

# Developments for retail trade

during the first quarter of 2005

## Statistics in focus

INDUSTRY, TRADE AND  
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There was an acceleration in the rhythm at which volume of sales grew from one quarter to the next in the EU-25, over the period from the third quarter of 2004 to the first quarter of 2005. During the first quarter of 2005, seasonally adjusted retail sales volumes rose by 0.5 % in the EU-25 in comparison with the quarter before, a return to rates close to those recorded almost a year before, rather than the muted rates that were registered in the previous two quarters (0.1 % and 0.3 % respectively in the third and final quarters of 2004). In the euro-zone, after registering no change in sales volumes in the final quarter of 2004, retail sales expanded by 0.7 % between the final quarter of 2004 and the first quarter of 2005, marking the highest growth rate registered by the euro-zone since the third quarter of 2002 (when growth was 1.0 %).

On the basis of a comparison with the same quarter of a year before, sales grew at a faster pace in the EU-25 than they had in the euro-zone, rising by 1.6 % between the first quarters of 2004 and 2005, in comparison with a 0.7 % increase in the euro-zone. This marked the smallest difference between the rates for the two European aggregates since the second quarter of 2003.

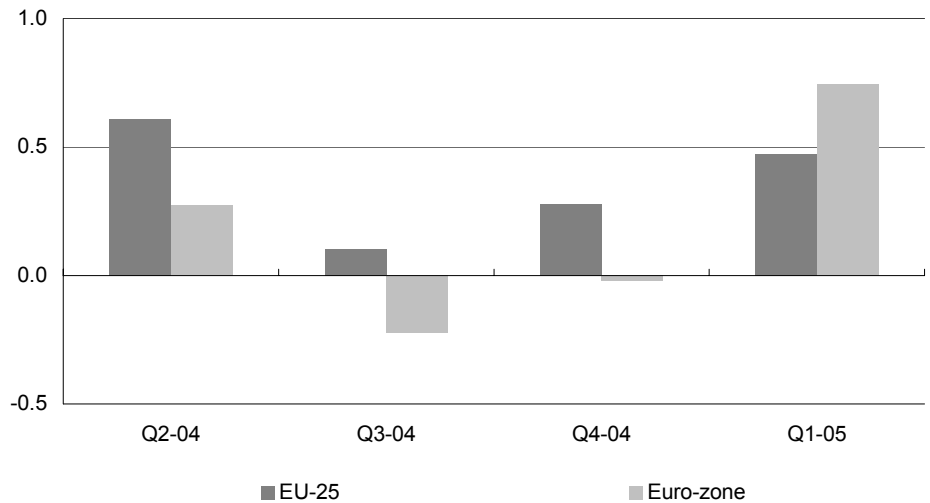


Figure 1: VOLUME OF SALES INDEX FOR RETAIL TRADE, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA, GROWTH RATES COMPARED TO THE PREVIOUS QUARTER (%); SOURCE: EUROSTAT STS

|       | Quarter on quarter growth rates,<br>seasonally adjusted data |           | Year on year growth rates,<br>working day adjusted data |       |           |
|-------|--|-----------|---|-------|-----------|
|       | EU-25  | Euro-zone |   | EU-25 | Euro-zone |
| Q2-04 | 0.6  | 0.3       | Q2-04   | 2.0   | -0.1      |
| Q3-04 | 0.1  | -0.2      | Q3-04   | 2.0   | 0.0       |
| Q4-04 | 0.3  | -0.0      | Q4-04   | 1.7   | 0.1       |
| Q1-05 | 0.5  | 0.7       | Q1-05   | 1.6   | 0.7       |

Table 1: VOLUME OF SALES INDEX FOR RETAIL TRADE, GROWTH RATES (%); SOURCE: EUROSTAT STS



## Volume of sales index for retail trade

While the quarter on quarter growth rates for the volume of sales for retail trade were accelerating between the third quarter of 2003 and the first quarter of 2005 in the EU-25, this trend was not observed for the retail sale of food, beverages and tobacco products. Indeed, sales grew by 0.4 % between the final quarter of 2004 and the first quarter of 2005 for food, beverage and tobacco products, while growth had been 0.1 points higher in the final quarter of 2004. On the other hand, there was a marked expansion in the rate at which sales volumes

rose for non-food products, from 0.1 % in the final quarter of 2004 to 0.5 % in the first quarter of 2005.

At a national level, among the Member States for which data are available in the first quarter of 2005, only Belgium, Italy, Luxembourg and Poland recorded a decrease in their respective volume of sales when compared with the final quarter of 2004 (see Table 3). In Italy, this marked the seventh consecutive quarter that retail sales had fallen.

|   |           | Weights<br>(% of<br>total) | Quarter on quarter growth rates,<br>seasonally adjusted data |       |       |       |       |       | Year on year growth rates,<br>working day adjusted data |       |       |       |       |       |
|---|-----------|----------------------------|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|   |           |                            | Q4-03  | Q1-04 | Q2-04 | Q3-04 | Q4-04 | Q1-05 | Q4-03   | Q1-04 | Q2-04 | Q3-04 | Q4-04 | Q1-05 |
| Retail trade  | EU-25     | 100.0                      | 0.6  | 0.7   | 0.6   | 0.1   | 0.3   | 0.5   | 1.3   | 2.2   | 2.0   | 2.0   | 1.7   | 1.6   |
|   | Euro-zone | 100.0                      | 0.1  | 0.0   | 0.3   | -0.2  | 0.0   | 0.7   | 0.0   | 0.4   | -0.1  | 0.0   | 0.1   | 0.7   |
| Retail sale of food, beverages<br>and tobacco       | EU-25     | 43.9                       | 0.0  | 0.3   | 0.3   | 0.0   | 0.5   | 0.4   | 1.2   | 1.5   | 0.8   | 0.5   | 1.1   | 1.3   |
|   | Euro-zone | 43.7                       | -0.4   | -0.3  | 0.3   | -0.2  | 0.2   | 0.4   | 0.3   | 0.4   | -0.4  | -0.8  | 0.1   | 0.4   |
| Retail sale of non-food products                    | EU-25     | 56.1                       | 1.1  | 0.9   | 0.8   | 0.3   | 0.1   | 0.5   | 1.3   | 2.5   | 2.9   | 3.1   | 1.8   | 1.9   |
|   | Euro-zone | 56.3                       | 0.6  | 0.0   | 0.4   | -0.1  | -0.2  | 0.9   | -0.3  | 0.1   | 0.2   | 0.6   | -0.1  | 0.9   |
| of which,   |           |                            |  |       |       |       |       |       |   |       |       |       |       |       |
| Textiles, clothing, footwear &<br>leather goods     | EU-25     | 10.5                       | 0.8  | 1.2   | 0.9   | 0.3   | 0.2   | 1.1   | -0.3  | 1.6   | 2.8   | 3.2   | 2.4   | 2.6   |
|   | Euro-zone | 10.6                       | -0.1   | 0.8   | 0.6   | -0.5  | -0.5  | 0.8   | -3.5  | -2.1  | -0.3  | 0.7   | 0.2   | 0.6   |
| Household equipment                                 | EU-25     | 14.1                       | 1.2  | 1.7   | 0.7   | 0.4   | 0.1   | 0.5   | 2.0   | 4.5   | 4.4   | 4.1   | 2.6   | 1.6   |
|   | Euro-zone | 14.8                       | 0.5  | 1.4   | 0.2   | -0.3  | -0.3  | 0.6   | 0.4   | 2.1   | 2.3   | 1.8   | 0.7   | 0.3   |
| Books, newspapers and sale<br>in specialised stores | EU-25     | 12.6                       | 1.2  | 1.5   | 0.7   | 0.1   | 0.5   | -0.1  | 2.0   | 3.1   | 3.9   | 3.4   | 2.8   | 1.0   |
|   | Euro-zone | 12.1                       | 0.4  | -0.1  | -0.1  | -0.7  | 0.7   | 0.2   | -0.3  | -0.7  | -0.7  | -0.7  | -0.1  | 0.3   |

