

First quarter 2024

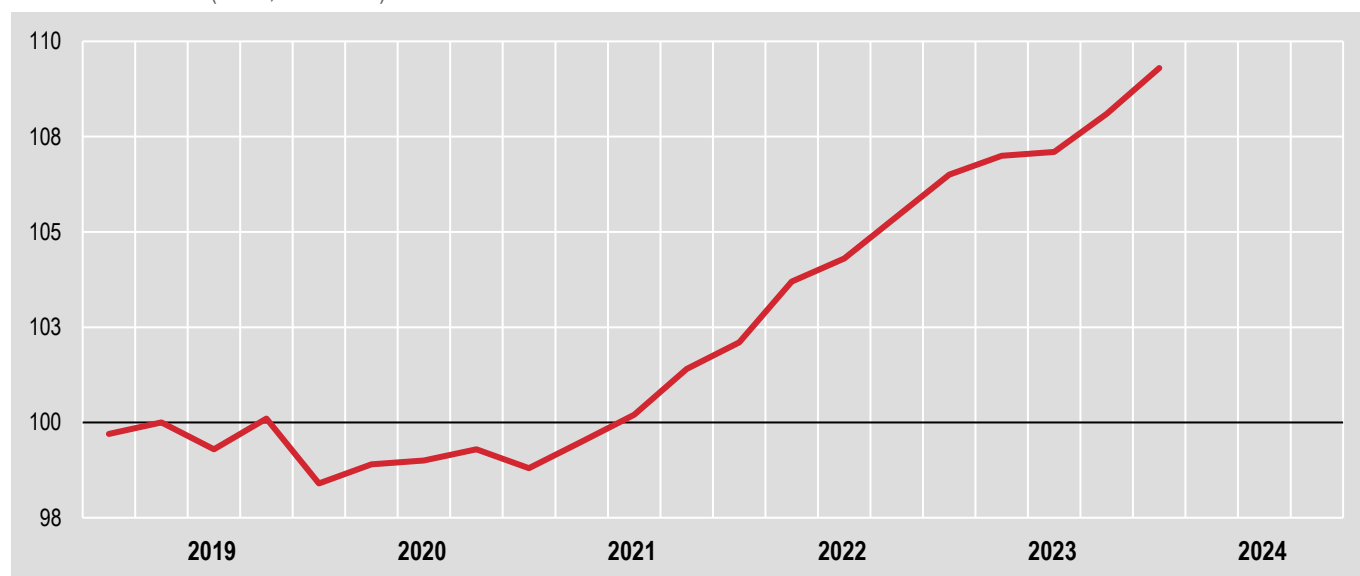
## SERVICE PRODUCER PRICES

- With the release of the first quarter 2024 data and on the occasion of the transition to the new reference base 2021=100, Istat expands the statistical information available for the analysis of the dynamics of service producer prices increasing the sectoral coverage of *Business-to-Business* (BtoB)<sup>1</sup> services producer price indices to date produced. At the same time, Istat starts the dissemination of *Business-to-All* (BtoAll) services producer price indices – which refer to total market, *business* and *consumer* – required by the European Regulations on business statistics No. 2019/2152 and 2020/1197. Details on innovations are available in the Methodological note (page 6).
- In the first quarter 2024, services producer prices on *business* market increased by 1.1%, compared with the previous quarter, and by 2.6%, compared to the same quarter of the previous year.
- Transportation and storage (+2.9%) recorded the highest increase on quarterly basis, mainly due to prices of Water transport (+5.6%) and of Warehousing and support activities for transportation (+5.0%). Producer prices of Transportation and storage increased by 4.2% on annual basis (up from +1.0% in the fourth quarter 2023).
- In the first quarter 2024, producer prices of Information and communication fell slightly (-0.1%), compared with the previous quarter, and rose by 1.4% on annual basis.
- Producer prices of Professional, scientific and technical activities stayed stable on quarterly basis and increased by 2.0%, compared to the fourth quarter 2023.
- Producer prices of Administrative and support service activities increased by 1.1% on quarterly basis and by 1.9% on annual basis.
- In the first quarter 2024, services producer prices on total market (*business* and *consumer*) increased by 1.0%, compared with the previous quarter, and by 2.8% on annual basis.

## Service Producer Prices *Business-to-Business* (BtoB)

### CHART 1. SERVICES PRODUCER PRICE TOTAL INDEX (BtoB)

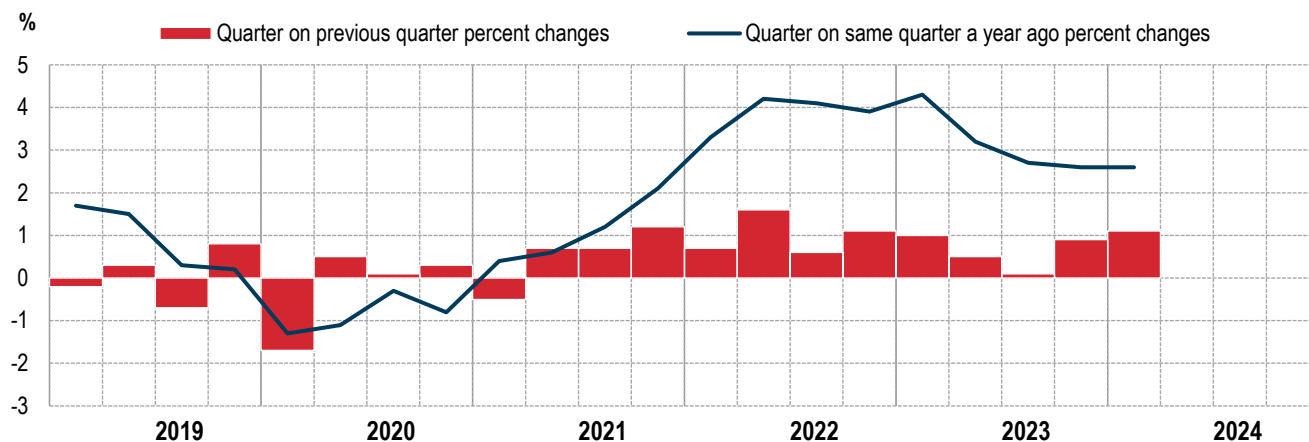
Q1 2019 – Q1 2024 (index, 2021=100)



<sup>1</sup> Sales to public sector – *Business-to-Government*, BtoG – are also included in BtoB.

