

Developments for retail trade

during the final quarter of 2003

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Statistics in focus

INDUSTRY, TRADE AND SERVICES

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In the fourth quarter of 2003 the seasonally adjusted volume of retail sales index for the EU rose by 0.3 %, after increases of 0.4 % and 0.1 % in the second and third quarters of 2003. Growth in the EU-15 was at a much more rapid pace than within the euro-zone, where sales volumes contracted by 0.3 % in the final quarter of 2003, having declined by 0.2 % in the third quarter of 2003.

The working day adjusted volume of retail sales index grew by 0.6 % in the final quarter of 2003 in the EU (compared to the same quarter of a year before), the same growth as in the third quarter of 2003. The euro-zone recorded a rate of change (-0.6 %) that was considerably inferior to that registered in the EU, with an acceleration of the downward trend that began in the third quarter of 2003 (-0.3 %).

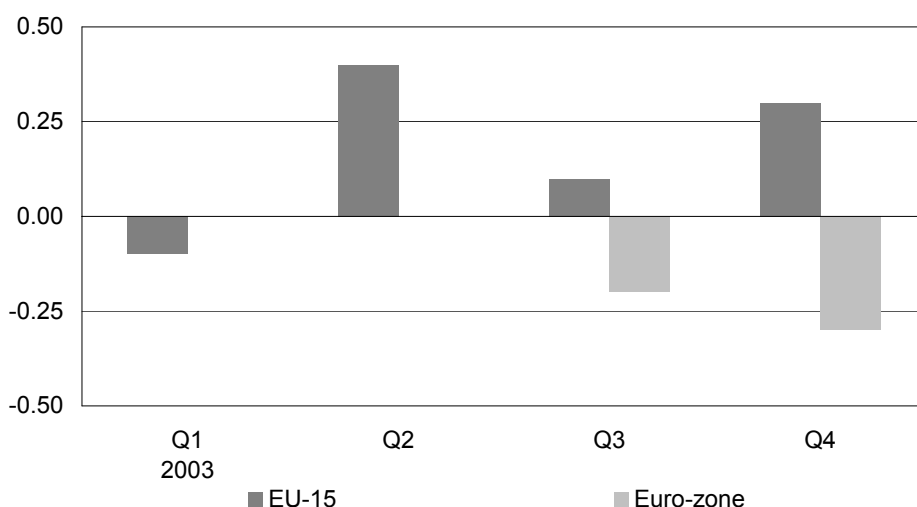


Figure 1: Volume of sales index for retail trade, seasonally adjusted data, growth rates compared to the previous quarter (%)

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	
Q1-03	-0.1	Q1-03	0.0	Q1-03	1.4	Q1-03	0.9
Q2-03	0.4	Q2-03	0.0	Q2-03	1.6	Q2-03	0.9
Q3-03	0.1	Q3-03	-0.2	Q3-03	0.6	Q3-03	-0.3
Q4-03	0.3	Q4-03	-0.3	Q4-03	0.6	Q4-03	-0.6

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



Volume of sales index for retail trade

The volume of sales of food items decreased by 0.3 % in the EU between the third and final quarters of 2003, while the corresponding rate for the euro-zone was -0.5 %. The difference in the growth rates of the two European aggregates was more pronounced for non-food items, where sales volumes grew by 0.6 % in the EU between the third and final quarters of 2003, while there was almost no change reported in the euro-zone (0.1 %). There was growth in the volume of sales in the EU for each of the three non-food groupings identified in the table below, while the retail sale of books, newspapers and sales in specialised stores was the only activity where the volume of sales increased during the final quarter of 2003 within the euro-zone.

