

Developments in retail trade

during the final quarter of 2001

Jenny Runesson

There was a stable rate of growth for the volume of retail sales in the first three quarters of 2001 (with quarter on quarter growth rates of 0.5% in the EU). However, the final quarter of 2001 provided an indication of a slowdown in retail trade activity. This was particularly the case in the euro-zone¹, where retail sales fell by 0.2% in the final quarter of 2001 compared to the third quarter.

In terms of a comparison with the same quarter of a year before, EU retail sales were 1.7% higher in the final quarter of 2001. Not only was this figure the lowest growth recorded in 2001, but it was also the lowest since the third quarter of 1997.

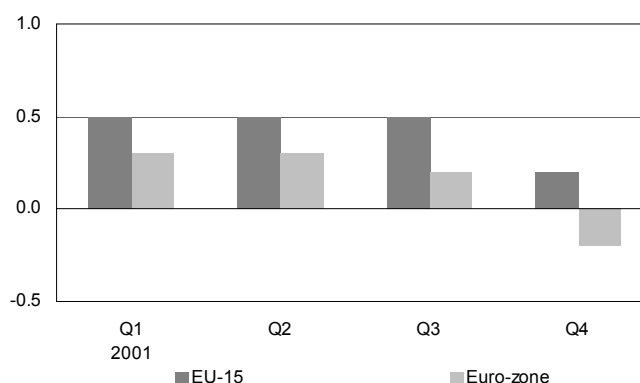


Figure 1: Volume of sales index for retail trade, seasonally adjusted data, growth rates compared to the previous quarter (%)

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	
Q1-01	0.5	Q1-01	0.3	Q1-01	2.8	Q1-01	2.4
Q2-01	0.5	Q2-01	0.3	Q2-01	1.9	Q2-01	1.0
Q3-01	0.5	Q3-01	0.2	Q3-01	2.4	Q3-01	1.6
Q4-01	0.2	Q4-01	-0.2	Q4-01	1.7	Q4-01	0.5

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.

Volume of sales index for retail trade

The breakdown of retail sales between food and non-food retailers shows that the most significant change in the last quarter of 2001 (on the basis of a comparison with the quarter before) was a contraction in textiles, clothing, leather and footwear retailing of 0.7% in the EU and 2.6% in the euro-zone. On the other hand, the retail sale of household equipment in the EU reported its fastest growth during the whole of 2001 in the final quarter (up 1.1%).

		Weights (% of total)	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted data						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted data					
			Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01
Retail trade	EU-15	100.0	-0.1	1.0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.2	2.5	2.2	2.8	1.9	2.4	1.7
	Euro-zone	100.0	-0.3	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.2	-0.2	1.9	1.6	2.4	1.0	1.6	0.5
Retail sale of food, beverages and tobacco	EU-15	42.9	-0.2	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	1.1	1.4	1.9	1.3	2.0	1.7
	Euro-zone	42.4	-0.4	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.9	1.3	1.7	0.7	1.5	1.0
Retail sale of non-food products	EU-15	57.1	0.3	0.7	1.4	-0.1	0.6	-0.2	3.3	2.5	3.7	2.4	2.7	1.7
	Euro-zone	57.6	-0.2	0.4	1.0	-0.3	0.1	-0.7	2.3	1.3	2.9	1.1	1.4	0.1
of which,														
Textiles, clothing, footwear & leather goods	EU-15	12.0	0.4	1.4	1.0	0.0	2.0	-0.7	4.2	1.9	4.7	2.9	4.7	2.0
	Euro-zone	11.4	-0.4	0.9	1.5	-0.8	1.5	-2.6	3.3	0.2	3.2	0.7	2.6	-0.5
Household equipment	EU-15	14.2	0.7	0.7	-0.1	-0.2	0.6	1.1	5.1	5.1	2.3	1.0	0.9	1.4
	Euro-zone	14.6	0.0	0.1	0.1	-0.5	-0.1	0.0	4.0	3.8	1.2	-0.7	-0.9	-0.5
Books, newspapers and sale in specialised stores	EU-15	11.4	0.1	1.3	1.5	-0.6	0.4	0.3	1.5	2.1	4.0	2.2	2.5	1.5
	Euro-zone	11.5	-0.4	1.1	1.4	-1.1	0.1	0.0	0.7	1.2	3.3	1.2	1.8	0.4

