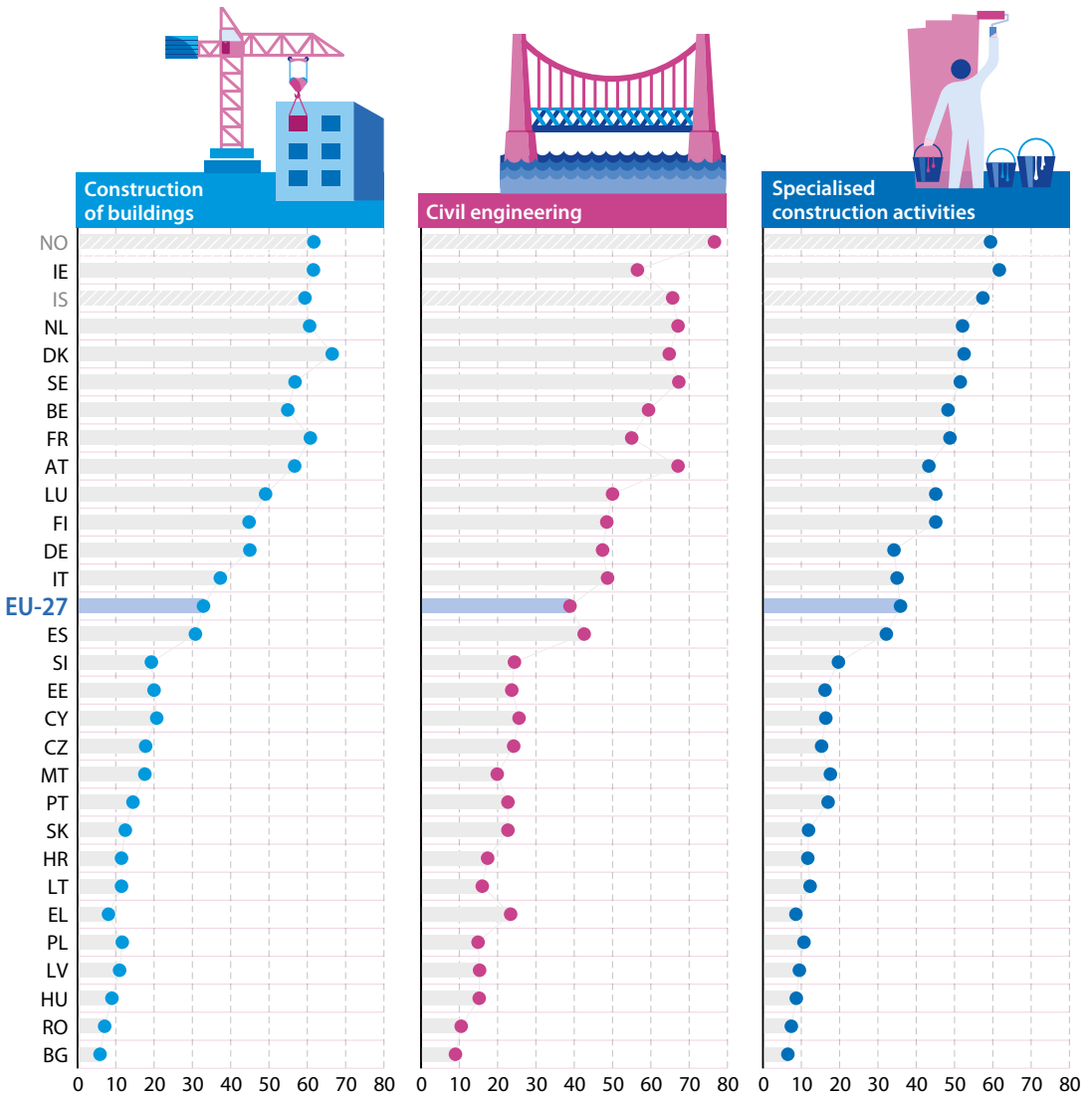
In 2018, average personnel costs across the three divisions of the EU-27's construction sector ranged from a high of EUR 38.9 thousand per employee for civil engineering down to EUR 32.9 thousand per employee for the construction of buildings.

In the EU-27, average personnel costs were lower for the construction of buildings than for the other two construction divisions. However, this situation was only observed in nine EU Member States. In a majority of Member States, the lowest average personnel costs

were recorded for specialised construction activities (which dominate the construction sector in the largest Member States). In Ireland the lowest average personnel costs were for civil engineering, while in Malta, the joint lowest average personnel costs were recorded for specialised construction activities and the construction of buildings.

Note: ranked on average personnel costs for all construction activities.

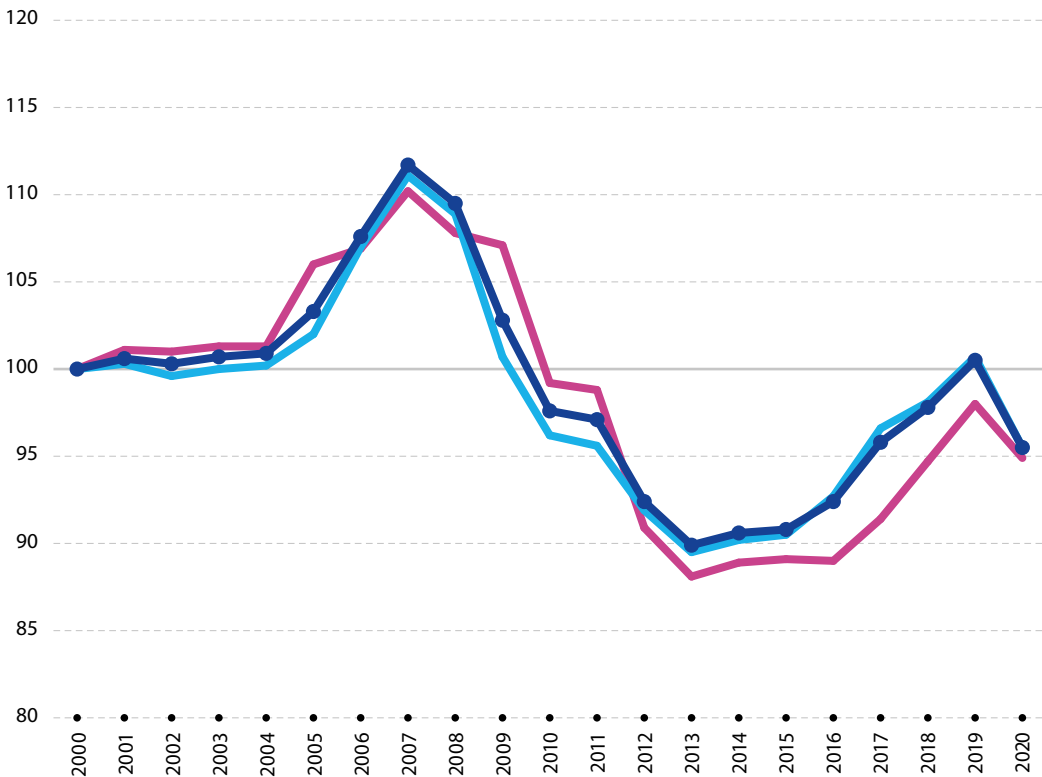
Source: Eurostat (online data code: [sbs\\_na\\_dt\\_r2](#))



# Developments

## Construction production index

(2000 = 100, EU-27, 2000-2020)



### Construction — total

### Building

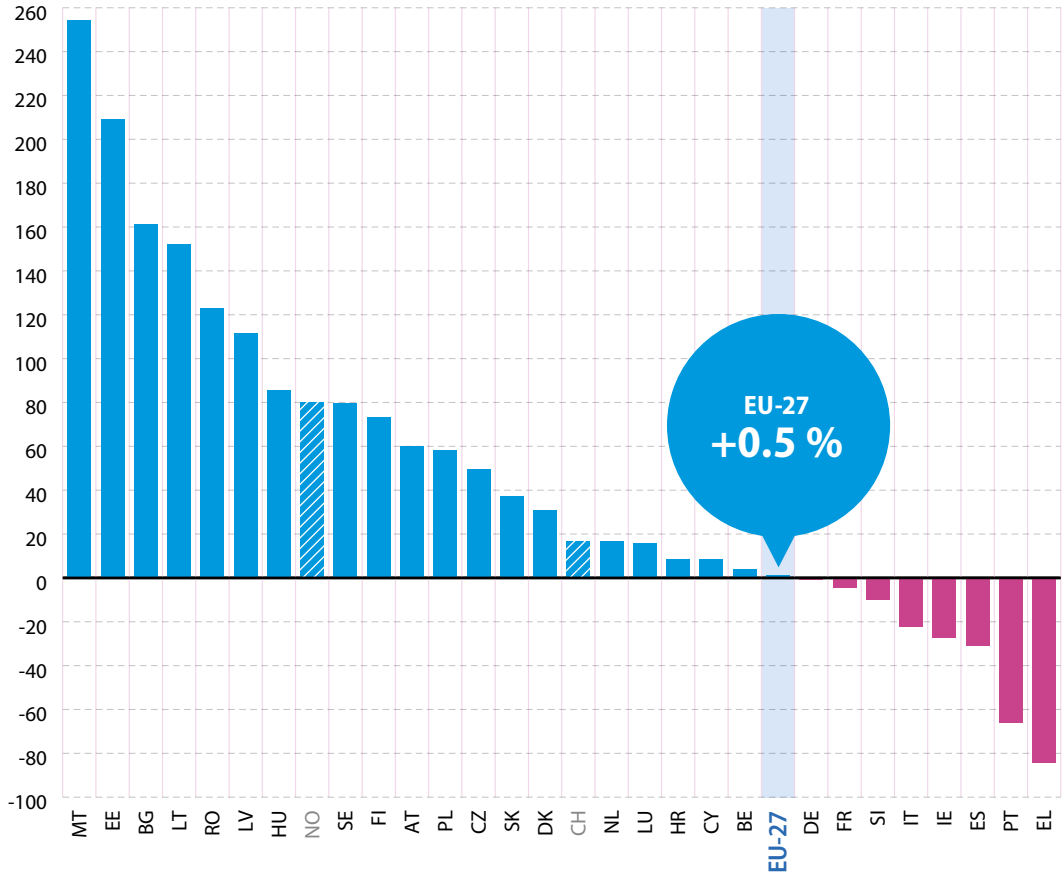
### Civil engineering

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sts\_copr\_a)

The construction production index reflects real terms (deflated) output developments for the construction activity. Construction output in the EU-27 was relatively stable between 2000 and 2004, followed by a period of expansion up until 2007. In 2008, the impact of the global financial and economic crisis was felt; there was a decline in output recorded each year from 2008 to 2013. Despite some recovery thereafter, construction output was still around 10 % lower in 2019 than it had been in 2007. In 2020, output fell by 5.0 % reflecting the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This was comparable in percentage terms with the falls recorded in 2009, 2010 and 2012. The developments for building and civil engineering were quite similar, peaking in 2007, reaching a low point in 2013 and recovering only partially before turning down again 2020. In 2020, building and civil engineering output were both 14 % below their 2007 peaks.

## Overall change in the construction production index

(%, 2000-2019)



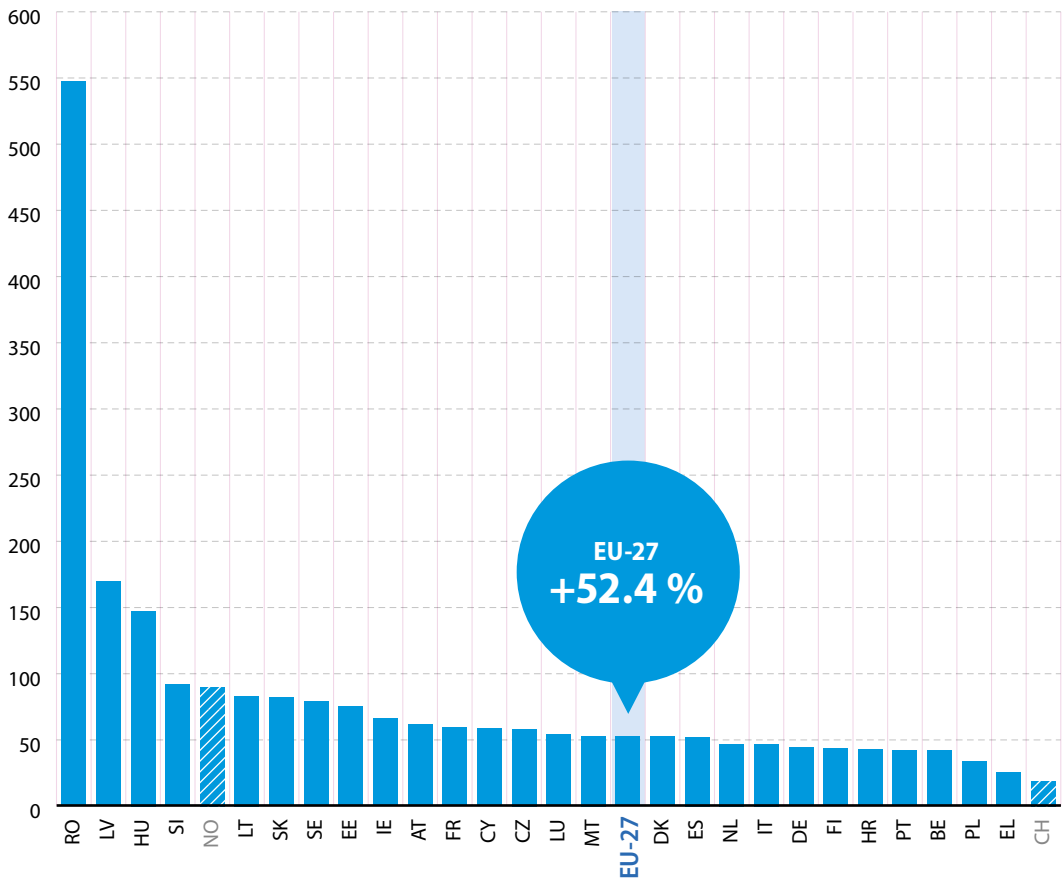
Developments in construction output between 2000 and 2019 varied greatly between the EU Member States. Greece's construction output in 2019 was 84 % below its 2000 level, while there were also considerable contractions recorded in Portugal (-66 %), Spain (-31 %), Ireland (-27 %) and Italy (-22 %). At the other end of the scale, construction output in Latvia, Romania, Lithuania and Bulgaria more than doubled between 2000 and 2019, while in Estonia and Malta it more than tripled.

Note: SE, 2000-2018.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sts\_copr\_a)

## Overall change in construction costs for new residential buildings

(%, 2000-2019)



The costs index is available for the construction of new residential buildings (excluding residences for communities). Between 2000 and 2019, construction costs for this type of building work increased 52 % within the EU-27. Cost increases were particularly large in Romania, where they were more than six times as high in 2019 as they had been in 2000 (up 547 %); costs more than doubled in Latvia (up 170 %) and Hungary (up 147 %). The lowest increases for construction costs of new residential buildings were observed in Greece (up 26 %) and Poland (up 34 %).