**CHART 2. SERVICE PRODUCER PRICES (BtoB). QUARTER ON PREVIOUS QUARTER AND ON SAME QUARTER A YEAR AGO PERCENT CHANGES**

Q1 2019 – Q1 2024 (index, 2021=100)


**TABLE 1. SERVICE PRODUCER PRICES (BtoB) BY SECTION OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY**

Q1 2024, index, quarter on previous quarter and on same quarter a year ago percent changes (index, 2021=100)

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES		Index	Quarter on previous quarter	Quarter on same quarter a year ago
		Q1 2024	Q1 2024 Q4 2023	Q1 2024 Q1 2023
H	Transportation and storage	114.0	+2.9	+4.2
J	Information and communication	101.8	-0.1	+1.4
M	Professional, scientific and technical activities (a)	108.2	0.0	+2.0
N	Administrative and support service activities	112.6	+1.1	+1.9
<b>H-N</b>	<b>Total services (b)</b>	<b>109.3</b>	<b>+1.1</b>	<b>+2.6</b>

(a) Excluding M70.1 Activities of head offices, M72 Scientific research and development and M75 Veterinary activities.

(b) Excluding K Financial and insurance activities. Starting from Q1 2021, an estimate for section L Real estate activities is included in the total index

**TABLE 2. TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE SERVICE PRODUCER PRICES (BtoB)**

Q1 2024, index, quarter on previous quarter and on same quarter a year ago percent changes (index, 2021=100)

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES		Index	Quarter on previous quarter	Quarter on same quarter a year ago
		Q1 2024	Q1 2024 Q4 2023	Q1 2024 Q1 2023
H49.4	Freight transport by road	111.7	+0.7	+0.7
H50	Water transport	112.0	+5.6	+1.7
H51	Air transport	118.6	-0.8	-6.8
- H51.1	Air passenger transport	128.8	-1.2	-4.0
- H51.2	Freight air transport	80.7	+2.0	-24.9
H52	Warehousing and support activities for transportation	115.7	+5.0	+7.7
- H52.1	Warehousing and storage	116.0	+1.9	+5.3
- H52.2	Support activities for transportation	115.7	+5.2	+7.9
- H52.24	Cargo handling	111.2	+1.1	+3.7
- H52.29	Other transportation support activities (a)	106.2	+6.2	-
H53	Postal and courier activities	111.2	+2.8	+8.3
<b>H</b>	<b>Transportation and storage</b>	<b>114.0</b>	<b>+2.9</b>	<b>+4.2</b>

(a) Index, Q4 2023=100.

**TABLE 3. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION SERVICE PRODUCER PRICES (BtoB)**

Q1 2024, index, quarter on previous quarter and on same quarter a year ago percent changes (index, 2021=100)

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES		Index	Quarter on previous quarter	Quarter on same quarter a year ago
		Q1 2024	Q1 2024 Q4 2023	Q1 2024 Q1 2023
J61	Telecommunications	90.8	-2.0	+2.4
- J61.1	Wired telecommunications activities	93.5	-0.8	+5.8
- J61.2	Wireless telecommunications activities	83.6	-5.4	-7.0
J62	Computer programming, consultancy and related activities	105.6	+0.7	+1.2
J63	Information service activities	104.0	+0.1	+0.7
- J63.1	Data processing, hosting and related activities; web portals	104.4	+0.2	+0.5
- J63.9	Other information service activities	99.5	+0.3	+1.3
<b>J</b>	<b>Information and communication (a)</b>	<b>101.8</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>1.4</b>

(a) Including confidential J60.

**TABLE 4. PROFESSIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SERVICE PRODUCER PRICES (BtoB)**

Q1 2024, index, quarter on previous quarter and on same quarter a year ago percent changes (index, 2021=100)

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES		Index	Quarter on previous quarter	Quarter on same quarter a year ago
		Q1 2024	Q1 2024 Q4 2023	Q1 2024 Q1 2023
M69	Legal and accounting activities	106.0	+0.5	+1,7
M70.2	Management consultancy activities	103.4	+0.1	+0.4
M71	Architectural and engineering activities; technical testing and analysis	106.1	-0.6	+0.7
M74	Other professional, scientific and technical activities	124.5	+2.4	+5.8
<b>M</b>	<b>Professional, scientific and technical activities</b>	<b>108.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>+2.0</b>

(a) Since Q1 2021 M73.12 is included but not released.

**TABLE 5. ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICES TO ENTERPRISES PRODUCER PRICES (BtoB)**

Q1 2024, index, quarter on previous quarter and on same quarter a year ago percent changes (index, 2021=100)

ATTIVITÀ ECONOMICA		Index	Quarter on previous quarter	Quarter on same quarter a year ago
		Q1 2024	Q1 2024 Q4 2023	Q1 2024 Q1 2023
N77	Rental and leasing activities	117.7	+1.0	+3.5
- N77.1	Rental and leasing of motor vehicles	119.9	+1.4	+4.4
- N77.3	Rental and leasing of other machinery, equipment and tangible goods (a)	109.6	-0.2	+0.9
N78	Employment activities	105.6	+0.7	+2.3
N80	Security and investigation activities	104.4	+1.8	+3.8
N81.2	Cleaning activities	106.3	+0.9	+3.2
N82	Office administrative, office support and other business support activities	117.8	+1.6	+0.4
<b>N</b>	<b>Administrative and support service activities (b)</b>	<b>112.6</b>	<b>+1.1</b>	<b>+1.9</b>