		Weights (% of total)	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted data						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted data					
			Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q4-03
Retail trade	EU-15	100.0	1.0	0.2	-0.1	0.4	0.1	0.3	1.9	1.4	1.4	1.6	0.6	0.6
	Euro-zone	100.0	1.1	-0.2	0.0	0.0	-0.2	-0.3	0.6	-0.1	0.9	0.9	-0.3	-0.6
Retail sale of food, beverages and tobacco	EU-15	44.0	1.1	0.8	0.0	0.5	0.4	-0.3	2.1	1.8	2.3	2.5	1.8	0.3
	Euro-zone	43.7	0.8	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.4	-0.5	1.5	1.4	2.0	2.0	1.3	-0.5
Retail sale of non-food products	EU-15	56.0	0.8	-0.2	-0.1	0.3	-0.1	0.6	2.3	1.3	0.9	1.0	-0.3	0.7
	Euro-zone	56.3	0.7	-0.9	0.1	-0.2	-0.7	0.1	0.4	-1.0	0.2	0.1	-1.8	-0.9
of which,														
Textiles, clothing, footwear & leather goods	EU-15	10.9	1.4	-0.6	-0.3	0.1	-0.6	0.5	1.4	1.4	0.5	0.6	-1.4	-0.4
	Euro-zone	10.6	1.4	-1.8	-0.5	-0.9	-2.0	-0.3	-2.1	-1.8	-1.6	-1.8	-5.1	-3.7
Household equipment	EU-15	14.3	1.0	-0.2	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.3	1.6	0.3	0.8	1.6	0.7	1.1
	Euro-zone	14.8	0.8	-1.1	0.8	-0.4	-0.3	-0.5	-0.4	-2.4	0.3	0.1	-0.9	-0.5
Books, newspapers and sale in specialised stores	EU-15	12.2	0.1	-0.5	0.4	0.2	-0.1	0.9	1.5	0.1	0.0	0.3	-0.2	1.7
	Euro-zone	12.1	0.4	-1.4	0.5	-0.3	-1.2	0.3	-0.7	-2.4	-1.0	-0.7	-2.4	-0.7

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

The difference between the EU-15 and euro-zone growth rates was largely accounted for by the fact that the highest growth in sales volumes between the third and final quarters of 2003 was recorded in the United Kingdom (1.6 %). On the basis of a comparison with the year before, the fastest growth for retail sales was registered in Spain (4.5 %), Sweden (4.4 %), Denmark and the United Kingdom (both 3.7 %) and Finland (3.6 %). All the remaining Member States for which data are available for the final quarter of 2003 reported a contraction in their respective sales volumes compared to a year before.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted data						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted data					
	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q4-03
EU-15	1.0	0.2	-0.1	0.4	0.1	0.3	1.9	1.4	1.4	1.6	0.6	0.6
Euro-zone	1.1	-0.2	0.0	0.0	-0.2	-0.3	0.6	-0.1	0.9	0.9	-0.3	-0.6
BE	0.6	-0.8	0.7	-0.6	-0.7	0.4	-1.9	-1.9	-0.8	-0.2	-1.8	-0.2
DK	0.9	0.8	1.3	0.8	0.7	1.0	3.0	4.0	3.1	4.4	3.6	3.7
DE	0.8	-1.0	0.8	0.0	-1.6	-1.7	-0.5	-1.8	0.2	0.6	-1.6	-2.6
EL (1)	0.7	1.5	1.5	-0.1	2.6	:	5.5	6.0	6.7	2.6	6.0	:
ES	1.5	-0.8	1.5	1.7	0.0	1.2	2.1	0.5	1.9	4.0	2.4	4.5
FR	0.4	0.5	0.2	-0.3	0.1	0.2	2.3	1.2	2.2	0.8	0.7	-0.1
IE	1.5	2.3	-1.8	2.0	-1.2	:	1.7	1.6	1.3	3.7	1.9	:
IT	0.0	0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.6	-0.3	-1.2	0.0	-0.2	0.5	-1.0	-1.3
LU	-0.7	4.0	0.3	1.2	-1.5	:	3.5	6.8	5.9	4.8	4.1	:
NL	0.5	-0.4	-0.6	-2.4	-1.4	-0.9	0.7	0.5	0.4	-3.2	-4.9	-5.3
AT	1.1	-0.1	2.1	-0.2	-3.1	0.4	-0.4	0.0	0.8	2.9	-1.1	-1.0
PT	1.9	-2.2	-1.9	-0.7	3.9	-1.8	0.8	-2.5	-3.6	-2.6	-1.0	-0.8
FI	0.0	0.7	1.1	0.7	1.8	0.2	3.0	2.6	4.1	2.6	4.4	3.6
SE	0.7	1.3	0.5	2.2	0.9	0.8	4.6	5.8	3.7	4.7	5.0	4.4
UK	0.9	1.2	-0.5	1.5	1.0	1.6	6.0	5.6	2.5	3.4	3.1	3.7

