

Developments for retail trade

during the first quarter of 2001(*)

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The deflated turnover index for retail trade, which measures volume changes in retail sales, grew by 0.6% in the EU in the first quarter of 2001, when compared to the previous quarter. In the euro-zone¹, growth was somewhat less rapid, rising by 0.3%. This pattern was synonymous with recent trends, as EU growth rates were superior or equal to those of the euro-zone throughout 2000.

On the basis of a comparison with the same quarter of a year before, retail sales volumes rose by 2.6% in the EU in the first quarter of 2001, whilst in the euro-zone growth was equal to 2.0%. These rates were somewhat above those registered in the fourth quarter of 2000.

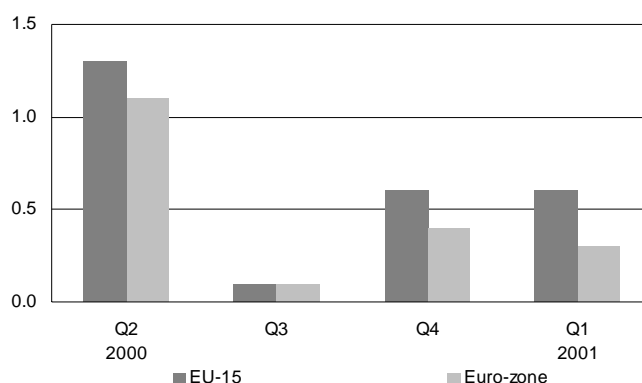


Figure 1: Volume of sales index for retail trade, seasonally adjusted data, growth rates compared to the previous quarter (%)

Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted data				Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted data			
EU-15		Euro-zone		EU-15		Euro-zone	
Q2-00	1.3	Q2-00	1.1	Q2-00	3.9	Q2-00	3.5
Q3-00	0.1	Q3-00	0.1	Q3-00	2.7	Q3-00	2.3
Q4-00	0.6	Q4-00	0.4	Q4-00	2.1	Q4-00	1.7
Q1-01	0.6	Q1-01	0.3	Q1-01	2.6	Q1-01	2.0

Table 1: Volume of sales index for retail trade, growth rates (%)

Statistics in focus

INDUSTRY, TRADE AND SERVICES

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¹ Euro-zone data up to the end of 2000 cover eleven Member States (B, D, E, F, IRL, I, L, NL, A, P and FIN); with Greece's entry into the euro-zone from the beginning of 2001, they cover twelve Member States. The euro-zone is treated as an entity regardless of its composition. For an explanation of how growth rates for the euro-zone have been computed, please refer to page 7, methodological notes.

(*) This pilot starts a new quarterly Statistics in Focus series on Retail Trade. The timeliness of the publication will improve with the forthcoming issues in order to present the most recent business cycle statistics.

Volume of sales index for retail trade

The retail sale of textiles, clothing, footwear and leather was the fastest growing activity in the first quarter of 2001 in the EU, with sales volumes rising by 2.3% compared to the quarter before. The retail sale of household equipment was the only activity, for which data is available, to report a decline in sales volumes in the first quarter of 2001 on the basis of a comparison with the previous quarter (in both the EU and the euro-zone).