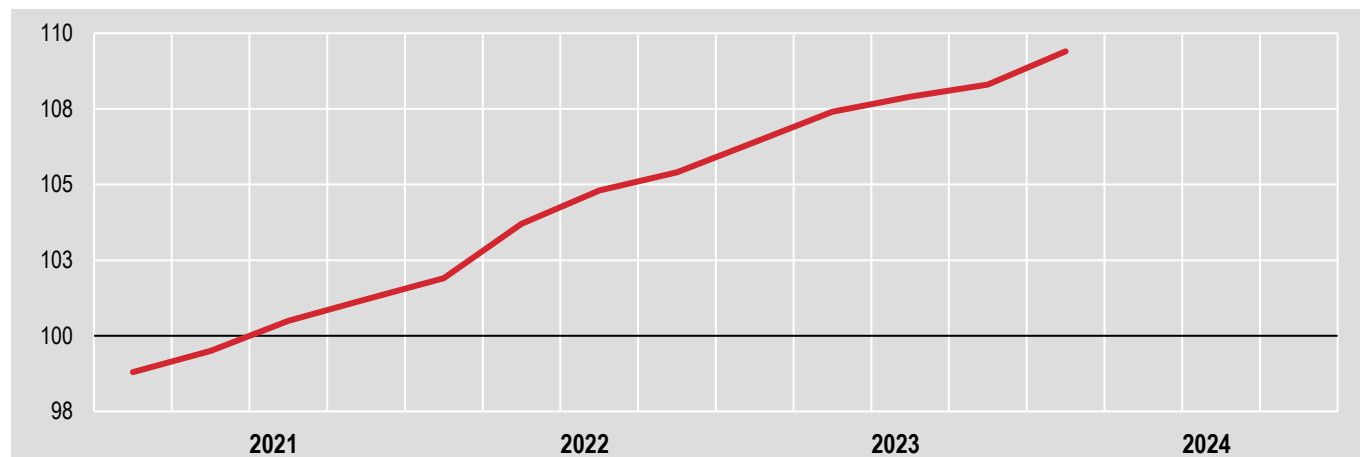
(a) Index, Q4 2021=100.

(b) Since Q1 2024 N79.1 is included but not released.

## Services Producer Prices *Business-to-All* (BtoAll)

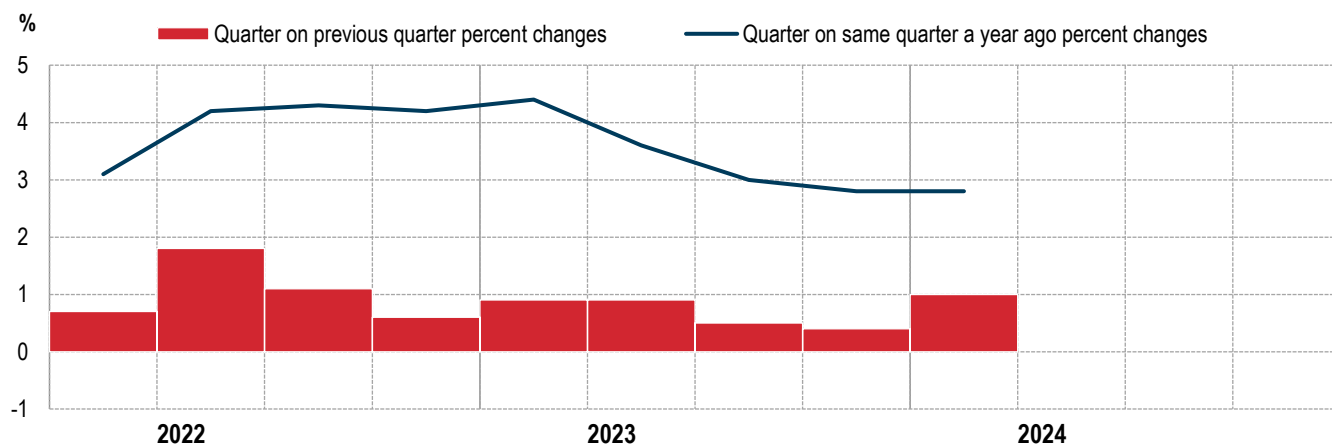
**CHART 3. SERVICES PRODUCER PRICE TOTAL INDEX (BtoAll)**

Q1 2021 – Q1 2024 (index, 2021=100)



**CHART 4. SERVICE PRODUCER PRICES (BtoAll). QUARTER ON PREVIOUS QUARTER AND ON SAME QUARTER A YEAR AGO PERCENT CHANGES**

Q1 2022 – Q1 2024 (index, 2021=100)



**TABLE 6. SERVICES PRODUCER PRICES BY SECTION OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY (BtoAll)**

Q1 2024, index, quarter on previous quarter and on same quarter a year ago percent changes (index, 2021=100)

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES		Index	Quarter on previous quarter	Quarter on same quarter a year ago
		Q1 2024	Q1 2024 Q4 2023	Q1 2024 Q1 2023
H	Transportation and storage	112.8	+2.4	+4.1
I	Accommodation and food service activities	116.8	+0.7	+5.2
J	Information and communication	101.7	-0.1	+1.2
L	Real estate activities	106.9	+1.5	+3.4
M	Professional, scientific and technical activities (a)	108.1	+0.1	+2.1
N	Administrative and support service activities	111.4	+1.0	+1.7
<b>H-N</b>	<b>Total services (b)</b>	<b>109.4</b>	<b>+1.0</b>	<b>+2.8</b>

(a) Excluding M70.1 Activities of head offices, M72 Scientific research and development and M75 Veterinary activities.

(b) Excluding K Financial and insurance activities.

**TABLE 7. SERVICES PRODUCER PRICES BY SECTION AND DIVISION OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY (BtoAll)**

Q1 2024, index, quarter on previous quarter and on same quarter a year ago percent changes (index, 2021=100)

