

Services statistics 1996

*EU going further towards service industries
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Statistics in focus

INDUSTRY, TRADE AND SERVICES

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Introduction

Services are playing an increasingly important role in the European economy. The service sector accounted for some 71% of the wealth created within the fifteen Member States in 1997. This figure is gradually approaching the levels seen within the United States. Services now provide employment for almost 100 million persons within the EU.

The growing importance of the service sector has not been evenly spread across all activities. The traditional enterprise structure of small, family-owned units has been replaced to some degree, but with differences between countries on the basis of a north-south divide. Indeed, the southern Member States continue to display a tendency for a large total number of enterprises within the business population, many of these being family-run (with a significant number of self-employed or unpaid staff - normally family workers). This broad generalisation holds across the majority of service activities, except for those that have traditionally been subject to government ownership, such as post and telecommunications.

There has nevertheless been an increase in the number of large enterprises in the service sector of the European economy. Many of these enterprises place a premium on high skills for their workforce and deal in high value added activities, such as financial services, information technology and communications. This development is particularly prevalent in the northern Member States.

Services remain the hub of economic growth, responsible for the vast majority of business start-ups (the capital costs of starting a service enterprise are usually quite low compared to manufacturing). In addition, with jobs still being lost on an annual basis in agriculture and industry, there is an ever-growing importance being attached to the creation of new jobs within the service sector (as it is the only area of the European economy to show an expansion in the number of jobs in the last two decades). Services have been particularly successful in offering opportunities for women to either enter or return to the labour market. Many of these job opportunities have increased job flexibility, leading to an expansion of part-time work in areas such as retail trade, hotels and restaurants, as well as personal services.



Number of enterprises and turnover

The number of enterprises within the services' economy varies to a large degree according to the activity we study. Looking at table 1 we see that the largest single service Division is that of distributive trades. Whilst distributive trades ranks as the most important activity in terms of the number of enterprises within the French, German and United Kingdom service economies, the figures recorded were well below those seen in Italy. Indeed, there were almost 1.2 million enterprises operating within distributive trades in Italy in 1996 (almost double the number of enterprises found in France and more than three times the number in the United Kingdom). Greece, Spain and Portugal also reported a high share of enterprises within distribution.

Real estate, renting and business activities were generally the next most important sector in terms of the number of enterprises, except in Austria, where hotels and restaurants were the second most important. Hotels and restaurants had the third highest number of enterprises with two exceptions, in addition to that of Austria. In both Finland and Sweden there were more enterprises within the activity of transport, storage and communications. In all other countries, transport, storage and communications ranked fourth in terms of the number of enterprises. The lowest number of enterprises was consistently found within the activity of financial intermediation. Please note that only credit institutions and insurance companies are covered by these statistics and that businesses in the financial services area (e.g. financial auxiliaries) are not yet included (which would fundamentally change the statistics presented).

	Distributive trades	Hotels and restaurants	Transport, storage and communication	Financial intermediation (1) (2)	Real estate, renting and business activities
B	:	:	:	267	:
DK (3)	73,049	13,657	1,816	440	51,851
D (4)	429,425	:	4,128	:	441,803
EL	:	:	:	:	:
E (5)	:	258,085	21,587	:	378,120
F	636,067	202,253	93,781	1,078	450,802
IRL (6)	29,169	11,686	3,994	:	13,380
I (7)	1,199,790	207,499	154,723	1,171	145,473
L	6,652	2,597	842	:	3,996
NL (8)	163,747	41,096	21,893	:	14,888
A	67,886	40,504	11,980	1,081	35,746
P (9)	175,440	38,349	14,863	282	24,635
FIN	47,779	9,228	21,722	520	32,931
S (10)	112,743	18,507	31,075	:	94,032
UK (11)	388,189	109,532	66,545	:	293,820

(1) 1995 data.

(2) Covers only Classes 65.12, 66.01, 66.03.