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

Among the Member States there were a number of countries continued to report that retail sales were growing at a fairly rapid pace. They included Ireland, the United Kingdom and Spain, where sales volumes in the final quarter of 2001 grew by more than 4% as compared to a year before, as they did in Luxembourg in the third quarter of 2001. On the other hand, there was a reduction in the volume of retail sales in Germany, Portugal, Italy, Belgium and Austria between the final quarters of 2000 and 2001, with each of these countries also reporting a decline in the volume of retail sales between the third and fourth quarters of 2001 as did Sweden.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted data						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted data					
	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01
EU-15	-0.1	1.0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.2	2.5	2.2	2.8	1.9	2.4	1.7
Euro-zone	-0.3	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.2	-0.2	1.9	1.6	2.4	1.0	1.6	0.5
B	2.5	2.2	-1.7	-0.9	1.5	-0.6	7.1	6.7	2.7	1.4	1.0	-1.9
DK	0.5	-0.3	-0.5	0.7	0.6	0.3	2.4	0.0	-0.1	0.4	0.5	1.1
D	-1.3	-0.6	1.1	-0.3	0.3	-0.9	1.1	-0.6	1.0	-0.2	0.7	-0.4
EL	0.8	0.8	3.2	-0.3	0.1	:	6.7	4.4	8.3	4.6	3.5	:
E	-1.1	0.8	3.4	0.2	0.0	0.9	1.0	0.8	4.7	3.5	4.4	4.5
F (1)	-0.3	1.9	-0.4	0.9	0.6	:	2.5	4.2	4.3	1.9	3.1	:
IRL	1.2	3.3	2.2	1.2	-0.5	2.9	8.3	8.6	9.3	8.0	5.8	6.9
I	-0.1	-0.2	-0.3	-0.3	-0.4	-0.3	0.1	-0.5	-0.6	-1.0	-1.3	-1.6
L	0.2	1.0	2.1	-0.5	1.6	:	1.0	1.9	5.7	2.2	4.4	:
NL	0.9	0.7	0.0	-0.3	0.4	0.2	3.9	3.8	2.2	0.9	0.8	0.3
A	-0.6	0.3	0.7	-2.0	-0.1	-1.0	0.1	0.7	2.8	-1.7	-1.2	-2.2
P	0.2	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.8	-1.1	3.9	0.9	-1.3	1.8	1.7	-1.0
FIN	1.1	-0.4	1.9	0.9	0.7	0.4	4.9	3.6	4.9	3.6	3.3	3.7
S	0.1	0.5	1.6	0.0	1.2	-0.6	7.0	4.4	4.0	2.1	3.5	2.0
UK	1.2	1.6	1.2	1.9	1.5	1.7	3.9	4.8	4.5	6.1	6.2	6.5

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

(1) Data for the latest quarter are confidential.

Volume of sales index for food and non-food retailers

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted data						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted data					
	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01
EU-15	-0.2	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	1.1	1.4	1.9	1.3	2.0	1.7
Euro-zone	-0.4	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.9	1.3	1.7	0.7	1.5	1.0
B	0.8	-0.2	-0.1	-1.8	2.3	-1.0	-2.6	-0.7	0.9	-2.3	0.6	-0.9
DK	-1.2	0.5	0.4	2.5	0.6	0.3	-2.6	-2.5	-0.2	2.3	4.1	3.8
D	-1.9	0.4	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.1	0.6	0.4	0.8	1.3	2.7	2.1
EL	0.4	0.7	1.2	0.2	-0.3	:	7.9	5.1	5.9	3.0	1.2	:
E	-0.5	0.8	2.7	2.3	-0.2	-1.0	2.0	2.1	4.0	5.5	5.7	3.7
F (1)	-0.4	1.8	-1.5	0.9	0.6	:	1.0	2.5	2.9	0.6	1.8	:
IRL (1)	-0.6	1.4	3.0	0.8	-0.6	:	2.9	3.3	5.8	4.6	4.5	:
I	0.1	-0.4	-0.6	-0.5	-0.5	-0.4	1.3	0.3	-1.1	-1.9	-2.4	-1.8
L	0.6	0.7	1.2	-0.8	-0.2	:	1.8	2.3	2.9	1.7	0.8	:
NL	-0.5	0.4	0.8	-2.0	0.6	0.8	0.8	1.3	2.6	-1.7	-0.4	0.4
A	0.8	-0.3	-4.3	-3.1	-1.8	-0.4	-4.7	0.7	-3.6	-7.1	-9.4	-9.1
P	0.6	2.4	-2.1	1.8	1.0	-1.3	5.8	2.0	1.7	3.0	2.8	-0.7
FIN	0.8	-0.3	2.0	0.5	0.9	0.7	3.7	2.9	4.7	3.0	3.2	4.0
S	-0.8	0.8	0.9	1.2	0.5	-0.1	1.0	0.4	1.4	2.1	3.4	2.5
UK	0.7	0.7	1.4	0.8	0.8	1.1	2.0	2.2	2.7	3.6	3.9	4.5

