

Developments for retail trade

during the final quarter of 2004

Statistics in focus

INDUSTRY, TRADE AND SERVICES

14/2005

Author

Anastassios GIANNOPLIDIS

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The recent slowdown in the pace at which retail sales volumes were rising in the EU-25 ended in the final quarter of 2004, as seasonally adjusted sales indices rose by 0.3 % in comparison with the quarter before - the same rate as in the third quarter. The volume of sales in the euro-zone rose by 0.1 %, redressing somewhat the reductions that were registered in the second (-0.1 %) and third quarters (-0.2 %) of 2004.

On the basis of a comparison with the same quarter of a year before, sales growth in the EU-25 showed signs of slowing, with a 1.6 % increase in the volume of retail trade in the final quarter of 2004. This latest rate was down when compared with the rates recorded during the first three quarters of 2004, with the highest increase registered in the first quarter of 2004, when sales had grown by 2.1 %. In the euro-zone there was almost no change in the level of retail sales between the final quarters of 2003 and 2004, with the volume of retail sales rising by a modest 0.1 % (having registered no change in each of the previous two quarters).

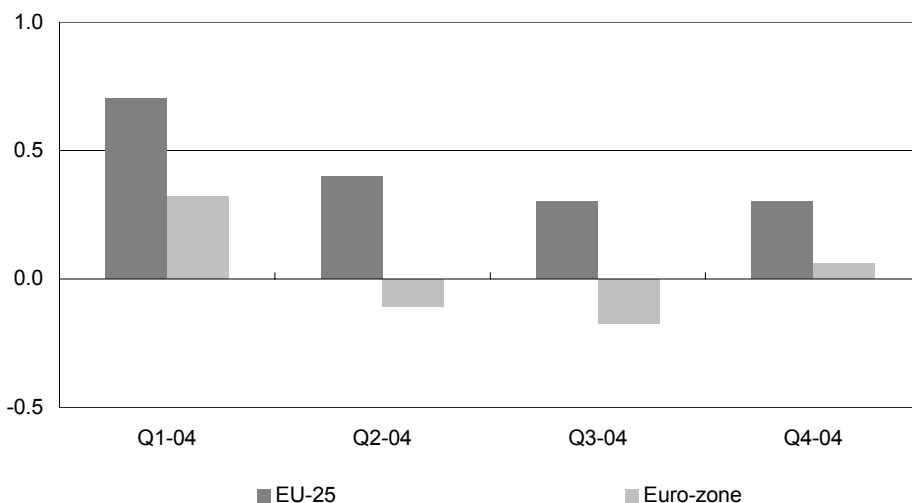


Figure 1: Volume of sales index for retail trade, seasonally adjusted data, growth rates compared to the previous quarter (%); source: Eurostat STS

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted data		Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted data		
	EU-25	Euro-zone		EU-25	Euro-zone
Q1-04	0.7	0.3	Q1-04	2.1	0.4
Q2-04	0.4	-0.1	Q2-04	2.0	0.0
Q3-04	0.3	-0.2	Q3-04	1.9	0.0
Q4-04	0.3	0.1	Q4-04	1.6	0.1

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



Volume of sales index for retail trade

The disparity between rates for the euro-zone and the EU-25 was again most apparent for the retail sale of non-food products, where between the third and final quarters of 2004 sales fell by 0.2 % in the euro-zone, while rising by 0.2 % in the EU-25. For the retail sale of food products there was an increase in the volume of sales for both European aggregates, with increases of 0.5 % in the EU-25 and 0.3 % in the euro-zone.

There were seven Member States that reported a decline in their volume of sales index for retail trade between the third and final quarters of 2004. By far the largest reduction was recorded in Portugal, where sales fell by 2.2 %, with the next largest loss recorded in the Netherlands (0.9 %). Germany, Italy, Poland and Slovakia all reported that their volume of sales decreased by between 0.4 % and 0.6 % from the third to the final quarter of 2004.