(3) 1995 data for distributive trades, hotels and restaurants and real estate; transport: excluding Divisions 60, 61, 63; real estate: excluding Divisions 70, 73.

(4) Distributive trades: excluding Groups 50.2, 51.1, 52.7; transport: excluding Divisions 60, 61, 63; real estate: excluding Division 70.

(5) Transport: excluding Division 60.

(6) Hotels and restaurants: excluding Group 55.2.

(7) 1995 data for hotels and restaurants, transport and real estate; transport: excluding Group 62.3;

real estate: excluding Divisions 71, 73, 74.

(8) 1995 data; distributive trades: excluding Group 51.1 and Class 52.31; real estate: excluding Divisions 70, 73, 74.

(9) 1995 data for hotels and restaurants, transport and real estate.

(10) Real estate: excluding Division 70.

(11) Transport: excluding Division 64; real estate: excluding Division 70 and Class 74.15.

Source: SBS

Table 1: number of enterprises, 1996 (units)

An alternative measure of the relative size of the business population is the number of enterprises per 10,000 inhabitants. This measure gives us some idea as to the density of the enterprises, or their proximity to their customers. The latest Italian figures show that there were some 209 distributive trade enterprises for each 10,000 inhabitants in 1996. At the other end of the scale was the United Kingdom, where only 66 enterprises within distributive trades were found per 10,000 inhabitants.

Another interesting ratio that helps us to measure the size and distribution of service enterprises within the EU is the average number of persons employed per enterprise. This ratio can be used to confirm the high propensity of small or family-run businesses within certain countries. Italy reported an average of just 2.1 persons employed per enterprise in the activity of retail trade in 1996, the corresponding figure in

Germany (data for 1995) was over 8 persons per enterprise on average, and in the United Kingdom there were almost 10. Whilst retail trade was the extreme for the lowest number of persons employed per enterprise, at the other end of the spectrum were activities that remain under public ownership or have recently been deregulated. The highest average number of persons employed per enterprise in 1996 was recorded by Spain in the activity of transport via railways. This activity accounted for almost 7 thousand persons employed per enterprise (there were 6 enterprises in total operating in this activity). In Luxembourg the same activity recorded a total number of persons employed equal to 3,229 persons in 1996 (with only 1 enterprise).

A final measure for looking at the distribution and structure of enterprises is to take account of the importance of enterprises run by entrepreneurs. To do this we may measure the number of employees in the number of persons employed.

	Distributive trades	Hotels and restaurants	Transport, storage and communication	Financial intermediation (1) (2)	Real estate, renting and business activities
B (1) (3)	191,776	6,393	30,270	44,868	32,120
DK (4)	97,789	3,334	6,987	18,956	12,616
D (5)	1,047,783	41,559	49,295	:	277,984
EL	:	:	:	:	:
E	:	:	:	:	:
F	759,736	38,649	131,657	454,390	208,761
IRL (6)	33,940	3,664	6,505	:	4,607
I (7)	524,958	30,375	86,135	117,372	26,134
L	11,780	700	2,647	:	2,150
NL (8)	226,068	10,344	32,186	66,980	9,134
A	118,959	8,383	20,472	35,856	20,594
P (9)	67,194	3,410	9,156	15,293	7,830
FIN	63,061	3,411	14,555	10,358	9,617
S (10)	138,774	5,859	35,024	:	28,977
UK (11)	791,579	53,064	122,480	:	163,400

(1) 1995 data.

(2) Covers only Classes 65.12, 66.01, 66.03.

(3) Distributive trades: excluding Class 52.71.

(4) 1995 data for distributive trades, hotels and restaurants and real estate; transport: excluding Divisions 60, 61, 63;

real estate: excluding Divisions 70, 73.

(5) Distributive trades: excluding Groups 50.2, 51.1, 52.7; transport: excluding Divisions 60, 61, 63;

real estate: excluding Division 70.

(6) Hotels and restaurants: excluding Group 55.2.