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 |       |       |       |       |       |
|-----------|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|           | Q4-03   | Q1-04 | Q2-04 | Q3-04 | Q4-04 | Q1-05 | Q4-03  | Q1-04 | Q2-04 | Q3-04 | Q4-04 | Q1-05 |
| EU-25     | 0.6   | 0.7   | 0.6   | 0.1   | 0.3   | 0.5   | 1.3  | 2.2   | 2.0   | 2.0   | 1.7   | 1.6   |
| Euro-zone | 0.1   | 0.0   | 0.3   | -0.2  | 0.0   | 0.7   | 0.0  | 0.4   | -0.1  | 0.0   | 0.1   | 0.7   |
| BE        | -0.2  | 1.9   | -0.5  | 0.4   | 0.9   | -1.7  | -0.5   | 0.4   | 0.8   | 1.7   | 2.7   | -1.2  |
| CZ        | 0.4   | 0.3   | 0.8   | 1.2   | 0.7   | 0.6   | 3.5  | 2.1   | 2.3   | 3.0   | 2.8   | 4.2   |
| DK        | 0.6   | 3.7   | 1.2   | 2.3   | 3.7   | 1.4   | 4.4  | 6.8   | 6.8   | 7.8   | 10.7  | 9.0   |
| DE        | c   | c     | c     | c     | c     | c     | c  | c     | c     | c     | c     | c     |
| EE        | 3.3   | 2.7   | 2.9   | 2.9   | 2.1   | 4.4   | 2.5  | 13.6  | 13.0  | 12.3  | 10.9  | 13.1  |
| EL        | 1.0   | 1.6   | 0.5   | 1.1   | 0.6   | 0.9   | 3.4  | 4.9   | 5.0   | 4.7   | 3.5   | 2.8   |
| ES        | 0.6   | 1.1   | 0.0   | -0.6  | 2.0   | 0.8   | 4.6  | 4.3   | 2.5   | 0.9   | 2.5   | 2.3   |
| FR        | 0.1   | 0.8   | 0.4   | 0.4   | 0.1   | 0.0   | 0.7  | 2.3   | 1.7   | 1.7   | 2.0   | 0.3   |
| IE        | 1.2   | 0.8   | 1.3   | 1.7   | 1.0   | 1.7   | 2.3  | 3.1   | 3.9   | 4.9   | 4.8   | 5.6   |
| IT        | -0.7  | -0.6  | -0.6  | -0.9  | -0.3  | -0.1  | -1.9   | -1.3  | -2.6  | -3.2  | -2.3  | -0.8  |
| CY        | 0.5   | 1.4   | 0.4   | 1.2   | 0.9   | :     | -1.4   | 6.9   | 1.2   | 3.1   | 2.5   | :     |
| LV        | 3.9   | 0.2   | 4.7   | 2.4   | 3.9   | 5.2   | 16.3   | 13.0  | 13.8  | 10.5  | 11.3  | 18.5  |
| LT        | 3.1   | 1.9   | 2.5   | 1.2   | 2.2   | 1.3   | 15.9   | 13.7  | 12.8  | 8.6   | 8.4   | 7.2   |
| LU        | 1.2   | -0.5  | 0.5   | 0.0   | -0.1  | -0.2  | 3.6  | 0.9   | 0.6   | 1.1   | 0.3   | 0.6   |
| HU        | 2.0   | 0.9   | 1.6   | 0.6   | 0.7   | 0.8   | 10.2   | 5.9   | 8.0   | 5.3   | 3.4   | 3.1   |
| MT        | :   | :     | :     | :     | :     | :     | :  | :     | :     | :     | :     | :     |
| NL        | 0.3   | 0.3   | -0.1  | -0.4  | -0.9  | 0.1   | -4.0   | -2.6  | 0.0   | 0.3   | -1.4  | -0.9  |
| AT        | 0.5   | 1.4   | 1.6   | -1.1  | 0.1   | 1.1   | -1.1   | -0.5  | 1.1   | 2.3   | 1.9   | 2.3   |
| PL        | 3.0   | 0.9   | 1.5   | -0.6  | -0.6  | -2.7  | 8.0  | 8.1   | 9.2   | 4.6   | 0.2   | -3.5  |
| PT        | -2.3  | 2.3   | -1.3  | 4.6   | -2.4  | 3.2   | -2.2   | -0.2  | 4.5   | 3.0   | 3.2   | 4.7   |
| SI        | -0.2  | -2.6  | 2.9   | 2.8   | 0.4   | 0.8   | 3.0  | 1.0   | 2.9   | 2.9   | 3.4   | 7.1   |
| SK        | 4.8   | -0.7  | 3.7   | 1.3   | -0.3  | 4.3   | -2.9   | 3.7   | 8.3   | 9.4   | 3.3   | 9.5   |
| FI        | 1.1   | 1.2   | 0.6   | 1.2   | 1.1   | 0.7   | 4.2  | 5.1   | 4.6   | 4.1   | 3.9   | 4.0   |
| SE        | 0.9   | 1.2   | 1.3   | 1.5   | 1.2   | 2.2   | 4.5  | 5.4   | 4.2   | 5.0   | 5.1   | 6.6   |
| UK        | 1.7   | 2.2   | 1.7   | 0.8   | 0.4   | 0.1   | 3.4  | 6.1   | 6.7   | 6.6   | 5.0   | 3.4   |
| BG        | 3.3   | 2.8   | 3.2   | 3.1   | 3.3   | 2.5   | 19.5   | 11.5  | 12.2  | 13.0  | 15.6  | 11.8  |
| RO        | 1.8   | 5.2   | 2.1   | 3.0   | 6.5   | 4.9   | 8.5  | 16.9  | 12.3  | 10.5  | 18.9  | 18.6  |