		Weights (% of total)	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted data						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted data					
			Q4-99	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q4-99	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01
			Retail trade	EU-15	100.0	1.3	0.1	1.3	0.1	0.6	0.6	3.3	2.7	3.9
	Euro-zone	100.0	1.0	0.0	1.1	0.1	0.4	0.3	3.2	2.0	3.5	2.3	1.7	2.0
Retail sale of food, beverages and tobacco	EU-15	42.9	0.8	0.3	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.3	3.3	2.3	2.9	1.7	1.2	1.4
	Euro-zone	42.4	0.6	0.3	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.3	3.4	2.1	3.0	1.4	1.3	1.4
Retail sale of non-food products	EU-15	57.1	1.7	-0.4	1.5	-0.1	0.8	0.3	3.2	2.2	3.9	2.9	1.6	2.5
	Euro-zone	57.6	1.1	-0.1	1.3	0.0	0.2	0.8	2.9	1.8	3.5	2.3	1.3	2.4
of which,														
Textiles, clothing, footwear & leather goods	EU-15	12.0	2.3	-0.3	1.5	0.1	0.1	2.3	3.4	2.5	3.2	3.6	1.4	4.1
	Euro-zone	11.4	3.4	-1.1	0.8	-0.1	0.6	0.7	3.0	0.8	1.9	3.2	0.2	2.6
Household equipment	EU-15	14.2	1.6	2.0	1.4	0.0	1.6	-0.4	4.6	6.9	6.8	5.4	4.6	2.7
	Euro-zone	14.6	0.4	2.8	0.7	0.3	-0.1	-1.9	3.4	5.9	5.4	4.3	3.7	0.7
Books, newspapers and sale in specialised stores	EU-15	11.4	1.5	-0.5	0.9	-0.1	1.6	1.0	4.2	3.3	3.5	1.5	1.8	3.7
	Euro-zone	11.5	1.0	-0.3	0.7	-0.3	1.5	1.1	4.0	2.9	3.1	1.0	1.6	3.2

Table 2: Volume of sales index, growth rates (%)

In terms of a comparison between the first quarter of 2001 and the same quarter of a year before, retail sales volumes rose by as much as 9.3% in Ireland and 8.3% in Greece. Five other countries also reported growth in excess of the EU average, namely, Finland, the United Kingdom, Spain, Sweden and Austria, whilst sales volumes decreased in Germany (-0.1%), Italy (-0.8%) and Portugal (-0.9%).

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted data						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted data					
	Q4-99	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q4-99	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01
EU-15	1.3	0.1	1.3	0.1	0.6	0.6	3.3	2.7	3.9	2.7	2.1	2.6
Euro-zone	1.0	0.0	1.1	0.1	0.4	0.3	3.2	2.0	3.5	2.3	1.7	2.0
B	2.8	0.3	0.3	2.8	2.1	-1.1	5.8	5.9	5.0	7.2	6.4	:
DK	2.0	-0.4	0.3	0.5	-0.3	1.2	1.4	-0.3	2.7	2.5	0.1	1.8
D	0.6	-0.1	2.4	-1.3	-1.0	0.1	0.7	-0.6	4.3	1.4	-0.4	-0.1
EL	2.7	0.6	1.9	1.4	1.5	2.4	4.3	4.9	5.8	6.7	4.4	8.3
E	1.2	0.3	1.0	-1.2	0.9	3.8	3.9	4.3	5.3	1.2	0.9	4.6
F	2.3	-0.8	1.4	1.0	2.5	:	5.3	3.3	3.6	3.1	4.5	:
IRL	2.6	2.0	2.3	1.2	3.3	2.1	9.0	9.3	9.9	8.4	8.7	9.3
I	0.1	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	-0.1	2.2	-0.6	-0.7	0.3	-0.6	-0.8
L	0.9	0.3	-0.1	0.7	0.8	:	2.9	3.3	1.7	1.6	1.6	:
NL	1.5	1.9	-0.1	1.1	1.2	0.0	3.8	5.5	3.6	4.4	4.3	2.2
A	-0.6	-0.6	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.9	4.4	4.7	3.0	0.1	0.7	2.8
P	3.7	0.3	-0.5	0.2	0.6	-0.2	7.2	3.9	5.7	3.9	0.9	-0.9
FIN	0.6	0.5	2.6	1.0	-0.5	2.5	2.6	4.3	5.6	4.8	3.6	5.8
S	2.4	2.3	1.3	0.6	-0.1	1.1	7.3	7.8	8.2	6.7	3.8	3.2
UK	1.4	1.4	0.3	1.3	1.3	1.6	3.7	4.9	5.1	4.1	3.9	4.8

Table 3: Volume of sales for retail trade, growth rates (%)