Table 4: Volume of sales index for food retailers, growth rates (%)

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted data						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted data					
	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01
EU-15	0.3	0.7	1.4	-0.1	0.6	-0.2	3.3	2.5	3.7	2.4	2.7	1.7
Euro-zone	-0.2	0.4	1.0	-0.3	0.1	-0.7	2.3	1.3	2.9	1.1	1.4	0.1
B	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
DK	2.1	0.0	2.8	0.7	1.4	0.7	8.6	3.4	7.7	5.7	5.5	5.1
D	-1.1	-1.3	1.4	-1.0	-0.2	-1.6	1.5	-1.4	1.2	-1.0	-0.8	-1.8
EL	1.1	1.4	7.1	-3.5	0.6	:	5.4	3.6	10.4	6.2	5.3	:
E	-1.2	1.3	2.4	-1.6	0.6	-0.1	0.7	0.8	4.5	0.8	2.6	1.1
F (1)	-0.1	2.2	0.7	1.0	0.7	:	4.4	6.1	5.7	3.5	4.5	:
IRL (1)	2.8	4.2	3.7	2.7	-0.3	:	16.7	15.6	15.4	13.6	10.3	:
I	0.2	-0.1	-0.2	-0.3	-0.4	-0.4	-0.8	-1.1	-0.3	-0.5	-1.0	-1.3
L	0.1	2.6	3.9	-3.1	4.0	:	0.1	2.1	8.2	3.2	7.3	:
NL	1.5	0.8	0.1	0.6	-0.1	-0.5	5.5	4.7	2.1	2.7	1.7	0.5
A	0.0	0.5	1.5	-0.6	1.2	-0.4	2.8	0.7	5.7	0.9	3.1	0.8
P	-0.2	-0.5	1.8	-1.2	0.7	-1.1	2.6	0.2	-3.3	1.0	1.0	-1.1
FIN	1.3	-0.4	1.8	1.4	0.4	0.2	5.8	4.0	5.0	4.1	3.3	3.5
S	0.9	0.4	2.8	-1.7	2.0	-0.9	12.9	7.7	6.3	2.2	3.5	1.6
UK	2.2	1.8	2.1	1.9	1.7	2.1	5.7	6.3	6.3	8.1	7.6	8.0

Table 5: Volume of sales for non-food retailers, growth rates (%)

(1) Data for the latest quarter are confidential.

Volume of sales index for selected non-food retailers

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted data						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted data					
	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01
EU-15	0.4	1.4	1.0	0.0	2.0	-0.7	4.2	1.9	4.7	2.9	4.7	2.0
Euro-zone	-0.4	0.9	1.5	-0.8	1.5	-2.6	3.3	0.2	3.2	0.7	2.6	-0.5
B	1.1	1.4	-2.0	-0.1	4.0	-0.7	19.8	17.3	6.1	-0.2	3.2	-1.0
DK	2.2	-4.9	2.4	1.1	0.3	-2.1	7.6	-5.5	1.1	0.8	-1.0	1.2
D	0.1	-2.7	2.2	-2.1	2.1	-4.7	2.3	-2.9	1.6	-2.5	1.5	-3.9
EL	0.1	0.3	3.5	-0.8	1.1	:	3.7	0.2	9.3	2.5	3.8	:
E	0.5	1.0	-0.1	-0.5	-0.4	0.0	2.7	3.0	2.9	0.9	-0.3	-1.2
F	-1.0	3.9	1.4	0.2	2.8	:	3.6	5.5	7.8	4.7	6.6	:
IRL (1)	0.9	5.1	4.7	4.6	-2.4	:	17.8	20.0	16.8	15.9	12.1	:
I	-0.3	-0.7	-0.2	-0.2	-0.6	-0.9	-3.7	-5.8	-2.4	-1.2	-1.5	-1.9
L	-0.8	-0.9	3.2	-0.4	1.5	:	2.8	-2.0	5.0	1.1	3.4	:
NL	0.9	2.7	1.3	0.1	1.9	-5.2	10.2	3.7	6.6	5.0	6.2	-1.9
A	-1.1	-1.6	5.1	-3.2	5.7	-3.1	8.4	2.3	6.1	-1.6	6.9	3.8
P	1.8	-5.6	9.9	-4.1	0.6	-5.1	4.5	-2.0	-3.1	5.8	-0.7	-0.3
FIN	2.4	-0.9	2.8	1.1	1.3	:	6.0	0.0	4.5	5.2	4.8	:
S	0.7	-1.4	4.6	-2.2	1.5	-2.6	7.7	0.1	3.3	1.5	2.6	0.3
UK	2.7	2.4	3.5	1.8	2.6	0.5	6.1	7.3	9.9	10.6	11.2	8.9