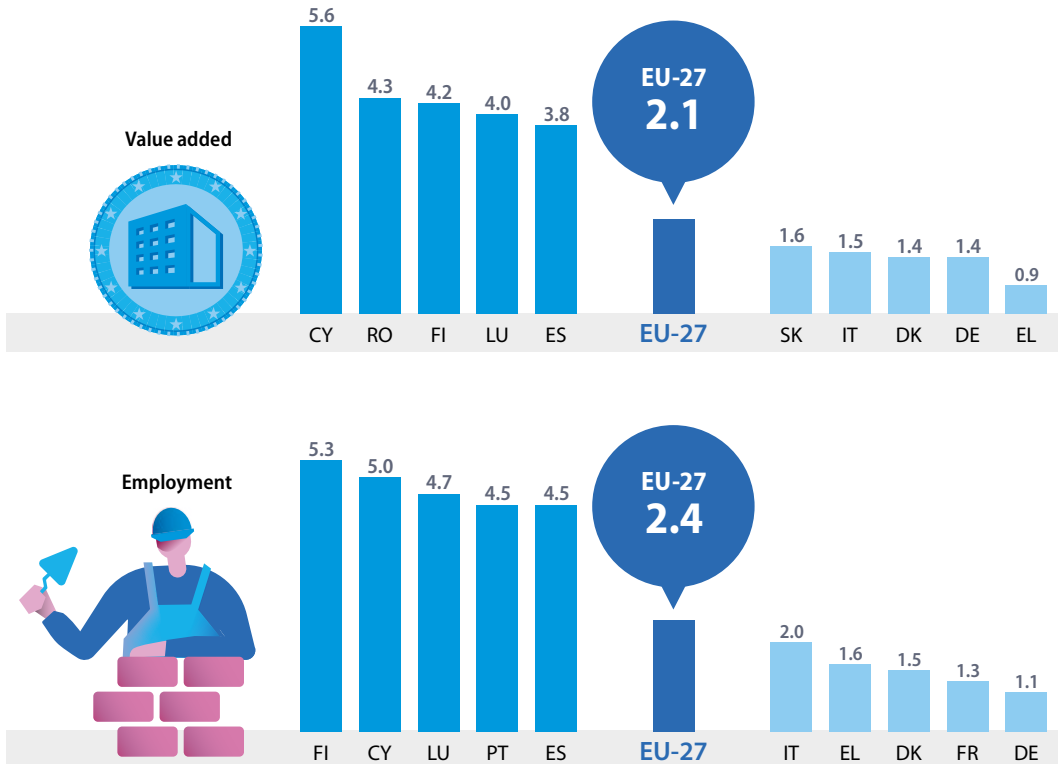
Note: the construction costs index for new residential buildings excludes residences for communities. Data for BG not available for the whole time series

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sts\_copi\_a)

# Focus on buildings

## Construction of buildings — top five and bottom five EU Member States

(% share of value added and the number of persons employed in the non-financial business economy, 2018)



The construction of buildings contributed 2.1 % of value added in the EU-27's non-financial business economy in 2018 and employed 2.4 % of the workforce. This activity accounted for more than double this value added share in Cyprus, Romania and Finland and more than double the employment share in Finland and Cyprus. These relatively high shares reflect a number of factors driving demand (such as overall population growth and tourism-related construction activity), as well as characteristics of the organisation of the construction sector between builders and specialists.

Note: the construction of buildings covers NACE Rev. 2 Division 41.

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

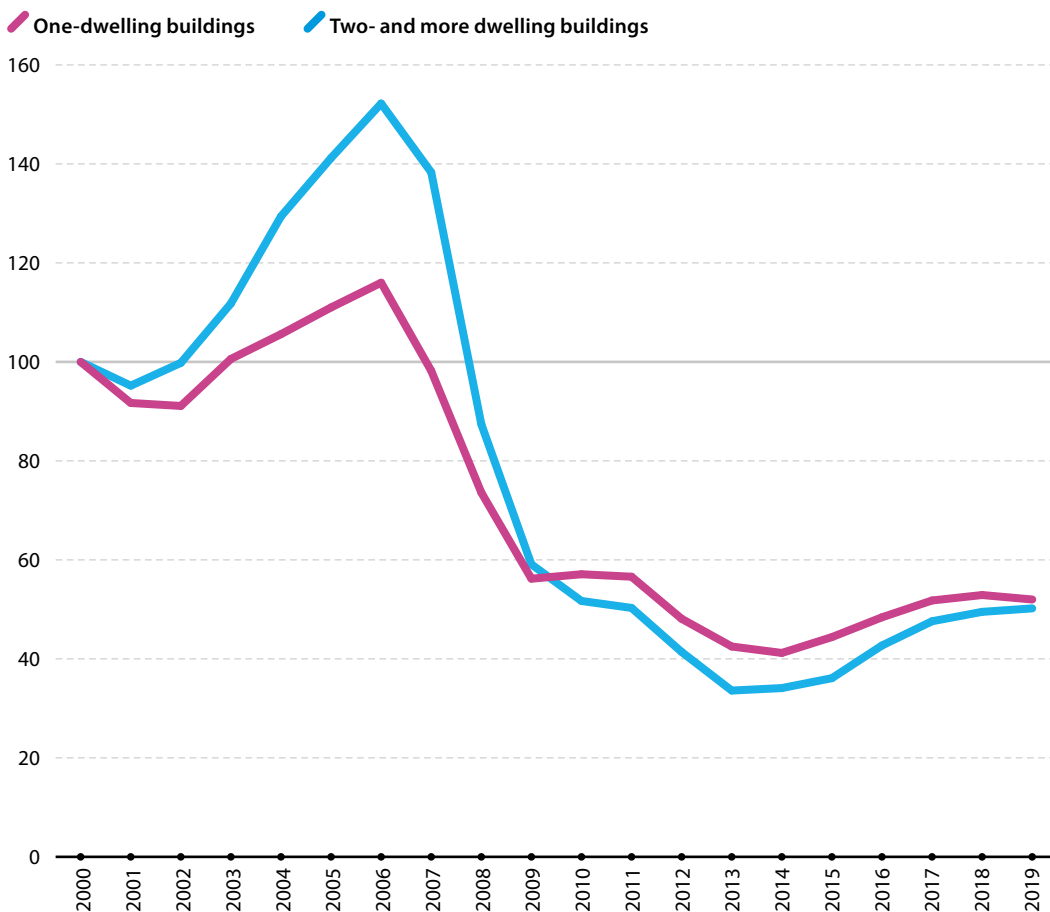
## Building permit index

(2000 = 100, EU-27, 2000-2019)

The index of building permits reflects the number of permits granted and therefore provides a measure of expected building activities in the near future. The index is available for two types of buildings: one-dwelling residential buildings and residential buildings with two or more dwellings (but not residential buildings for communities). Across the EU-27, permits for both types of dwellings fell strongly from peaks in 2006 to relative lows in 2013 (for residential buildings with two or more dwellings) and 2014 (for one-dwelling residential buildings). Despite some recovery thereafter, the index for one-dwelling residential buildings in 2019 was less than half its 2006 peak level while the index for residential buildings with two or more dwellings was less than one third its 2006 peak level.

Note: a building permit is an authorisation to start work on a building project; the index is based on the number of dwellings for which a permit has been granted.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sts\_copr\_a)





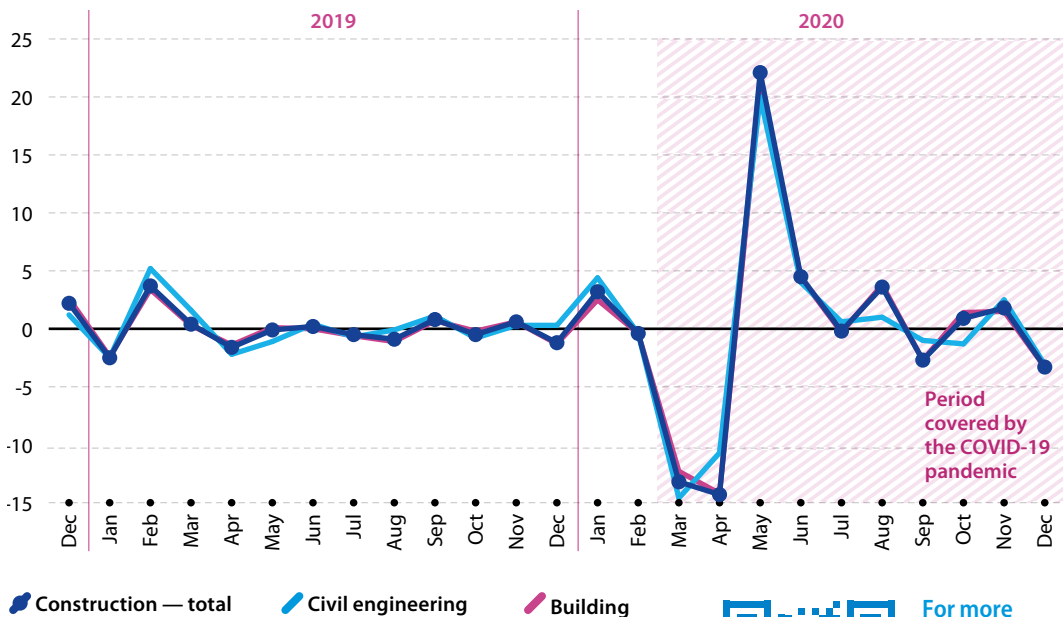
# Impact of COVID-19 pandemic

During the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, almost all EU Member States implemented containment measures. Some parts of construction were hit directly by these restrictions (as well as indirectly by falling demand). Most EU Member States lifted restrictions on outdoor construction activities in late spring / early summer 2020.



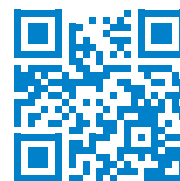
## Construction production indices

(% change compared with the previous month, EU-27, December 2018-December 2020)



■ Construction — total
 ■ Civil engineering
 ■ Building

The impact of the first wave of the pandemic and its accompanying restrictions can be seen by studying the change in the level of output in early 2020: construction output across the EU-27 in April 2020 was 26 % lower than in February 2020. The fall in EU-27 construction output during the first wave of the pandemic was followed by a rapid — but as yet incomplete — rebound with construction sites among some of the first workplaces to reopen as lockdowns were eased. Output growth of 32 % between April and August 2020 brought the level of construction output in August 2020 back to 98 % of its February 2020 level; an uneven development in the final months of the year left output in December 2020 around 95 % of its February 2020 level. To give some context to the relative importance of these figures, construction accounted for 7.7 % of value added in the EU-27's non-financial business economy in 2018.



[For more and updated information on construction during the pandemic](#)

[For a graphical visualisation of time series for key indicators](#)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: sts\_copr\_m)

# 5

## Distributive trades



# Structure

Distributive trades cover motor trade (including maintenance and repair), wholesale and retail trades. Wholesale trade was the largest of these three divisions in value added terms, with 50.2 % of the distributive trades total in 2018 compared with 37.9 % for retail trade. In employment terms, the situation was reversed, with retail trade contributing 55.3 % compared with 32.7 % for wholesale trade.

EU-27 distributive trades in 2018

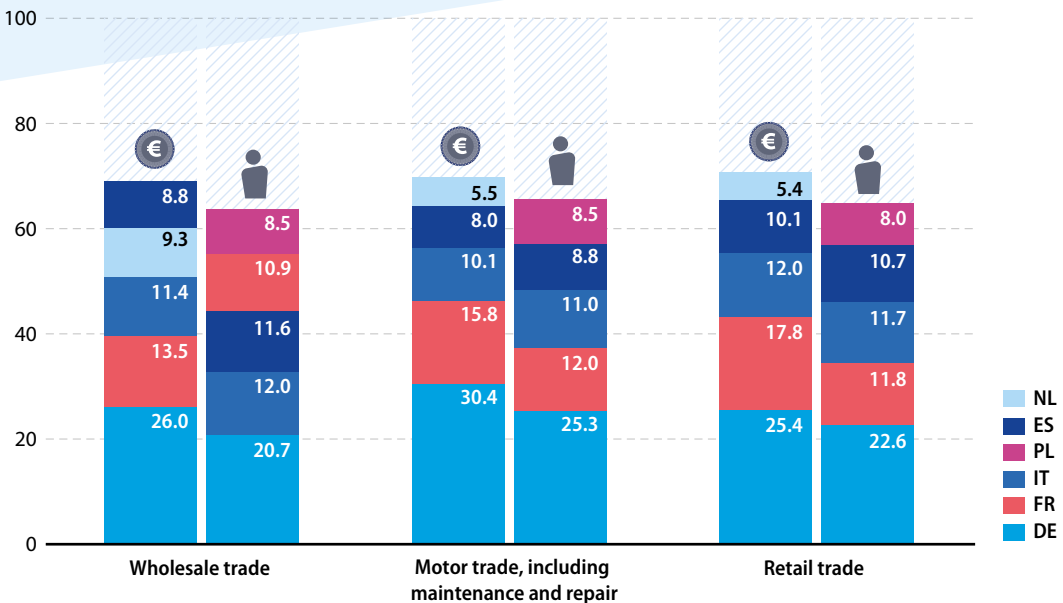
**5.8 million** enterprises  
**29.2 million** persons employed  
**EUR 1.2 trillion** value added

## Concentration of distributive trades activity — top five EU Member States

(% share of EU-27 employment and value added for each activity, 2018)

Germany had the largest share of EU-27 value added in all three distributive trades divisions in 2018, followed by France and Italy. For motor trade (including maintenance and repair) and for retail trade, Spain was the fourth largest followed by the Netherlands, while the order was reversed for wholesale trade. In employment terms, the main difference was that Poland was the fifth largest EU Member State (whereas the Netherlands was not in the top five). The shares were somewhat different for wholesale trade, as France's level of employment in this activity was smaller than those of Italy and of Spain.

€ Value added    Person Employment

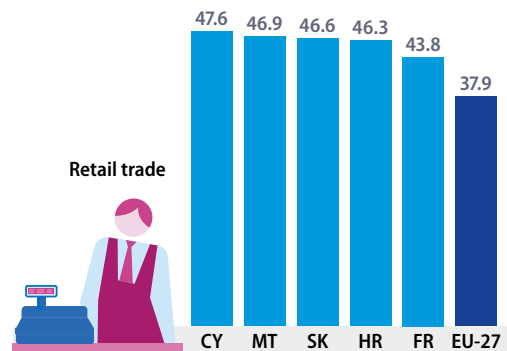
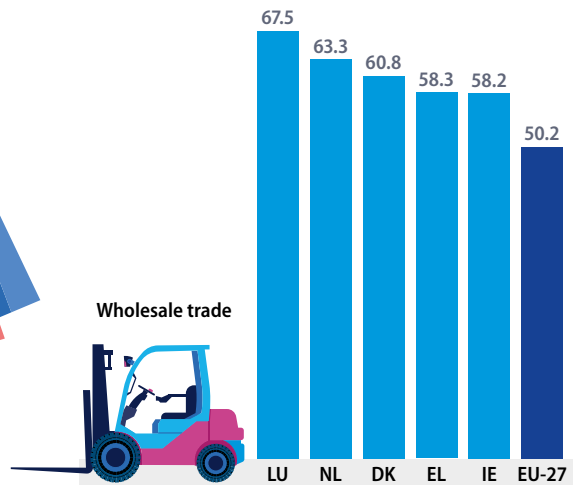
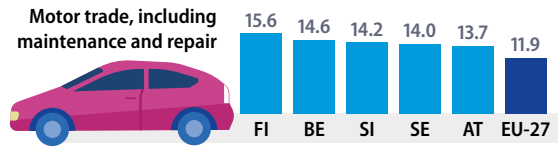


Source: Eurostat (online data code: sbs\_na\_dt\_r2)



## Value added specialisation — top five EU Member States

(% share of distributive trades value added, 2018)



Given the essential, local nature of many distributive trades activities, there tends to be less geographical specialisation than observed for many industrial or other service activities. For example, 15.6 % of distributive trades value added in Finland was recorded motor trades (including maintenance and repair), in 2018, more than in any other EU Member State, but this was not much more than the EU-27 average (11.9 %).

Luxembourg (67.5 %) and the Netherlands (63.3 %) were the top two EU Member States in terms of the wholesale trade contribution to distributive trades value added in 2018, underlying their specialisation in distribution, transport and logistics. Cyprus (47.6 %) and Malta (46.9 %) — two Member States that host large numbers of tourists each year — recorded the highest contributions of retail trade to the total value added of distributive trades, closely followed by Slovakia (46.6 %) and Croatia (46.3 %).

Note: data are shown for the three NACE Rev. 2 distributive trades divisions.