Volume of sales index for food and non-food items

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted data						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted data					
	Q4-99	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q4-99	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01
EU-15	0.8	0.3	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.3	3.3	2.3	2.9	1.7	1.2	1.4
Euro-zone	0.6	0.3	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.3	3.4	2.1	3.0	1.4	1.3	1.4
B	-0.5	-1.7	-0.5	1.1	0.1	-0.1	2.7	1.2	1.3	-2.9	-0.8	:
DK	6.8	-6.3	-0.4	-6.0	-1.8	3.9	15.3	-1.1	1.2	-6.4	-13.9	-4.4
D	0.7	0.3	2.4	-1.8	-0.2	-0.2	1.6	1.0	5.3	0.9	0.3	-0.2
EL	3.4	2.4	2.9	-0.6	1.4	1.8	-1.0	2.6	5.8	7.9	5.1	5.9
E	0.0	1.6	1.3	-0.9	0.1	3.5	2.5	4.4	7.8	2.0	2.1	4.0
F	3.4	-2.6	1.1	1.4	2.6	:	5.4	2.6	1.7	2.3	2.6	:
IRL	0.8	0.5	2.1	-0.6	1.4	:	5.0	4.2	5.8	2.9	3.3	:
I	0.6	0.1	-0.4	0.3	-0.1	-0.1	3.1	1.5	-0.9	1.1	0.2	-1.0
L	0.5	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.4	:	0.1	3.3	0.1	1.3	1.2	:
NL	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.6	0.9	1.9	2.6	1.9	0.7	1.1	2.4
A	-3.2	-1.7	-1.1	1.3	2.0	-5.1	7.8	2.0	-0.2	-4.6	0.8	-3.5
P	6.9	-3.4	1.4	0.6	2.4	-2.2	7.7	0.4	4.7	5.8	2.0	1.9
FIN	0.2	0.1	2.8	0.6	-0.4	2.5	1.7	2.6	5.4	3.8	3.0	5.8
S	1.0	-0.1	0.9	-0.4	0.3	0.3	3.1	2.2	3.5	1.4	0.7	1.2
UK	1.2	0.0	0.5	0.4	0.8	1.4	2.1	3.6	2.4	3.5	2.0	2.2

Table 4: Volume of sales index for the retail sale of food items, growth rates (%)

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted data						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted data					
	Q4-99	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q4-99	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01
EU-15	1.7	-0.4	1.5	-0.1	0.8	0.3	3.2	2.2	3.9	2.9	1.6	2.5
Euro-zone	1.1	-0.1	1.3	0.0	0.2	0.8	2.9	1.8	3.5	2.3	1.3	2.4
B	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
DK	2.8	0.7	1.7	2.3	-0.6	1.6	1.1	2.3	5.1	8.6	3.4	4.8
D	0.7	-0.5	2.3	-0.9	-1.6	0.5	0.3	-1.6	3.7	1.7	-1.1	0.1
EL	3.4	-0.5	1.6	1.5	1.7	4.3	9.1	7.2	5.6	5.4	3.6	10.4
E	1.7	-0.6	1.5	-1.9	1.4	4.3	5.2	4.8	4.0	0.5	0.2	5.3
F	1.0	1.2	1.7	0.4	2.5	:	5.2	4.0	5.7	4.2	6.3	:
IRL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I	0.2	-1.2	-0.1	0.1	-0.2	-0.2	1.2	-2.0	-1.7	-0.8	-1.1	-0.3
L	1.0	-0.4	0.4	0.7	1.6	:	4.3	2.9	2.5	1.5	2.4	:
NL	3.2	2.1	-1.4	2.0	1.0	0.0	:	:	:	:	:	:
A	0.6	0.2	2.2	-0.3	-0.5	3.2	2.0	6.3	4.7	2.7	0.7	5.7
P	1.5	3.0	-1.7	-0.2	-0.5	1.1	6.9	6.4	6.4	2.6	0.2	-2.8
FIN	0.9	0.7	2.6	1.2	-0.4	2.2	3.4	5.9	5.8	5.7	4.1	5.7
S	4.3	4.5	1.4	1.2	-0.1	1.9	11.0	13.5	12.8	11.8	6.4	5.0
UK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Table 5: Volume of sales index for the retail sale of non-food items, growth rates (%)