(7) 1995 data for hotels and restaurants, transport and real estate; transport: excluding Group 62.3;

real estate: excluding Divisions 71, 73, 74.

(8) 1995 data; distributive trades: excluding Groups 50.1, 50.3, 51.1 and Classes 52.12, 52.31;

transport: excluding Division 62; real estate: excluding Divisions 70, 73, 74.

(9) 1995 data for hotels and restaurants, transport and real estate.

(10) Real estate: excluding Division 70.

(11) Transport: excluding Class 64.11; real estate: excluding Division 70 and Class 74.15.

Source: SBS

Table 2: turnover, 1996 (million ECU)

For the majority of countries and activities we find that the share of employees in the total number of persons employed is above the level of 75%. Indeed, in some activities the latest data for 1996 shows that the share of employees can be well over 95%: for example,

in air transport, auxiliary transport activities, post and telecommunications and financial intermediation. The lowest share of employees in the total number of persons employed was usually found in the activity of distributive trades. This was particularly the case in Italy

with the following shares: motor trade (46.5%), wholesale trade (52.0%) and retail trade (36.0%). More extreme examples could be found when studying the data at a less aggregated level: for example, in the Italian activity of retail trade via stalls and markets, only 2.5% of those employed had the status of being an employee. Looking at the other NACE Rev.1 Divisions, Belgium recorded the lowest share of employees in the total number of persons employed for hotels and restaurants (65.9%), real estate (49.1%), renting (68.8%), computer activities (79.0%) and other business activities (79.2%). Indeed, if we exclude the activities of distributive trades and transport and communication, we find that Belgium had the lowest share of employees in the total number of persons employed in every market services' Division, except for research and development (for the countries that provided data in 1996).

Employment creation in 1996

The highest absolute gain in employment between 1995 and 1996 was recorded in France, in the activity of renting, where almost 70 thousand positions were created (an increase of nearly 30% on the figure of 1995). The second largest gain was in Germany, where almost 65 thousand new jobs were created in the activity of wholesale of machinery, equipment and supplies, an annual increase of some 20.4%.

We may note that in Italy there were more than 30 thousand net jobs created within the retail trade industry, despite the fact that 40 thousand jobs were lost within retail trade of non-specialised stores.

The largest decline in the number of persons employed between 1995 and 1996 was recorded in "other business activities" in France (a grouping that brings together a

broad range of services from legal, accounting and management services to industrial cleaning and security services), where 244 thousand persons lost their jobs. Almost half of these jobs (more than 118 thousand) were shed in the activity of legal, accounting and management consultancy. However, with a change in the survey between 1995 and 1996, this was most probably a classification problem.