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 |       |       |       |       |       |
|-----------|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|           | Q4-03   | Q1-04 | Q2-04 | Q3-04 | Q4-04 | Q1-05 | Q4-03  | Q1-04 | Q2-04 | Q3-04 | Q4-04 | Q1-05 |
| EU-25     | 0.0   | 0.3   | 0.3   | 0.0   | 0.5   | 0.4   | 1.2  | 1.5   | 0.8   | 0.5   | 1.1   | 1.3   |
| Euro-zone | -0.4  | -0.3  | 0.3   | -0.2  | 0.2   | 0.4   | 0.3  | 0.4   | -0.4  | -0.8  | 0.1   | 0.4   |
| BE        | 0.1   | 2.4   | -0.7  | 0.3   | 0.9   | 0.1   | 0.0  | 3.3   | 1.0   | 2.5   | 3.2   | 0.2   |
| CZ        | 0.8   | -0.3  | 0.4   | 1.6   | 1.4   | -0.1  | 4.1  | 1.7   | 1.1   | 2.4   | 3.8   | 4.8   |
| DK        | 1.3   | 1.2   | 0.0   | 0.6   | 1.2   | -1.2  | 5.0  | 3.0   | 2.5   | 2.2   | 2.7   | 2.1   |
| DE        | c   | c     | c     | c     | c     | c     | c  | c     | c     | c     | c     | c     |
| EE        | 3.6   | 1.4   | 4.2   | 2.4   | 2.6   | 4.2   | 8.9  | 13.0  | 14.8  | 12.0  | 10.8  | 14.0  |
| EL        | 2.8   | 0.9   | 1.6   | 2.5   | 1.5   | 2.2   | 7.7  | 6.2   | 7.8   | 8.1   | 6.5   | 8.1   |
| ES        | -0.5  | 1.0   | 0.1   | -0.5  | 1.5   | -0.2  | 2.9  | 2.5   | 1.5   | 0.0   | 2.4   | 0.8   |
| FR        | -0.3  | 0.1   | 0.1   | 0.2   | -0.2  | -0.6  | -0.5   | 0.7   | -0.5  | 0.0   | 0.6   | -1.3  |
| IE        | 2.2   | -0.2  | 1.1   | 1.0   | 3.0   | 0.3   | 2.6  | 3.3   | 2.3   | 4.1   | 5.2   | 5.2   |
| IT        | -0.9  | -0.9  | -0.1  | -1.0  | 0.8   | 0.9   | -0.3   | -0.9  | -2.8  | -3.3  | -1.0  | 1.4   |
| CY        | 0.1   | 1.4   | 1.4   | 2.5   | 2.8   | :     | -1.4   | 2.4   | -0.1  | 5.7   | 9.7   | :     |
| LV        | 2.8   | 1.2   | 2.9   | 2.3   | 4.5   | 2.9   | 17.5   | 13.2  | 11.6  | 8.2   | 11.6  | 14.2  |
| LT        | 1.4   | 1.3   | 0.9   | -0.7  | 2.3   | 0.9   | 15.3   | 11.8  | 11.6  | 2.7   | 4.0   | 3.3   |
| LU        | 1.3   | -1.2  | -0.3  | -0.9  | -0.4  | 0.6   | 5.1  | 1.3   | -0.1  | -1.5  | -2.9  | 0.3   |
| HU        | 1.2   | 0.3   | 0.7   | 0.3   | 0.1   | -0.1  | 6.2  | 3.0   | 3.5   | 3.0   | 1.6   | 0.3   |
| MT        | :   | :     | :     | :     | :     | :     | :  | :     | :     | :     | :     | :     |
| NL        | 0.0   | 0.6   | 0.5   | -0.6  | 0.2   | 0.1   | -0.7   | 0.4   | 0.7   | 0.4   | 0.6   | 0.5   |
| AT        | 0.1   | 2.0   | 0.4   | -1.5  | 0.6   | 0.8   | 1.1  | 0.5   | 0.0   | 0.4   | 1.0   | 0.6   |
| PL        | 2.8   | 0.3   | 0.3   | -1.7  | -0.8  | 0.5   | 6.0  | 9.4   | 6.1   | 1.2   | -2.0  | -2.1  |
| PT        | -1.8  | 1.0   | 2.0   | 2.4   | 0.0   | 0.5   | -2.0   | -0.4  | 6.5   | 3.4   | 5.5   | 6.4   |
| SI        | -0.9  | 2.5   | 0.2   | 1.0   | 2.1   | 0.9   | -2.6   | 1.6   | 2.6   | 2.7   | 6.0   | 4.4   |
| SK        | -2.4  | -0.3  | -1.3  | -4.6  | -2.3  | 1.4   | -11.0  | -10.5 | -6.7  | -8.5  | -8.2  | -6.6  |
| FI        | 0.6   | 0.4   | 0.6   | 0.3   | 0.5   | 0.6   | 2.9  | 3.1   | 2.5   | 1.4   | 1.5   | 3.1   |
| SE        | -0.2  | 0.5   | 0.4   | -0.7  | 0.4   | 2.3   | 1.1  | 1.5   | 0.2   | -0.1  | 0.4   | 2.8   |
| UK        | 0.7   | 1.2   | 1.4   | 0.9   | 0.9   | 0.6   | 2.9  | 4.0   | 3.8   | 4.2   | 4.4   | 3.8   |
| BG        | 1.9   | 0.8   | 1.0   | 2.2   | 3.0   | 2.3   | 16.6   | 10.5  | 5.1   | 5.1   | 8.1   | 9.3   |
| RO        | 1.7   | 3.3   | 1.9   | 4.3   | 5.7   | 7.0   | 2.0  | 14.4  | 6.7   | 8.4   | 14.5  | 24.4  |