Volume of sales index for selected non-food items

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted data						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted data					
	Q4-99	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q4-99	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01
EU-15	2.3	-0.3	1.5	0.1	0.1	2.3	3.4	2.5	3.2	3.6	1.4	4.1
Euro-zone	3.4	-1.1	0.8	-0.1	0.6	0.7	3.0	0.8	1.9	3.2	0.2	2.6
B	4.7	7.6	2.9	1.6	2.0	-2.0	5.6	13.8	18.2	20.0	17.2	:
DK	5.8	-2.9	2.1	1.9	-6.0	2.0	1.8	-3.1	2.0	7.5	-5.5	-0.3
D	2.3	-1.5	1.6	0.0	-3.0	2.1	2.0	-2.6	1.7	2.0	-3.1	0.8
EL	3.9	-1.2	1.5	0.1	1.4	4.7	8.2	6.6	7.7	3.7	0.2	9.3
E	1.3	0.5	0.5	0.6	1.3	0.4	5.0	4.1	4.0	2.8	3.2	2.6
F	0.3	2.6	-0.7	0.6	3.5	:	2.5	3.7	3.0	3.4	5.7	:
IRL	2.4	9.7	4.5	0.9	5.1	:	17.6	23.3	22.9	17.9	20.1	:
I	1.9	-4.6	-0.6	-0.2	-0.9	-0.7	3.4	-5.4	-5.1	-3.5	-6.1	-2.4
L	4.0	-3.7	3.8	-0.8	-0.5	:	1.6	-2.1	3.9	3.1	-1.4	:
NL	8.8	1.5	-1.7	1.3	3.6	3.7	4.8	5.3	2.2	9.8	4.7	7.1
A	0.3	4.2	2.2	1.1	-3.8	6.0	-6.4	6.3	3.6	8.3	2.6	5.9
P	-1.9	7.9	-5.7	1.8	-5.6	8.0	7.7	2.2	4.1	4.5	-2.0	-3.1
FIN	2.9	-0.6	0.4	2.9	-2.4	:	4.5	4.5	2.9	6.1	0.2	:
S	4.9	2.6	-1.3	1.4	-1.9	4.3	6.9	11.0	5.1	7.7	0.1	3.3
UK	2.4	1.7	0.7	2.7	2.1	3.3	4.2	5.6	7.4	4.3	6.1	7.6

Table 6: Volume of sales index for the retail sale of textiles, clothing, footwear & leather goods, growth rates (%)

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted data						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted data					
	Q4-99	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q4-99	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01
EU-15	1.6	2.0	1.4	0.0	1.6	-0.4	4.6	6.9	6.8	5.4	4.6	2.7
Euro-zone	0.4	2.8	0.7	0.3	-0.1	-1.9	3.4	5.9	5.4	4.3	3.7	0.7
B	1.4	3.8	-1.7	4.0	0.6	0.2	3.5	9.4	4.0	10.4	6.5	:
DK	2.7	-1.4	2.6	-0.7	1.3	-2.6	1.1	-1.1	3.3	3.1	1.7	0.4
D	0.7	2.3	0.9	-1.2	-0.7	-2.6	1.4	5.6	6.1	2.7	1.0	-3.7
EL	4.6	-1.2	1.1	0.2	4.3	1.4	13.6	11.0	5.6	4.7	4.0	7.8
E	1.1	3.6	0.7	0.0	0.9	0.4	5.5	10.5	8.4	5.3	4.9	2.0
F	2.2	3.1	2.0	0.6	2.1	:	7.6	8.8	9.1	7.4	8.5	:
IRL	4.0	-1.7	5.0	2.8	3.1	:	13.6	9.1	11.7	10.6	8.9	:
I	-0.4	0.6	0.8	1.2	0.1	-0.8	-0.9	-1.8	0.2	3.2	2.7	1.0
L	1.8	0.1	-2.0	0.5	1.2	:	9.3	7.9	0.1	-0.7	0.2	:
NL	1.0	2.0	0.2	1.5	1.8	-5.1	4.6	7.0	3.7	4.4	5.7	-1.3
A	-1.4	-1.5	1.6	-0.8	-0.5	3.1	4.7	3.4	1.3	-2.1	-2.4	4.3
P	2.1	2.5	-1.7	-1.6	1.2	-3.1	7.4	8.5	5.3	0.8	1.3	-5.3
FIN	0.6	2.9	0.7	1.2	0.8	:	4.4	9.1	6.2	5.5	6.1	:
S	4.0	6.6	2.7	1.6	-0.7	-0.7	15.2	18.9	19.3	15.6	10.1	3.2
UK	0.4	5.1	0.8	1.8	2.3	1.4	8.5	9.1	11.6	9.0	8.6	10.4