		Weights (% of total)	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted data						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted data					
			Q3-03	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04
Retail trade	EU-25	100.0	0.2	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.8	1.3	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.6
	Euro-zone	100.0	-0.3	0.0	0.3	-0.1	-0.2	0.1	-0.4	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.1
Retail sale of food, beverages and tobacco	EU-25	43.9	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.5	1.8	1.2	1.6	0.8	0.5	1.1
	Euro-zone	43.7	0.3	-0.4	-0.1	-0.2	0.0	0.3	1.1	0.4	0.4	-0.4	-0.8	0.0
Retail sale of non-food products	EU-25	56.1	0.0	1.1	0.8	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.0	1.3	2.4	2.8	3.0	1.9
	Euro-zone	56.3	-0.8	0.5	0.3	0.1	-0.2	-0.2	-1.7	-0.2	0.2	0.2	0.6	-0.1
of which,														
Textiles, clothing, footwear & leather goods	EU-25	10.5	-0.3	0.5	1.0	1.1	0.3	0.4	-0.9	-0.4	1.1	2.5	2.9	2.6
	Euro-zone	10.6	-1.7	-0.1	0.8	0.6	-0.5	-0.4	-4.6	-3.4	-2.1	-0.3	0.8	0.4
Household equipment	EU-25	14.1	0.5	1.3	1.6	0.8	0.4	0.2	0.9	2.1	4.5	4.5	4.2	2.7
	Euro-zone	14.8	0.0	0.5	1.4	0.2	-0.4	-0.5	-0.7	0.4	2.1	2.4	1.9	0.6
Books, newspapers and sale in specialised stores	EU-25	12.6	0.3	1.2	1.1	1.0	0.4	0.8	-0.1	1.9	3.0	3.9	3.5	3.1
	Euro-zone	12.1	-1.0	0.4	0.1	-0.2	-0.8	0.6	-2.6	-0.2	-0.7	-0.7	-0.7	-0.2

Table 2: Volume of sales index, growth rates (%); source: Eurostat STS

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted data						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted data					
	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04
EU-25	0.2	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.8	1.3	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.6
Euro-zone	-0.3	0.0	0.3	-0.1	-0.2	0.1	-0.4	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.1
BE	-0.6	-0.2	1.5	0.1	0.3	0.8	-1.5	-0.5	0.4	0.8	1.7	2.7
CZ	1.0	0.4	0.3	0.8	1.2	0.7	5.2	3.5	2.1	2.3	3.0	2.8
DK	1.2	0.3	4.3	1.2	2.0	3.7	3.6	4.7	6.4	6.8	7.8	10.4
DE	-1.1	0.1	-1.2	-0.7	0.0	-0.4	-1.9	-0.8	-2.1	-2.8	-1.8	-2.4
EE	3.4	3.1	3.2	2.8	2.6	2.2	0.3	2.5	13.6	13.0	12.2	11.2
EL	2.3	0.7	1.6	0.7	1.2	0.3	6.0	3.4	4.9	5.1	4.7	3.5
ES	0.8	0.5	0.9	0.1	-0.5	1.8	2.3	4.4	4.2	2.4	0.9	2.4
FR	0.5	0.1	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.9	0.8	2.2	1.8	1.7	1.7
IE	0.5	1.2	0.8	1.3	1.7	1.0	1.3	2.3	3.1	3.9	4.9	4.8
IT	-0.7	-0.8	-0.2	-1.0	-0.9	-0.5	-1.1	-1.9	-1.4	-2.6	-3.3	-2.3
CY	0.4	-0.5	1.7	0.8	1.3	:	-1.4	-1.4	6.3	1.2	-0.7	:
LV	4.4	3.7	1.3	3.7	2.0	3.4	13.6	16.3	13.0	13.8	10.4	11.2
LT	4.5	3.2	1.9	2.4	1.2	2.2	12.5	16.0	13.8	12.7	8.7	8.3
LU	-1.3	3.8	-1.5	-0.1	-0.5	0.5	2.9	3.8	0.9	0.7	1.1	-1.8
HU	2.7	3.1	-0.9	2.4	0.8	1.1	9.0	10.1	6.1	8.0	5.3	3.3
MT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
NL	-0.8	0.2	0.1	0.3	-0.4	-0.9	-4.1	-4.1	-2.5	0.0	0.2	-1.1
AT	-2.5	0.4	1.8	1.4	-1.1	-0.1	-1.2	-1.0	-0.5	1.1	2.3	1.9
PL	1.9	3.0	0.9	1.5	-0.6	-0.6	4.9	8.0	8.1	9.2	4.6	0.2
PT	1.1	-2.3	2.3	-1.3	4.6	-2.2	-2.8	-2.2	-0.2	4.5	3.0	3.5
SI	3.3	-0.5	-2.3	2.4	3.4	0.0	3.7	3.0	1.2	2.9	3.0	3.4
SK	-0.3	4.5	-0.1	3.5	1.1	-0.6	-6.3	-2.9	3.7	8.3	9.4	3.3
FI	1.4	1.0	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.2	4.1	4.2	5.1	4.6	4.2	4.4
SE	0.8	0.9	1.6	0.9	1.6	1.1	5.1	4.5	5.4	4.2	5.0	5.1
UK	1.0	1.6	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.6	2.9	3.4	5.9	6.5	6.3	5.0
BG	2.9	2.6	4.8	4.5	4.6	5.6	6.8	7.6	13.9	16.0	17.2	21.1
RO	2.3	3.5	4.2	1.9	1.6	:	4.8	8.7	16.3	12.0	9.8	:

Table 3: Volume of sales index for retail trade (excluding repair), growth rates (%); source: Eurostat STS

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					
	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04
EU-25	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.5	1.8	1.2	1.6	0.8	0.5	1.1
Euro-zone	0.3	-0.4	-0.1	-0.2	0.0	0.3	1.1	0.4	0.4	-0.4	-0.8	0.0
BE	-0.3	0.1	2.3	-0.6	0.4	0.9	0.7	0.0	3.3	1.0	2.5	3.2
CZ	0.6	0.8	-0.3	0.4	1.6	1.4	4.1	4.1	1.7	1.1	2.4	3.3
DK	1.0	1.3	0.9	0.3	0.6	1.5	3.6	5.0	3.0	2.5	2.5	3.0
DE	1.2	-0.3	-1.5	-1.1	-0.1	-0.1	1.2	0.3	-1.3	-1.8	-2.9	-2.8
EE	4.6	3.4	1.5	4.4	2.4	2.6	8.4	8.9	13.0	14.8	12.3	11.3
EL	2.9	2.7	1.1	1.5	2.4	1.3	4.7	7.7	6.2	7.8	8.2	6.4
ES	1.3	-0.3	0.9	-0.2	-0.2	1.7	2.8	2.9	2.5	1.5	0.0	2.5
FR	0.1	-0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	-0.1	0.9	-0.5	0.7	-0.5	0.0	0.1
IE	-0.7	2.2	-0.2	1.1	1.0	3.0	0.9	2.6	3.3	2.3	4.1	5.2
IT	-0.8	-0.9	-0.4	-0.7	-0.8	0.6	0.6	-0.3	-1.0	-2.8	-3.3	-1.0
CY	-0.3	-2.5	3.5	1.5	4.2	:	-1.3	-1.3	2.1	-0.4	4.8	:
LV	4.5	2.9	0.6	3.3	2.6	4.8	16.2	17.5	13.7	11.5	8.2	11.6
LT	7.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	-0.8	2.1	14.3	15.3	11.7	11.6	2.7	4.0
LU	-0.4	3.2	-1.6	-1.2	-1.8	-1.2	4.2	5.4	1.4	0.1	-1.4	-5.7
HU	1.1	1.3	0.2	0.8	0.5	0.3	7.3	6.2	3.0	3.5	3.0	1.7
MT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
NL	-0.1	0.1	0.8	0.0	-0.5	0.3	-0.9	-0.8	0.4	0.7	0.1	0.5
AT	-3.0	0.0	2.7	0.1	-1.7	0.2	0.7	1.0	0.5	0.1	0.5	1.1
PL	2.2	2.8	0.3	0.3	-1.7	-0.8	3.2	6.0	9.4	6.1	1.2	-2.0
PT	0.6	-1.8	1.0	2.0	2.4	0.5	-0.5	-2.0	-0.4	6.5	3.4	6.1
SI	0.6	-0.3	2.3	0.3	0.8	3.2	-0.9	-2.3	1.6	3.0	3.1	6.9
SK	-2.7	-2.3	-0.2	-1.8	-4.4	-2.2	-7.1	-11.0	-10.6	-6.7	-8.5	-8.2
FI	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.9	2.6	2.8	3.1	2.5	1.6	2.5
SE	-0.6	-0.2	0.6	0.3	-0.7	0.4	1.8	1.1	1.5	0.2	-0.1	0.4
UK	0.6	0.7	1.2	1.3	0.9	1.0	3.3	2.9	4.1	3.8	4.1	4.5
BG	2.2	1.0	2.7	0.6	2.1	3.2	6.3	6.5	10.8	5.9	6.0	9.6
RO	0.1	2.9	7.0	-0.5	1.4	:	-1.0	2.0	14.4	7.7	9.0	:

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

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted data						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted data					
	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04
EU-25	0.0	1.1	0.8	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.0	1.3	2.4	2.8	3.0	1.9
Euro-zone	-0.8	0.5	0.3	0.1	-0.2	-0.2	-1.7	-0.2	0.2	0.2	0.6	-0.1
BE	-0.2	-0.7	1.4	0.2	0.1	0.9	-3.5	-0.8	-1.7	0.8	1.1	2.5
CZ	1.4	0.1	0.8	1.1	1.0	0.1	5.9	3.1	2.3	3.2	3.5	2.5
DK	1.2	0.6	5.8	1.9	3.5	4.7	3.7	2.4	8.0	9.5	11.0	16.3
DE	-2.4	1.4	-1.8	-0.5	0.0	-0.2	-4.0	-1.3	-2.8	-3.2	-1.0	-2.7
EE	3.3	3.6	3.2	1.5	3.6	3.2	-7.4	-2.6	15.3	12.0	12.4	12.0
EL	1.7	-1.1	1.9	-0.2	0.4	-0.5	6.1	-1.4	3.3	2.2	1.5	0.8
ES	0.3	1.2	0.6	0.3	-0.3	1.5	2.0	5.5	4.9	2.7	1.4	2.1
FR	0.9	0.5	1.7	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.9	2.0	3.9	4.3	3.6	3.2
IE	0.3	0.5	0.8	2.7	0.2	-0.4	0.4	1.3	1.6	4.4	4.3	3.0
IT	-0.8	-0.8	-0.1	-1.1	-1.1	-0.9	-2.3	-3.0	-2.1	-2.6	-3.2	-2.9
CY	1.8	-1.1	3.3	-1.7	-1.7	:	-1.4	-1.4	8.5	2.1	-2.9	:
LV	6.6	8.3	-7.3	7.9	3.4	9.3	13.6	14.3	13.3	15.4	11.5	12.1
LT	1.7	5.2	2.7	3.9	4.6	1.5	10.5	15.5	15.9	14.2	17.8	13.1
LU	-1.2	4.1	-0.5	-0.9	0.9	1.5	2.0	2.8	0.5	1.3	2.9	0.5
HU	4.1	5.6	-2.7	4.1	1.0	2.8	10.2	12.4	9.6	11.8	7.5	4.5
MT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
NL	-1.0	0.9	0.5	-0.5	-0.9	-1.5	-6.1	-5.4	-3.5	0.0	0.2	-2.2
AT	-2.3	0.6	1.4	2.3	-0.8	-0.4	-2.1	-1.5	-1.0	1.7	3.5	2.4
PL	2.1	3.3	1.1	2.8	-1.4	-1.1	6.3	8.9	7.7	11.0	5.7	0.7
PT	1.4	-2.7	3.3	-3.7	6.3	-4.2	-4.5	-2.3	0.0	2.9	2.7	1.6
SI	2.9	0.5	-1.8	1.8	2.2	-1.3	9.3	9.6	3.0	3.2	3.4	0.9
SK	0.9	9.6	-5.2	7.5	3.1	1.4	-6.7	-1.0	6.8	12.9	15.3	6.5
FI	1.6	1.6	1.3	1.2	1.6	1.1	5.3	5.2	6.8	5.6	6.0	4.8
SE	1.8	2.2	1.8	1.7	3.3	1.7	8.0	7.2	8.9	7.7	9.4	8.6
UK	1.1	2.5	2.5	2.0	1.0	0.2	2.6	3.7	7.4	8.6	8.1	5.4
BG	3.2	4.0	6.2	6.7	6.3	7.2	7.1	8.2	15.8	22.3	24.2	27.9
RO	3.4	4.1	3.8	3.1	0.1	:	8.9	13.2	18.0	15.6	10.4	:

Table 5: Volume of sales index for non-food retailers, growth rates (%); source: Eurostat STS