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					
	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q4-03
EU-15	1.1	0.8	0.0	0.5	0.4	-0.3	2.1	1.8	2.3	2.5	1.8	0.3
Euro-zone	0.8	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.4	-0.5	1.5	1.4	2.0	2.0	1.3	-0.5
BE	0.4	0.7	-0.2	0.3	0.4	0.0	1.0	3.1	3.3	1.2	1.3	0.5
DK	0.2	-0.6	3.5	-0.1	0.4	-0.6	-1.7	-1.9	2.3	4.2	3.1	2.9
DE	1.1	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.0	-2.6	2.0	1.0	2.1	2.0	1.6	-1.8
EL (1)	1.1	0.2	1.8	-0.5	3.1	:	7.6	7.0	7.8	1.2	4.7	:
ES	1.3	0.5	1.1	0.2	0.9	0.6	0.1	0.5	2.8	3.0	2.8	3.0
FR	0.0	1.3	-0.4	-0.2	-0.2	-0.5	2.0	1.6	1.3	0.8	1.0	-1.7
IE (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IT	1.5	0.9	0.1	0.8	-0.9	-0.1	0.4	1.8	2.1	3.9	0.6	-0.3
LU	2.6	4.3	0.6	0.5	-0.2	:	5.5	9.9	9.5	8.0	4.8	:
NL	0.5	0.0	0.2	-0.6	-0.6	0.3	1.7	1.0	1.6	0.1	-1.0	-0.6
AT	-1.1	0.2	3.5	0.6	-3.5	0.3	4.3	2.3	2.5	3.1	0.6	1.1
PT	1.8	-0.4	0.4	0.1	1.3	-2.0	-2.4	-2.6	0.2	2.5	1.4	-0.2
FI	1.2	0.2	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.1	2.8	2.7	3.1	3.2	3.0	2.6
SE	1.2	0.4	0.8	1.5	-0.9	-0.2	2.8	2.7	2.5	3.9	1.8	1.0
UK	1.2	1.0	0.0	1.5	0.6	0.7	4.2	3.3	3.0	3.7	3.2	2.8

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					
	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q4-03
EU-15	0.8	-0.2	-0.1	0.3	-0.1	0.6	2.3	1.3	0.9	1.0	-0.3	0.7
Euro-zone	0.7	-0.9	0.1	-0.2	-0.7	0.1	0.4	-1.0	0.2	0.1	-1.8	-0.9
BE	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
DK	0.5	1.7	0.5	1.8	0.1	1.3	2.8	5.8	3.3	4.5	3.9	3.5
DE	0.8	-1.9	0.8	-0.1	-2.6	-1.0	-2.0	-3.5	-1.2	-0.3	-4.0	-2.8
EL (1)	0.2	2.5	1.1	-0.4	2.2	:	3.4	4.7	5.1	2.8	6.1	:
ES	1.8	-1.7	1.6	2.4	-0.4	1.7	6.2	1.5	2.1	4.9	2.0	5.3
FR	0.9	-0.3	0.8	-0.4	0.3	0.9	2.4	0.7	3.0	0.8	0.2	1.6
IE (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IT	-0.4	-0.3	-0.7	-0.5	-0.9	-0.7	-2.0	-1.2	-1.8	-1.3	-2.3	-3.0
LU	-2.6	3.5	1.2	0.3	-1.5	:	2.0	4.5	3.5	2.4	3.6	:
NL	0.8	-0.5	-1.4	-4.1	-1.5	-0.6	0.6	0.4	-0.6	-5.3	-7.4	-7.4
AT	2.2	-0.2	1.6	-0.7	-2.8	0.5	-2.6	-1.0	0.1	2.7	-2.1	-1.5
PT	2.0	-3.6	-3.7	-1.3	5.9	-1.7	3.6	-2.5	-6.3	-6.3	-2.8	-1.2
FI	-1.6	0.7	1.5	1.3	1.8	-0.3	3.1	2.6	4.6	2.2	5.6	4.1
SE	0.2	1.9	0.6	2.6	2.4	1.2	6.2	8.5	4.8	5.4	7.9	6.9
UK	1.1	1.2	-1.2	2.0	0.9	2.5	7.6	7.0	2.3	3.1	2.8	4.4

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

(1) Data for the latest quarter are confidential.