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

### Average personnel costs within distributive trades divisions

(EUR thousand per employee, 2018)

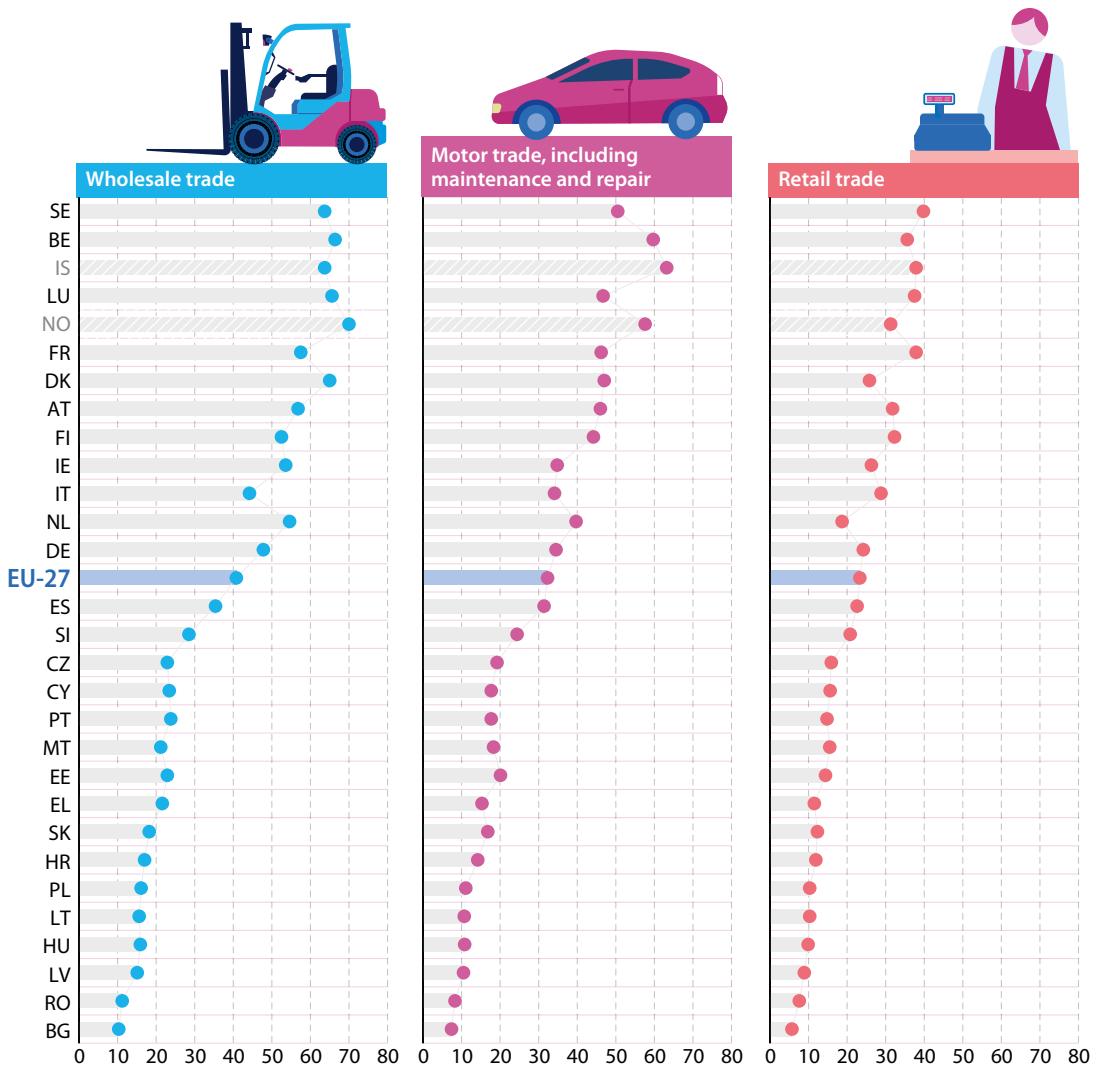
Typically, the lowest average personnel costs can often be observed in sectors with a high incidence of part-time and seasonal work, such as retail trade. Across the EU-27's distributive trades' sector, average personnel costs in 2018 ranged from a high of EUR 40.8 thousand per employee for wholesale trade down to a low of EUR 23.3 thousand per employee for retail trade.

In 2018, Belgium recorded the highest average personnel costs among EU Member States for motor trade (EUR 59.7 thousand per employee) and for

wholesale trade (EUR 66.4 thousand per employee). Sweden had the highest average personnel costs for retail trade (EUR 39.8 thousand per employee). At the other end of the scale, the lowest average personnel costs for all three distributive trades divisions were recorded in Bulgaria, Romania and Latvia.

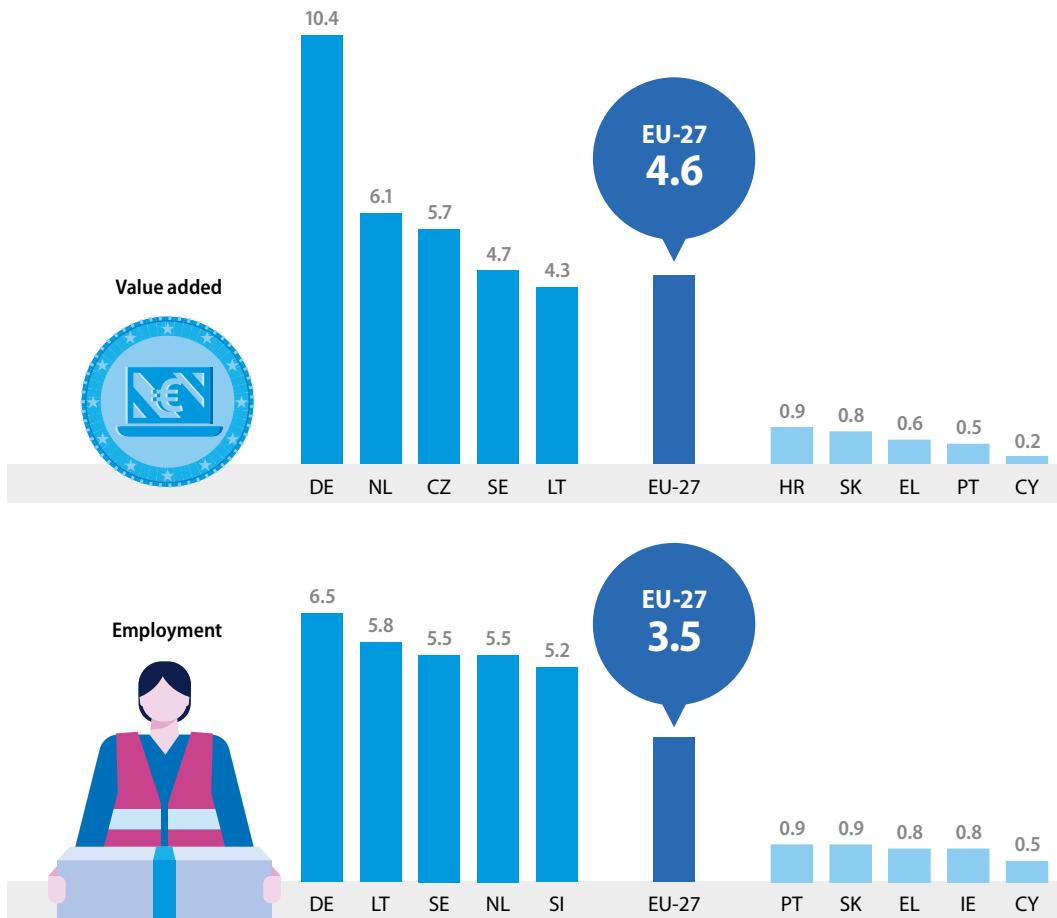
Note: ranked on average personnel costs for all distributive trades.

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



## Retail sale via mail order houses or via internet — top five and bottom five EU Member States

(% share of value added and the number of persons employed in retail trade, 2018)



Internet retailing has gained in significance over many years. In 2018, the subsector covering retail sale via mail order houses or via internet accounted for 4.6 % of retailing value added and 3.5 % of retailing employment within the EU-27. In value added terms, Germany and the Netherlands were the most specialised EU Member States in these forms of remote trading, while Cyprus and Portugal were the least specialised.

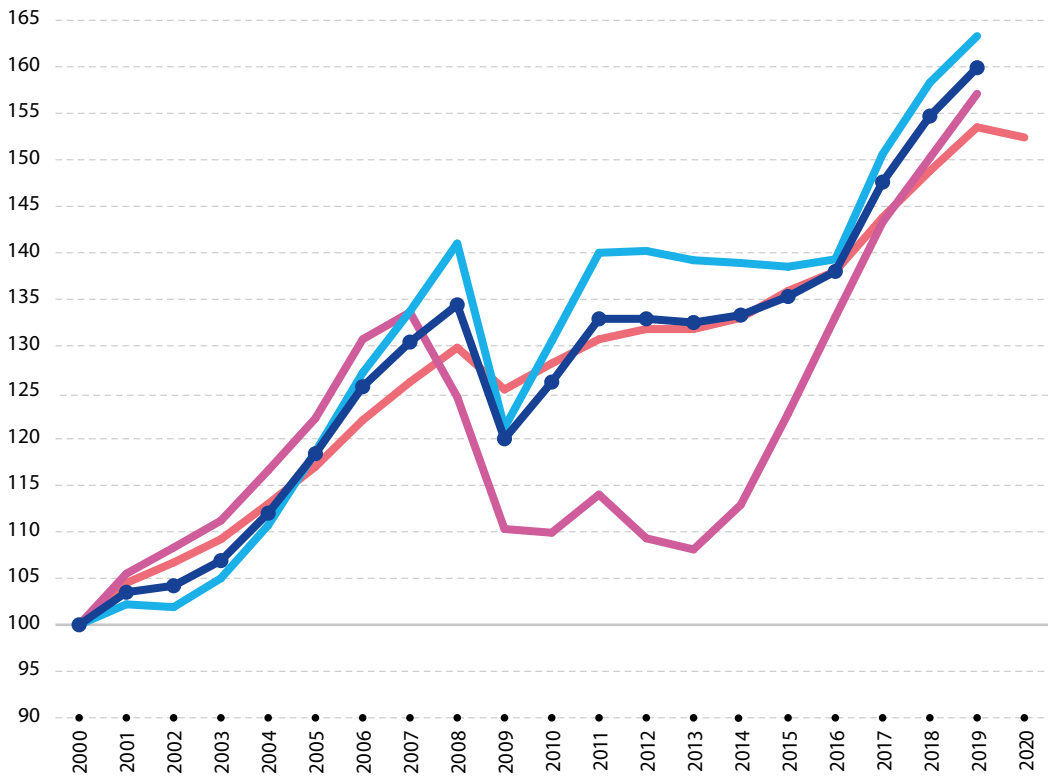
Note: retail trade covers NACE Rev. 2 Division 47 and retail sale via mail order houses or via internet covers NACE Rev. 2 Class 47.91. LU and MT: not available.

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

# Developments

## Distributive trades turnover index

(2000 = 100, EU-27, 2000-2020)



- **Distributive trades — total**
- **Wholesale trade**
- **Motor trade, including maintenance and repair**
- **Retail trade**

Note: based on turnover value indices. 2020, not available for distributive trades, wholesale trade and motor trade including maintenance and repair.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sts\_trtu\_a)

The turnover index illustrates the development of sales in current prices, in other words this index has not been adjusted to remove the effects of inflation. Between 2000 and 2019, the EU-27 turnover index for distributive trades increased overall by 60 %, equivalent to an average of 2.5 % per year.

In the years just before the global financial and economic crisis, the increase in the EU-27 distributive trades turnover index slowed, before a fall of 10.7 % was observed in 2009. Growth returned quite strongly in 2010 and 2011 but was then rather subdued for several years (including a slight fall in turnover in 2013). Stronger growth was again observed from 2017-2019.

In turnover terms, the fastest growing distributive trades activity in the EU-27 was wholesale trade; its turnover was 63 % higher in 2019 than it had been in 2000, an annual average increase of 2.6 %. Increases in turnover for the motor and retail trades were slightly more subdued, up 57 % and 54 % overall between 2000 and 2019.

## Overall change in the distributive trades turnover index

(%, 2000-2019)

Developments in distributive trades turnover between 2000 and 2019 varied enormously between the EU Member States, reflecting differences in inflation as well as underlying real changes. During this period, only six Member States recorded a lower overall change than was observed for the EU-27 as a whole (up 60 %); among these were three of the largest, namely Spain, Germany and Italy. The largest overall increases in distributive trades turnover were recorded in Romania (up 981 %), Latvia (398 %), Luxembourg (389 %), Lithuania (388 %) and Bulgaria (383 %).

EU-27  
+ 60 %

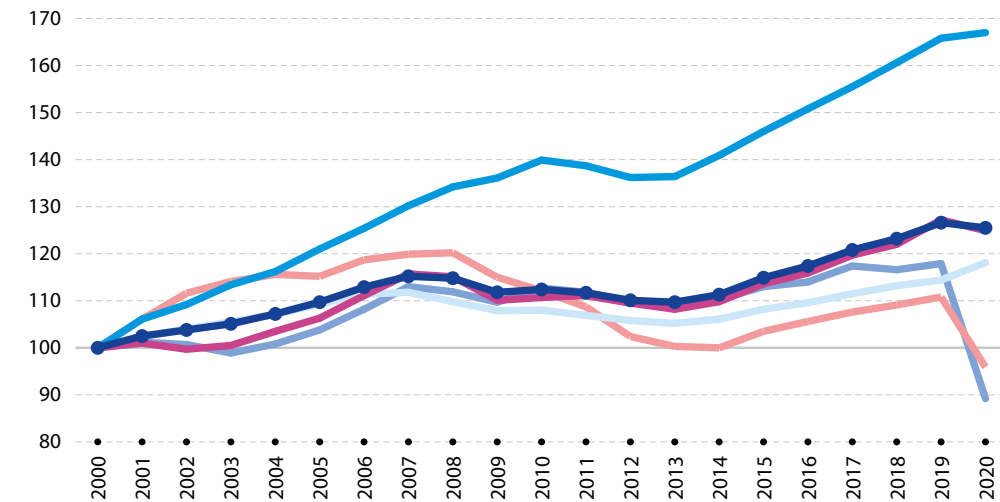
Note: based on turnover value indices. IE, HU, NL and PT: not available.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sts\_trtu\_a)

RO	981.1
LV	398.0
LU	389.1
LT	388.0
BG	383.0
EE	336.6

## Volume of sales index for retail trade

(2000 = 100, EU-27, 2000-2020)



- Retail trade — total
- Dispensing chemist; of medical and orthopaedic goods, cosmetic and toilet articles
- ICT equipment; other household equipment; cultural and recreation goods, etc.
- Food, beverages and tobacco
- Automotive fuel
- Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods

Note: based on deflated turnover indices. Retail trade covers NACE Rev. 2 Division 47. Other than retail trade (total) and food, beverages and tobacco: data only relate to retail trade in specialised stores.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sts\_trtu\_a)

The volume of sales index for retail trade is adjusted for price changes in the goods that are sold. Between 2000 and 2020, this index increased in the EU-27 by 26 % overall, compared with an increase of 52 % for the retail trade turnover index (in current price terms).

Relatively low overall growth (in volume terms) was observed between 2000 and 2019 for retailing of textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods in specialised stores (up 17 %), food, beverages and tobacco (up 14 %) and automotive fuel in specialised stores (11 %). The COVID-19 pandemic had a diverging impact on the retail sale of these goods: the volume of sales for food, beverages and tobacco was up 3.2 % in 2020, while considerable declines were recorded for automotive fuel (-13.5 %) and for textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (-24.4 %). The fastest growth in sales between 2000 and 2020 was observed for dispensing chemists and retailing of medical and orthopaedic goods, cosmetic and toilet articles in specialised stores (up 67 % overall, including a modest expansion in 2020).