Table 7: Volume of sales index for the retail sale of household equipment, growth rates (%)

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted data						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted data					
	Q4-99	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q4-99	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01
EU-15	1.5	-0.5	0.9	-0.1	1.6	1.0	4.2	3.3	3.5	1.5	1.8	3.7
Euro-zone	1.0	-0.3	0.7	-0.3	1.5	1.1	4.0	2.9	3.1	1.0	1.6	3.2
B	9.4	-5.1	4.1	4.6	1.9	-0.2	13.3	5.8	10.3	15.2	10.6	:
DK	-1.1	-0.9	-1.1	-0.9	-0.5	:	-1.5	-3.6	-2.2	-3.8	-3.8	:
D	0.9	2.4	1.8	-1.5	-1.2	-0.9	-0.7	3.6	7.3	3.3	0.4	-2.0
EL	5.8	-2.1	0.5	1.7	3.9	1.6	8.8	7.9	4.0	6.0	3.6	8.9
E	3.3	-3.3	0.6	-6.2	1.6	16.9	5.6	0.0	-1.7	-5.7	-6.7	12.2
F	1.9	-1.4	0.1	0.9	4.0	:	6.9	1.8	2.2	1.4	4.5	:
IRL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I	-0.1	-1.3	-0.8	0.3	0.4	-1.4	-0.2	-2.6	-3.0	-1.8	-0.9	-1.5
L	1.5	1.6	1.0	1.4	1.2	:	6.2	7.4	8.2	5.6	5.3	:
NL	-9.1	5.2	-2.9	3.6	3.3	-3.9	:	:	:	:	:	:
A	4.1	2.7	0.5	0.1	1.1	5.2	10.4	15.3	10.9	7.3	4.0	7.5
P	1.3	0.2	-0.5	-1.1	-1.8	-1.5	3.8	4.2	5.9	-1.9	-3.8	-6.6
FIN	0.8	0.5	-1.2	0.8	0.3	:	3.6	4.0	2.0	0.7	0.8	:
S	4.2	4.9	2.6	0.7	-0.7	3.2	10.7	13.9	14.9	12.9	6.5	6.2
UK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Table 8: Volume of sales index for the retail sale of books, newspapers and sale in other specialised stores, growth rates (%)

Employment index for retail trade

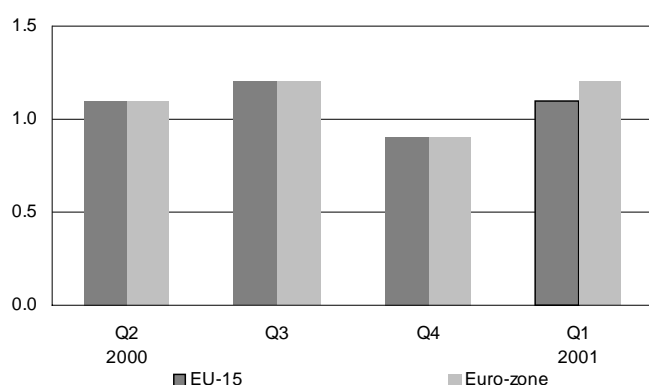


Figure 2: Employment index for retail trade, seasonally adjusted data, growth rates compared to the previous quarter (%)

The latest growth rate for the employment index, showed that the number of persons employed in the activity of retail trade grew by 1.2% in the euro-zone between the final quarter of 2000 and the first quarter of 2001. In terms of growth compared to a year before, there were 4.4% more persons employed in retail trade in the euro-zone in the first quarter of 2001.