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 |       |       |       |       |       |
|-----------|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|           | Q4-03   | Q1-04 | Q2-04 | Q3-04 | Q4-04 | Q1-05 | Q4-03  | Q1-04 | Q2-04 | Q3-04 | Q4-04 | Q1-05 |
| EU-25     | 1.1   | 0.9   | 0.8   | 0.3   | 0.1   | 0.5   | 1.3  | 2.5   | 2.9   | 3.1   | 1.8   | 1.9   |
| Euro-zone | 0.6   | 0.0   | 0.4   | -0.1  | -0.2  | 0.9   | -0.3   | 0.1   | 0.2   | 0.6   | -0.1  | 0.9   |
| BE        | -0.6  | 1.6   | -0.2  | 0.3   | 1.0   | -3.1  | -0.8   | -1.7  | 0.8   | 1.1   | 2.5   | -2.1  |
| CZ        | 0.1   | 0.8   | 1.1   | 1.0   | 0.1   | 1.1   | 3.1  | 2.3   | 3.2   | 3.5   | 2.2   | 3.8   |
| DK        | 0.6   | 5.8   | 1.9   | 3.5   | 4.9   | 1.0   | 2.4  | 7.7   | 9.2   | 11.6  | 16.6  | 12.7  |
| DE        | c   | c     | c     | c     | c     | c     | c  | c     | c     | c     | c     | c     |
| EE        | 3.7   | 3.3   | 1.3   | 3.6   | 2.6   | 2.3   | -2.6   | 15.3  | 12.0  | 12.4  | 11.2  | 10.4  |
| EL        | -0.4  | 1.7   | -0.4  | 0.0   | -0.1  | -0.5  | -1.4   | 3.3   | 2.2   | 1.5   | 0.9   | -2.1  |
| ES        | 1.2   | 0.6   | 0.2   | -0.2  | 1.5   | 1.2   | 5.5  | 4.9   | 2.7   | 1.4   | 2.1   | 3.1   |
| FR        | 0.5   | 1.7   | 0.8   | 0.6   | 0.4   | 0.8   | 2.0  | 3.9   | 4.1   | 3.6   | 3.3   | 1.9   |
| IE        | 0.5   | 0.8   | 2.7   | 0.2   | -0.4  | 2.9   | 1.3  | 1.6   | 4.4   | 4.3   | 3.0   | 5.1   |
| IT        | -0.8  | -0.6  | -0.5  | -1.0  | -0.7  | -0.5  | -3.0   | -2.1  | -2.6  | -3.2  | -2.9  | -2.2  |
| CY        | 0.8   | 2.1   | -0.7  | 0.7   | 0.1   | :     | -1.4   | 9.3   | 1.9   | 2.2   | -0.2  | :     |
| LV        | 8.4   | -6.0  | 7.5   | 2.9   | 8.9   | -0.3  | 14.3   | 12.8  | 16.1  | 12.2  | 12.3  | 21.8  |
| LT        | 5.1   | 2.5   | 4.0   | 4.7   | 1.5   | 2.2   | 15.5   | 16.0  | 14.2  | 17.6  | 13.1  | 12.7  |
| LU        | 1.0   | 0.7   | 0.3   | 0.6   | 0.0   | -0.8  | 2.6  | 0.7   | 1.2   | 2.7   | 2.0   | 0.7   |
| HU        | 3.1   | 0.8   | 2.5   | 0.6   | 1.1   | 1.7   | 13.2   | 8.4   | 11.7  | 7.1   | 4.6   | 5.6   |
| MT        | :   | :     | :     | :     | :     | :     | :  | :     | :     | :     | :     | :     |
| NL        | 0.6   | -0.1  | -0.1  | -0.7  | -1.5  | 0.2   | -5.7   | -4.2  | 0.0   | 0.0   | -2.7  | -2.0  |
| AT        | 0.7   | 1.1   | 2.4   | -0.7  | -0.2  | 1.3   | -1.5   | -1.1  | 1.7   | 3.4   | 2.4   | 3.3   |
| PL        | 3.3   | 1.1   | 2.8   | -1.4  | -1.1  | -3.3  | 8.9  | 7.7   | 11.0  | 5.7   | 0.7   | -4.8  |
| PT        | -2.7  | 3.3   | -3.7  | 6.3   | -4.2  | 5.2   | -2.3   | 0.0   | 2.9   | 2.7   | 1.6   | 3.5   |
| SI        | 1.1   | -2.3  | 1.7   | 2.4   | -0.4  | 2.0   | 9.7  | 3.0   | 3.2   | 3.3   | 1.0   | 5.7   |
| SK        | 9.9   | -5.5  | 7.3   | 3.3   | 1.7   | 3.2   | -1.0   | 7.1   | 12.9  | 15.3  | 6.5   | 16.0  |
| FI        | 1.6   | 1.3   | 0.9   | 1.8   | 1.1   | 1.2   | 5.1  | 6.7   | 5.6   | 5.9   | 4.6   | 5.5   |
| SE        | 2.1   | 1.6   | 2.2   | 3.1   | 1.5   | 2.3   | 7.2  | 8.9   | 7.7   | 9.4   | 8.6   | 9.7   |
| UK        | 2.6   | 2.6   | 2.5   | 0.6   | -0.1  | 0.0   | 3.7  | 7.9   | 9.0   | 8.4   | 5.4   | 3.0   |
| BG        | 4.1   | 3.8   | 4.4   | 3.7   | 3.6   | 2.5   | 21.2   | 12.1  | 16.5  | 17.9  | 19.9  | 13.2  |
| RO        | 1.2   | 6.1   | 3.6   | 1.7   | 7.5   | 1.3   | 13.0   | 19.1  | 16.9  | 12.0  | 21.9  | 14.8  |