	Number of enterprises (thousands)	Average number of enterprises per 10,000 population (units)	Number of persons employed (thousands)	Share of employees in the number of persons employed (%)	Unit personnel costs (thousand ECU)	Average number of persons employed per enterprise (units)
NACE Rev. 1 Section G: distributive trades						
B (1) (2)	:	:	594.4	71.0	33.8	:
DK (1)	73.0	139.7	421.6	79.6	:	5.8
D (3)	429.4	52.4	4,529.1	:	:	10.5
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	:	:	:	:	:	:
F	636.1	109.0	2,805.2	90.9	:	4.4
IRL	29.2	80.4	192.4	83.8	:	6.6
I	1,199.8	209.0	2,798.8	43.0	28.4	2.3
L	6.7	160.1	35.2	85.0	24.9	5.3
NL (1) (4)	163.6	105.8	1,122.6	84.1	20.6	6.9
A (5)	67.9	84.2	521.4	90.3	28.0	7.7
P	175.4	176.7	599.9	82.4	9.6	3.4
FIN	47.8	93.2	196.5	89.0	29.2	4.1
S	112.7	127.5	:	:	33.5	:
UK	388.2	66.0	:	:	:	:
NACE Rev. 1 Section H: hotels and restaurants						
B	:	:	139.2	65.9	15.8	:
DK (1)	13.7	26.1	78.9	40.7	28.1	5.8
D	:	:	1,181.1	:	:	:
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	258.1	65.7	:	:	:	:
F	202.3	34.6	663.6	85.2	21.6	3.3
IRL (6)	11.7	32.2	96.4	82.5	:	8.3
I (1)	207.5	36.2	727.7	55.5	16.0	3.5
L	2.6	62.5	10.6	89.5	19.2	4.1
NL (1)	41.1	26.6	:	:	14.8	:
A (5)	40.5	50.3	183.1	78.4	18.3	4.5
P (1)	38.3	38.7	162.5	83.6	6.2	4.2
FIN	9.2	18.0	42.8	88.0	22.8	4.6
S	18.5	20.9	:	:	24.7	:
UK	109.5	18.6	:	:	:	:
NACE Rev. 1 Section I: transport, storage and communication						
B	:	:	254.4	93.9	42.2	:
DK (7)	1.8	3.5	66.1	98.8	33.8	36.4
D (7)	4.1	0.5	:	:	:	:
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:
E (8)	21.6	5.5	:	:	:	:
F	93.8	16.1	1,378.0	96.2	34.7	14.7
IRL	4.0	11.0	62.5	93.3	:	15.6
I (1) (9)	154.7	27.0	1,101.3	82.7	28.8	7.1
L	0.8	20.3	16.2	96.2	38.5	19.3
NL (1)	21.9	14.2	:	:	:	:
A (5) (10)	12.0	14.9	221.1	96.0	35.6	18.5
P (1)	14.9	15.0	145.8	96.0	16.9	9.8
FIN	21.7	42.4	138.7	91.2	30.0	6.4
S	31.1	35.1	:	:	35.9	:
UK (11)	66.5	11.3	:	:	:	:

(1) 1995 data.

(2) Excluding Class 52.71.

(3) Excluding Groups 50.2, 51.1, 52.7.

(4) Excluding Group 51.1 and Classes 52.12, 52.31.

(5) For unit personnel cost, 1995 data.

(6) Excluding Group 55.2.

(7) Excluding Divisions 60, 61, 63.

(8) Excluding Division 60.

(9) Excluding Group 62.3.

(10) For unit personnel costs, excluding Group 64.1.

(11) Excluding Division 64.

Source: SBS

Table 3: main enterprise and employment related indicators, 1996

Personnel costs and employers' contributions

When we look at the data available for 1996 we find that there were still a few activities where average personnel costs per employee were below 10 thousand ECU per annum in the EU. This was the case in motor trade and retail trade in Portugal (9.3 thousand ECU and 7.5 thousand ECU per head respectively). It was also the case in the Netherlands: for the retail sale of fruit and vegetables (8.3 thousand ECU per head), the retail sale of bread, cakes and confectionery (9.4 thousand ECU per head), the retail sale of tobacco

products (9.9 thousand ECU per head) and retail sale via stalls and markets (8.7 thousand ECU per head). The only other activity to report average personnel costs below 10 thousand ECU was the retail sale of medical and orthopaedic goods in Denmark (9.9 thousand ECU per head). For the activities noted above, there is a high propensity to employ on a part-time basis, which "underestimates" this ratio as head-counts rather than full-time equivalents are used in the calculations.

At the other extreme, we find that the highest paid jobs in services were in the activities of transport and communications, financial intermediation or real estate, renting and business activities. We may note that these activities generally require high levels of education and training and employ highly qualified staff. If we limit the analysis to those countries that had average personnel costs per employee above 50 thousand ECU we find that four Member States met this criteria (unfortunately there was no data available for either Germany or the United Kingdom).