When compared to the same quarter of a year before, the number of persons employed in the EU rose by 4.3% in the first quarter of 2001.

Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted data				Year on year growth rates, gross data			
EU-15		Euro-zone		EU-15		Euro-zone	
Q2-00	1.1	Q2-00	1.1	Q2-00	3.9	Q2-00	3.9
Q3-00	1.2	Q3-00	1.2	Q3-00	4.8	Q3-00	4.9
Q4-00	0.9	Q4-00	0.9	Q4-00	4.6	Q4-00	4.8
Q1-01	1.1	Q1-01	1.2	Q1-01	4.3	Q1-01	4.4

There was very rapid growth in the number of persons employed in the retail trade sector in both Spain (7.1%) and Italy (10.2%) in the first quarter of 2001 (compared to a year before), whilst there was a reduction of 2.9% in Finland.

Table 9: Employment index for retail trade, growth rates (%)

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted data						Year on year growth rates, gross data					
	Q4-99	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q4-99	Q1-00	Q2-00	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01
EU-15	0.9	1.5	1.1	1.2	0.9	1.1	1.4	3.0	3.9	4.8	4.6	4.3
Euro-zone	1.0	1.6	1.1	1.2	0.9	1.2	1.4	3.0	3.9	4.9	4.8	4.4
B	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
DK	0.6	0.5	-0.4	-0.7	0.4	0.7	1.0	0.9	1.7	0.0	-0.2	0.0
D	-0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	-0.2	0.6	-2.9	-2.7	-0.3	-0.1	-0.3	0.5
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	5.7	1.5	1.4	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.6	6.6	5.0	10.1	6.9	7.1
F (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IRL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I	1.0	3.1	2.7	1.9	2.5	2.8	4.9	6.3	7.9	8.9	10.4	10.2
L	0.2	0.1	:	:	:	:	2.1	1.1	:	:	:	:
NL (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
A	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
P	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	-1.0	0.9	-1.5	1.5	-2.1	-0.5	1.7	2.0	-2.0	0.9	-1.7	-2.9
S	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Table 10: Employment index for retail trade, growth rates (%)

(1) Data are confidential.

➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

	NACE Rev.1	Description
Retail trade	52 excluding 52.7	Retail trade, except of motor vehicles (excluding repair of personal and household goods)
Retail sale of food, beverages and tobacco	52.11+52.2	Retail sale in non-specialized stores with food, beverages or tobacco predominating and retail sale of food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores
Retail sale of non-food products	52.12+52.3+52.4+52.5+52.6	Other (non-food) retail sale in non-specialised stores and retail sale of pharmaceutical and medical goods, cosmetic and toilet articles, other retail sale of new goods in specialised stores, retail sale of second-hand goods in stores and retail sale not in stores
Retail sale of textiles, clothing, footwear & leather goods	52.41+52.42+52.43	Retail sale of textiles, retail sale of clothing and retail sale of footwear and leather goods
Retail sale of household equipment	52.44+52.45+52.46	Retail sale of furniture, lighting equipment and household articles, retail sale of electrical household appliances and radio and television goods and retail sale of hardware, paints and glass
Retail sale of books, newspapers and sale in other specialised stores	52.47+52.48	Retail sale of books, newspapers and stationery and other retail sale in specialised stores

Table 11: Definition of NACE coverage used in this publication for retail trade activities

VOLUME OF SALES

The objective of the **volume of sales index** is to show the quantity of goods sold in the retail trade sector. It is an indicator for final domestic demand and provides information about consumer confidence.

Its **legal basis** is the **Council Regulation for short-term statistics 1165/98 from May 19, 1998¹**, which is currently under implementation. The retail sector covers Division 52 of the NACE Rev.1 classification².