(2) Due to the on-going process of re-basing these series, the Irish CSO were not in a position to supply data.

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					
	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q4-03
EU-15	1.4	-0.6	-0.3	0.1	-0.6	0.5	1.4	1.4	0.5	0.6	-1.4	-0.4
Euro-zone	1.4	-1.8	-0.5	-0.9	-2.0	-0.3	-2.1	-1.8	-1.6	-1.8	-5.1	-3.7
BE	-1.1	-2.0	0.0	-3.8	1.0	-1.3	-10.6	-7.5	-4.7	-7.8	-4.3	-3.7
DK	-1.3	1.7	2.5	-0.8	1.6	-0.1	-1.3	3.7	4.1	2.2	5.3	2.6
DE	0.0	-1.5	-0.1	-0.6	-4.4	-2.2	-5.6	-3.6	-3.5	-2.1	-7.1	-6.2
EL (1)	1.9	3.7	-1.8	4.7	0.2	:	0.8	3.9	-3.3	10.5	7.8	:
ES	3.0	-3.8	-1.1	3.1	-2.5	1.4	1.4	-1.5	-2.7	1.5	-4.0	1.2
FR	1.1	-1.6	0.5	-2.1	-0.2	1.3	2.7	0.0	4.2	-1.5	-4.3	-1.0
IE (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IT	-0.1	-0.4	-1.2	-0.5	-1.5	-1.2	-2.5	-1.8	-3.1	-1.7	-3.4	-4.3
LU	-7.7	4.3	-0.2	3.8	-8.2	:	-4.0	5.7	-1.0	-0.5	-0.8	:
NL	0.7	0.8	-0.6	-4.4	-3.3	0.0	-2.1	4.2	1.8	-3.6	-7.7	-8.0
AT	2.7	0.4	-0.5	-3.2	-4.3	1.2	-3.8	0.6	-3.0	-0.4	-7.1	-6.6
PT	11.2	-12.4	-3.5	-5.1	16.2	-4.8	6.6	-10.6	-16.0	-8.5	-6.6	0.9
FI	-3.2	2.4	-0.2	-1.8	5.1	:	3.2	4.1	2.7	-2.8	5.6	:
SE	-2.1	1.9	0.2	0.1	4.5	-1.7	3.3	6.6	3.2	-0.1	7.3	2.7
UK	1.6	1.2	1.7	2.2	1.3	1.7	11.0	9.2	5.7	7.2	6.5	6.8

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					
	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q4-03
EU-15	1.0	-0.2	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.3	1.6	0.3	0.8	1.6	0.7	1.1
Euro-zone	0.8	-1.1	0.8	-0.4	-0.3	-0.5	-0.4	-2.4	0.3	0.1	-0.9	-0.5
BE	1.9	-2.1	1.9	-1.0	-1.0	-0.9	-0.2	-6.2	0.9	0.9	-2.1	-1.5
DK	3.3	-0.2	-3.9	3.2	0.1	2.6	4.5	4.1	-1.1	2.1	-0.9	2.0
DE	1.1	-2.8	3.1	-0.5	-2.8	-1.3	-5.0	-7.4	0.0	0.8	-3.1	-2.1
EL (1)	0.7	0.5	3.5	-2.6	2.3	:	5.7	2.9	13.9	-1.7	3.6	:
ES	1.4	0.2	1.6	1.9	1.5	0.3	5.1	2.1	2.6	5.4	5.5	5.6
FR	0.6	-0.2	0.9	0.3	0.9	1.1	2.6	0.6	2.3	1.7	1.6	3.7
IE (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IT	-0.6	-0.1	-0.7	-0.5	-0.8	-0.7	-2.1	-1.0	-1.7	-1.6	-2.0	-2.8
LU	-3.4	4.9	0.1	2.0	-0.4	:	1.1	4.9	3.1	3.6	6.7	:
NL	0.6	-1.8	-0.8	-3.3	-1.7	-2.5	2.4	-1.5	-1.4	-5.7	-7.2	-8.3
AT	0.3	-1.2	0.5	1.2	-3.0	-1.6	-6.1	-4.7	-3.1	0.8	-2.3	-2.7
PT	-1.7	-0.8	-7.0	-2.4	6.2	-1.4	3.6	-1.3	-9.4	-11.5	-4.5	-5.3
FI	-1.9	-0.3	1.5	3.8	1.3	:	2.7	1.9	4.0	3.3	6.3	:
SE	-0.8	1.6	1.7	4.5	1.2	1.9	4.0	7.1	4.3	7.4	9.5	9.6
UK	2.2	2.1	-1.9	3.6	1.2	1.9	8.9	9.5	2.0	6.2	5.1	5.2