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES		Index	Quarter on previous quarter	Quarter on same quarter a year ago
		Q1 2024	Q1 2024 Q4 2023	Q1 2024 Q1 2023
<b>H</b>	<b>Transportation and storage</b>	<b>112.8</b>	<b>+2.4</b>	<b>+4.1</b>
H49	Land transport and transport via pipelines	110.8	+0.9	+1.7
H50	Water transport	111.4	+4.3	+1.7
H51	Air transport	116.4	-7.4	-7.9
H52	Warehousing and support activities for transportation	115.7	+5.0	+7.7
H53	Postal and courier activities	111.1	+2.8	+7.9
<b>I</b>	<b>Accommodation and food service activities</b>	<b>116.8</b>	<b>+0.7</b>	<b>+5.2</b>
I55	Accommodation	131.1	+0.8	+10.8
I56	Food and beverage service activities	112.1	+0.6	+3.3
<b>J</b>	<b>Information and communication (a)</b>	<b>101.7</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>+1.2</b>
J61	Telecommunications	93.7	-1.4	+1.5
J62	Computer programming, consultancy and related activities	105.6	+0.7	+1.2
J63	Information service activities	104.0	+0.1	+0.7
<b>L</b>	<b>Real estate activities</b>	<b>106.9</b>	<b>+1.5</b>	<b>+3.4</b>
L68	Real estate activities	106.9	+1.5	+3.4
<b>M</b>	<b>Professional, scientific and technical activities (b)</b>	<b>108.1</b>	<b>+0.1</b>	<b>+2.1</b>
M69	Legal and accounting activities	105.7	+0.4	+1.6
M70.2	Management consultancy activities	103.4	+0.1	+0.4
M71	Architectural and engineering activities; technical testing and analysis	106.1	-0.6	+0.7
M74	Other professional, scientific and technical activities	123.6	+2.3	+5.6
<b>N</b>	<b>Administrative and support service activities</b>	<b>111.4</b>	<b>+1.0</b>	<b>+1.7</b>
N77	Rental and leasing activities	117.1	+0.9	+3.6
N78	Employment activities	105.6	+0.7	+2.3
N79	Travel agency, tour operator and other reservation service and related activities	86.9	-0.5	-3.9
N80	Security and investigation activities	104.4	+1.8	+3.8
N81	Services to buildings and landscape activities	106.2	+0.8	+3.0
N82	Office administrative, office support and other business support activities	117.8	+1.6	+0.4
<b>H-N</b>	<b>Total services (c)</b>	<b>109.4</b>	<b>+1.0</b>	<b>+2.8</b>

(a) J58, J59 and J60 confidential indices are included.

(b) Excluding M70.1 Activities of head offices, M72 Scientific research and development and M75 Veterinary activities. M73.12 is included but not released.

(c) Excluding K Financial and insurance activities.

## Service producer prices

### Introduction and legal framework

Services producer price indices (SPPIs) measure the quarterly changes of prices of services sold by enterprises resident in Italy operating in service sectors.

Until data for the fourth quarter 2023, Istat has disseminated services producer price indices related to the domain of *Business-to-Business* transactions (BtoB) - services sold by enterprises to other enterprises and/or Government - for a set of service sectors, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 1165/98 of the European Council (amended by Regulation (EC) No 1158/2005) and subsequently in accordance with the Regulation (EU) No. 2019/2152 on European Business Statistics and its Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 2020/1197 of the Commission, given the transitional arrangements.

As from the release of data for the first quarter 2024, Istat disseminates services producer price indices related to *business* market (BtoB) in the new reference base year 2021 and expands the number of service sectors for which indices are available.

Simultaneously, Istat starts the dissemination of the services producer price indices related to the *Business-to-All* domain (BtoAll), required by Regulations (EU) No. 2019/2152 and No. 2020/1197. These indices, released in reference base year 2021=100, measure the quarterly changes of prices of services sold by the enterprises on all markets (*business* and *consumer*).

BtoB SPPIs cover the economic activities of Nace sections H, J, L, M and N. For the majority of economic activities in the field of observation, the indices are compiled using data collected through a quarterly sample survey included in the [Italian National Statistical Programme](#); for a subset of economic activities, indices are compiled using administrative sources and data already available in Istat.

BtoAll SPPIs are compiled for economic activities of Nace sections from H to N. They are compiled using BtoB SPPIs indices and Harmonised consumer price indices at constant tax rate (Hicp-tc) which are aggregated by a weighting system derived from Frame-SBS<sup>2</sup> Register and Use Tables of National Accounts.

For both indices BtoB and BtoAll, K Financial and insurance activities, M70.1 Activities of head offices, M72 Scientific research and development and M75 Veterinary activities are excluded.

SPPIs are compiled according to the methodology of the annual chain-linking on a quarterly base.

Main SPPIs purposes are:

- ✓ the measure of the short-term producer price inflation;
- ✓ the analysis of the process of fixing costs and prices in the whole economy;
- ✓ the deflation of the service turnover indicators and some national aggregates at current prices in the National Accounts;
- ✓ the indexing of long term contracts that explicitly provide for usage of this index

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<sup>2</sup> Frame-SBS is a statistical register of annual economic variables of all active enterprises included in the ASIA-Enterprises business register.

**Service producer prices *Business-to-Business* (BtoB)****Data sources, field of observation, analysis and survey unit and sampling design**

BtoB SPPIs are compiled for economic activities of Nace Rev.2 sections H, J, L, M and N (for details see Table A).

For the majority of the economic activities in the field of observation, the indices are compiled from data collected by a quarterly sample survey; for a subset of economic activities, indices are compiled using administrative sources and data already available in Istat.

Data are quarterly collected by web questionnaires available in the Istat Statistics Portal.

The survey is based on a sample of over 1,000 units (enterprises), which provide each quarter about 7,000 price quotations.

The field of observation of the survey concerns:

- services included in Sections from H to N of the CPA classification (derived from Nace Rev. 2). A non-standard version of CPA is used;
- enterprises with main economic activity in the service sectors of the above listed Nace sections.

The unit of analysis is the service (defined by the CPA code) sold on the domestic market and on the foreign market by enterprises to other enterprises and/or Government.

The survey unit is the enterprise resident in Italy. It provides its services to other enterprises and/or to Government, both within and outside the national territory<sup>3</sup>.

The variable surveyed is the service producer price. SPPIs adopt the concept of “basic price”, which excludes VAT and similar deductible taxes directly linked to turnover as well as all duties and taxes on the goods and services invoiced by the unit; whereas subsidies on products received by the producer, if there are any, should be added.

The price-type surveyed may be different: (i) average unit value, ratio between the quarterly turnover and the volume of services sold; (ii) contract price; (iii) estimated price for a standardized service whose specifications remain constant over time (model pricing); (iv) actual transaction price.

Once a year, enterprises are also asked for the annual turnover data of the previous year from sales of services on the *business* market.

For some economic activities, SPPIs do not come from direct surveys and are based on other price measures using proxies, such as the hourly labour cost coming from Istat statistical process Oros.

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<sup>3</sup> A unit has its centre of economic interest in one specific country if it is engaged, or intends to be, in activities and transactions on a large scale, in the country considered, for at least one year.