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 |       |       |       |       |       |
|-----------|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|           | Q4-03   | Q1-04 | Q2-04 | Q3-04 | Q4-04 | Q1-05 | Q4-03  | Q1-04 | Q2-04 | Q3-04 | Q4-04 | Q1-05 |
| EU-25     | 0.8   | 1.2   | 0.9   | 0.3   | 0.2   | 1.1   | -0.3   | 1.6   | 2.8   | 3.2   | 2.4   | 2.6   |
| Euro-zone | -0.1  | 0.8   | 0.6   | -0.5  | -0.5  | 0.8   | -3.5   | -2.1  | -0.3  | 0.7   | 0.2   | 0.6   |
| BE        | 0.6   | 2.4   | -1.6  | 3.3   | -3.5  | 1.6   | -3.8   | -1.5  | 1.5   | 5.2   | -0.3  | 1.0   |
| CZ        | 0.3   | 5.9   | 2.8   | 3.3   | 0.3   | 1.2   | 4.7  | 11.7  | 11.6  | 14.7  | 10.5  | 9.0   |
| DK        | 0.0   | 3.7   | 0.6   | 7.1   | 5.3   | 0.8   | 2.5  | 4.1   | 5.9   | 10.7  | 17.2  | 16.6  |
| DE        | c   | c     | c     | c     | c     | c     | c  | c     | c     | c     | c     | c     |
| EE        | 0.6   | -10.6 | -2.7  | 10.5  | -1.7  | -0.1  | 31.2   | 3.4   | -6.9  | -2.7  | -5.3  | 5.2   |
| EL        | -1.4  | 1.9   | 0.0   | 1.3   | 0.2   | 0.0   | -4.9   | 0.6   | -1.5  | 3.2   | 3.1   | 0.4   |
| ES        | 2.0   | -0.4  | 2.1   | -0.2  | 1.1   | 1.0   | 1.4  | 2.3   | 2.4   | 3.2   | 2.5   | 3.7   |
| FR        | -0.8  | 1.0   | 1.3   | -0.3  | -0.1  | 0.2   | -2.6   | -0.1  | 1.7   | 0.6   | 0.6   | -0.9  |
| IE        | 2.5   | 4.0   | 3.0   | -1.3  | 0.2   | 7.6   | 6.1  | 7.8   | 11.0  | 8.1   | 5.6   | 9.1   |
| IT        | -1.2  | -1.1  | -0.7  | -1.3  | -0.4  | 0.2   | -4.3   | -3.6  | -3.6  | -4.4  | -3.6  | -1.8  |
| CY        | 2.8   | 2.3   | -0.1  | 1.2   | -0.8  | :     | 2.3  | 18.1  | 3.9   | 9.0   | -2.6  | :     |
| LV        | 5.9   | 7.3   | 14.7  | 21.0  | 3.9   | -7.9  | 40.0   | 27.0  | 44.8  | 58.6  | 52.2  | 33.6  |
| LT        | 8.5   | 4.9   | 5.5   | 8.7   | 3.3   | 6.2   | 20.6   | 24.5  | 23.5  | 32.3  | 22.3  | 26.8  |
| LU        | 1.4   | -1.0  | 0.0   | 2.7   | -1.1  | :     | -0.1   | -4.7  | -2.1  | 5.7   | 0.5   | :     |
| HU        | 0.9   | -0.1  | 0.0   | -2.2  | 0.3   | 0.9   | 10.5   | 4.5   | 4.1   | -2.5  | -2.0  | -0.5  |
| MT        | :   | :     | :     | :     | :     | :     | :  | :     | :     | :     | :     | :     |
| NL        | 2.1   | 1.3   | 0.1   | -2.1  | -1.5  | 3.6   | -6.0   | -4.6  | 0.7   | 1.2   | -2.2  | 0.5   |
| AT        | 1.8   | 2.1   | 1.3   | -0.5  | -3.1  | 3.9   | -6.6   | -2.7  | -0.2  | 4.6   | -0.7  | 2.2   |
| PL        | 9.2   | -4.4  | -1.5  | 4.5   | 1.3   | 7.3   | 7.5  | 15.8  | 1.5   | 7.2   | -1.0  | 12.7  |
| PT        | -5.7  | 12.0  | -7.4  | 9.8   | -8.8  | 12.3  | -0.6   | 0.7   | 3.5   | 7.5   | 4.0   | 9.3   |
| SI        | 3.0   | :     | :     | :     | :     | :     | 17.4   | :     | :     | :     | :     | :     |
| SK        | 20.1  | -31.2 | -4.2  | -4.2  | 23.2  | 12.5  | 38.0   | -18.2 | -23.7 | -24.0 | -21.3 | 27.1  |
| FI        | 1.3   | 0.7   | 0.6   | 3.7   | -1.3  | :     | 2.6  | 4.4   | 3.6   | 7.2   | 3.1   | :     |
| SE        | 0.5   | 2.3   | -0.1  | 5.5   | -1.6  | 2.8   | 2.8  | 5.7   | 5.9   | 8.9   | 5.5   | 7.4   |
| UK        | 1.9   | 3.0   | 2.4   | 0.0   | 1.1   | 1.4   | 6.1  | 9.3   | 9.9   | 7.3   | 6.4   | 5.3   |
| BG        | 0.3   | 2.9   | 6.9   | -2.5  | 4.3   | 2.8   | 11.4   | 9.0   | 15.9  | 7.6   | 12.0  | 12.2  |
| RO        | -0.4  | 9.9   | -1.5  | 1.1   | 4.7   | -2.9  | 0.5  | 11.6  | 4.1   | 8.2   | 17.1  | 1.4   |