PL	221.8
SI	178.3
HR	123.0
CZ	111.2
BE	106.5
SE	99.5
SK	84.1
CY	72.7
FR	67.2
DK	62.6
FI	62.2
<b>EU-27</b>	<b>59.9</b>
ES	53.5
MT	48.1
DE	38.3
AT	37.1
IT	21.4
EL	14.7

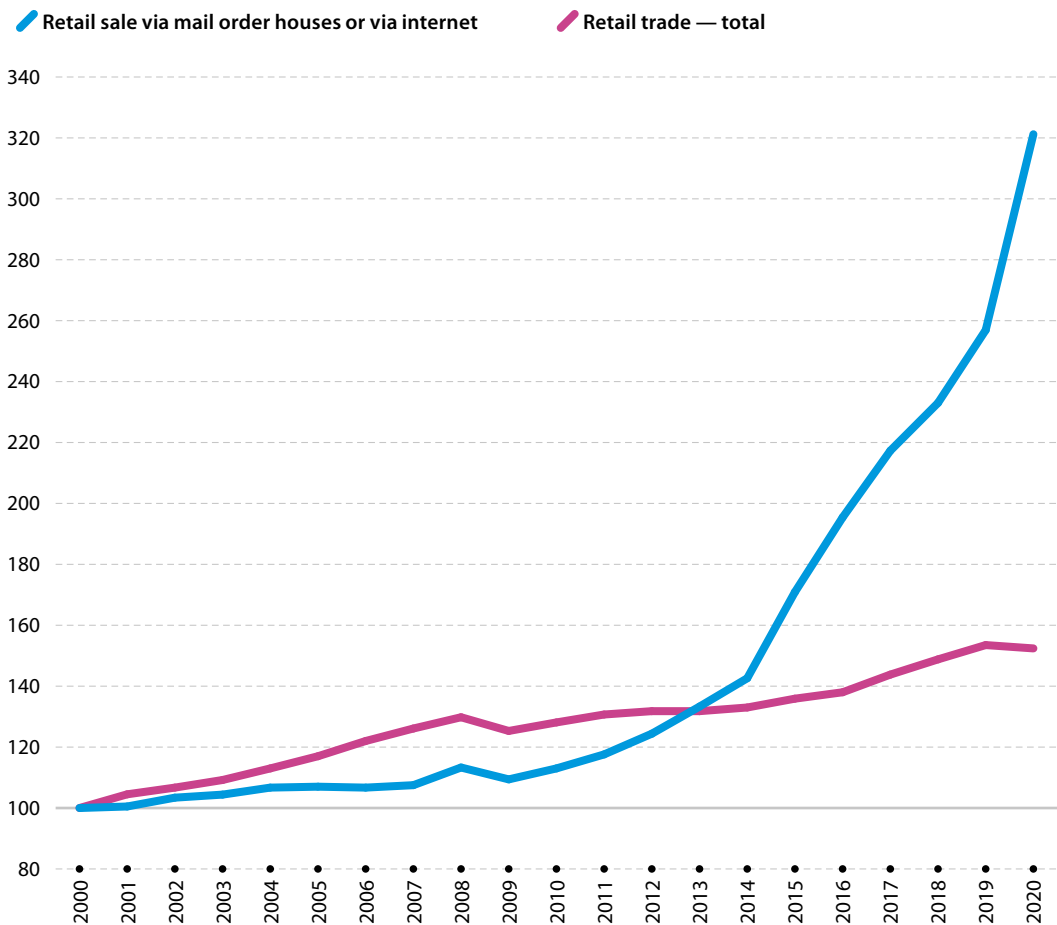
## Turnover indices for retail trade and retail sale via mail order houses or via internet

(2000 = 100, EU-27, 2000-2020)

As already noted, internet retailing has gained in significance over many years. Between 2000 and 2020, the EU-27 turnover index for retail sale via mail order houses or via internet increased by 221 %, corresponding to an average of 6.0 % per year. For comparison, the average increase for retail trade as a whole was 52 %, equivalent to 2.1 % per year. Turnover growth for retail sale via mail order houses or via internet was relatively moderate before 2008, was generally higher thereafter and has been particularly strong since 2015: annual growth rates were 10 % or higher in five out of the six most recent years for which data are available, including 25.0 % growth in 2020.

Note: based on turnover value indices. Retail trade covers NACE Rev. 2 Division 47 and retail sale via mail order houses or via internet covers NACE Rev. 2 Class 47.91.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sts\_trtu\_a)



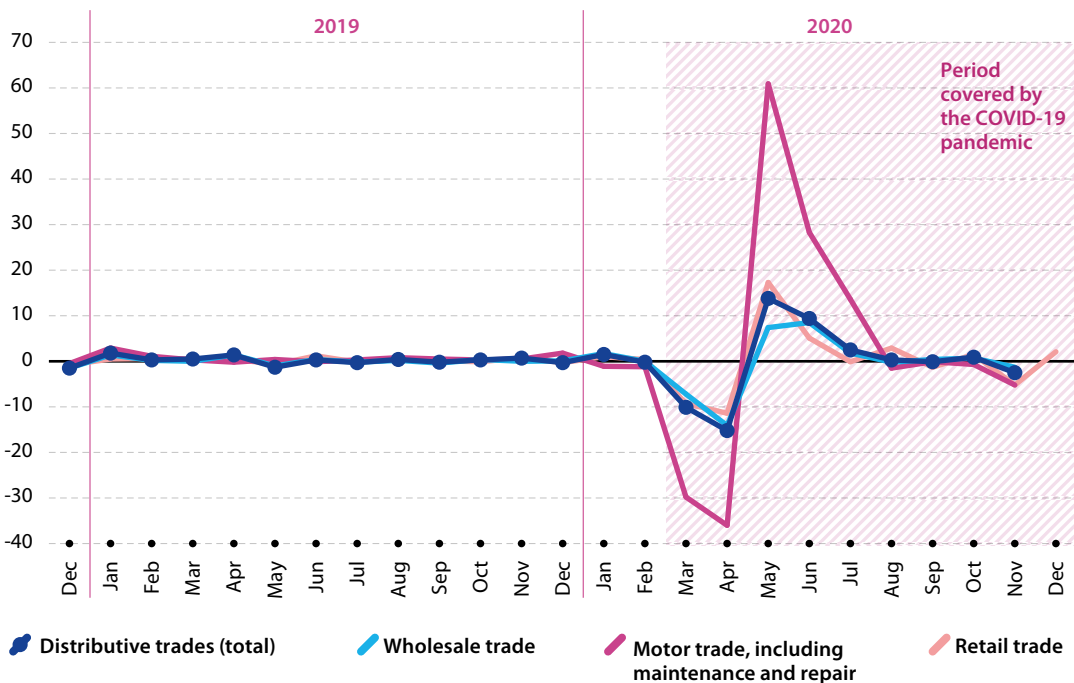
# Impact of COVID-19 pandemic

During the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic in spring 2020, some parts of distributive trades were hit directly by containment measures/restrictions, with shops retailing non-essential goods forced to close in many Member States. By contrast, those retailing essential goods (such as food and medicine), continued to operate through the pandemic.



## Distributive trades turnover indices

(% change compared with the previous month, EU-27, December 2018-December 2020)



The main decline in distributive trades turnover during the early stage of the COVID-19 crisis was in March and April 2020, with a strong recovery in May and June. To assess the impact of the first wave of the pandemic, sales in April 2020 can be compared with those in February 2020. The strongest decline among the distributive trades divisions was recorded for motor trades, as EU-27 sales were down overall by 55 %; by contrast, turnover fell by 20 % both for wholesale trade and for retail trade. To give some context to the relative importance of these figures, the wholesale and retail trade sectors accounted for 9.3 %

and 7.0 % of value added in the EU-27's non-financial business economy in 2018, while motor trades was considerably smaller (2.2 %).

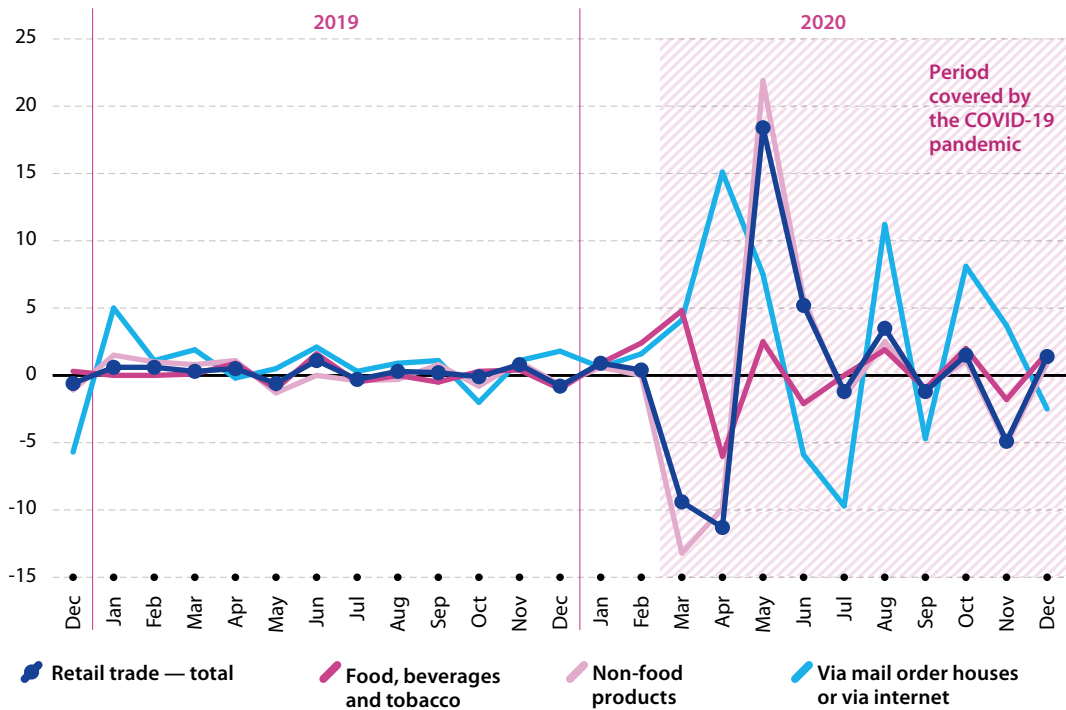
Distributive trades turnover rebounded strongly in the late spring / early summer 2020, although further contractions in sales were observed later in 2020. By November 2020, distributive trades turnover was 96 % of the level it had been in February 2020.

Note: December 2020, not available for distributive trades, motor trade motor trade (including maintenance and repair) and wholesale trade.  
Source: Eurostat (online data codes: sts\_trtu\_m and sbs\_na\_sca\_r2)



## Volume of sales indices for retail trade

(% change compared with the previous month, EU-27, December 2018–December 2020)



Between February and April 2020, the EU-27 volume of sales index fell by 22 % for non-food products and by 1 % for food, beverages and tobacco, while there was a 20 % increase in sales via mail order houses or via internet. By December 2020, the volume of sales index for retail trade was 99 % of the level it had been in February 2020; for sales via mail order houses or via internet, the index was 127 % of the February level.

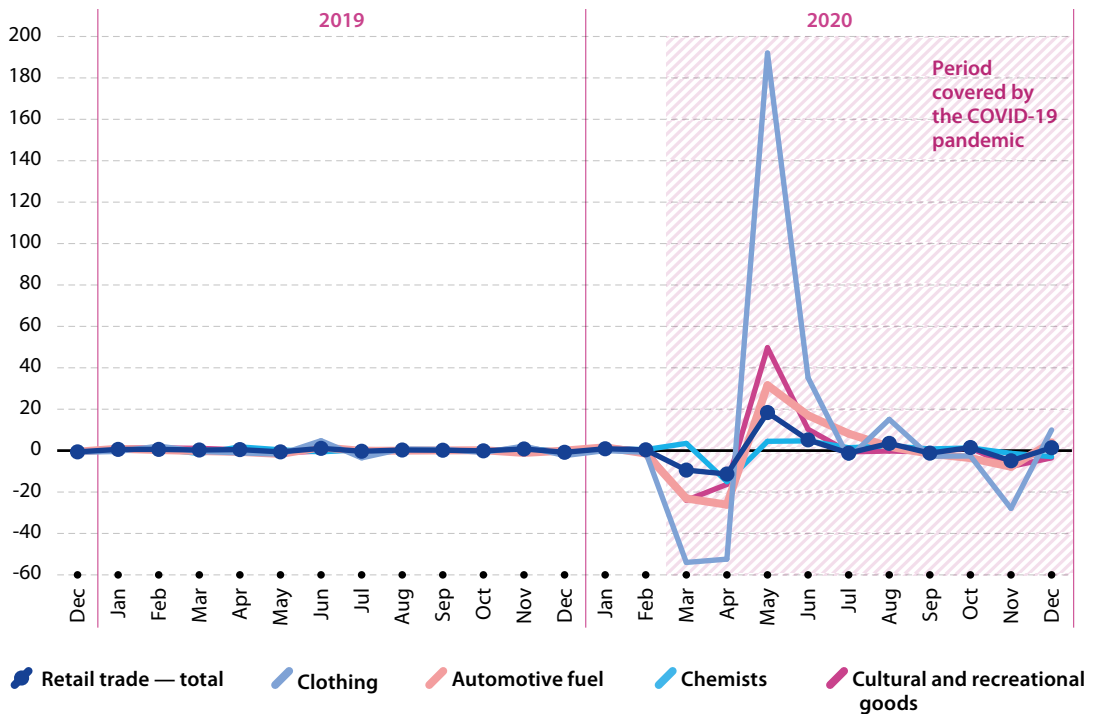
These considerable differences should be considered in relation to the relative importance (or weight) of each activity. For example, the retail sale of food, beverages and tobacco in the EU-27 was about eight times as large — in value added terms — as retail sales via mail order / internet. The retail sale of food, beverages and tobacco represented 2.6 % of value added within the EU-27's non-financial business economy in 2018, while retailing of non-food products accounted for a 4.4 % share and retail sales via mail order / internet for 0.3 %.

Note: there is no distinction made between food and non-food sales for retail trade via mail order houses or via internet.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: sts\_trtu\_m, sbs\_na\_sca\_r2 and sbs\_na\_dt\_r2)

## Volume of sales indices for retail trade in specialised stores

(% change compared with the previous month, EU-27, December 2018–December 2020)



Looking in more detail at non-food retailing within the EU-27, the clothing, textiles, footwear and leather goods subsector was particularly hard hit. Its volume of sales recorded an overall fall of 78 % between February and April 2020. Sales of these items rebounded in May 2020, but remained well below their pre-pandemic level, as they did throughout the rest of 2020; there was a further notable fall (down 28 %) in November 2020. By December 2020, the volume of sales index for clothing, textiles, footwear and leather goods retailing was 72 % of the level it had been in February 2020.

The impact on the economy of the decline in sales of clothing, textiles, footwear and leather goods during the COVID-19 pandemic was considerably greater than for some other non-food items: for example, sales of clothing, textiles, footwear and leather goods accounted for 0.8 % of value added in the EU-27's non-financial business economy in 2018, which was four times as great as the 0.2 % share for sales of automotive fuel.

Note: clothing also includes textiles, footwear and leather goods. Chemists also includes medical and orthopaedic goods, cosmetic and toilet articles. Cultural and recreational goods also includes ICT equipment and other household equipment.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: sts\_trtu\_m, sbs\_na\_sca\_r2 and sbs\_na\_dt\_r2)



[For more and updated information on distributive trades during the pandemic](#)

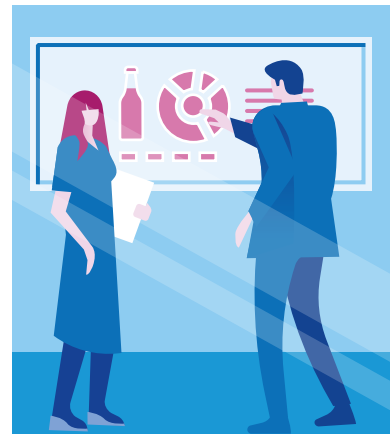
[For a graphical visualisation of time series for key indicators](#)





# 6

## Other non-financial services



# Structure

Other non-financial services include activities in transportation and storage; accommodation and food services; information and communication; real estate; professional, scientific and technical services; administrative and support services; repair of computers and personal and household goods. In value added terms, the largest of these activities in the EU-27 in 2018 was professional, scientific and technical activities, with a 22.5 % share of the total.