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					
	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q4-03
EU-15	0.1	-0.5	0.4	0.2	-0.1	0.9	1.5	0.1	0.0	0.3	-0.2	1.7
Euro-zone	0.4	-1.4	0.5	-0.3	-1.2	0.3	-0.7	-2.4	-1.0	-0.7	-2.4	-0.7
BE	0.9	-2.9	-1.5	1.3	-1.1	1.3	1.6	-2.8	-6.5	-1.7	-4.7	0.8
DK	2.4	9.7	2.9	1.6	2.0	7.3	13.1	20.6	22.0	18.0	17.0	12.9
DE	0.7	-2.6	0.0	0.2	-0.8	-0.2	-2.8	-5.2	-4.4	-2.1	-3.0	-1.0
EL (1)	1.6	1.8	2.3	3.2	1.0	:	6.3	3.3	7.4	11.4	8.8	:
ES	-0.1	-2.5	3.1	1.3	-2.1	2.9	-1.5	-4.5	1.8	2.8	-1.1	5.3
FR	0.7	0.0	1.0	-0.6	-0.5	0.6	1.2	-0.7	3.1	0.9	-0.3	0.0
IE (2)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IT	-0.7	-0.6	-1.1	-0.8	-1.2	-1.0	-2.6	-1.8	-3.5	-2.7	-3.6	-4.0
LU	-2.2	2.0	5.0	-6.5	6.5	:	1.7	0.2	6.0	-2.1	6.7	:
NL	0.1	-1.5	-3.0	-4.0	-2.6	0.0	1.0	-1.5	-4.0	-8.6	-11.2	-9.0
AT	3.3	0.5	5.1	-2.2	-3.1	1.2	0.3	3.0	2.9	6.6	0.0	0.8
PT	-0.2	-4.5	-3.3	1.1	2.4	-5.8	-3.2	-6.6	-8.6	-6.9	-4.0	-5.2
FI	-1.6	2.1	2.0	0.9	1.0	:	3.5	5.4	6.4	3.7	6.0	:
SE	4.3	1.6	-0.3	3.7	2.7	2.8	10.6	12.4	6.4	9.3	8.0	9.1
UK	-1.5	1.4	-0.3	0.7	1.7	3.8	6.3	4.3	0.1	0.3	3.6	6.2

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

(1) Data for the latest quarter are confidential.

(2) Due to the on-going process of re-basing these series, the Irish CSO were not in a position to supply data.