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 |       |       |       |       |       |
|-----------|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|           | Q4-03   | Q1-04 | Q2-04 | Q3-04 | Q4-04 | Q1-05 | Q4-03  | Q1-04 | Q2-04 | Q3-04 | Q4-04 | Q1-05 |
| EU-25     | 1.2   | 1.7   | 0.7   | 0.4   | 0.1   | 0.5   | 2.0  | 4.5   | 4.4   | 4.1   | 2.6   | 1.6   |
| Euro-zone | 0.5   | 1.4   | 0.2   | -0.3  | -0.3  | 0.6   | 0.4  | 2.1   | 2.3   | 1.8   | 0.7   | 0.3   |
| BE        | -0.2  | 4.6   | -0.5  | 1.5   | -1.7  | -3.1  | -1.2   | 2.3   | 3.2   | 5.8   | 3.8   | -4.1  |
| CZ        | 1.6   | 0.4   | 3.2   | 0.3   | 1.8   | 0.2   | 7.8  | 4.2   | 9.6   | 6.6   | 3.0   | 6.3   |
| DK        | 1.2   | 1.2   | 4.0   | 1.2   | 6.4   | 1.4   | 2.0  | 5.8   | 7.8   | 7.0   | 13.1  | 14.3  |
| DE        | c   | c     | c     | c     | c     | c     | c  | c     | c     | c     | c     | c     |
| EE        | 3.1   | 3.7   | 4.7   | -4.1  | 4.4   | 3.4   | 4.7  | 22.5  | 22.9  | 6.5   | 8.4   | 8.6   |
| EL        | 1.1   | 2.7   | -0.6  | -0.4  | -0.6  | -1.1  | 1.6  | 5.5   | 6.2   | 3.4   | 0.9   | -4.7  |
| ES        | 0.5   | 2.2   | 0.6   | -1.0  | 1.0   | 0.1   | 6.7  | 7.2   | 6.2   | 2.0   | 2.1   | 1.0   |
| FR        | 1.7   | 2.2   | 1.7   | 1.2   | 0.7   | 0.7   | 4.9  | 7.6   | 7.9   | 7.0   | 5.9   | 3.0   |
| IE        | -1.0  | 2.4   | 3.4   | 3.5   | -2.3  | 2.9   | -2.1   | -0.5  | 5.4   | 8.3   | 6.5   | 7.1   |
| IT        | -0.8  | -0.7  | -0.8  | -1.1  | -0.8  | -0.6  | -2.8   | -2.4  | -2.7  | -3.6  | -3.5  | -3.2  |
| CY        | 3.6   | 4.3   | 0.4   | 1.6   | -0.9  | :     | 3.7  | 14.7  | 11.0  | 10.8  | 3.9   | :     |
| LV        | 6.5   | -11.9 | 16.1  | 3.3   | 6.9   | -4.3  | 30.1   | 19.4  | 21.8  | 11.6  | 12.4  | 26.0  |
| LT        | 11.2  | 4.1   | 8.5   | 7.3   | 2.1   | 1.6   | 57.0   | 37.4  | 33.6  | 35.7  | 24.0  | 21.1  |
| LU        | 4.5   | -0.5  | 0.8   | 2.3   | -0.6  | :     | 5.2  | 4.4   | 2.1   | 7.3   | 1.4   | :     |
| HU        | 4.0   | 0.5   | 4.1   | -0.3  | 0.6   | -0.5  | 12.1   | 10.2  | 16.0  | 7.8   | 4.5   | 4.2   |
| MT        | :   | :     | :     | :     | :     | :     | :  | :     | :     | :     | :     | :     |
| NL        | -1.1  | 0.9   | -0.4  | -1.5  | -1.4  | -0.8  | -6.5   | -3.1  | -0.5  | -1.9  | -2.7  | -3.9  |
| AT        | -0.9  | 3.2   | 1.7   | -1.2  | -1.4  | 1.5   | -2.7   | 1.2   | 1.8   | 2.7   | 1.9   | 1.0   |
| PL        | 9.3   | 13.9  | 1.6   | -5.1  | 2.2   | -3.1  | 0.9  | 34.8  | 32.7  | 19.1  | 12.2  | -6.6  |
| PT        | -0.9  | -1.6  | -2.7  | 6.5   | -2.3  | 4.5   | -5.1   | -0.8  | 1.3   | 0.7   | 0.0   | 5.4   |
| SI        | 2.3   | :     | :     | :     | :     | :     | 11.7   | :     | :     | :     | :     | :     |
| SK        | 6.5   | 40.2  | 5.4   | 3.3   | 5.1   | -13.7 | -11.1  | 100.5 | 70.0  | 62.5  | 60.8  | -1.4  |
| FI        | 3.2   | 1.9   | -0.5  | 2.1   | 1.0   | :     | 9.2  | 10.8  | 5.6   | 6.7   | 4.7   | :     |
| SE        | 1.8   | 1.6   | 4.0   | 3.6   | 0.6   | 2.6   | 9.8  | 10.1  | 9.5   | 11.3  | 10.1  | 11.5  |
| UK        | 2.3   | 1.3   | 2.6   | 1.3   | -0.5  | -0.4  | 5.3  | 8.2   | 6.7   | 8.0   | 4.8   | 3.2   |
| BG        | 4.9   | 4.9   | 5.5   | 6.4   | 5.2   | 2.3   | 27.8   | 15.7  | 18.6  | 25.0  | 27.0  | 19.3  |
| RO        | 3.2   | -4.8  | 2.5   | 0.3   | 8.3   | 7.3   | 53.9   | 26.2  | 17.6  | 1.3   | 8.2   | 20.0  |

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)

When looking at the breakdown of retail trade activity between different non-food items, the most dynamic activity in terms of sales growth was textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods, where sales rose by 1.1 % between the final quarter of 2004 and the first quarter of 2005 (possibly fuelled by increasing imports as a result of the relaxation of quotas on these items). Retail sales of household equipment reported the second fastest expansion in sales (0.5 %). Both of these activities posted faster growth for sales volumes between the final quarter of 2004 and the first quarter of 2005 than they had between the third and final quarters of 2004.

The pattern was different for books, newspapers and other specialised retailers, as their sales fell slightly between the final quarter of 2004 and the first quarter of 2005 (-0.1 %), in contrast to eight consecutive, positive, quarter on quarter rates that had preceded this.

In the euro-zone, seasonally adjusted rates of change for non-food products were similar to those recorded in the EU-25. This was in contrast to the final quarter of 2004, when the euro-zone had posted a contraction in sales volumes for textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods, and for household equipment. In contrast, sales volumes for books, newspapers and other specialised retailers had risen by 0.7 % in the final quarter of 2004 in the euro-zone, while returning to more subdued growth rates in the first quarter of 2005 (0.2 %).