## Concentration of other non-financial services activity — top three EU Member States

(% share of EU-27 employment and value added for each activity, 2018)

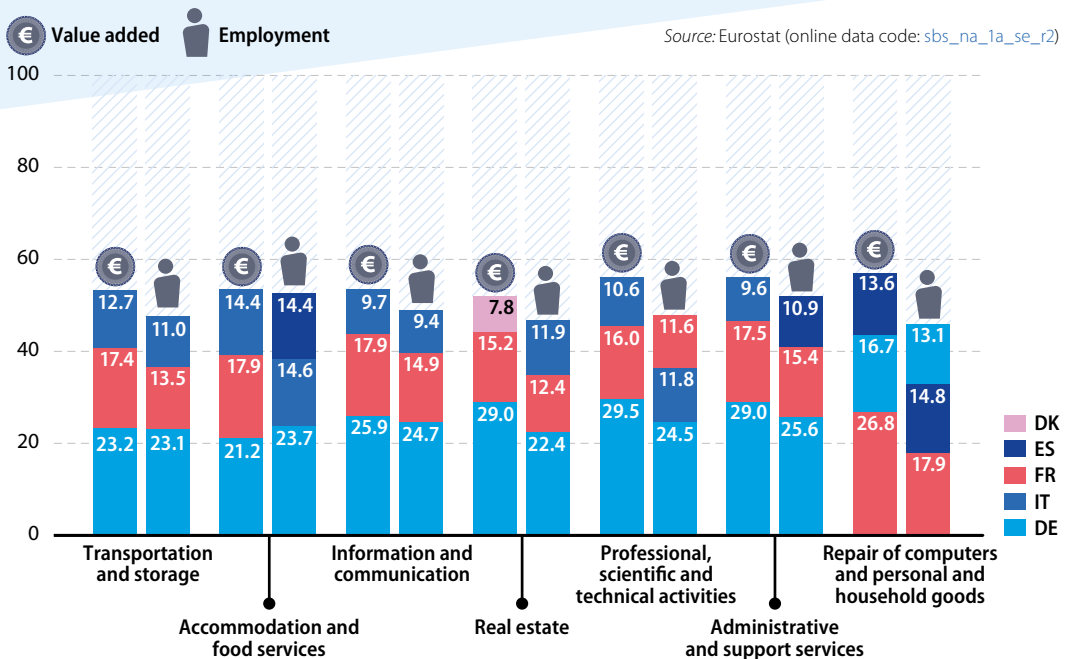
EU-27  
other non-financial  
services in 2018

**11.4 million** enterprises

**54.9 million**  
persons employed

**EUR 2.5 trillion**  
value added

In 2018, Germany had the highest share of EU-27 value added for six out of the seven subsectors included within other non-financial services aggregate and was followed by France. The order of these two EU Member States was reversed for the relatively small activity of repair of computers and personal and household goods, as France had the largest share of EU-27 value added and Germany the second largest. In terms of employment, four of the other non-financial services subsectors featured Germany and then France recording the highest shares of EU-27 employment. However, for accommodation and food services and for professional, scientific and technical activities, Italy had the second largest share of employment, behind Germany. The repair of computers and personal and household goods was atypical, in that Spain had the second largest employment share after France.



### Value added specialisation — top five EU Member States

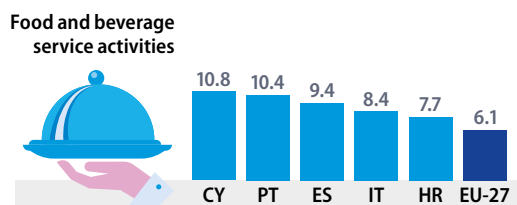
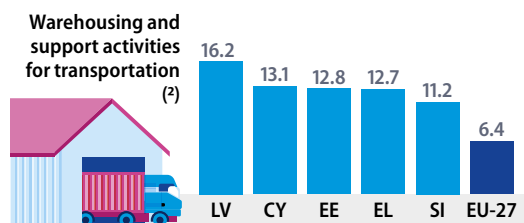
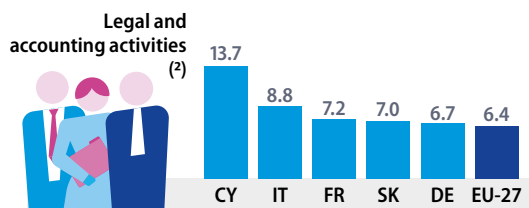
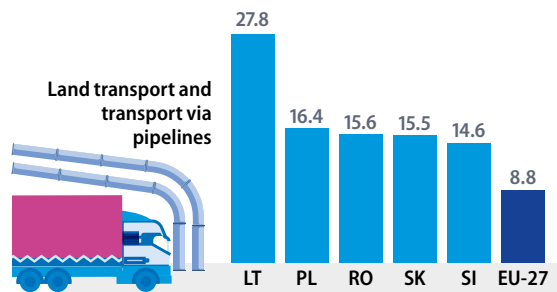
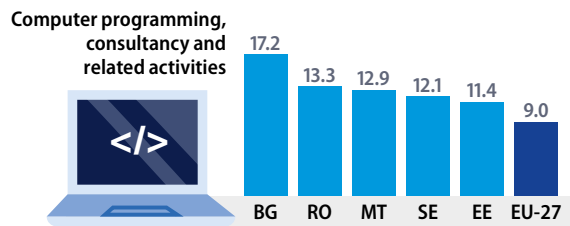
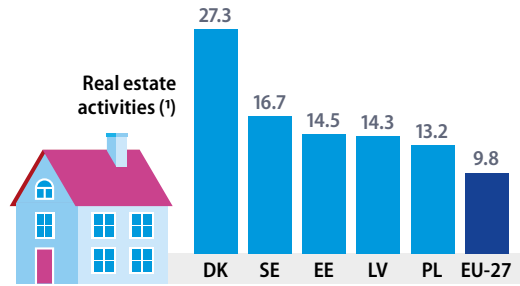
(% share of other non-financial services value added, 2018)

In value added terms, the largest other non-financial service divisions in the EU-27 in 2018 were: real estate activities; computer programming, consultancy and related activities; land transport and transport via pipelines; legal and accounting activities; warehousing and support activities for transportation; and food and beverage services.

Denmark was highly specialised in real estate activities; Bulgaria, Romania and Malta were the most specialised in computer programming, consultancy and related activities. By far, the most specialised EU Member State in land transport and transport via pipelines was Lithuania, as 27.8 % of its value added in other non-financial services in 2018 was added in this sector; for comparison, the average for the EU-27 was 8.8 %. The most specialised EU Member State in legal and accounting activities was Cyprus, generating 13.7 % of its value added in non-financial services in this sector, more than double the EU-27 average (6.4 %). Latvia was the most specialised Member State in warehousing and support activities for transportation, as 16.2 % of its value added in non-financial services in 2018 was in this sector, 2.5 times the EU-27 average (6.4 %). There was less specialisation in food and beverage service activities: the highest share was 10.8 % in Cyprus, compared with the EU-27 average of 6.1 %.

Note: data are shown for the six largest other non-financial services based on EU-27 value added for other non-financial service divisions. (1) FI: not available. (2) LU: not available.

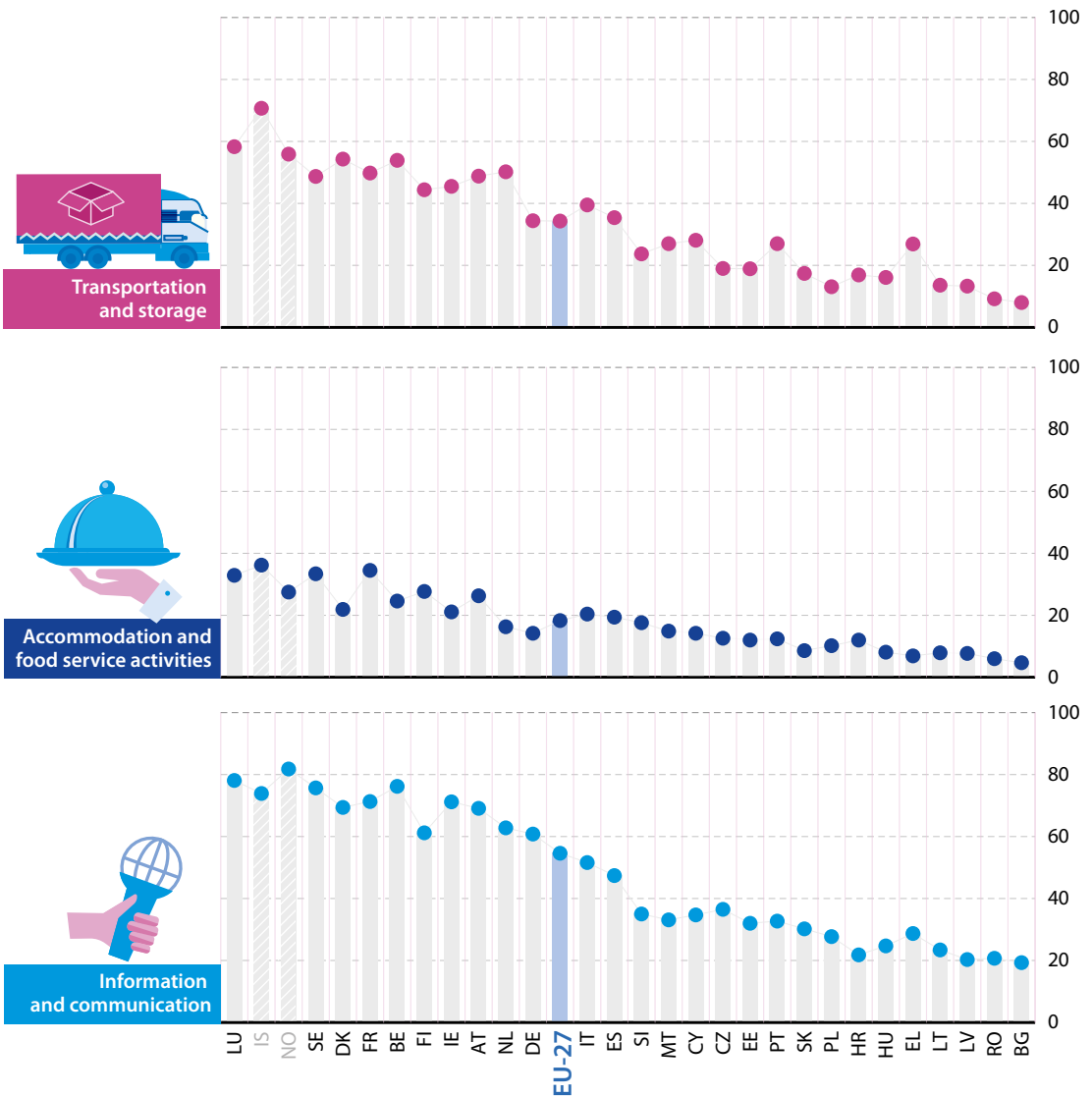
Source: Eurostat (online data code: sbs\_na\_dt\_r2)

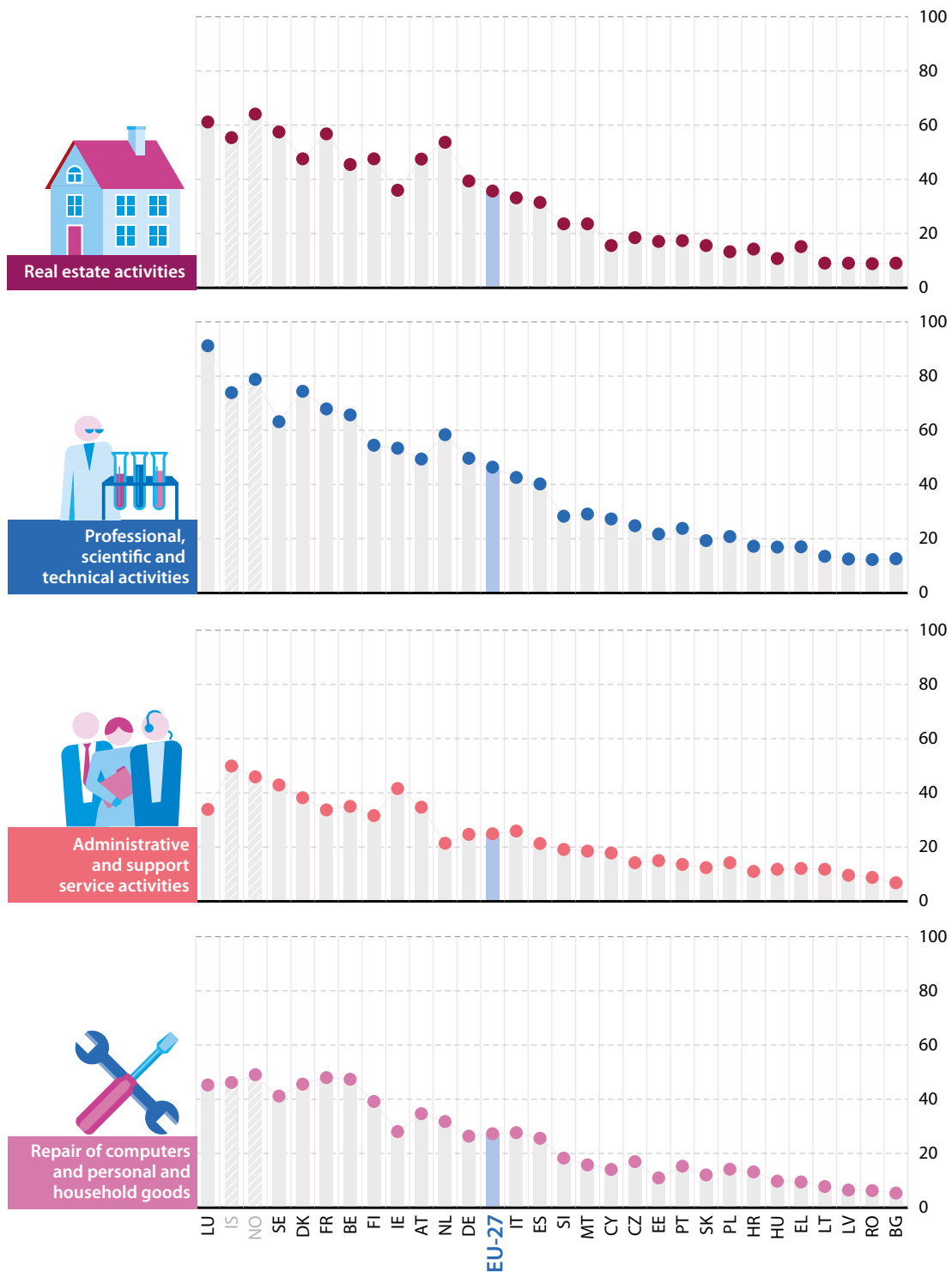


### Average personnel costs within other non-financial service sections

(EUR thousand per employee, 2018)

Typically, the lowest average personnel costs across the EU-27 can be observed in sectors with a high incidence of part-time and seasonal work, such as accommodation and food services (EUR 18.3 thousand per employee) or administrative and support service activities (EUR 24.9 thousand per employee), whereas higher ratios can be seen for information and communication services (EUR 54.6 thousand per employee) or professional, scientific and technical activities (EUR 46.4 thousand per employee).





