Experimental Statistics – Daily Retail Trade for Large Enterprises (DRTLE)

The crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for advanced and high-frequency indicators to help with decision-making, with priority given to timeliness and punctuality.

As part of its commitment to offer societally relevant information, the National Institute of Statistics has launched an experimental operation designed to offer information on the retail trade of large enterprises. This information will be collected daily and disseminated once every two weeks.

The basic information used to obtain these indicators will be the Immediate Information Supply (IIS) from enterprises whose main activity is retail trade, which is sent to the INE by the State Tax Administration Agency thanks to a collaborative agreement between the two institutions.
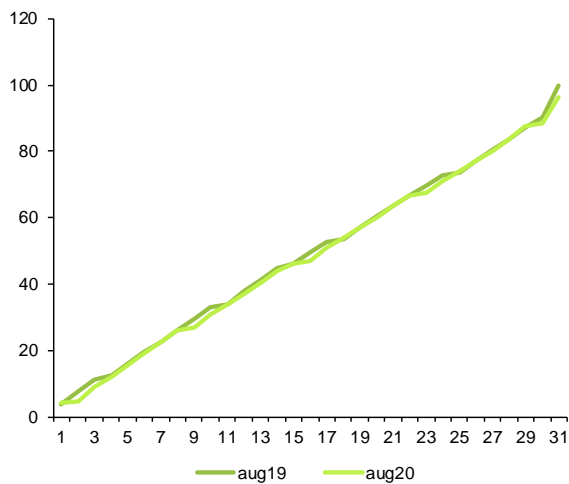
The objective is to serve as a complement to and as a leading indicator for the Retail Trade Index (RTI), which provides information on all enterprises engaged in retail trade.

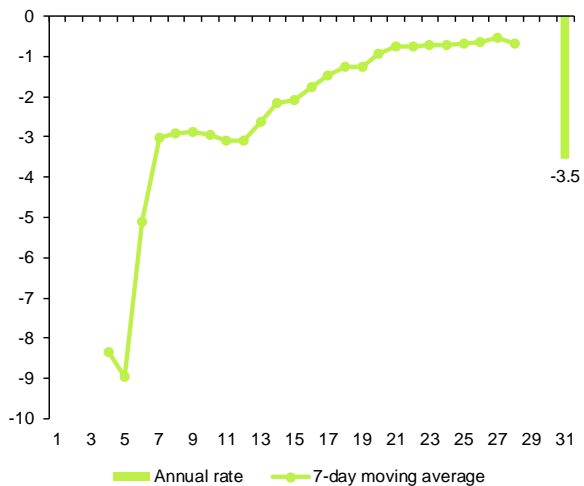## Daily Retail Trade for Large Enterprises in August

The accumulated daily sales of large enterprises engaged in retail trade decreased 3.5% in August compared to the same month in 2019.

The year-on-year rate (seven-day moving average) was negative every day in August, although it has recovered over the course of the month. However, the most negative data for the final of the month placed August sales −3.5% below those of August 2019.

Percentage of accumulated daily sales
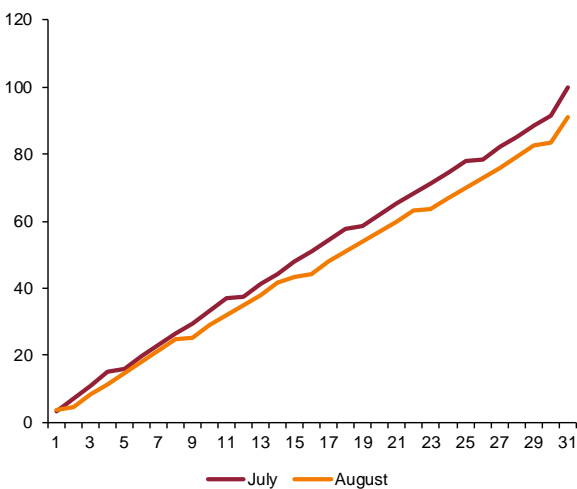**August 2020- August 2019**

Moving average of the annual rate of accumulated daily sales
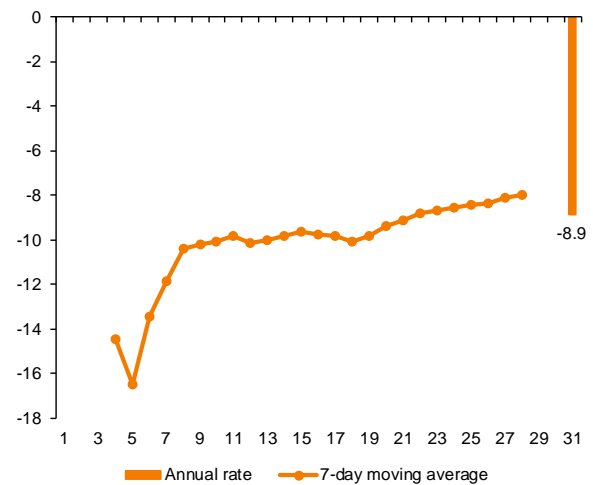**August 2020- August 2019**

Compared to July 2020, the accumulated daily sales of large enterprises decreased by 8.9%.

The monthly rate (moving average of seven days) was the most negative for the first days of the month. Later it recovered to reach a rate of −8.9% at the end of the period.

Percentage of accumulated daily sales
August 2020- July 2020

Moving average of the annual rate of accumulated daily sales
August 2020- July 2020

Weighting in total retail trade of the enterprises used to measure the daily retail trade of large enterprises

The basic information for these indicators are the daily sales declared as part of the Immediate Information Supply (IIA) from the State Tax Administration Agency, for the enterprises whose main activity is part of CNAE 2009 47 'Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles'.