|           | Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted data |       |       |       |       |       | Year on year growth rates, working day adjusted data |       |       |       |       |       |
|-----------|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|           | Q4-03   | Q1-04 | Q2-04 | Q3-04 | Q4-04 | Q1-05 | Q4-03  | Q1-04 | Q2-04 | Q3-04 | Q4-04 | Q1-05 |
| EU-25     | 1.2   | 1.5   | 0.7   | 0.1   | 0.5   | -0.1  | 2.0  | 3.1   | 3.9   | 3.4   | 2.8   | 1.0   |
| Euro-zone | 0.4   | -0.1  | -0.1  | -0.7  | 0.7   | 0.2   | -0.3   | -0.7  | -0.7  | -0.7  | -0.1  | 0.3   |
| BE        | -1.8  | -0.2  | -1.0  | -1.9  | 1.7   | -2.3  | -1.0   | -3.4  | -2.9  | -6.8  | 1.5   | -4.0  |
| CZ        | -1.0  | 1.5   | 0.1   | -0.2  | -0.5  | 1.9   | -1.9   | 0.5   | 2.1   | -0.4  | 1.0   | 1.9   |
| DK        | 1.2   | 25.6  | -0.7  | 1.0   | 8.0   | -2.3  | 12.4   | 33.7  | 30.7  | 27.4  | 35.6  | 7.1   |
| DE        | c   | c     | c     | c     | c     | c     | c  | c     | c     | c     | c     | c     |
| EE        | 11.4  | 1.9   | 3.7   | 10.0  | -3.4  | 10.1  | 8.4  | 20.7  | 19.2  | 29.6  | 12.0  | 21.1  |
| EL        | 0.3   | 3.7   | -0.5  | 0.4   | -0.8  | -2.2  | 3.2  | 6.4   | 4.6   | 5.4   | 2.8   | -4.9  |
| ES        | 2.0   | 0.7   | 0.0   | -2.4  | 3.9   | 1.3   | 5.5  | 5.1   | 1.2   | -0.4  | 2.2   | 3.3   |
| FR        | 0.4   | 1.3   | 0.5   | 0.4   | 1.7   | 0.1   | -0.3   | 0.4   | 2.1   | 2.8   | 4.4   | 2.5   |
| IE        | 0.9   | 0.1   | 1.1   | 0.4   | 2.0   | -0.2  | 0.2  | 0.6   | 1.5   | 2.4   | 3.2   | 3.2   |
| IT        | -0.9  | -0.9  | -1.1  | -1.3  | -1.1  | -0.8  | -4.0   | -3.0  | -3.6  | -4.4  | -4.8  | -3.9  |
| CY        | -3.0  | 2.1   | -5.5  | -3.4  | -1.3  | :     | -6.7   | 4.7   | -7.7  | -10.7 | -7.1  | :     |
| LV        | 7.2   | -3.9  | 7.3   | -1.6  | 6.3   | 5.3   | 10.7   | 9.9   | 14.8  | 8.6   | 7.5   | 19.2  |
| LT        | -1.6  | 9.0   | -2.6  | -0.2  | 2.6   | 8.6   | -2.2   | 8.1   | -2.2  | 3.8   | 9.2   | 8.0   |
| LU        | -3.0  | 1.2   | 0.8   | -1.5  | 4.4   | :     | 1.8  | 1.4   | 3.6   | -3.8  | 6.4   | :     |
| HU        | 3.9   | 0.7   | 1.9   | 1.8   | 1.6   | 2.0   | 22.3   | 10.2  | 10.8  | 10.3  | 6.7   | 6.5   |
| MT        | :   | :     | :     | :     | :     | :     | :  | :     | :     | :     | :     | :     |
| NL        | 1.6   | -0.8  | 0.7   | -1.2  | -2.6  | -0.6  | -7.8   | -6.2  | -0.6  | 0.5   | -4.2  | -3.6  |
| AT        | 1.1   | 1.3   | 5.8   | -0.8  | 2.6   | -1.1  | 0.8  | -2.3  | 5.8   | 7.3   | 8.6   | 6.8   |
| PL        | 1.8   | -3.4  | 4.8   | -5.5  | -1.1  | -1.5  | 11.7   | -2.4  | 7.6   | -3.5  | -6.2  | -5.5  |
| PT        | -6.7  | 6.4   | -5.4  | 7.2   | -4.2  | 1.6   | -6.1   | -3.7  | -0.9  | 0.4   | 3.2   | -2.2  |
| SI        | 1.2   | :     | :     | :     | :     | :     | 11.3   | :     | :     | :     | :     | :     |
| SK        | 14.2  | -28.6 | 21.4  | 7.2   | -4.6  | 3.9   | 21.6   | -9.9  | 3.0   | 6.1   | -12.1 | 29.1  |
| FI        | 0.0   | 3.7   | 1.1   | 1.1   | 0.7   | :     | 1.2  | 8.1   | 6.8   | 6.1   | 6.6   | :     |
| SE        | 2.9   | 3.5   | 2.3   | 3.7   | 2.4   | 1.5   | 9.3  | 13.9  | 10.2  | 12.8  | 11.8  | 10.4  |
| UK        | 3.1   | 5.4   | 2.3   | 1.0   | -1.2  | -1.2  | 4.4  | 10.7  | 12.9  | 12.5  | 7.2   | 0.9   |
| BG        | 4.5   | 3.5   | 5.4   | 3.3   | 3.6   | 2.2   | 24.9   | 12.2  | 20.2  | 17.9  | 20.2  | 14.2  |
| RO        | -4.2  | 13.0  | 0.4   | -2.9  | 7.2   | -17.1 | -0.9   | 11.0  | 11.4  | 5.4   | 20.0  | -15.3 |

Table 8: VOLUME OF SALES INDEX FOR BOOKS, NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER SPECIALISED RETAILERS, GROWTH RATES (%); SOURCE: EUROSTAT STS

## Employment index for retail trade

For the European aggregates, the latest data available for the employment index for the retail trade sector are for the final quarter of 2004. Seasonally adjusted data show that the number of persons employed in the retail trade sector grew by 0.7 % in the EU-25 and by 0.5 % in the euro-zone between the third and final quarters of 2004.

While the pace at which the number of persons employed grew was slightly faster in the euro-zone than in the EU-25 during the first half of 2004, this pattern reversed in the second half of the year.

Among the largest Member States for which seasonally adjusted data are available for the final quarter of 2004, employment grew in France, the United Kingdom and Poland, while it contracted in Germany and Spain (see Table 9).

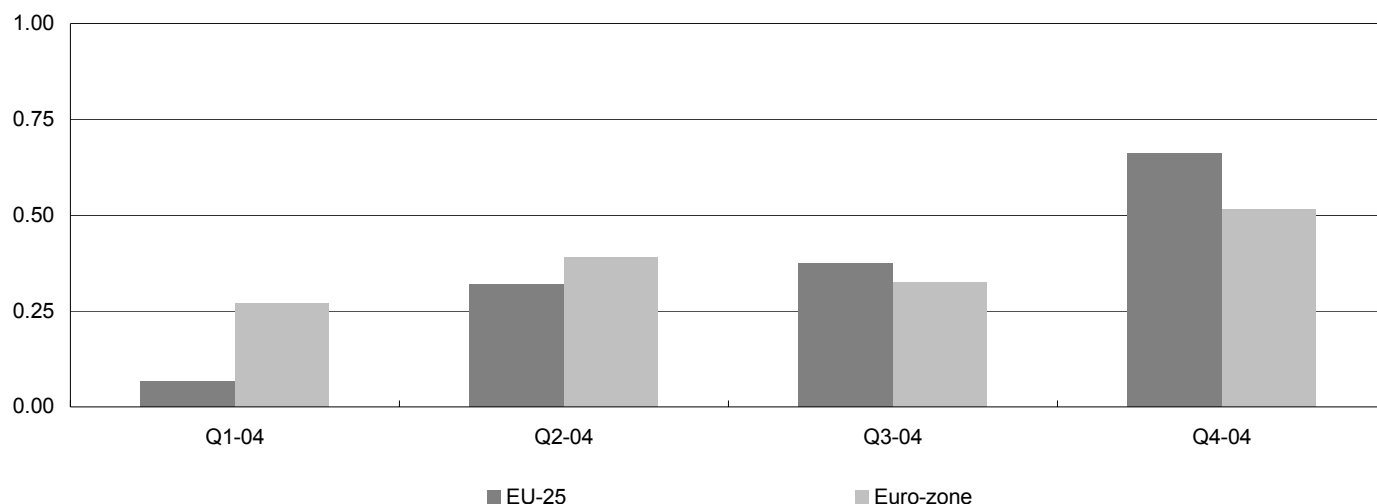


Figure 2: EMPLOYMENT INDEX FOR RETAIL TRADE, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA, GROWTH RATES COMPARED TO THE PREVIOUS QUARTER (%); SOURCE: EUROSTAT STS