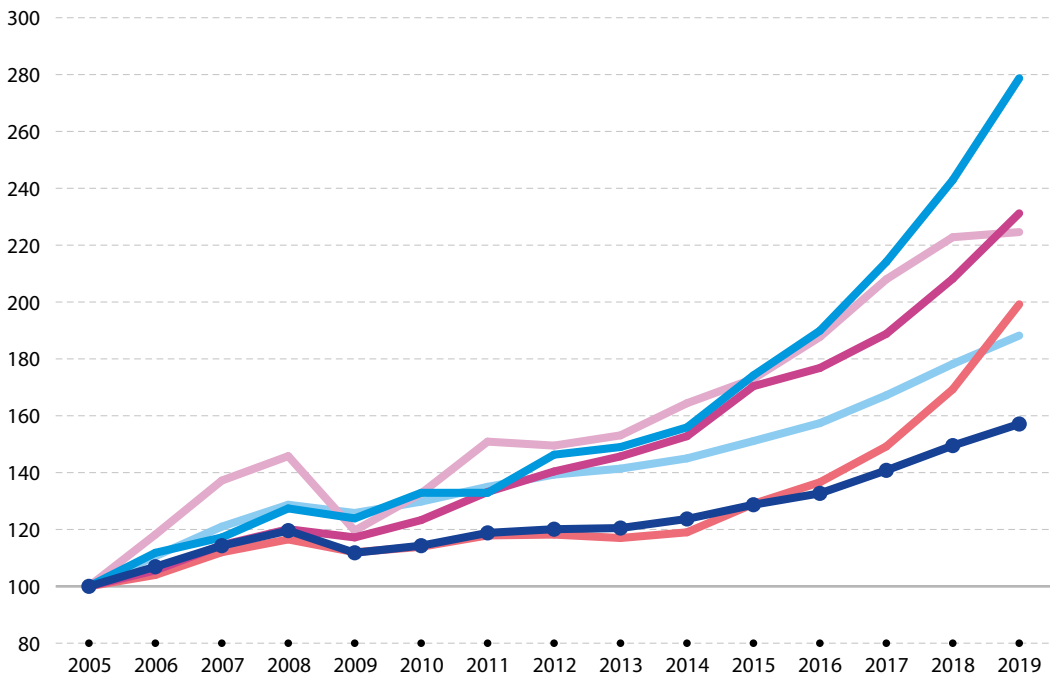
Note: ranked on average personnel costs for other non-financial services. IS: 2017.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sbs\_na\_1a\_se\_r2)

# Developments

## Turnover index for high-growth non-financial services

(2005 = 100, EU-27, 2005-2019)



**Non-financial services (excluding distributive trades) — total**

- Information service activities
- Computer programming, consultancy and related activities
- Employment activities
- Publishing activities
- Legal, accounting and management consultancy activities

Note: based on turnover value indices; shows the five non-financial service divisions with the highest rates of change for the EU-27 during the period 2005-2019.

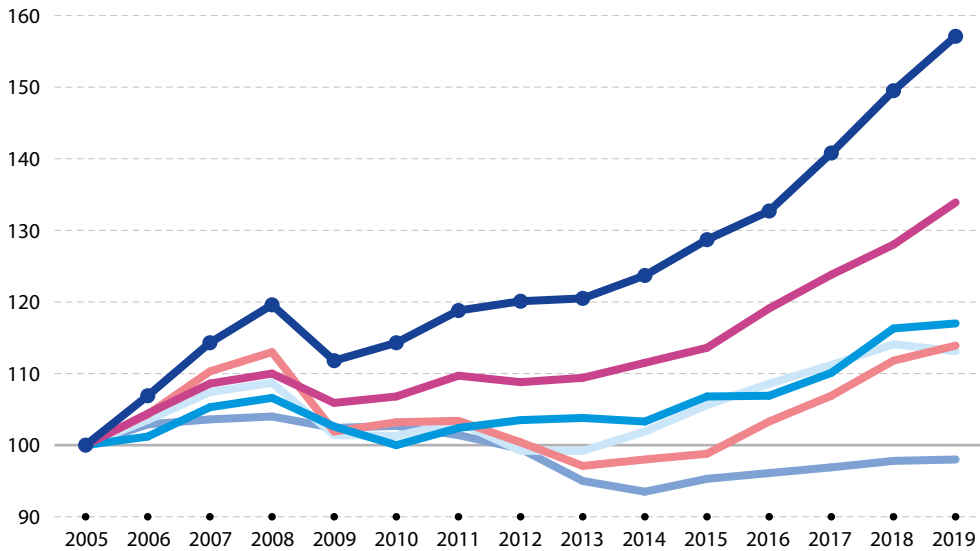
Source: Eurostat (online data code: sts\_setu\_a)

The turnover index illustrates the development of sales in current prices, in other words this index has not been adjusted to remove the effects of inflation. Between 2005 and 2019, the EU-27 turnover index for non-financial services (excluding distributive trades) increased overall by 57 %, equivalent to an average of 3.3 % per year. Between 2005 and 2008, the index increased in a fairly regular manner. A fall of 6.5 % was observed in 2009, followed by relatively subdued growth between 2010 and 2014; some of the highest annual rates of turnover growth were recorded between 2017 and 2019 when increases within the range 5.1-6.2 % were recorded.

The fastest growing non-financial service activity within the EU-27 in turnover terms was information service activities, where turnover was 2.8 times as high in 2019 as it had been in 2005, an annual average increase of 7.6 %. Turnover for the related computer programming, consultancy and related activities also increased strongly, 2.3 times as high in 2019 as in 2005. Employment activities more than doubled their turnover, while the turnover of publishing activities doubled and that of legal, accounting and management consultancy activities rose by nearly 90 %.

### Turnover index for low-growth non-financial services

(2005 = 100, EU-27, 2005-2019)



**Non-financial services (excluding distributive trades) — total**

- Postal and courier activities
- Audio-visual activities
- Advertising and market research
- Programming and broadcasting activities
- Telecommunications

Telecommunications was the only non-financial service activity within the EU-27 with lower turnover in 2019 than in 2005, down 2 %. Among the activities with relatively slow growth during the period from 2005 to 2019, sales across the EU-27 increased overall within the range of 13 % to 17 % for programming and broadcasting activities, advertising and market research, as well as motion picture, video and television programme production, sound recording and music publishing activities (hereafter referred to as audio-visual activities). Growth was somewhat stronger (up 34 % overall) for postal and courier activities.

Note: based on turnover value indices; shows the five non-financial service divisions with the lowest rates of change for the EU-27 during the period 2005-2019.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sts\_setu\_a)

### Overall change in the non-financial services turnover index

(%, 2005-2019)

Among the EU Member States for which data are available, Greece was the only one that reported lower turnover for non-financial services in 2019 than in 2005 (down 25 %). Turnover growth was highest in Lithuania and Romania, as sales more than tripled between 2005 and 2019, while the turnover index increased in the range of 125-173 % in Luxembourg, Latvia, Estonia and Slovakia.

Note: based on turnover value indices. BG: 2008-2019. MT and FI: 2010-2019. IE, IT, HU, PL, PT, SI and SE: not available.

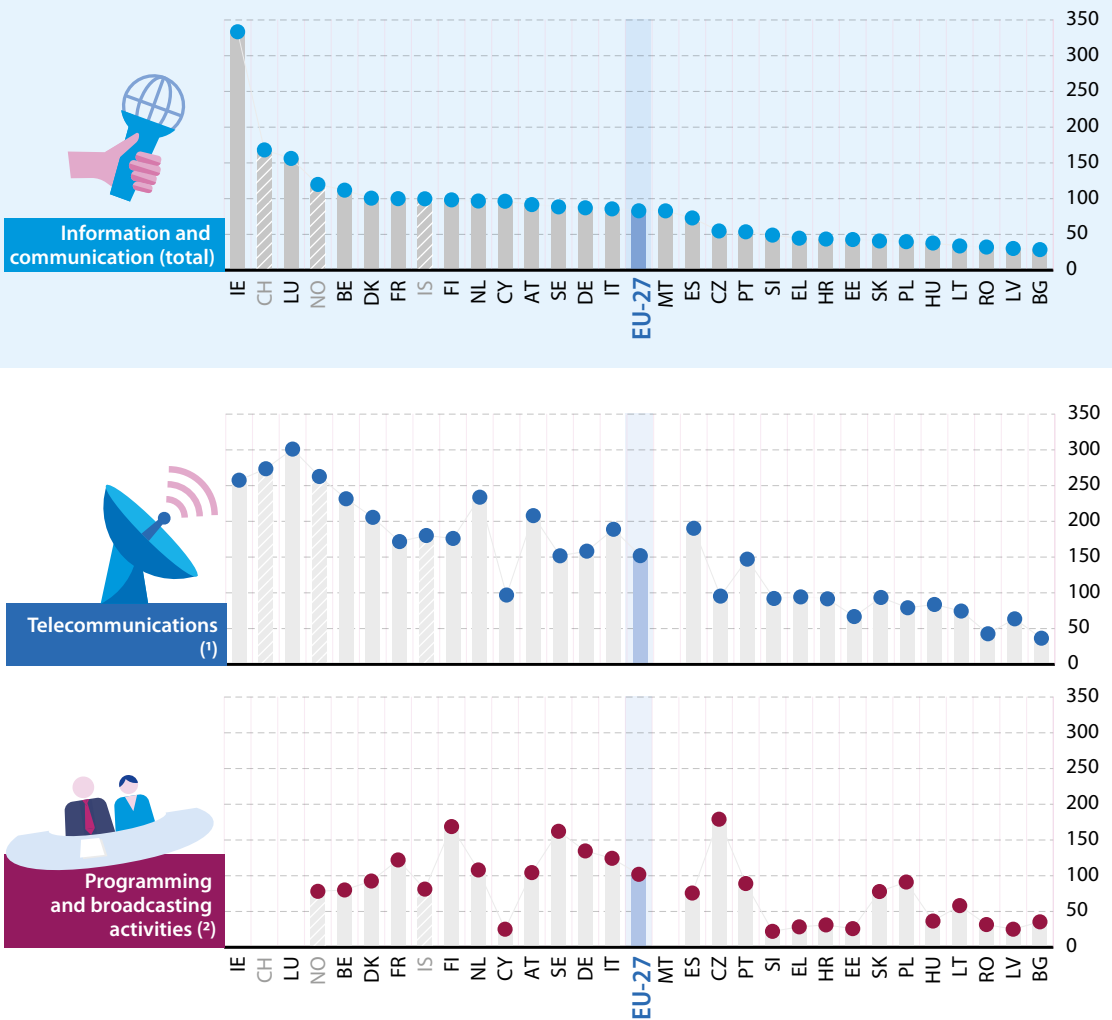
Source: Eurostat (online data code: sts\_setu\_a)

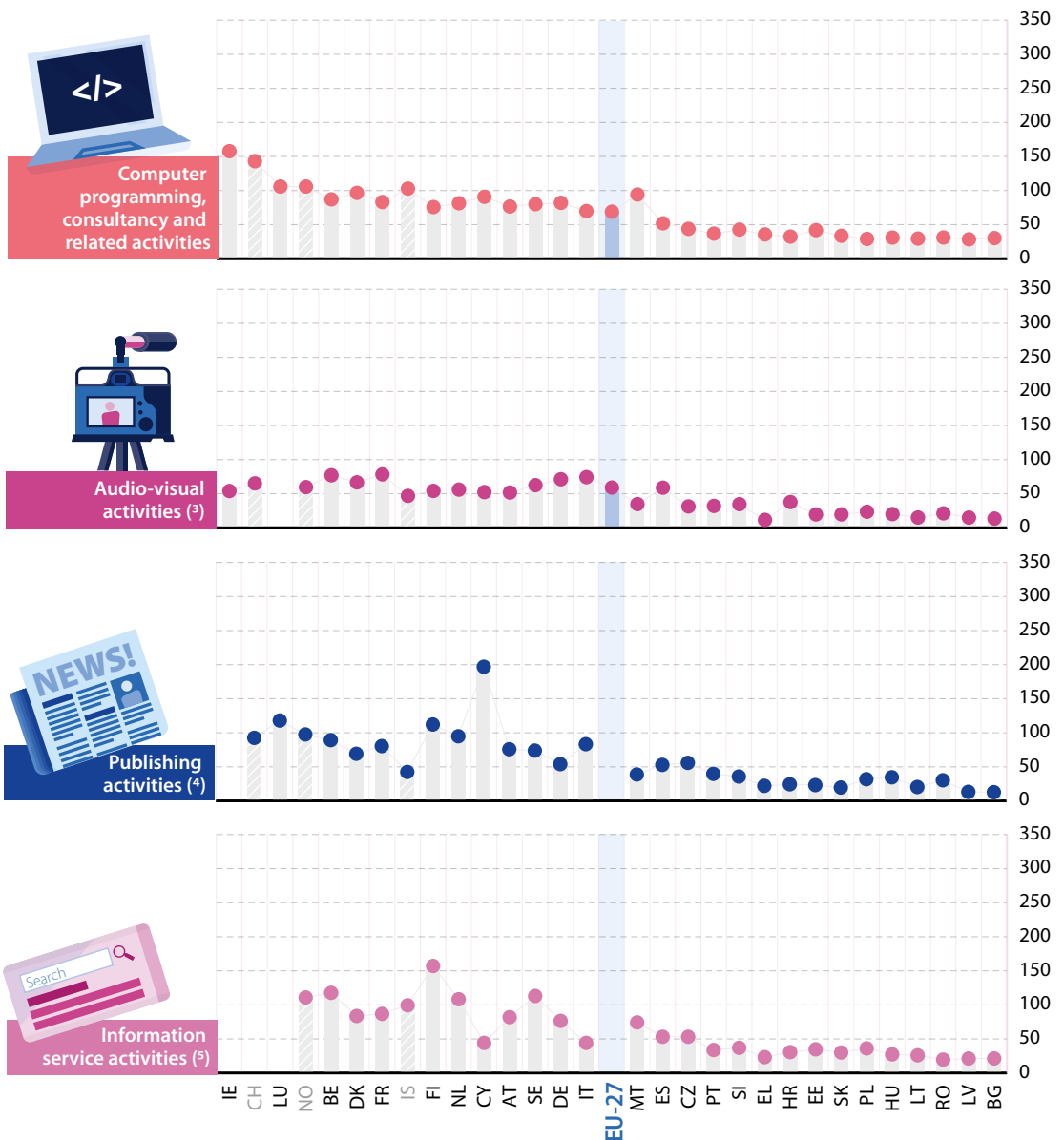
LT	256.2
RO	231.9
SK	172.6
EE	142.0
LV	140.6
LU	125.0
CY	92.5
DK	73.8
FR	72.0
BG	68.9
HR	66.4
MT	65.1
BE	63.8
<b>EU-27</b>	<b>57.1</b>
DE	51.3
NL	50.8
FI	42.7
AT	42.3
CZ	32.5
ES	20.5
EL	-24.7

# Focus on information and communication services

## Apparent labour productivity for information and communication services

(EUR per person employed, 2018)





Apparent labour productivity is calculated from value added divided by the number of persons employed. While this ratio is clearly influenced by the value that employed persons add, it is also influenced by the extent of part-time and seasonal work and this may vary between sectors, between EU Member States and over time.

The EU-27's information and communication services had the second highest apparent labour productivity of all other non-financial services sections in 2018, lower only than that in the capital-intensive real estate section. At a more detailed level, the highest levels of apparent labour productivity within information and communication services were observed for telecommunications as well as programming and broadcasting activities.

Note: ranked on apparent labour productivity for information and communication services.

(<sup>1</sup>) IE: 2017. EE: 2016. MT: not available.

(<sup>2</sup>) EE: 2016. IE, LU, MT and CH: not available.

(<sup>3</sup>) LU: not available.

(<sup>4</sup>) EU-27 and IE: not available.