	Number of enterprises (thousands)	Average number of enterprises per 10,000 population (units)	Number of persons employed (thousands)	Share of employees in the number of persons employed (%)	Unit personnel costs (thousand ECU)	Average number of persons employed per enterprise (units)
NACE Rev. 1 Section J: financial intermediation (1) (2)						
B	0.3	0.3	83.5	:	:	312.6
DK	0.4	0.8	60.7	:	:	137.9
D	:	:	:	:	:	:
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	:	:	:	:	:	:
F	1.1	0.2	:	:	:	:
IRL	:	:	:	:	:	:
I	1.2	0.2	:	:	:	:
L	:	:	:	:	:	:
NL	:	:	:	:	:	:
A	1.1	1.3	99.4	:	:	92.0
P	0.3	0.3	69.4	:	:	246.1
FIN	0.5	1.0	40.5	:	:	77.9
S	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	:	:	:	:	:	:
NACE Rev. 1 Section K: real estate, renting and business activities						
B	:	:	330.9	77.2	31.8	:
DK (1) (4)	51.9	99.2	167.1	58.8	40.2	3.2
D (4)	441.8	53.9	:	:	:	:
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	378.1	96.3	:	:	:	:
F	450.8	77.2	1,949.2	93.2	34.2	4.3
IRL	13.4	36.9	83.8	82.4	:	6.3
I (1) (5)	145.5	25.3	356.9	49.5	25.4	2.5
L	4.0	96.2	23.2	90.7	30.1	5.8
NL (1) (6)	14.9	9.6	:	:	38.8	:
A (3)	35.7	44.4	194.6	86.1	30.3	5.4
P (1)	24.6	24.8	118.3	88.3	14.8	4.8
FIN	32.9	64.3	112.7	87.2	31.3	3.4
S (7)	94.0	10.6	:	:	39.9	:
UK (8)	293.8	50.0	:	:	:	:

(1) 1995 data.

(2) Covers only Classes 65.12, 66.01, 66.03.

(3) For unit personnel costs, 1995 data.

(4) Excluding Divisions 70, 73.

(5) Excluding Divisions 71, 73, 74.

(6) Excluding Divisions 70, 73, 74.

(7) Excluding Division 70.

(8) Excluding Division 70 and Class 74.15.

Source: SBS

Table 3: main enterprise and employment related indicators, 1996 (part 2)

Belgium had the highest number of activities with average personnel costs above 50 thousand ECU per head. In Luxembourg there were three activities that reported average personnel costs above 50 thousand ECU per head, they were

all within financial intermediation. Denmark reported two activities, transport via railways and telecommunications. Finally, in France there was one activity in this category, air transport. Whilst high average personnel costs may

often be explained by a high level of educational attainment, one other similarity between many of the activities noted above was that many are or have until recently been under public ownership.

Turnover, value added, productivity and investment

If we study all NACE Rev. 1 Divisions within market services, we find that in 1996 the highest level of turnover was in the United Kingdom for wholesale trade (some 422 billion ECU, although there was no data available for Germany). The highest value in other business activities was 222 billion ECU in Germany (whilst there was no data for the United Kingdom). The German figure for other business activities was almost double the corresponding figure for France.

One indicator that may be of more use in determining the performance of service activities is that of average

turnover per person employed. If we turn our attention away from the inflated ratios seen within distributive, we find that the highest average turnover per person employed for hotels and restaurants was recorded in Finland, 79.6 thousand ECU per head. In Ireland, hotels and restaurants recorded only 33.7 thousand ECU per head. Transport and communications had higher turnover per head figures, with many countries and individual activities reporting average rates above 200 thousand ECU, with travel agencies and water transport leading the ranking. Within other business activities the level of

turnover per head was somewhat lower, with only two data points in the 1996 collection above the level of 200 thousand ECU per head. The first of these was advertising in Belgium with some 298 thousand ECU per head. The second was market research and opinion polling in Luxembourg with average turnover per head of 253 thousand ECU.

A standard measure that is often used when studying competitiveness is that of labour productivity (value added divided by persons employed). Within market services, the highest labour productivity is always recorded in transport, storage

and communications. This activity is followed by that of real estate, renting and business activities in every Member State except France, where the first two positions were reversed. There were a few activities at a disaggregated level that were

able to report very high labour productivity levels, above 100 thousand ECU per head. We may note that the majority of these were found within the activities of telecommunications and renting.