The **volume of sales³** represents the value of turnover in constant prices and as such it is a quantity index. It **can be calculated as** turnover at current prices, deflated by the deflator of sales, or as a quantity index derived directly from the quantity of goods sold. Turnover comprises the totals invoiced by the observation unit during the reference period. This corresponds to market sales of goods or services supplied to third parties. It includes all duties and taxes on the goods or services invoiced by the unit with the exception of the VAT

invoiced by the unit vis-à-vis its customer and other similar deductible taxes directly linked to turnover.

Member States are required **to transmit** gross and working-day adjusted data and are encouraged to also send seasonally adjusted and trend data. Eurostat calculates the adjustment only if nationally adjusted data are not available.

Eurostat aggregates working-day adjusted data from the Member States in order **to compile the euro-zone and EU-15 series**. Seasonally adjusted euro-zone and EU-15 series are then produced using TRAMO/SEATS. Missing components for the euro-zone and EU-15 aggregates are estimated using an ARIMA method.

¹ Official Journal No L 162, of 5th June 1998. Also available via the "Business Methods" Internet site: <http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/dsis/bmethods/home>. The deadline for the full implementation of the Regulation regarding the indices is mid-2003.

Community, Eurostat, 1996 (ISBN 92-826-8767-8).

³ This abbreviated version of the definition of the volume of sales index for retail trade is based on the Commission Regulation on the Definition of Variables that is currently in the process of implementation. The Member States have to comply with this definition not later than 2003.

² NACE Rev. 1 - Statistical classification of economic activities in the European

The **reference period** is the calendar month. Aggregate **data should be transmitted to Eurostat no later than two months** after the end of the reference period. More detailed data have to be transmitted within three months. This deadline may be extended by 15 more calendar days for those Member States whose value added in Division 52 of NACE Rev. 1 represents less than 3% of the Community total.

The **weights** used for aggregations are based on information from the Structural Business Statistics database or on information coming directly from the Member States. Weights and base year are revised every five years. **The current base year is 1995.**

EMPLOYMENT INDEX

The index shows the evolution of the number of persons employed in the retail trade sector.

The **legal basis** is again the **Council Regulation for short-term statistics 1165/98** from May 19, 1998.

The index is defined as the total number of persons who work in the observation unit (including working proprietors or partners and unpaid family workers), as well as persons who work outside the unit, but who belong to it and are paid by it (e.g. sales representatives and delivery personnel, repair). Part-time workers are included as well. Excluded is manpower supplied to the unit by other enterprises. Member States can use the number of employees as an approximation of the number of persons employed.

Data shall be **transmitted** to Eurostat at the 2-digit level of NACE Rev. 1 and various aggregations thereof from all Member States. The data are used to produce aggregated indicators for the Community as a whole, and for the group of Member States participating in the euro-zone.

Member States shall transmit quarterly data. Data should be transmitted not later than 3 months after the end of the reference period. Those Member States whose value added in Division 52 of NACE Rev. 1 represents less than 3% of the European Community total have 1 month longer to transmit the index.

The **weights** for the index come from the Structural Business Statistics database or directly from Member States. Weights and base year are revised every five years. **The current base year is 1995.**

Member States shall transmit a gross index, although they may also transmit seasonally adjusted and trend-cycle indices. Eurostat publishes nationally adjusted data if available, otherwise, it performs the adjustment itself.

Gross data from Member States are aggregated in order to compile euro-zone and EU-15 series. Seasonally adjusted euro-zone and EU-15 series are then produced using the TRAMO & SEATS method. Missing components for euro-zone and EU-15 aggregates are estimated using an ARIMA method. When calculating the data for European aggregates (EU-15 and EUR11) Eurostat makes use of confidential data.

GROWTH RATES

Growth rates for the euro-zone are shown with the euro-zone treated as a single entity. As such, growth rates before the first quarter of 2001 compare on the basis of eleven countries, whilst growth rates from the first quarter of 2001 onwards compare on the basis of twelve countries.

DISSEMINATION

Eurostat publishes detailed data and time series in Theme 4/EBT-domain of NewCronos.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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