**TABLE A. SERVICE PRODUCER PRICES *Business-to-Business* (BtoB)**

NACE CODE	ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES	NOTE	DATA SOURCE
<b>H</b>	<b>Transportation and storage</b>		
H49	Land transport and transport via pipelines		
- H49.4	Freight transport by road and removal services		Sample survey
H50	Water transport	Aggregation of: H50.1 Sea and coastal passenger water transport H50.2 Sea and coastal freight water transport	Sample survey
H51	Air transport		
- H51.1	Passenger air transport		Sample survey
- H51.2	Freight air transport		Sample survey
H52	Warehousing and support activities for transportation		
- H52.1	Warehousing and storage		Sample survey
- H52.2	Support activities for transportation		
- H52.24	Cargo handling		Sample survey
- H52.29	Other transportation support activities		Sample survey
H53	Postal and courier activities	Aggregation of: H53.1 Postal activities under universal service obligation H53.2 Other postal and courier activities	Sample survey
<b>J</b>	<b>Information and communication</b>		
J60	Programming and broadcasting activities	Includes J60.2 Television programming and broadcasting activities	Sample survey
J61	Telecommunications		
- J61.1	Wired telecommunications activities		Sample survey
- J61.2	Wireless telecommunications activities		Sample survey
J62	Computer programming, consultancy and related activities		Other sources
J63	Information service activities		
- J63.1	Data processing, hosting and related activities; web portals		Other sources
- J63.9	Other information service activities		Other sources
<b>L</b>	<b>Real estate activities</b>		
L68	Real estate activities		Other sources



**TABLE A. (continued) SERVICE PRODUCER PRICES *Business-to-Business* (BtoB)**

NACE CODE	ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES	NOTE	DATA SOURCE
<b>M</b>	<b>Professional, scientific and technical activities</b>	Excluding M70.1 Activities of head offices, M72 Scientific research and development and M75 Veterinary activities	
M69	Legal and accounting activities	Aggregations of: M69.1 Legal activities M69.2 Accounting, bookkeeping and auditing activities; tax consultancy	Other sources
M702	Management consultancy activities		Other sources
M71	Architectural and engineering activities		Sample survey
M73	Advertising and market research	Includes M73.12 Media representation	Sample survey
M74	Other professional, scientific and technical activities	Aggregations of: M74.1 Specialised design activities M74.2 Photographic activities M74.3 Translation and interpretation activities M74.9 Other professional, scientific and technical activities n.e.c.	Other sources
<b>N</b>	<b>Administrative and support service activities</b>		
N77	Rental and leasing activities		
- N77.1	Rental and leasing of motor vehicles	Aggregations of: N77.11 Rental and leasing of cars and light motor vehicles N77.12 Rental and leasing of trucks	Sample survey
- N77.3	Rental and leasing of other machinery, equipment and tangible goods	Aggregations of: N77.32 Rental and leasing of construction and civil engineering machinery and equipment N77.33 Rental and leasing of office machinery and equipment (including computers)	Sample survey
N78	Employment activities		Sample survey
N79	Travel agency, tour operator and other reservation service and related activities		
- N79.1	Travel agency and tour operator activities	Includes M79.11 Travel agency activities	Sample survey
N80	Security and investigation activities		Sample survey
N81	Services to buildings and landscape activities		
- N81.2	Cleaning activities		Other sources
N82	Office administrative, office support and other business support activities	Aggregations of: N82.1 Office administrative and support activities N82.2 Activities of call centres N82.9 Business support service activities n.e.c.	Sample survey and other sources
<b>H-N</b>	<b>Total services</b>		

Details on the field of observation and on the price-type surveyed by economic activities are reported below:

## ► H49.4 Freight transport by road

- field of observation: the basket refers to four classes of services
  - (i) full truckloads; (ii) less than truckloads/*groupages*<sup>4</sup>; (iii) part truckloads/*groupages*; (iv) general cargo services and courier services<sup>5</sup>. Each of the four classes of services is split into national and international destinations. Respondents are asked to identify the main representative services of their activities within these classes;
- price: average unit value of each service (ratio between quarterly turnover and the volume of goods transported).

## ► H50 Sea and coastal water transport

- field of observation: two baskets of services
  - (i) the basket for shipping companies (ship owners) includes scheduled transport services (liner shipping). Prices and weights (turnover) are collected for both goods and passengers<sup>6</sup>;
  - (ii) the basket for shipbrokers (intermediaries) concerns ship rental services for freight transport in the tramp shipping market, divided into time charter and spot market. The index field includes, both for time charter and spot market, the container ship rental services which is added to ship rental services for transport of liquid and solid bulk goods;
- price: average unit values<sup>7</sup> are collected for liner shipping; actual transaction prices are collected for ship rental services.

## ► H51 Air transport

- field of observation: two baskets of services
  - (i) transport of goods: the basket contains three types of goods by classes of weight and three destinations areas (national, international, intercontinental);
  - (ii) transport of passengers: the basket consists of three destination areas (national, international, intercontinental);
- price: freight transports prices are measured as average unit values of the most important flight routes. Passenger transports prices are measured as average prices according to the most important contracts drawn up with other enterprises and/or Government.

## ► H52.1 Warehousing and storage

- field of observation: services for various product sectors (automotive; clothing, footwear and accessories; publishing; technical consumer goods; pharmaceutical; mass market goods; furniture and furnishings; industrial products; bulk liquids or gases; cereals; other goods), identified by the enterprises according to their main contracts in terms of turnover. Warehousing of goods, handling of goods as well as value added services are collected;
- price: the average unit value of each service is collected.

## ► H52.24 Cargo handling

- field of observation: three baskets of services corresponding to three distinct sub-sectors
  - (i) air cargo handling: includes both the handling warehousing services and the ramp-handling services;
  - (ii) sea cargo handling: includes four types of cargos in import/export/transshipment;
  - (iii) railway cargo handling: includes two types of cargos by type of carrier;
- price: average unit values are collected.

<sup>4</sup> *Groupage* means a transport of goods in which packages of different senders are mixed in a single shipment, addressed to different receivers located in the same geographic area, usually region or country.

<sup>5</sup> Relative to shipments of more than 20 kg and 31.5 kg for transnational shipments. Shipments of less than 20 kg and transnational ones of less than 31.5 kg are collected by the 'Courier producer prices survey' aimed at the production of the corresponding price index.

<sup>6</sup> The transport of passengers, within the meaning of business-to-business transport, is defined as transport of the drivers who accompany, during the voyage on a ship, their own trucks.