(<sup>5</sup>) EU-27, IE, LU and CH: not available. IS: 2017.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [sbs\\_na\\_1a\\_se\\_r2](#))

53.0 IE

## Gross operating rate for information and communication services

(% , 2018)

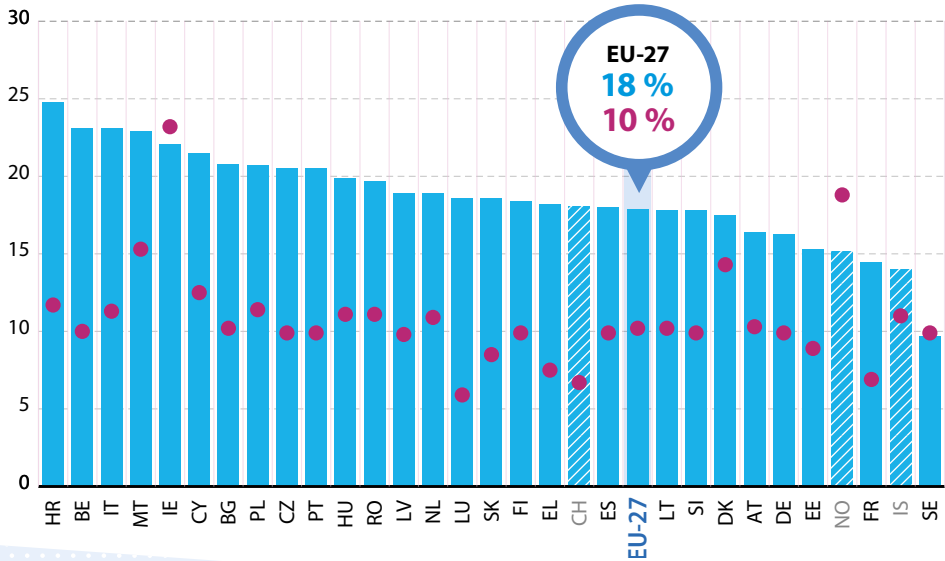
The gross operating rate is a measure of profitability and is defined as value added at factor cost minus personnel costs (the gross operating surplus) divided by total turnover. In nearly all EU Member States — Sweden and Ireland were the only exceptions — information and communication services recorded a gross operating rate in 2018 that was above the non-financial business economy average. Belgium and Croatia had particularly high rates for information and communication services, some 13.1 percentage points above their non-financial business economy averages. In relative terms, the difference was greatest in Luxembourg, as the gross operating rate for information and communication services was 18.6 %, which was 3.2 times as high as the non-financial business economy average (5.9 %).

Note: the gross operating rate for the EU-27's non-financial business economy is an estimate made for the purpose of this publication.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: sbs\_na\_1a\_se\_r2 and sbs\_na\_sca\_r2)

36.3 FI

● Non-financial business economy ■ Information and communication services



20.7 RO

19.5 SE

18.3 CY

16.0 BG

15.2 LV

15.1 CZ

14.4 EU-27

13.9 SK

12.6 EE

12.3 PL

11.5 BG

11.0 AT

10.4 NL

10.1 CH

9.5 ES

9.3 DE

9.1 HU

7.4 SL

7.3 IT

7.2 DK

6.9 FR

5.7 HR

5.3 IS

5.0 PT

4.4 LT

3.8 LU

2.7 EL

## Exports of telecommunications, computer and information services

(% share of total exports of services, 2019)

Telecommunications, computer, and information services represented 14 % of all exports of services from the EU-27 to non-member countries in 2019. Exports of telecommunications, computer, and information services contributed 53 % of all services exports from Ireland, by far the highest share among the EU Member States. These services contributed 36 % of total exports of services in Finland, and one fifth in Sweden and Romania. By contrast, in Lithuania, Luxembourg and Greece telecommunications, computer, and information services contributed less than 5 % of all services exports.

Note: telecommunications, computer and information services form part of the current account for services. The data presented covers total exports of services to the rest of the world. MT: not available. CH and IS: 2018. LT: 2016.

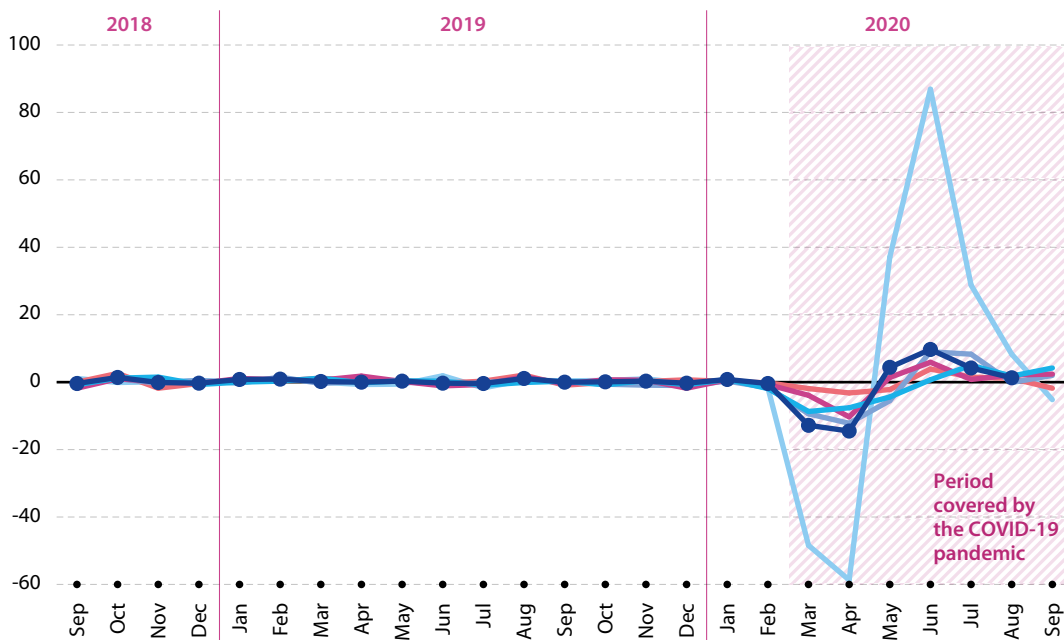
Source: Eurostat (online data code: bop\_its6\_det)

# Impact of COVID-19 pandemic

During the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic in spring 2020, several services were particularly hard hit by containment measures/restrictions (as well as indirectly by falling demand). Hospitality services such as those providing accommodation, food and drinks were among the most affected along with transport services, particularly those providing international passenger services.

## Non-financial services production indices

(% change compared with the previous month, EU-27, September 2018-September 2020)



- Non-financial services (excluding distributive trades) — total
- Administrative and support services
- Professional, scientific and technical services
- Transportation and storage
- Information and communication
- Accommodation and food services

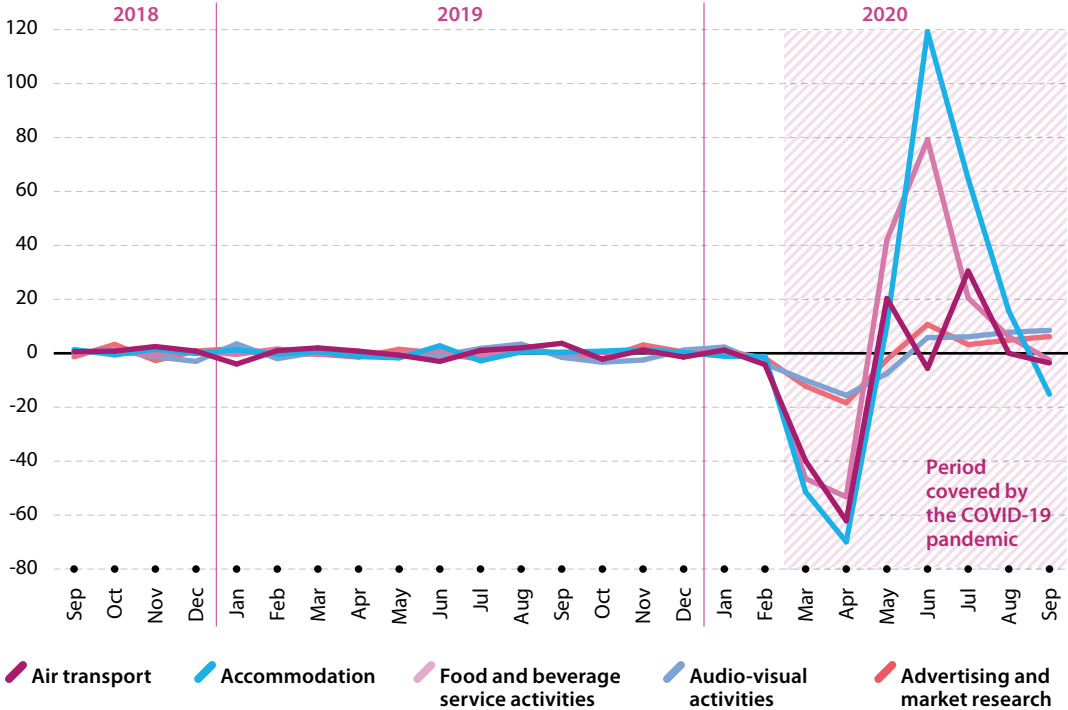
During the first wave of the pandemic, the main decline in non-financial services output was in March and April 2020, with a partial recovery in May and June. To assess the initial impact, output in April 2020 can be compared with that in February 2020: the strongest decline across the EU-27 among services sections was recorded for accommodation and food services (down by 79 %). Despite a strong rebound in May, June and July, by September 2020 the output for accommodation and food services had only returned to 72 % of the level it had been in February 2020. To give some context to the relative weight of these figures, their shares of value added in the EU-27's non-financial business economy ranged from 8.2 % for professional, scientific and technical services in 2018 to 3.7 % for accommodation and food services.

Note: September 2020, not available for non-financial services — total.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: sts\_sepr\_m, sbs\_na\_sca\_r2 and sbs\_na\_1a\_se\_r2)

## Production indices for the five non-financial services divisions most impacted during the COVID-19 pandemic

(% change compared with the previous month, EU-27, September 2018-September 2020)



Looking in more detail, namely at non-financial services divisions, there were three activities which experienced a sharp fall in output. Between February and April 2020, EU-27 production fell by 85 % for accommodation services, by 77 % for air transport services, and by 75 % for food and beverage service activities. By contrast, the least affected non-financial services during the first wave of the pandemic were: water transport; telecommunications; computer programming, consultancy and related activities; information service activities. While there was a partial recovery in late spring / early summer 2020, the picture was mixed, with hospitality and transport services (among others) continuing to face a range of restrictions in some EU Member States. By September 2020, EU-27 output for air transport services was 33 % of the level it had been in February, while output in the accommodation sector had returned to 57 % of its February level. Note these figures cover the period prior to the second wave of the pandemic, and that many EU Member States strengthened restrictions on hospitality and transport businesses (and others) in the autumn of 2020.

To give some context to the relative importance of these figures, food and beverage service activities accounted for 2.4 % of value added in the EU-27's non-financial business economy in 2018, while the share for accommodation was 1.3 % and that for air transport was 0.5 %.

Note: the five non-financial services (excluding distributive trades) divisions most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic were selected on the basis of the change in EU-27 production indices between February and April 2020.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: sts\_sep\_r\_m and sbs\_na\_sca\_r2)

[For more and updated information on other non-financial services during the pandemic](#)



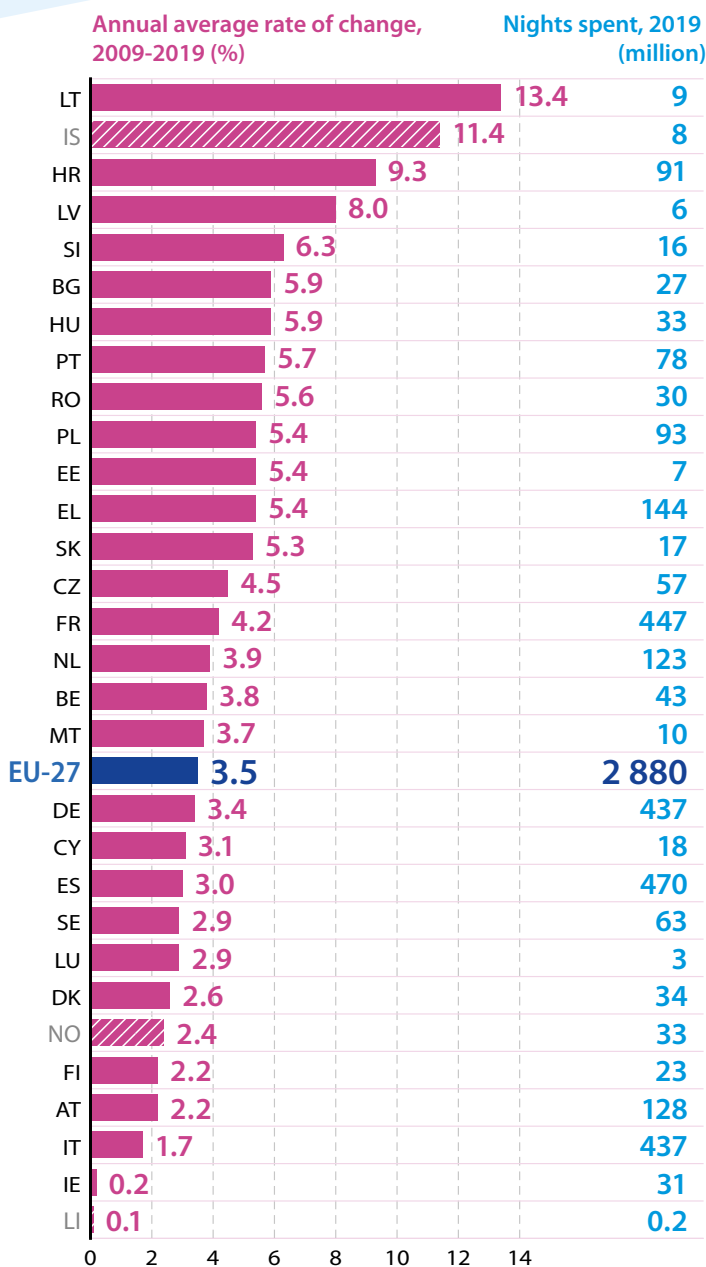
# 7

## Tourism



# Structure

Tourism is travel to a destination away from home for less than one year, for pleasure, business or other personal reasons.



## Nights spent in tourist accommodation

(%, annual average rate of change, 2009-2019; million nights spent, 2019)

In 2019, 2.9 billion nights were spent in tourist accommodation in the 27 EU Member States. This overall figure includes nights spent by domestic tourists (travelling inside their own country) and by inbound international tourists (coming from other EU or non-EU countries). The largest markets in the EU-27 were Spain, France, Germany and Italy, each recording more than 400 million nights spent in tourist accommodation. The largest annual average increases between 2009 and 2019 were observed in Lithuania (13.4 %), Croatia (9.3 %) and Latvia (8.0 %).

Note: NL, break in series. IE and NO: rate of change, 2009-2016; number of nights spent, 2016. LU: rate of change, 2009-2018; number of nights spent, 2018.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [tour\\_occ\\_ninat](#))

## Net occupancy rate of bed-places in hotels and similar accommodation

(%, 2019)

The occupancy rate of bed-places at hotels and similar establishments is obtained by dividing the total number of overnight stays by the total number of the bed places on offer (net of seasonal closures) expressed as a percentage. In 2019, the occupancy rate in the EU-27 was 49 %, with the highest rates in the Mediterranean islands of Cyprus and Malta; they were followed by Spain and Croatia.