Employment index for retail trade

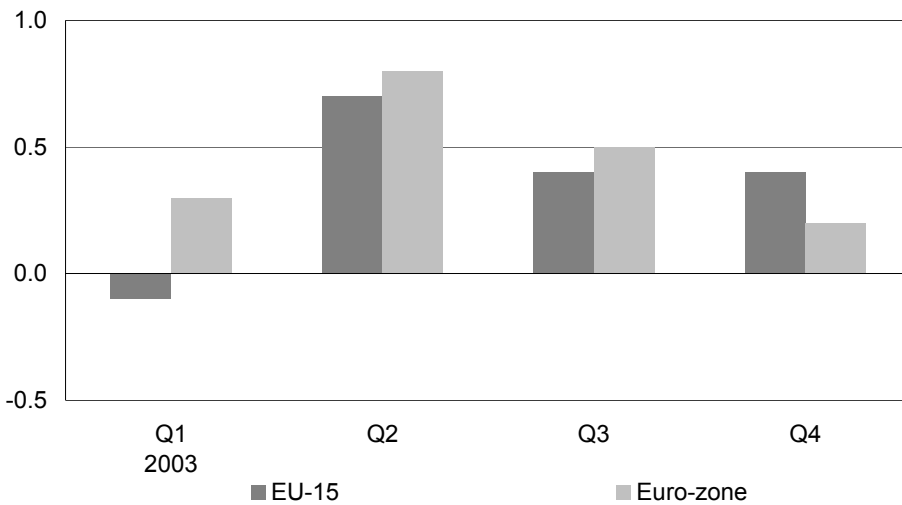


Figure 2: Employment index for retail trade, seasonally adjusted data, growth rates compared to the previous quarter (%)

Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted data				Year on year growth rates, gross data			
EU-15		Euro-zone		EU-15		Euro-zone	
Q1-03	-0.1	Q1-03	0.3	Q1-03	0.8	Q1-03	1.3
Q2-03	0.7	Q2-03	0.8	Q2-03	1.2	Q2-03	1.9
Q3-03	0.4	Q3-03	0.5	Q3-03	1.5	Q3-03	2.1
Q4-03	0.4	Q4-03	0.2	Q4-03	1.4	Q4-03	1.8

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

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted data						Year on year growth rates, gross data					
	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q3-02	Q4-02	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q4-03
EU-15	0.1	0.5	-0.1	0.7	0.4	0.4	1.7	1.4	0.8	1.2	1.5	1.4
Euro-zone	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.8	0.5	0.2	2.1	1.6	1.3	1.9	2.1	1.8
BE	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
DK	-0.4	2.1	-0.6	3.2	-1.9	:	0.4	4.9	0.3	4.4	2.8	:
DE (1)	-0.5	-0.6	-0.3	-0.5	-0.4	0.0	-1.5	-2.4	-2.7	-2.4	-1.9	-0.9
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES (1)	0.8	1.1	0.6	0.8	1.3	0.5	3.5	3.0	3.2	3.4	3.8	2.9
FR	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.2	2.2	1.2	1.4	2.2	1.6	1.0
IE	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IT	1.6	2.3	1.0	2.6	1.6	1.5	6.6	7.6	6.5	7.7	7.8	6.9
LU (1)	-0.1	0.5	-0.2	0.2	0.3	:	0.2	-1.5	-0.6	0.4	0.8	:
NL	0.1	0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.6	1.4	0.8	0.4	-0.1	-0.3	-0.7
AT (1)	-0.2	0.3	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.2	1.4	0.8	1.4	1.0	1.1	1.0
PT (1)	0.7	0.4	-0.5	0.1	0.4	-0.4	-0.4	0.3	0.8	0.7	0.4	-0.4
FI	-0.6	-0.5	0.1	0.3	0.9	-2.1	3.3	-2.8	-1.2	-0.5	1.5	-1.4
SE	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
UK	-0.7	-0.2	-0.3	0.0	0.4	:	0.7	0.6	-0.7	-1.1	-0.2	:

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

(1) Excluding NACE Group 52.7.

Having seen employment grow at a relatively rapid pace in the second and third quarters of 2003, there was a slowdown in the pace of employment growth in the final quarter in the euro-zone (to 0.2 %), while the rate of change in the EU remained stable at 0.4 %.

Compared to the same quarter of a year before, employment in the EU's retail trade sector grew by 1.4 % in the final quarter of 2003, in line with the growth rates registered in the second (1.2 %) and third quarters (1.5 %) of 2003.

The most rapid growth in retail trade employment was recorded in Italy (1.5 % between the third and final quarters of 2003), followed by Spain (0.5 %). The same two countries also recorded the highest growth rates when making a comparison between one quarter and the same quarter of a year before (6.9 % and 2.9 % respectively between the final quarters of 2002 and 2003).

➤ 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 19 May 1998¹**, which is currently being implemented. Division 52 of the NACE Rev. 1 classification² covers retailing.

¹ Official Journal No L 162 of 5 June 1998. Also available via the "Business Methods" web-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).

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.

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.

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 2000.**

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 19 May 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 2000.**

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.

DISSEMINATION

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

FURTHER INFORMATION

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Further information:

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