Average investment per head (again using the number of persons employed as the denominator) ranged between 1.41 thousand ECU per head in Ireland for other business activities and 163 thousand ECU per head in France for renting.

	Turnover (million ECU)	Turnover per enterprise (million ECU)	Value added at factor cost (million ECU)	Value added per person employed (thousand ECU)	Wage adjusted labour productivity (%)	Gross investment in tangible goods per person employed (thousand ECU)
NACE Rev. 1 Section G: distributive trades						
B (1) (2)	191,776	:	22,986	38.7	114.5	:
DK (1)	97,789	1.34	:	:	:	:
D (3)	1,047,783	2.44	:	:	:	3.3
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	:	:	:	:	:	:
F	759,736	1.19	99,149	35.3	:	4.5
IRL	33,940	1.16	4,491	23.3	:	3.7
I	524,958	0.44	83,551	29.9	105.3	:
L	11,780	1.77	1,469	41.7	167.6	:
NL (1) (4)	226,068	1.53	:	:	:	:
A (5)	118,959	1.75	19,303	36.9	131.6	5.6
P	67,194	0.38	:	:	:	3.0
FIN	63,061	1.32	8,673	44.1	151.2	6.4
S	138,774	1.23	18,782	:	:	:
UK	791,579	2.04	:	:	:	:
NACE Rev. 1 Section H: hotels and restaurants						
B	6,393	:	2,425	17.4	110.0	:
DK (1)	3,334	0.24	:	:	:	:
D (6)	41,559	:	:	:	:	2.0
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	:	:	:	:	:	:
F	38,649	0.19	16,302	24.6	113.8	5.5
IRL (7)	3,664	0.31	1,200	12.4	:	3.0
I (1)	30,375	0.15	11,715	16.1	100.4	3.9
L	700	0.27	309	29.0	151.0	:
NL (1)	10,344	0.25	7,177	:	:	:
A (5)	8,383	0.21	3,987	21.6	117.8	4.9
P (1)	3,410	0.09	:	:	:	1.5
FIN	3,411	0.37	1,193	27.9	122.0	3.0
S	5,859	0.32	2,129	:	:	:
UK	53,064	0.48	:	:	:	:
NACE Rev. 1 Section I: transport, storage and communication						
B	30,270	:	14,143	55.6	131.8	:
DK	6,987	3.85	:	:	:	27.9
D (8)	49,295	11.94	:	:	:	:
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	:	:	:	:	:	:
F	131,657	1.40	58,687	42.6	122.6	11.7
IRL	6,505	1.63	2,732	43.7	:	11.9
I (1) (9)	86,135	0.56	38,990	35.4	122.9	9.6
L	2,647	3.14	1,221	75.3	195.4	:
NL (1) (10)	32,186	1.47	18,080	:	:	:
A (1) (11)	20,978	1.89	10,535	46.8	131.4	15.8
P (1)	9,156	0.62	:	:	:	4.9
FIN	14,555	0.67	6,403	46.2	154.0	13.1
S	35,024	1.13	10,682	:	:	:
UK (12)	91,191	1.37	:	:	:	:

(1) 1995 data.

(2) Excluding Class 52.71.

(3) Excluding Groups 50.2, 51.1, 52.7.

(4) Excluding Groups 50.1, 50.3, 51.1 and Classes 52.12, 52.31.

(5) 1995 data except turnover and turnover per enterprise.

(6) Investment per person employed, 1995 data.

(7) Excluding Group 55.2.

(8) Excluding Divisions 60, 61, 63.

(9) Excluding Group 62.3.

(10) Excluding Division 62.

(11) Excluding Group 64.1.

(12) Excluding Division 64.