|           | Quarter on quarter growth rates, seasonally adjusted data |       |       |       |       |       | Year on year growth rates, gross data |       |       |       |       |       |
|-----------|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|           | Q4-03   | Q1-04 | Q2-04 | Q3-04 | Q4-04 | Q1-05 | Q4-03                                 | Q1-04 | Q2-04 | Q3-04 | Q4-04 | Q1-05 |
| EU-25     | 0.5   | 0.1   | 0.3   | 0.4   | 0.7   | :     | 1.5                                   | 1.4   | 1.2   | 1.2   | 1.4   | :     |
| Euro-zone | 0.2   | 0.3   | 0.4   | 0.3   | 0.5   | :     | 1.9                                   | 1.4   | 1.3   | 1.2   | 1.5   | :     |
| BE        | 0.1   | -2.1  | :     | :     | :     | :     | 5.4                                   | -4.5  | :     | :     | :     | :     |
| CZ        | c   | c     | c     | c     | c     | c     | c                                     | c     | c     | c     | c     | c     |
| DK        | -2.4  | :     | :     | :     | :     | :     | -1.5                                  | :     | :     | :     | :     | :     |
| DE        | 0.0   | -0.5  | -0.5  | 0.0   | -0.2  | :     | -1.0                                  | -1.3  | -1.4  | -0.9  | -1.1  | :     |
| EE        | -0.7  | -4.1  | 2.8   | 1.3   | 0.4   | :     | -8.8                                  | -5.0  | -2.1  | -0.9  | 0.2   | :     |
| EL (1)    | 0.6   | 1.2   | 1.4   | 0.7   | 1.5   | :     | 1.6                                   | 2.9   | 4.5   | 3.9   | 4.9   | :     |
| ES        | 0.5   | 0.6   | 0.6   | 0.6   | -0.1  | 0.8   | 2.9                                   | 3.3   | 2.8   | 2.2   | 2.2   | 1.5   |
| FR        | 0.5   | 0.1   | 0.4   | 0.4   | 0.4   | 0.7   | 1.5                                   | 1.3   | 1.3   | 1.1   | 0.9   | 2.3   |
| IE        | :   | :     | :     | :     | :     | :     | :                                     | :     | :     | :     | :     | :     |
| IT        | c   | c     | c     | c     | c     | c     | c                                     | c     | c     | c     | c     | c     |
| CY        | 0.2   | 1.1   | 0.8   | 1.8   | 1.5   | :     | -1.0                                  | 1.0   | 1.0   | 4.2   | 5.7   | :     |
| LV        | 2.1   | 1.9   | 0.4   | 0.1   | -0.6  | :     | 3.3                                   | 7.3   | 6.2   | 4.6   | 1.8   | :     |
| LT        | 2.4   | 1.4   | 2.5   | 3.9   | 1.1   | -4.2  | 7.6                                   | 10.1  | 11.3  | 10.5  | 9.2   | 3.2   |
| LU        | 0.6   | -0.1  | 0.2   | 0.3   | 0.0   | :     | 1.4                                   | 1.1   | 0.9   | 0.9   | 3.2   | 3.5   |
| HU        | 1.7   | 4.0   | 1.4   | 1.6   | 0.9   | -1.2  | 3.9                                   | 9.6   | 8.9   | 9.0   | 8.1   | 2.6   |
| MT        | 0.0   | -0.7  | -1.6  | 2.7   | -0.6  | :     | -7.5                                  | -7.1  | -5.4  | 0.7   | 0.0   | :     |
| NL        | -0.5  | -0.6  | -1.1  | -0.4  | -0.7  | :     | -0.7                                  | -1.8  | -2.5  | -2.7  | -2.9  | :     |
| AT (1)    | 0.2   | 0.3   | 0.6   | 0.4   | 0.5   | 0.1   | 1.0                                   | 0.2   | 1.1   | 1.6   | 1.9   | 1.6   |
| PL        | 0.0   | -0.1  | 0.4   | 0.8   | 0.8   | 0.9   | 0.3                                   | 0.7   | 0.4   | 1.1   | 1.9   | 3.0   |
| PT (1)    | -0.1  | -0.3  | 0.1   | 0.3   | 0.0   | 0.2   | -0.1                                  | -0.5  | -0.1  | -0.1  | 0.0   | 0.5   |
| SI        | 0.0   | 0.4   | 0.7   | 0.0   | 0.2   | :     | -1.7                                  | -0.3  | 0.9   | 1.0   | 1.2   | :     |
| SK        | -0.6  | 5.4   | -0.1  | -1.2  | -1.0  | 9.2   | -7.3                                  | -0.6  | 4.3   | 3.4   | 3.0   | 6.7   |
| FI        | -2.5  | 2.3   | -0.2  | 3.7   | 1.7   | -0.1  | -1.4                                  | 0.5   | -1.0  | 3.8   | 8.1   | 5.3   |
| SE (1)    | -1.6  | -1.0  | 4.1   | 1.6   | 0.4   | :     | 2.0                                   | 2.0   | 1.1   | 3.0   | 5.1   | :     |
| UK        | 0.5   | 0.1   | 0.2   | 0.2   | 0.4   | :     | 1.0                                   | 1.5   | 1.2   | 0.9   | 0.9   | :     |
| BG        | 1.9   | 8.4   | 2.0   | 1.2   | 5.1   | 1.0   | 14.6                                  | 17.6  | 15.2  | 13.6  | 17.9  | 9.5   |
| RO        | -2.1  | -0.3  | -1.9  | -3.2  | -2.2  | 27.0  | -5.3                                  | -6.6  | -6.3  | -7.3  | -7.4  | 17.9  |

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**<sup>1</sup>. Division 52 of the NACE Rev. 1 classification<sup>2</sup> covers retailing.

The **volume of sales**<sup>3</sup> 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

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<sup>1</sup> 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>.

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

<sup>3</sup> 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**

[EUROSTAT Website/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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### **European Statistical Data Support:**

Eurostat set up with the members of the 'European statistical system' a network of support centres, which will exist in nearly all Member States as well as in some EFTA countries.

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