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

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted data						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted data					
	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01
EU-15	0.7	0.7	-0.1	-0.2	0.6	1.1	5.1	5.1	2.3	1.0	0.9	1.4
Euro-zone	0.0	0.1	0.1	-0.5	-0.1	0.0	4.0	3.8	1.2	-0.7	-0.9	-0.5
B	3.9	-0.3	1.1	-2.2	1.2	3.0	11.5	8.2	1.3	1.9	-1.4	3.6
DK	-0.6	1.3	-0.4	2.5	-1.5	0.4	3.2	1.5	3.1	2.8	1.9	1.0
D	-1.8	-0.6	-1.5	-1.0	-1.5	-0.4	1.7	0.0	-3.2	-4.0	-5.5	-3.7
EL	1.6	2.8	1.1	0.1	-3.0	:	4.7	4.0	7.8	5.9	0.6	:
E	-1.1	1.1	-0.1	-1.3	1.6	-0.5	5.4	5.4	1.9	-1.7	1.5	-0.4
F	-0.5	2.7	1.1	-1.2	0.7	:	7.7	9.7	7.3	1.5	3.4	:
IRL (1)	2.8	3.1	3.0	6.5	-2.2	:	10.5	8.8	14.7	16.4	11.1	:
I	1.0	0.3	-1.0	-0.4	-0.1	-0.5	3.0	2.7	1.0	-0.5	-1.2	-1.6
L	-0.8	2.3	2.3	-0.8	3.6	:	-1.3	2.2	6.3	0.7	7.9	:
NL	1.3	1.4	-1.7	1.1	-0.1	0.6	4.2	6.1	-0.3	2.0	0.5	0.1
A	-0.3	0.3	0.8	-1.5	-1.6	-2.4	-2.1	-2.3	4.3	0.2	-2.0	-5.4
P	-1.6	1.2	-2.6	0.8	0.3	-0.7	0.8	1.3	-5.9	-1.7	-0.1	-2.2
FIN	1.3	0.7	1.1	-0.3	-0.1	:	5.5	5.8	3.4	2.7	1.4	:
S	0.1	0.9	-0.6	0.5	2.0	-2.3	15.6	10.1	3.2	0.7	3.2	-0.9
UK	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.3	2.3	2.9	8.5	10.4	6.9	9.0	8.5	10.4

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

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted data						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted data					
	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01
EU-15	0.1	1.3	1.5	-0.6	0.4	0.3	1.5	2.1	4.0	2.2	2.5	1.5
Euro-zone	-0.4	1.1	1.4	-1.1	0.1	0.0	0.7	1.2	3.3	1.2	1.8	0.4
B	4.8	0.3	-0.6	-2.8	4.8	-1.6	16.0	10.4	6.4	-0.5	3.2	-1.9
DK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
D	-1.6	-0.6	0.4	-0.1	-1.9	-2.6	3.1	0.4	-0.2	-0.4	-2.3	-3.9
EL	2.1	3.6	1.2	-0.6	-1.7	:	6.0	3.6	8.9	6.5	2.5	:
E	-6.4	1.5	16.9	-6.1	-4.5	-0.5	-6.8	-6.5	12.5	4.6	6.5	4.0
F	0.2	1.7	1.1	1.2	2.5	:	1.1	2.2	4.3	3.4	7.5	:
IRL (1)	4.6	5.1	2.5	0.2	1.9	:	25.0	20.9	17.2	12.4	8.3	:
I	0.5	0.1	-1.2	-0.6	-0.7	0.0	-1.9	-0.8	-1.5	-1.4	-2.6	-2.3
L	-0.1	0.4	8.7	-7.3	7.4	:	0.1	5.0	13.2	1.1	8.7	:
NL	1.7	1.1	-4.2	0.3	0.2	3.3	-5.3	8.2	-3.6	-1.6	-3.1	0.0
A	0.2	1.1	1.9	-1.8	0.2	-0.9	7.2	4.1	7.4	1.2	1.5	-1.4
P	-1.1	-1.8	-1.5	1.3	1.8	-2.6	-1.9	-3.8	-7.5	-2.5	2.6	-5.3
FIN	1.1	0.0	0.9	-0.4	-0.2	:	0.6	0.9	1.4	1.7	0.5	:
S	1.3	0.0	4.6	-2.6	2.6	0.9	17.7	11.9	11.6	3.0	4.5	5.3
UK	2.7	2.1	0.8	1.5	1.0	3.0	1.8	4.2	5.9	7.5	5.4	5.6

Table 8: Volume of sales index for books, newspapers and other specialised retailers, growth rates (%)

(1) Data for the latest quarter are confidential.