Source: SBS

Table 4: monetary related indicators, 1996

	Turnover (million ECU)	Turnover per enterprise (million ECU)	Value added at factor cost (million ECU)	Value added per person employed (thousand ECU)	Wage adjusted labour productivity (%)	Gross investment in tangible goods per person employed (thousand ECU)
NACE Rev. 1 Section J: financial intermediation (1) (2)						
B	44,868	168.05	:	:	:	:
DK	18,956	43.08	:	:	:	:
D	:	:	:	:	:	:
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	:	:	:	:	:	:
F	454,390	421.51	:	:	:	:
IRL	:	:	:	:	:	:
I	117,372	100.23	:	:	:	:
L	:	:	:	:	:	:
NL	66,980	:	:	:	:	:
A	35,856	33.17	:	:	:	:
P	15,293	54.23	:	:	:	:
FIN	10,358	19.92	:	:	:	:
S	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	:	:	:	:	:	:
NACE Rev. 1 Section K: real estate, renting and business activities						
B	32,120	:	13,521	40.9	128.6	:
DK (1) (3)	12,616	0.24	:	:	:	:
D (4)	277,984	0.63	:	:	:	:
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	:	:	:	:	:	:
F	208,761	0.46	88,636	45.5	132.9	15.3
IRL	4,607	0.34	2,409	28.7	:	4.1
I (1) (5)	26,134	0.18	13,989	39.2	154.3	9.1
L	2,150	0.54	1,083	46.7	154.8	:
NL (1) (6)	9,134	0.61	:	:	:	:
A (7)	20,594	0.58	9,806	52.9	174.8	32.8
P (1)	7,830	0.32	:	:	:	4.6
FIN	9,617	0.29	4,982	44.2	141.1	6.3
S (4)	28,977	0.31	12,036	:	:	:
UK (8)	163,400	0.56	:	:	:	:

(1) 1995 data.

(2) Covers only Classes 65.12, 66.01, 66.03.

(3) Excluding Divisions 70, 73.

(4) Excluding Division 70.

(5) Excluding Divisions 71, 73, 74.

(6) Excluding Divisions 70, 73, 74.

(7) 1995 data except turnover and turnover per enterprise.

(8) Excluding Division 70 and Class 74.15.

Source: SBS

Table 4 (continued): monetary related indicators, 1996

➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

This short report details the most recent data collected under the Council Regulation concerning structural business statistics (EC, EURATOM) No. 58/97 of 20 December 1996. The data collected cover all enterprises within the business population. An extraction from the database was made during April 1999. Unfortunately, there is at present no lengthy time-series available for service activities within the structural business statistics' data collection. This situation is likely to improve at a rapid pace, as the SBS Regulation is fully implemented. The data provided by the Member States is stored within the NewCronos reference environment (theme 4) in the SBS domain (details through the Eurostat Data Shop network).

For turnover related variables, please note that turnover by activity should be interpreted with care (especially in distributive trades), as many items may be re-traded several times before finishing with the final retail customer. As such, the turnover figures for distribution activities (in particular for wholesale trade) are inflated. Furthermore, figures are not provided for NACE Rev. 1 Section J, as in financial intermediation there is no turnover measure available. Instead, it is more prudent to look at gross premiums written in insurance and interests and commissions received within banking.

The large number of part-time workers in the labour force could well lead to a measurement problem for derived indicators relating to personnel costs, as the data is not corrected to measure in full-time equivalents. As such, activities with a high level of part-time working will be under-represented when studying average personnel costs, as a significant number of employees are working a limited number of hours.

Investment is a variable that usually reports a cyclical trend based on business confidence and market conditions. For this reason the results of one particular year need to be treated with extreme caution. This is especially the case in activities where large one-off investments can be made (for example, infrastructure within the transport and telecommunications' industries).

Further information:

➤ Reference publications

Title Services in Europe
 Catalogue No CA-17-98-742-EN-C Price EUR 20

➤ Databases

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To obtain information or to order publications, data bases and special sets of data, please contact the **Data Shop** network:

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