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					
	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04
EU-25	-0.3	0.5	1.0	1.1	0.3	0.4	-0.9	-0.4	1.1	2.5	2.9	2.6
Euro-zone	-1.7	-0.1	0.8	0.6	-0.5	-0.4	-4.6	-3.4	-2.1	-0.3	0.8	0.4
BE	0.1	0.5	2.6	-1.6	3.1	-3.6	-4.4	-3.8	-1.5	1.5	5.2	-0.3
CZ	2.9	0.3	5.9	2.8	3.3	0.3	8.5	4.7	11.7	11.6	14.7	10.3
DK	1.9	0.0	4.4	0.3	7.1	5.0	5.0	2.5	4.1	5.6	10.7	17.2
DE	-3.5	0.1	0.5	0.5	-0.3	1.3	-7.3	-5.3	-4.9	-2.2	0.8	1.8
EE	7.5	0.2	-9.5	-3.6	7.8	-1.7	37.1	31.2	3.4	-6.9	-5.0	-6.7
EL	-1.0	-2.8	1.8	0.8	1.7	-0.5	7.8	-4.9	0.6	-1.5	3.0	3.1
ES	-1.7	1.8	-1.0	3.3	-0.6	1.4	-4.1	1.4	2.3	2.4	3.2	3.1
FR	-0.7	-0.8	1.0	1.3	-0.3	0.5	-2.7	-2.6	-0.2	1.7	0.6	1.1
IE	1.2	2.5	4.0	3.0	-1.3	0.3	5.3	6.1	7.8	11.0	8.1	5.7
IT	-1.1	-1.3	-0.7	-0.8	-1.5	-0.7	-3.4	-4.3	-3.6	-3.6	-4.4	-3.6
CY	3.8	2.2	9.7	-4.9	-6.9	:	2.3	2.3	20.1	10.9	-0.6	:
LV	8.0	6.9	6.0	18.4	17.5	4.9	41.4	40.0	27.0	44.8	58.6	52.2
LT	3.8	8.6	4.7	5.5	9.1	3.7	20.4	20.4	23.8	23.6	32.7	22.5
LU	-6.2	6.4	-4.4	2.3	2.8	:	-0.5	-0.3	-5.0	-2.3	5.9	:
HU	3.5	2.0	-1.8	0.0	-1.9	2.5	13.2	10.5	4.5	4.1	-2.5	-1.2
MT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
NL	-2.1	2.2	-0.9	1.4	-0.9	c	-6.8	-5.1	-4.9	0.7	1.9	c
AT	-4.4	1.6	2.4	1.1	-0.5	-3.4	-7.1	-6.6	-2.7	-0.2	4.6	-0.7
PL	-1.0	6.7	-2.0	-1.3	4.4	3.2	1.3	7.5	15.7	1.5	7.3	3.7
PT	1.8	-5.7	12.0	-7.4	9.8	-8.3	-9.1	-0.6	0.7	3.5	7.5	4.8
SI	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
SK	-2.8	20.8	-31.1	-5.8	-3.7	24.9	47.1	38.0	-18.2	-23.6	-24.0	-21.3
FI	1.7	1.4	1.0	0.4	3.5	:	4.9	2.6	4.1	3.6	7.6	:
SE	3.0	0.6	2.6	-0.1	5.2	-1.5	7.4	2.8	5.7	5.9	8.9	5.5
UK	2.0	1.1	2.6	2.3	0.2	1.4	6.4	5.4	7.6	8.7	6.1	6.4
BG	4.8	-0.1	3.5	7.0	-2.7	5.9	4.2	5.4	9.2	16.0	7.4	13.9
RO	-6.4	1.3	7.3	-0.3	0.6	:	-2.3	0.8	10.3	3.7	8.6	:

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

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted data						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted data					
	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04
EU-25	0.5	1.3	1.6	0.8	0.4	0.2	0.9	2.1	4.5	4.5	4.2	2.7
Euro-zone	0.0	0.5	1.4	0.2	-0.4	-0.5	-0.7	0.4	2.1	2.4	1.9	0.6
BE	-0.6	0.0	3.4	0.4	1.7	-1.4	-1.8	-1.2	2.3	3.2	5.8	3.8
CZ	3.0	1.6	0.4	3.2	0.3	0.3	7.7	7.8	4.2	9.6	6.6	2.7
DK	0.9	1.6	0.3	5.2	0.6	6.7	-0.9	2.0	5.8	7.4	7.0	13.1
DE	-1.4	0.8	1.9	-1.6	-0.4	-1.1	-3.0	-0.5	-0.2	-0.2	0.7	-1.3
EE	9.1	3.2	3.6	4.8	-3.8	4.3	0.7	4.7	22.5	22.9	7.2	8.7
EL	2.7	1.1	2.0	0.3	0.2	-0.2	3.6	1.6	5.6	6.2	3.6	0.8
ES	2.6	0.6	1.8	0.8	-0.9	1.1	5.5	6.7	7.2	6.2	2.0	2.0
FR	1.8	1.7	2.2	1.7	1.2	0.9	2.4	5.0	7.4	8.4	7.1	5.6
IE	0.5	-1.0	2.4	3.4	3.5	-2.3	-2.2	-2.1	-0.5	5.4	8.3	6.5
IT	-0.6	-0.8	-0.7	-0.8	-1.1	-0.8	-2.0	-2.8	-2.5	-2.7	-3.6	-3.5
CY	2.9	1.9	4.6	1.9	0.9	:	3.7	3.7	13.7	13.0	9.0	:
LV	12.6	7.4	-15.0	18.2	4.7	8.2	22.2	30.2	19.5	21.9	11.6	12.5
LT	6.2	11.6	3.9	7.9	7.7	2.8	51.4	57.1	37.5	33.7	35.6	24.0
LU	-3.9	8.2	-0.8	-0.4	1.0	:	-2.1	5.7	4.4	2.7	7.5	:
HU	5.0	4.7	-0.6	5.6	-0.3	1.6	9.2	12.3	12.2	17.2	8.3	5.0
MT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
NL	-0.5	-1.2	0.9	-0.4	-1.5	-1.3	-5.9	-6.5	-3.1	-0.5	-1.9	-2.6
AT	-2.2	-1.2	3.7	1.5	-1.3	-1.7	-2.4	-2.7	1.2	1.8	2.6	1.9
PL	2.9	7.5	12.9	3.6	-2.8	3.8	-10.7	1.8	35.4	33.4	20.0	17.3
PT	1.8	-0.9	-1.6	-2.7	6.5	-2.8	-5.3	-5.1	-0.8	1.3	0.7	-0.6
SI	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
SK	9.3	7.7	35.0	6.8	4.6	6.3	-6.5	-11.1	100.3	70.0	62.5	60.8
FI	1.0	3.2	2.4	-0.8	1.9	:	6.3	9.2	10.7	5.6	6.7	:
SE	2.0	1.7	1.6	3.8	3.7	0.6	9.5	9.8	10.1	9.5	11.3	10.1
UK	0.9	2.6	0.9	2.1	2.1	0.2	5.3	5.6	8.2	6.7	8.1	5.0
BG	3.6	4.2	5.4	7.3	7.9	8.1	18.3	18.1	15.2	20.4	27.3	33.6
RO	12.7	9.4	-10.2	5.8	-1.2	:	53.2	54.8	27.0	17.5	1.1	:

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

Volume of sales index for selected non-food retailers (continued)

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted data						Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted data					
	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04
EU-25	0.3	1.2	1.1	1.0	0.4	0.8	-0.1	1.9	3.0	3.9	3.5	3.1
Euro-zone	-1.0	0.4	0.1	-0.2	-0.8	0.6	-2.6	-0.2	-0.7	-0.7	-0.7	-0.2
BE	-0.1	-1.6	-0.6	-0.6	-1.3	2.1	-5.1	-0.9	-3.5	-2.8	-6.8	1.5
CZ	1.1	-1.0	1.5	0.1	-0.2	0.3	4.6	-1.9	0.5	2.1	-0.4	1.8
DK	3.9	1.4	23.9	0.2	1.8	7.6	16.9	12.2	33.0	30.7	27.2	36.0
DE	-0.6	1.7	-3.7	-2.5	0.0	0.1	-3.1	1.9	-3.4	-5.3	-4.4	-6.1
EE	1.5	11.0	2.1	3.7	9.5	-1.2	1.9	8.4	20.7	19.2	28.8	14.3
EL	0.5	0.7	2.1	0.8	1.3	0.0	8.8	3.1	6.4	4.6	5.7	2.8
ES	-1.8	1.9	1.2	-0.4	-2.5	3.8	-1.0	5.5	5.1	1.2	-0.4	2.2
FR	0.1	0.4	1.3	0.5	0.4	1.6	-1.1	-0.3	0.4	2.1	2.7	3.9
IE	-0.6	0.9	0.1	1.1	0.4	1.9	-0.1	0.2	0.6	1.5	2.4	3.0
IT	-1.0	-0.9	-0.8	-1.1	-1.3	-1.2	-3.6	-4.0	-3.0	-3.6	-4.4	-4.8
CY	-0.6	-4.2	-1.1	-4.3	-3.6	:	-6.7	-6.7	5.1	-11.3	-18.5	:
LV	3.2	8.2	-3.8	8.1	-1.6	6.0	12.6	10.5	9.3	16.2	10.4	8.0
LT	-5.9	-1.6	9.0	-2.7	0.0	2.3	-8.3	-2.3	8.1	-2.2	3.9	9.2
LU	6.4	-2.1	0.8	-0.7	-1.5	:	6.2	2.5	1.2	4.0	-3.6	:
HU	2.0	7.7	-4.8	4.9	2.5	2.9	13.1	20.5	11.0	9.5	10.2	4.5
MT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
NL	-2.4	1.8	-0.6	0.4	-1.3	-2.4	-10.5	-7.6	-5.7	-0.7	0.8	-3.7
AT	-2.2	1.2	1.1	5.8	-0.8	2.7	0.0	0.8	-2.3	5.7	7.3	8.6
PL	1.9	0.2	-2.2	5.7	-2.9	2.8	7.6	10.7	-4.2	9.3	-1.6	3.5
PT	-0.5	-6.7	6.4	-5.4	7.2	-4.9	-5.9	-6.1	-3.7	-0.9	0.4	2.3
SI	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
SK	4.1	14.2	-28.4	21.1	7.2	-4.6	8.4	21.6	-9.9	3.0	6.1	-12.1
FI	1.7	-0.2	4.6	0.6	0.9	:	6.4	1.2	7.8	6.9	6.2	:
SE	1.9	3.0	3.6	1.6	4.2	2.6	8.0	9.3	13.9	10.2	12.8	11.8
UK	1.6	3.2	5.2	2.2	1.3	-1.0	2.5	4.3	10.6	13.0	12.6	7.4
BG	4.2	5.3	10.0	9.9	6.3	8.5	1.0	3.1	21.7	36.3	33.5	35.5
RO	0.8	1.3	2.9	4.3	-0.5	:	-0.4	-0.8	12.1	12.1	4.9	:

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

When looking at the breakdown of retail trade activity in terms of sales of non-food items between the third and final quarters of 2004, the difference between growth rates for the EU-25 and the euro-zone was apparent for the sale of textiles, clothing, footwear & leather goods, as well as the sale of household equipment. The EU-25 posted positive rates of change (0.4 % and 0.2 %), while sales indices contracted in the euro-zone (-0.4 % and -0.5 %). On the other hand, the volume of sales index for books, newspapers and other specialised retailers rose at a relatively fast pace in both the EU-25 and the euro-zone (0.8 % and 0.6 %).

This difference in rates was even more apparent when analysing the latest rates of change in comparison with the same quarter of a year before. EU-25 sales volumes increased by as much as 3.1 % for books, newspapers and other specialised retailers, while corresponding rates of change for household equipment retailers (2.7 %) and for textiles, clothing, footwear & leather goods retailers (2.6 %) were also relatively high. In contrast, the largest increase in sales volumes within the euro-zone was recorded for household equipment retailers (0.6 %). The volume of sales for textiles, clothing, footwear & leather goods retailers rose by 0.4 % in the euro-zone between the final quarters of 2003 and 2004, while there was a 0.2 % contraction in the sales index for books, newspapers and other specialised retailers.

Employment index for retail trade

In contrast to the developments seen for sales volumes, the evolution of the retail trade labour market followed a similar path in the EU-25 and the euro-zone. The number of persons employed rose by 0.3 % in the second and third quarters of 2004 (compared with the previous quarter) in both the EU-25 and the euro-zone.

Between the third and final quarters of 2004 there was no change in employment in the euro-zone (no data available for the EU-25). Among those Member States for which data are available for the final quarter of 2004, there were reductions in the number of persons employed in the retail trade sectors of France, Portugal (both -0.1 %) and Germany (-0.2 %); the fastest expansions were recorded in Finland (1.7 %) and Lithuania (1.4 %).

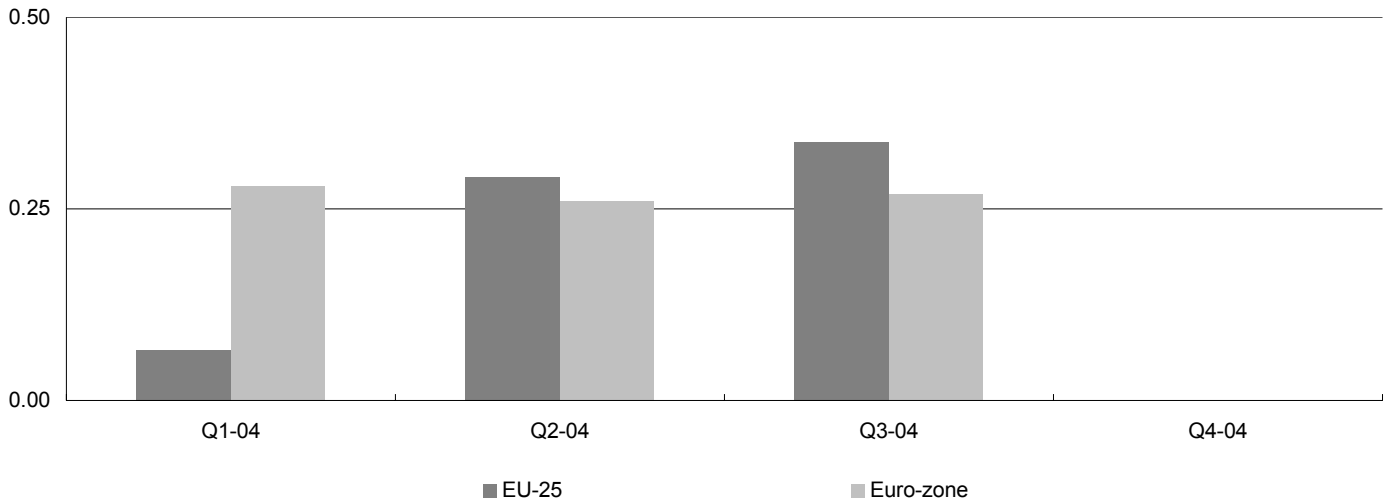


Figure 2: Employment index for retail trade, seasonally adjusted data, growth rates compared to the previous quarter (%) (1); source: Eurostat STS

(1) Q4-2004, EU-25, no data available; Q4-2004, euro-zone, the growth rate is 0 %.

	Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted data						Year on year growth rates, gross data					
	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04	Q3-04	Q4-04
EU-25	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.3	0.3	:	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.2	1.2	:
Euro-zone	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.0	2.0	1.9	1.6	1.3	1.3	0.8
BE	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
CZ	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
DK	-1.8	-2.4	:	:	:	:	2.8	-1.5	:	:	:	:
DE	-0.5	0.0	-0.5	-0.5	0.0	-0.2	-1.9	-1.0	-1.3	-1.4	-0.9	-1.1
EE	0.2	-0.7	-4.3	3.0	1.0	:	-5.5	-8.8	-5.0	-2.1	-1.2	:
EL (1)	1.3	0.6	1.2	1.3	0.7	:	1.9	1.6	2.9	4.5	3.9	:
ES	1.0	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.3	3.8	2.9	3.3	2.8	2.2	2.1
FR	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.2	-0.1	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.4	0.2
IE (1)	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
IT	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
CY	-0.7	0.5	0.9	0.6	1.4	:	-1.3	-1.0	1.0	1.0	4.2	:
LV	1.1	2.2	-0.7	0.1	1.8	:	2.3	3.3	4.0	2.7	3.5	:
LT	4.9	2.7	0.7	2.5	4.2	1.4	6.8	7.6	10.1	11.3	10.5	9.2
LU	0.4	0.6	-0.1	0.2	0.3	0.0	1.3	1.4	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.4
HU	1.6	1.9	3.7	1.4	1.7	:	2.3	3.9	9.6	8.9	9.0	:
MT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
NL	-0.3	-0.5	-0.6	-1.1	-0.5	c	-0.2	-0.7	-1.8	-2.5	-2.7	c
AT (1)	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.5	0.5	1.1	1.0	0.2	1.1	1.6	1.9
PL	0.1	0.0	-0.1	0.4	0.8	:	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.4	1.1	:
PT (1)	0.2	-0.1	-0.1	0.3	0.3	-0.1	0.6	-0.1	-0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3
SI	-0.2	0.0	0.4	0.6	-0.1	:	-1.8	-1.7	-0.3	0.9	1.0	:
SK	-0.6	-0.9	6.1	-0.3	-1.4	:	-8.7	-7.3	-0.6	4.3	3.4	:
FI	-0.1	-2.4	2.2	-0.1	3.8	1.7	1.5	-1.4	0.5	-1.0	3.8	8.1
SE (1)	-0.3	-1.6	-1.0	4.1	1.6	0.4	7.5	2.0	2.0	1.1	3.0	5.1
UK	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.1	:	0.4	1.0	1.5	1.2	0.9	:
BG	2.5	2.2	6.5	2.7	2.2	5.7	18.6	14.6	17.6	15.2	13.6	17.9
RO	-3.1	-3.3	2.6	-2.6	-4.1	:	-1.5	-5.3	-6.6	-6.3	-7.3	:

Table 9: Employment index for retail trade, growth rates (%); source: Eurostat STS

(1) Excluding repair (NACE Group 52.7).

➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

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 1998**¹. Division 52 of the NACE Rev. 1 classification² 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 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-25 series**. Seasonally adjusted euro-zone and EU-25 series are then produced using TRAMO/SEATS. Missing components for the euro-zone and EU-25 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 three 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.

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-25 series**. Seasonally adjusted euro-zone and EU-25 series are then produced using the TRAMO & SEATS method. Missing components for euro-zone and EU-25 aggregates are estimated using an ARIMA method. When calculating the data for European aggregates (euro-zone and EU-25) Eurostat makes use of confidential data.

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.**

SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

c confidential
: not available

FURTHER INFORMATION

Anastassios Giannoplidis

Tel.: (352) 4301 37756,

Fax: (352) 4301 34359,

anastassios.giannoplidis@cec.eu.int

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>.

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

Further information:

➤ **Reference publications**

Title Quarterly Panorama of European Business statistics
Subscription number VPA000 Price EUR 100

➤ **Databases**

[Industry, trade and services/Industry, trade and services - horizontal view/Short-term Business Statistics - Monthly and Quarterly \(Industry, Construction, Retail Trade and Other Services\)/Trade and other services \(NACE Rev.1 G-K\)/Retail trade \(NACE Rev.1 52\)](#)

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