Employment index for retail trade

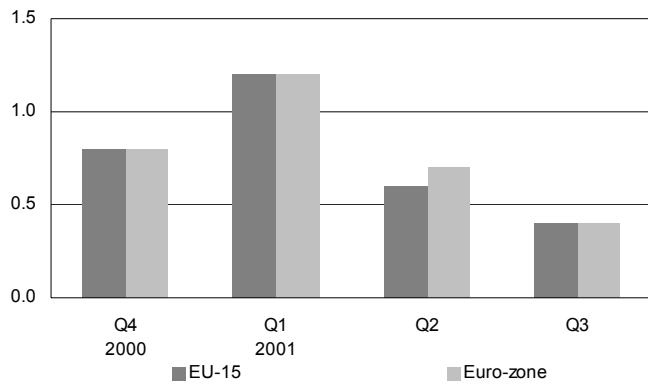


Figure 2: Employment index for retail trade, seasonally adjusted data, growth rates compared to the previous quarter (%)

The number of persons employed in the EU's retail trade sector continued to grow in the third quarter of 2001, with the employment index rising by 0.4% in both the EU and the euro-zone. However, these were the lowest growth rates recorded since the third quarter of 1999.

Among the Member States, the most rapid quarter on quarter growth rates were recorded in Finland and Spain, where the number of persons employed rose by 3.3% and 1.9% respectively in the fourth quarter of 2001. The number of persons employed in Denmark fell by 0.2%.

Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted data				Year on year growth rates, gross data			
EU-15		Euro-zone		EU-15		Euro-zone	
Q4-00	0.8	Q4-00	0.8	Q4-00	4.2	Q4-00	4.3
Q1-01	1.2	Q1-01	1.2	Q1-01	3.9	Q1-01	4.0
Q2-01	0.6	Q2-01	0.7	Q2-01	3.7	Q2-01	3.8
Q3-01	0.4	Q3-01	0.4	Q3-01	3.0	Q3-01	3.1

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

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted data						Year on year growth rates, gross data					
	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01	Q3-00	Q4-00	Q1-01	Q2-01	Q3-01	Q4-01
EU-15	1.0	0.8	1.2	0.6	0.4	:	4.4	4.2	3.9	3.7	3.0	:
Euro-zone	1.0	0.8	1.2	0.7	0.4	:	4.5	4.3	4.0	3.8	3.1	:
B	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
DK	-0.5	0.1	0.6	-0.1	-0.6	-0.2	0.0	-0.2	-0.1	0.1	0.0	-0.3
D	-0.1	-0.4	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.2	-0.3	-0.2	-0.1	0.1	0.1	0.7
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	2.3	1.8	2.3	0.3	0.9	1.9	10.1	6.9	7.1	6.8	5.3	5.5
F (1)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IRL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
I	2.2	2.4	2.4	1.4	0.5	:	8.9	10.4	10.2	8.8	6.8	:
L	0.1	1.4	0.7	0.8	1.3	:	0.1	1.1	2.2	3.0	4.1	:
NL	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.1	0.1	:	3.1	2.9	3.5	2.5	1.4	:
A	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
P	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FIN	2.1	-4.2	2.4	1.1	-1.2	3.3	0.9	-1.7	-2.9	1.3	-2.0	5.8
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 Rev. 1 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, 1998**¹, which is currently being implemented. Division 52 of the NACE Rev.1 classification²

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.

² NACE Rev. 1 - Statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community, Eurostat, 1996 (ISBN 92-826-8767-8).

covers retailing.

The **volume of sales**³ 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

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.

customer and other similar deductible taxes directly linked to turnover.

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

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 by 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. **Note that the employment index data refers to NACE Rev. 1 Division 52, whilst that for the volume of sales refers to NACE Rev. 1 Division 52 excluding Group 52.7.**

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 series.** Seasonally adjusted euro-zone and EU series are then produced using the TRAMO & SEATS method. Missing components for euro-zone and EU aggregates are estimated using an ARIMA method. When calculating the data for European aggregates (EU and euro-zone) 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

Jenny Runesson
Tel: +352-4301-32111,
Fax: +352-4301-34359,
jenny.runesson@cec.eu.int

Further information:

➤ Reference publications

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For information on methodology

Jenny Runesson, Eurostat/D3, L-2920 Luxembourg, Tel. (352) 4301 32111, Fax (352) 4301 34359, E-mail: jenny.runesson@cec.eu.int
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