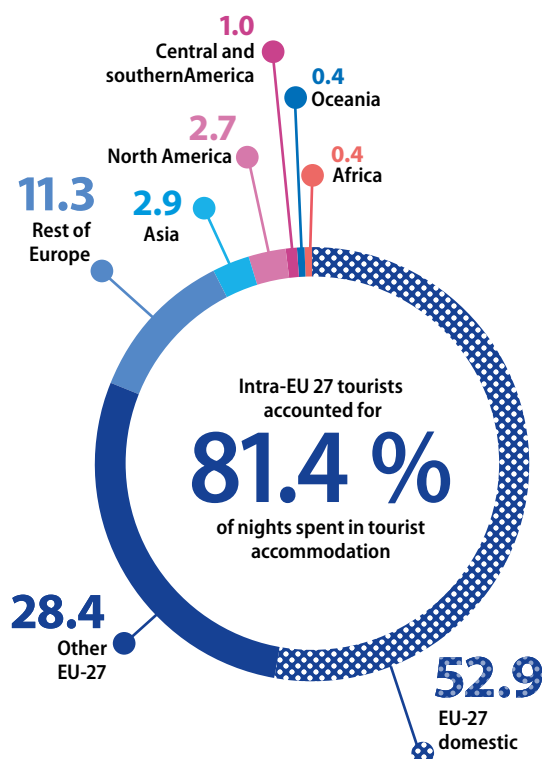
Note: hotels and similar accommodation cover NACE Rev. 2 Group 55.1. LU: 2018. IE, UK, NO and CH: 2016.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [tour\\_occ\\_anor](#))

CY	71.8
MT	66.2
ES	61.5
HR	60.3
IE	54.0
IS, PT	51.1
CZ	50.9
NL	50.2
FR	50.0
EL	49.5
<b>EU-27, IT</b>	<b>49.0</b>
DK, EE, AT	48.0
BE	46.0
DE	45.7
SE	45.0
LT, SI	44.0
LV	43.3
BG	42.1
FI	42.0
HU	41.9
PL	41.7
CH	41.6
RO	39.7
NO	38.5
SK	36.2
LU	31.5
LI	30.2

## Nights spent in tourist accommodation according to residence of the guest

(% share of total nights spent in EU-27, 2019)



Domestic tourists accounted for over half (53 %) of nights spent in tourist accommodation across the EU-27, while tourists from other EU Member States accounted for 28 %: together these accounted for 81 % of all nights spent in 2019, with international tourists from non-member countries constituting the remaining 19 %.

Among the nights spent by tourists from non-member countries, by far the largest origin was the rest of Europe.



Note: excluding nights spent that were not allocated.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [tour\\_occ\\_ninraw](#))

# Seasonality

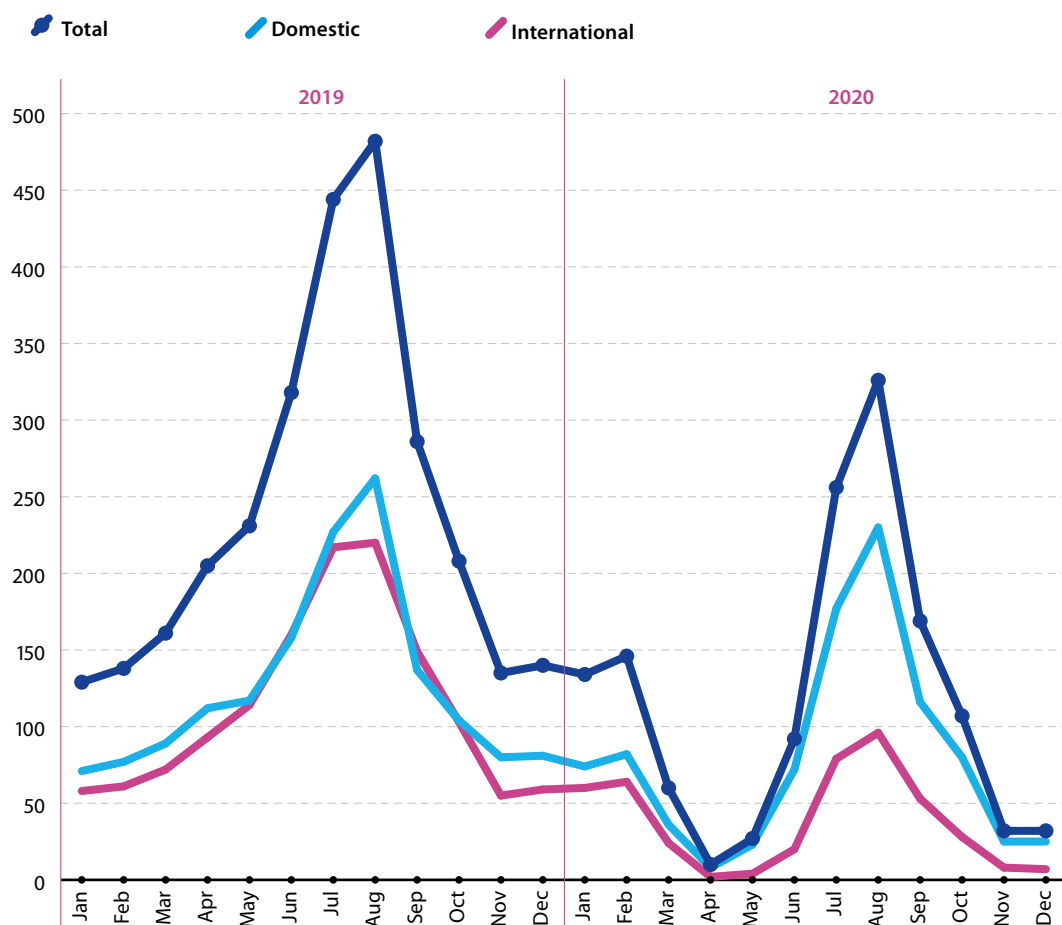
## Seasonality of nights spent in tourist accommodation

(million nights, EU-27, January 2019–December 2020)

One of the key measures of tourism seasonality is monthly data for nights spent in tourism accommodation. The seasonal patterns for domestic tourists and international tourists were quite similar during 2019, with domestic tourists accounting for 48–59 % of the total nights spent, depending on the month. However, the share of domestic tourists was far higher during January–December 2020 when they

accounted for 55–85 % of the total nights spent in EU-27 tourist accommodation. The lower level of demand from international tourists likely reflects increased uncertainty during the COVID-19 pandemic, with this group primarily affected by cancelled transport services and/or travel restrictions.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [tour\\_occ\\_nim](#))



## Nights spent in tourist accommodation in July and August

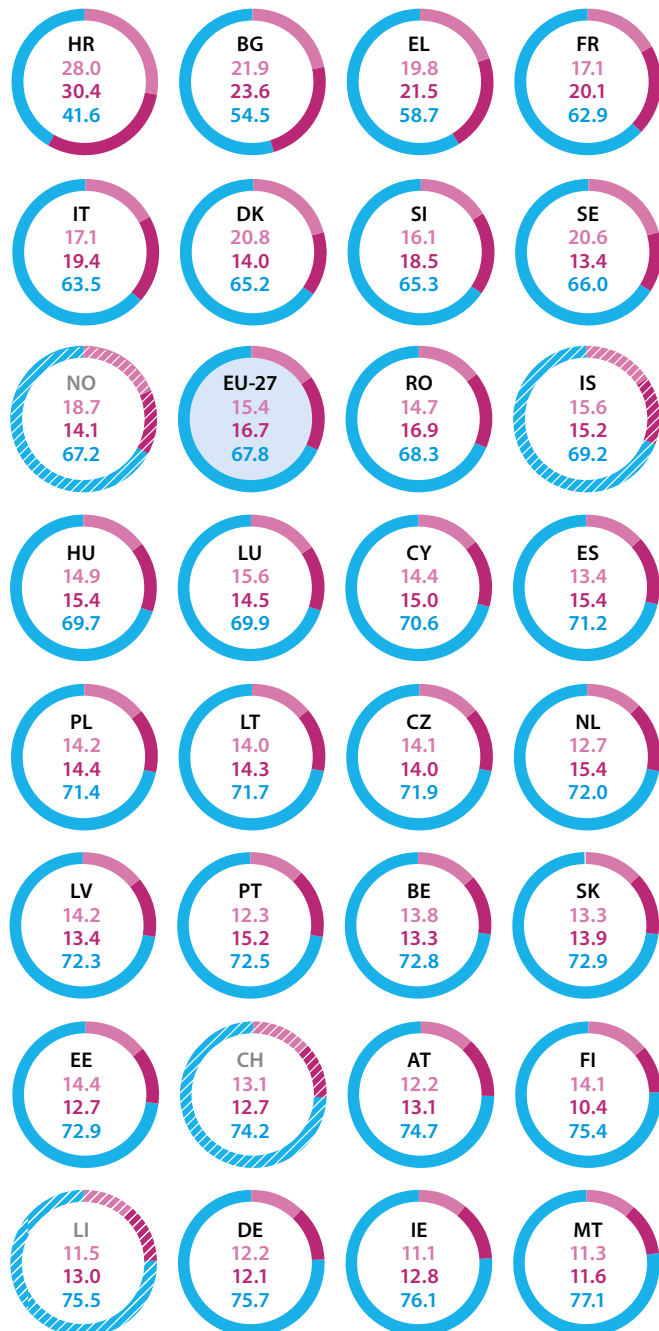
(% share of annual nights spent, 2019)

- July
- August
- Other months

Tourism demand (represented here by the number of nights spent in tourist accommodation) in some EU Member States is particularly concentrated in the summer months of July and August. This pattern was particularly notable in Croatia where more than half of all the nights spent in tourist accommodation in 2019 were recorded in these two months. By contrast, while it does have a summer bias, Malta is a year-round destination with demand spread more evenly across the calendar.

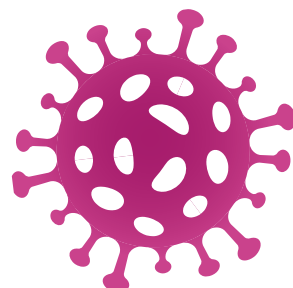
Note: IE and CH, 2018.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour\_occ\_nim)



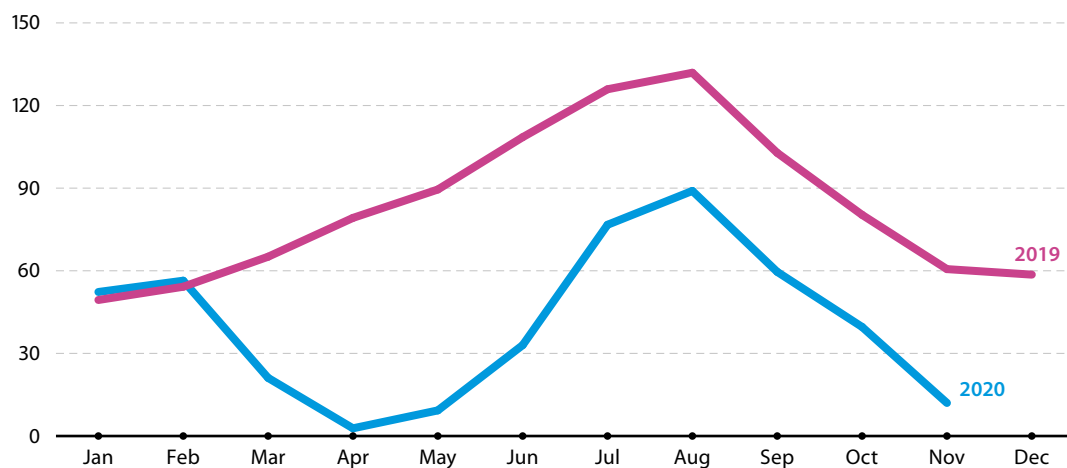
# Impact of COVID-19 pandemic

During the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic in spring 2020, virtually all EU Member States implemented containment measures and restrictions on non-essential travel internally and/or internationally. Some partially or completely closed borders. Where international travel continued, it was in some cases accompanied by a requirement to go into quarantine. While most restrictions were lifted before or during the peak summer season, a number of Member States reintroduced restrictions in the autumn of 2020.



## Arrivals in tourist accommodation

(millions, EU-27, January 2019–November 2020)



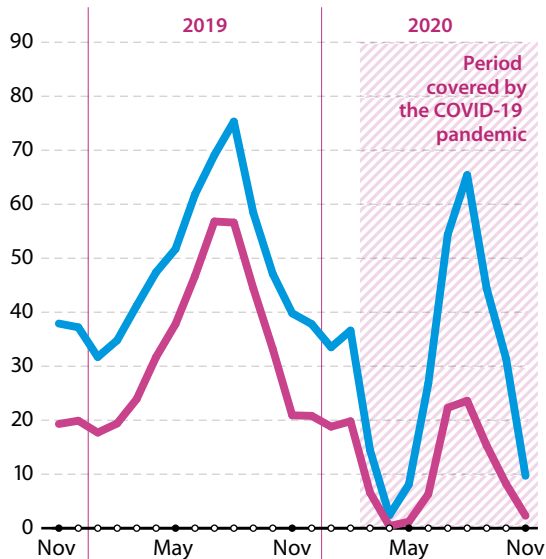
While the number of tourist accommodation arrivals in the EU-27 in January and February 2020 was in line with those for January and February 2019, the pandemic and related measures led to a considerable decrease in March and April 2020. This was followed by a modest increase in the number of arrivals in May, while the number accelerated — but did not fully recover — in the early summer of 2020. Throughout the rest of the summer and into autumn, the developments were similar in 2020 to those in 2019, but with around 41–49 million fewer arrivals (or drops between -33 % and -97 %) each month from July to November 2020 compared with the equivalent months in 2019.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [tour\\_occ\\_arm](#))

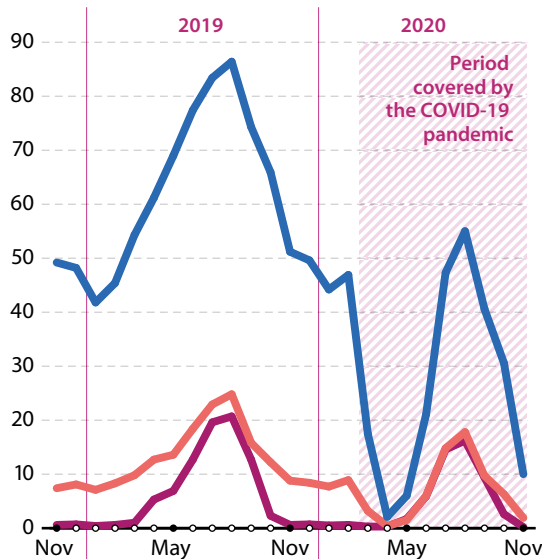
## Arrivals in tourist accommodation

(millions, EU-27, November 2018–November 2020)

### According to residence of the guest



### According to the type of tourist accommodation



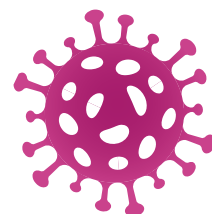
- Tourists from the reporting country (domestic)
- Tourists from a foreign country (international)

- Hotels and similar accommodation
- Holiday and other short-stay accommodation
- Camping grounds, recreational vehicle parks & trailer parks

The number of international arrivals at EU-27 tourist accommodation was 87 % lower in March and April 2020 (combined) than a year earlier, while for domestic arrivals there was a fall of 81 %. When studied by type of accommodation, arrivals at hotels and similar accommodation were down by 83 % during the same period, with slightly larger falls for holiday and other short-stay accommodation (down 84 %) and for camping grounds, recreational vehicle parks and trailer parks (down 89 %).

The partial recovery in the number of arrivals at tourist accommodation during the summer of 2020 was largely driven by domestic demand, with many people deciding to stay in their home country for a 'staycation' rather than crossing borders for a foreign holiday. Based on a comparison with July and August 2019, domestic arrivals at EU-27 tourist accommodation were down by 17 % in July and August 2020, while the decrease for inbound international arrivals was considerably greater, at 60 %. The most affected type of accommodation was hotels and similar, as the number of arrivals in July and August 2020 was 40 % lower than in the same months of 2019. The number of arrivals in EU-27 holiday and other short-stay accommodation dropped by 32 % in July and August 2020 compared with July and August 2019, while the lowest impact from the pandemic was felt by camping grounds, recreational vehicle parks and trailer parks (down by 24 %). To give some context to the relative importance of these figures, accommodation accounted for 1.3 % of value added in the EU-27's non-financial business economy in 2018.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [tour\\_occ\\_arm](#))



[For a graphical visualisation of time series for key indicators](#)



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# Key figures on European business

## STATISTICS ILLUSTRATED

*Key figures on European business — Statistics illustrated* presents a selection of key business statistics indicators for the European Union (EU) and its individual Member States, as well as the EFTA countries. This publication may be viewed as an introduction to European business statistics and provides a starting point for those who wish to explore the wide range of data that are freely available on Eurostat's website at <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat> together with a range of online articles in Statistics Explained.

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