<sup>7</sup> Ratio between the value of the freights effectively collected and the relative transported volume.

## ► H52.29 Other transportation support activities

- field of observation: shipping services according to means of transport (by sea, by air, by rail and by road) and mode/type of cargo:
  - (i) for shipments by sea, FCL (Full Container Load), LCL (Less than Container Load), Liquid Bulk, Solid Bulk, General cargo/Project cargo and Ro-Ro;
  - (ii) for shipments by air, Standard, Express and Charter;
  - (iii) for shipments by rail, FCL containers, LCL containers, other units, bulk and block train;
  - (iv) for shipments via truck, FTL (Full Truck Load) and LTL (Less-Than-Truck Load).
 Multimodal shipments are included in the field of observation. Auxiliary services as customs clearance services, packaging services etc. are also included.
- price: average unit value of each service (ratio between quarterly turnover and the volume shipments).

## ► H53.1 Postal activities under universal service obligation

- field of observation: the most representative business postal services under universal service obligation;
- price: the average unit value<sup>8</sup> is collected for each service.

## ► H53.2 Courier activities

- field of observation: shipments weighting less than 20 kg and 31.5 kg for transnational ones<sup>9</sup> by weight class and delivery area;
- price: average unit price of each class of shipment.

## ► J60.2 Television programming and broadcasting activities

- field of observation: terrestrial broadcasting of self-produced and purchased television programs distinguished by categories (information, culture, infotainment, entertainment, fiction, films and TV series and sports);
- price: average unit cost as ratio between total cost of broadcasting programs per category and the total minutes' programs broadcast.

## ► J61 Telecommunications

- field of observation: two baskets of services, respectively for wired and wireless telecommunications. Services are organized in homogeneous classes that cover the whole telecommunication BtoB market;
- price: average unit value for each service class and each enterprise are collected.

## ► M71 Architectural and engineering activities

- field of observation: the representative projects of each company's market. They refer to design/execution; legal advice; advisory services; collaborations with other professional firms; topographic surveys and other activities<sup>10</sup>;
- price: model pricing.

## ► M73.12 Media representation

- field of observation: services of intermediation and sales of advertising spaces on the media (television, radio, press, web);
- price: actual transaction prices for each services are collected.

## ► N77.1 Rental and leasing of motor vehicles

- field of observation: two service baskets
  - (i) services rental and operational leasing of passenger cars and other light motor vehicles (with a weight less than 3.5 tons) without driver, broken down by rent or leasing duration (short, medium and long term);

<sup>8</sup> Ratio between turnover from the sale of each service and the corresponding sales volumes.

<sup>9</sup> Shipments weighting more than 20 kg and 31.5 kg for transnational ones are monitored by the 'Freight transport by road producer prices survey' for the purpose of production of the corresponding price index.

<sup>10</sup> Computer engineering and telecommunications services are excluded.

(ii) services rental and operational leasing of trucks (with a weight not less than 3.5 tons) without driver, broken down by rent or leasing duration (short and long term)

- price: prices derived from contracts (individual or fleet) are collected.

## ► N77.32 Rental and leasing of construction and civil engineering machinery and equipment

- field of observation: services rental and operational leasing, without operator, of the following types of machines and equipment are covered: earthmoving; compaction and cutting; lifting; aerial platforms; scaffolding, without assembly and dismantling operations; machines and equipment for energy generation, lighting, temperature control; prefabricated/barracks, without assembly and dismantling operations (base camps); equipment for demolition and renovation; other construction machinery and equipment;
- price: actual transaction prices.

## ► N77.33 Rental and leasing of office machinery and equipment (including computers)

- field of observation: services rental and operational leasing of office machinery and equipment, divided into the two main categories of rental of machinery and equipment (printers, copiers, desktop PCs, notebooks, servers, projectors, etc.) and rental of furniture (seats, desks, storage units, etc.);
- price: actual transaction prices.

## ► N78 Employment activities

- field of observation: activities of temporary and permanent work supply by activity sector (agriculture, food, industrial production, construction, trade, transport etc.) and type of employee (senior executive, employee, etc.).
- price: average prices per hour worked for each class and enterprise.

## ► N79.11 Travel agency activities

- field of observation: transport reservation services, reservation services for vehicle rental, reservation services for accommodation, package tour organisation and sale, sale of package tours organized by tour operators, reservation services for event tickets, exhibit halls etc.;
- price: average unit values for each service referred to all contracts.

## ► N80 Security and investigation activities

- field of observation: different types of security and investigation activities are covered: transport and stockpile of valuables; safety deposit and counting of money; permanent armed surveillance; robbery and shoplifting supervision; surveillance and street patrolling of sites; unarmed surveillance; security and control in public transport; tele-monitoring and remote control; business investigation, etc. Services are grouped by three types of users (public administration agencies; banks and big enterprises; medium and small enterprises);
- price: average unit values.

## ► N82.2 Activities of call centres

- field of observation: *Inbound, Outbound e Back Office* services are covered;
- prices: average unit values.

For economic activities listed below, SPPIs do not come from direct surveys on services producer prices but are compiled using other data sources:

- J62 Computer programming, consultancy and related activities
- J63.1 Data processing, hosting and related activities; web portals
- J63.9 Other information service activities
- M70.2 Management consultancy activities
- M74 Other professional, scientific and technical activities
- N81.2 Cleaning activities
- N82.1 Office administrative and support activities
- N82.9 Business support service activities n.e.c.

- field of observation: totality of the services identified by the payments, done by enterprises, of social security contributions that guarantee security protections to employees;

- **price**: quarterly hourly labour cost coming from Istat statistical process Oros.

Finally, for M69 Legal and accounting activities, indices are compiled on fees charged for the provision of services and for L68 Real estate activities, the house prices index (Hpi) is used as proxy.

## Sample design

Survey units are identified by ASIA Enterprise Business Register where enterprises are classified according to their main economic activity<sup>11</sup>.

Sampling methods are different:

- selection of units according their size in terms of turnover (*cut-off* method), for H50, H51, H52.1, H52.29, H53, J60.2, J61, N77.1, N77.32, N77.33, N79.11, N82.2;
- judgmental sampling for N78;
- stratified sample with PPS (*Probability Proportional to Size*) selection of units from each stratum for H49.4, M71, M73.12, N80;
- for H52.24 Cargo handling: (i) air and sea cargo handling are based on a two stage sampling; (ii) railway cargo handling is based on a judgmental sampling.

