



**SINGAPORE DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS**

***PRESS RELEASE***

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**Business Receipts Index for Services Industries  
First Quarter 2009**

**Highlights**

- Overall business receipts of the Services Sector (excluding wholesale & retail trade, hotels and restaurants) fell by 3.3% in 1Q2009 compared to 4Q2008. Most major services industries encountered a decline in their turnover.
- Compared to 1Q2008, the overall business receipts declined by 2.3%.

## **Business Receipts by Sector**

### ***Quarter-on-Quarter Change***

Transport & storage services registered a drop of 17.7% in receipts in 1Q2009. Likewise, information & communications activities, real estate, rental & leasing services as well as business services registered declines in turnover of 1.5% to 7.9%.

In contrast, education and financial & insurance services recorded higher receipts of 18.5% and 9.6% respectively. Turnover of healthcare & social work activities also rose by 2.5% during the quarter.

### ***Year-on-Year Change***

Compared to 1Q2008, turnover of transport & storage services declined by 14.0% while business services registered a decrease of 2.8% in receipts.

On the other hand, some services industries encountered increases in their revenue, namely health & social work activities (5.6%), real estate, rental & leasing services (4.3%), information & communications activities (3.0%) and education services (1.5%).

**Table 1 Quarter-on-Quarter Change of Business Receipts Index at Current Prices (2008=100)**

Activity	Weights	% Change	
		4Q 2008/ 3Q 2008	1Q 2009/ 4Q 2008
Total Services <sup>1</sup>	10,000	-1.3	-3.3
Transport and Storage <sup>2</sup>	2,408	-5.1	-17.7
Information and Communications	935	3.6	-1.5
Financial and Insurance	2,461	-3.8	9.6
Real Estate, Rental and Leasing	1,209	-1.0	-4.1
Business Services <sup>3</sup>	1,680	1.0	-7.9
Education	451	6.3	18.5
Health and Social Work	459	1.9	2.5
Other Services Activities	397	2.9	-5.9

**Table 2 Year-on-Year Change of Business Receipts Index at Current Prices (2008=100)**

Activity	Weights	% Change
		1Q 2009/ 1Q 2008
Total Services <sup>1</sup>	10,000	-2.3
Transport and Storage <sup>2</sup>	2,408	-14.0
Information and Communications	935	3.0
Financial and Insurance	2,461	0.9
Real Estate, Rental and Leasing	1,209	4.3
Business Services <sup>3</sup>	1,680	-2.8
Education	451	1.5
Health and Social Work	459	5.6
Other Services Activities	397	1.7

<sup>1</sup> Excluding wholesale and retail trade, hotels and restaurants

<sup>2</sup> Comprises land transport, water transport, air transport, warehousing & support activities for transport and post & courier activities

<sup>3</sup> Comprises professional, scientific & technical and administrative & support service activities, e.g. legal services, accounting activities, management and management consultancy services, architectural, engineering and technical services, employment agencies and travel agencies

## **Explanatory Notes**

### ***Introduction***

The Quarterly Business Receipts Index (QBRI) for the Services Sector (excluding wholesale and retail trade, hotels and restaurants) measures the short-term changes in the amount of business or operating receipts on a quarterly basis. The QBRI is compiled at current prices.

Business or operating receipts is the income earned from business operations, i.e. includes income from services rendered, sale of goods, commission fees, and rental of premises and machinery and equipment.

The QBRI is re-based at regular intervals to reflect changes in the structure of the Services Sector. The QBRI series has been re-based to year 2008 with effect from 1Q2009 and the weights have been updated.

### ***Data Collection***

Data on business receipts are primarily sourced from the Department's Quarterly Survey of Services (QSS) and Survey of Quarterly National Income Estimates.

Business receipts of financial and insurance services are compiled through surveys conducted by the Monetary Authority of Singapore's (MAS) Research and Statistics Unit.

The Department has also incorporated administrative data in the compilation of the QBRI.

In total, the 2008-based QBRI is compiled based on the survey data and administrative records of more than 7,000 enterprises.

### ***Index Compilation***

The QBRI at detailed industry level is computed by dividing the industry's total business receipts for that quarter by the industry's average quarterly receipts in base year 2008. The overall QBRI is then subsequently computed by combining the indices at industry level using the weights of the respective industries, which represent their relative importance in the overall services sector.

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More data are available at SingStat website at <http://www.singstat.gov.sg/pubn/business.html#qbri>