For the remaining economic activities, whose SPPIs do not come from direct surveys, samples are made up of enterprises identified by linking administrative data from the Italian Revenue Agency Register (Modelli ISA) and from the National Social Security Agency INPS (Social Security Working Positions) and enterprises selected from the ASIA Enterprise Business Register.

Units samples are annually updated.

## Index compilation

SPPIs are compiled according to the methodology of the annual chain-linking on a quarterly base.

Since July 2024, with the dissemination of data of the first quarter 2024, BtoB SPPIs are released in the new reference base year 2021 and the base calculation period is the fourth quarter of 2023.

On the occasion of the reference base year updating, the number of economic activities for which SPPIs are compiled was enlarged, making new index series available from the first quarter of 2021. For economic activities already covered, SPPIs time series in base 2015=100 were reported in the new base 2021=100 through rescaling, thus preserving the original dynamic profile. Total index (H-N) was recalculated in the new base 2021 from 2021 (first quarter) to take into account the new economic activities covered; for reference periods before 2021, the total index was reported to the new base 2021 through rescaling.

The compilation process is made up as follow: indices are compiled by enterprise and then aggregated in weighted arithmetic average by Nace aggregations (chain-linked Laspeyres type formula) up to the total index. Chain-linked indices are obtained by linking the different calculation base indices, whose annual changing base is the fourth quarter of the year  $t-1$  for each year  $t$ .

## Weighting structure

Weighting structure is derived from a set of data sources.

For indices compiled from data collected, weighting coefficients at enterprise and service level correspond to the annual *business-to-business* turnover and the annual turnover share per service sold for the year  $t-1$ . These data are directly provided by respondent units.

For indices that do not come from survey but are compiled using other data sources, the weighting coefficients at enterprise level are derived from the Italian Revenue Agency Register and from the Business register.

<sup>11</sup> For example, the following are excluded: (i) for the maritime transport sector, the shippers that provide non-relevant services, such as transport on cruise ships, off-shore, tugboats; (ii) for air transport, the air carriers providing charter services, air taxis, helicopters, companies without routes that interest the Italian territory; (iii) for warehousing, the units that perform the service for themselves and those who exclusively perform outsourcing (warehousing for others); (iv) for cargo handling, the companies that exclusively perform portorage and those specialised in administrative-documentary activity.

For Nace aggregations, weights are estimated using domestic and foreign turnover data derived from Frame-SBS Register (year  $t-3$ ). Turnover data are reported to the year  $t-1$  using services turnover indices. Weights are finally reported to the fourth quarter of the year  $t-1$  (calculation base), using SPPIs (weighting structure price-updating).

Weights are based on the statistical unit kind-of-activity unit (KAU).

Weighting structure is annually updated.

Table B shows the weighting structure of the fourth quarter 2023 calculation base of BtoB SPPIs by Nace sections.

**TABLE B. SERVICES PRODUCER PRICE INDEX (BtoB). WEIGHING STRUCTURE BY SECTION OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES**

Q4 2023 calculation base. Percentage values

NACE CODE	ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES	WEIGHTS
H	Transportation and storage	28.5510
J	Information and communication	20.1540
L	Real estate activities	7.3260
M	Professional, scientific and technical activities (a)	25.1346
N	Administrative and support service activities	18.8344
<b>H-N</b>	<b>Total services</b>	<b>100.0000</b>

(a) Excluding M70.1 Activities of head offices, M72 Scientific research and development and M75 Veterinary activities

## Service producer prices *Business-to-All* (BtoAll)

### Data sources and field of observation

BtoAll SPPIs measure the quarterly changes of prices of services sold by enterprises resident in Italy operating in service sectors. They concern service sales of enterprises regardless of the customer-type and therefore refer to all markets (*business* and *consumer*).

The field of observation concerns services sold on the total market by enterprises, resident in Italy, of Nace sections from H to N, excluding K. Indices are compiled by Nace sections and divisions.

For the *business* market, service output price dynamics are measured by BtoB SPPIs; for the *consumer* market, by harmonised indices of consumer prices at constant tax rate (Hicp-tc) of services within the field of observation. The latter provide a measure of the dynamics of consumer prices net of impact of changes of indirect tax rates (such as VAT) and are therefore more closely related to the concept of output price (basic price) required for the construction of BtoAll SPPIs.

BtoAll SPPIs are compiled aggregating BtoB SPPIs and Hicp-tc for services by a weighting system derived from the Frame-SBS Register and the Use Tables (at basic price) of National Accounts

The compilation process required a preliminary work of analysis and comparison of the sectoral coverage of BtoB SPPIs and services included in the Hicp-tc basket.

Starting from the Use Table at basic prices of National Accounts <sup>12</sup>, which provides the economic destination shares of domestic production (intermediate consumption and final uses), the structure of BtoAll SPPIs for Nace sections H to N (excluding K) was defined, linking Nace aggregations (groups and in some cases divisions) for which BtoB SPPIs are compiled and ECOICOP service aggregates for which consumer price indices are available.

For some economic activities, for which the market is exclusively - or predominantly - *business*, BtoAll SPPIs are represented by BtoB SPPIs (this is the case of H52, J62, J63, M702, M71, N78, N80, N82); for others, where *consumer* market prevails, BtoAll SPPIs are compiled using consumer price indices only (I55, I56). For Nace divisions J58 and J59, despite the prevalence of the *business* market, due to the unavailability of BtoB SPPIs, BtoAll SPPIs are currently estimated using consumer price indices only; these indices contribute to the index calculation of section J and the total index (H-N) but are not released. For division L68, producer price dynamics for *business* and *consumer* markets are measured by the House price index (Hpi) and consumer price indices.

<sup>12</sup> The Use Table by CPA product aggregations has been used.



BtoAll SPPIs structure is annually updated on the basis of the most recent Use Table available and to take into account changes in the BtoB SPPIs coverage and in the Hicp-tc basket, carried out on the occasion of their annual rebasing.

## Index compilation

Quarterly producer price indices for BtoAll services are chain-linked Laspeyres-type indices. The indices are firstly expressed in the calculation base and subsequently reported to the reference base year, through the chain-linking method. The reference base year is 2021=100 and starting from the release of the first quarter 2024 data the calculation base is the fourth quarter of 2023.

The index processing starts from the calculation base indices, both for the BtoB and the BtoC components. For the *business* market, the lowest level of detail is represented by the Nace groups (or divisions) SPPIs indices, that are aggregated as a weighted average up to the total index. For the *consumer* domain, quarterly consumer price indices (Hicp-tc) are derived from the monthly indices by arithmetic average, and then aggregated to obtain Nace groups (or divisions) BtoC indices, according to the correspondence established between the ECOICOP and the Nace classifications.

For all the Nace aggregations required by EU regulations, the BtoAll calculation base indices are compiled as weighted average of the BtoC and BtoB components. The weights, derived from the Use Table, are respectively the share of domestic production referred to final household consumption and the share of domestic production devoted to intermediate consumption, investment, exports and Government final consumption.

BtoAll calculation base indices are finally expressed in the reference base year.

## Weighting structure

A double weighting system has been implemented for processing the BtoAll indices: a "horizontal" one, through which the two components BtoB and BtoC are combined, as introduced in the previous sections; and the other, of a hierarchical "vertical" type, with which, separately for the two components, the indices for the higher aggregation levels are obtained starting from the lower level ones.

At a "horizontal" level, the association between *business* and *consumer* components generally occurs at the Nace group level and, sometimes, directly at the Nace division level, weighting the two components with the respective shares of domestic production by economic destination, as they result from the latest Use Table.

For the "vertical" weights of the year  $t$  to be used for aggregating the producer price indices up to the higher levels, the Frame-SBS turnover data of the year  $t-3$  are used, after updating them to the year of the calculation base ( $t-1$ ), through the average annual changes in the service turnover indices. Then, the total Frame SBS turnover is split into the two components on the basis of Use Table data. Finally, the vertical weights for the BtoB and BtoC components are reported to the fourth quarter of the year  $t-1$  (calculation base), using the correspondent price indices, SPPIs and Ipca-tc (weighting structure price-updating).

Weights are based on the statistical unit kind-of-activity unit (KAU). Weighting structure is annually updated.

Table C and Table D show the weighting structure of the fourth quarter 2023 calculation base of BtoAll SPPIs by section and division of economic activities.

**TABLE C. SERVICES PRODUCER PRICE INDEX (BtoAll). WEIGHING STRUCTURE BY SECTION OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES**

Q4 2023 calculation base. Percentage values

NACE CODE	ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES	WEIGHTS
H	Transportation and storage	27.6349
I	Accommodation and food service activities	11.7107
J	Information and communication	17.6538
L	Real estate activities	7.0334
M	Professional, scientific and technical activities (a)	20.1753
N	Administrative and support service activities	15.7919
<b>H-N</b>	<b>Total services</b>	<b>100.0000</b>

(a) Excluding M70.1 Activities of head offices, M72 Scientific research and development and M75 Veterinary activities

**TABLE D. SERVICES PRODUCER PRICE INDEX (BtoAll). WEIGHING STRUCTURE BY SECTION AND DIVISION OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES**

Q4 2023 calculation base. Percentage values

NACE CODE	ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES	WEIGHTS
H49	Land transport and transport via pipelines	13.4748
H50	Water transport	2.0327
H51	Air transport	1.4852
H52	Warehousing and support activities for transportation	9.3019
H53	Postal and courier activities	1.3403
I55	Accommodation	3.4402
I56	Food and beverage service activities	8.2705
J58	Publishing activities	0.4178
J59	Motion picture, video and television programme production, sound recording and music publishing activities	0.1021
J60	Programming and broadcasting activities	0.7195
J61	Telecommunications	5.1492
J62	Computer programming, consultancy and related activities	8.9407
J63	Information service activities	2.3245
L68	Real estate activities	7.0334
M69	Legal and accounting activities	5.9025
M702	Management consultancy activities	3.8916
M71	Architectural and engineering activities	5.9061
M73	Advertising and market research	1.0056
M74	Other professional, scientific and technical activities	3.4695
N77	Rental and leasing activities	2.8787
N78	Employment activities	2.2166
N79	Travel agency, tour operator and other reservation service and related activities	1.8935
N80	Security and investigation activities	0.6360
N81	Services to buildings and landscape activities	3.0212
N82	Office administrative, office support and other business support activities	5.1459
<b>H-N</b>	<b>Total services</b>	<b>100.0000</b>

## Service producer prices BtoB and BtoAll: data issue

### Timeliness

BtoB and BtoAll SPPIs are released quarterly at national level. They are released about 60 days after the end of the reference period. BtoAll SPPIs, required by Regulations (EU) No. 2019/2152 and No. 2020/1197, are provided in advance, in a confidential form, to Eurostat approximately 55 days after the end of the reference period. The [release calendar](#) is annually defined.

### Revisions

Final data are released. Data may be subject to unscheduled revisions, in order to take into account additional information that becomes available after their dissemination.

### Dissemination

SPPIs are disseminated through the quarterly press release - the Flash Statistics "Service producer prices" - released on the Istat website. The series of the updated indices are published, simultaneously to the press release, on the Institute data warehouse [IstatData](#).



Time series of indices available are listed above:

■ **BtoB SPPIs**

Time series indices in reference base year 2021 since 2010 (first quarter), except for H53 Postal and courier activities and J61 Telecommunications available since 2006 (first quarter). Time series index of N77.1 Rental and leasing of motor vehicles since 2021 (first quarter) and time series index of N77.3 Rental and leasing of other machinery, equipment and tangible goods, since 2022 (first quarter). Since July 2024, SPPIs for Nace sections H, J, M, N, divisions H52, J63, M69, M74, N82 and for H52.2 and H52.29 are released; for these indices, time series are available since 2021 (first quarter), except for H52.29 available since 2024 (first quarter).

■ **BtoAll SPPIs**

Time series indices for Nace Sections for H to N (excluding K) and corresponding divisions available since 2021 (first quarter). Indices for Nace divisions H51, H53, J61, J62, J63, M69, M73<sup>13</sup>, M70.2, M71, N78 and N80 have been reconstructed from 2010 (first quarter).

## For technical and methodological information

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<sup>13</sup> Provided to Eurostat, only.