The group included in the "IIS" includes all those companies with a monthly obligation to self-assess the Value Added Tax:

- Large Enterprises (turnover of more than €6 million)
- VAT Groups
- Registered in the REDEME (Register of Monthly VAT Refund)

The geographic scope is the Common Tax Regime Territory; in other words, companies that operate exclusively in the territories managed by the three Provincial Haciendas of the Basque Country and Navarra, as well as enterprises operating outside the scope of the VAT (Canarias, Ceuta and Melilla), are all excluded.

During 2019, turnover for these enterprises represented approximately half of retail trade sales as a whole. This percentage varies, however, depending on the branch of commerce being considered.

It thus ranges from 2.2% in retail trade in stalls and flea markets, to more than 80% in retail trade in non-specialized stores.

Weighting of Large Companies in Retail Trade. Year 2019

	Ponderación %
47 Retail trade	51.3
471 in non-specialized stores	83.0
472 of foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco in specialized stores	4.5
473 of automobile fuel in specialized stores	41.5
474 of information and communication technology equipment in specialized stores	58.7
475 of other domestic use articles in specialized stores	33.0
476 of cultural and recreational articles in specialized stores	23.2
477 of other articles in specialized stores	33.0
478 in sales stalls and in flea markets	2.2
479 not carried out in stores, stalls, or markets	63.2

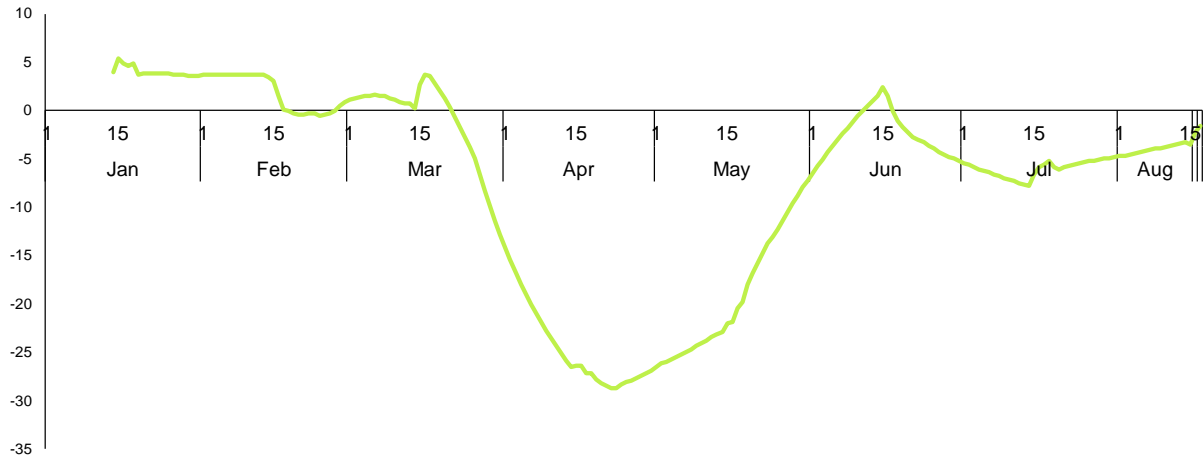**An indicator with greater temporal detail**

The daily information from the IIS allows for temporal details that assist with decision-making in the event of occurrences that lead to changes in consumer patterns.

The annual daily sales rate of large enterprises (with 28-day moving averages) shows -with greater precision than the monthly indices- the effect of the crisis on retail trade.

The effect of stockpiling goods was observed in the two central weeks of March, followed by a very significant decrease in sales, as a consequence of the halt of established trade following the state of alarm announcement. The lowest point was at the end of April.

With the different de-escalation phases, retail trade began to rise at the beginning of May until positive rates were reached in mid-June. Despite this, for neither July nor August did large enterprise retail trade exceed 2019 levels.

Annual rate (28-day moving average) of daily sales of Large Enterprises
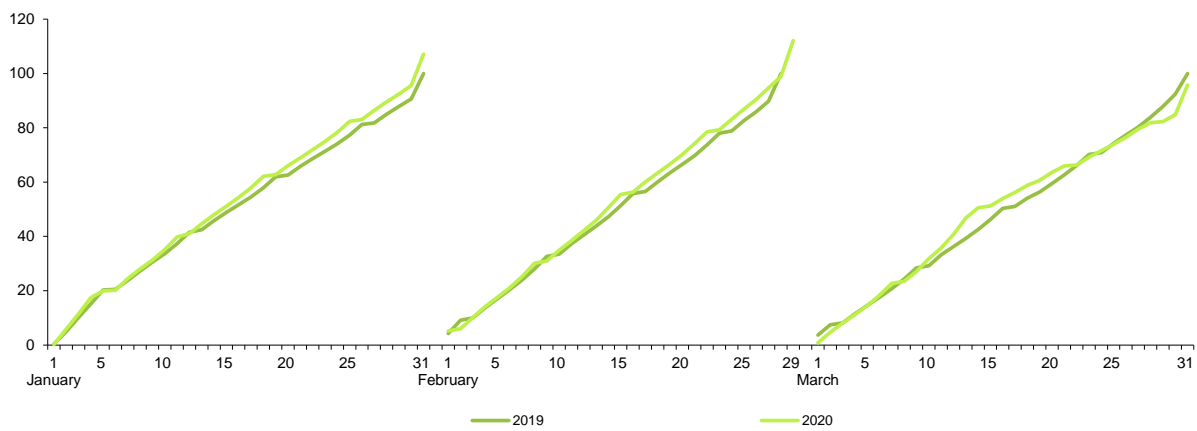**Period from January to August 2020**

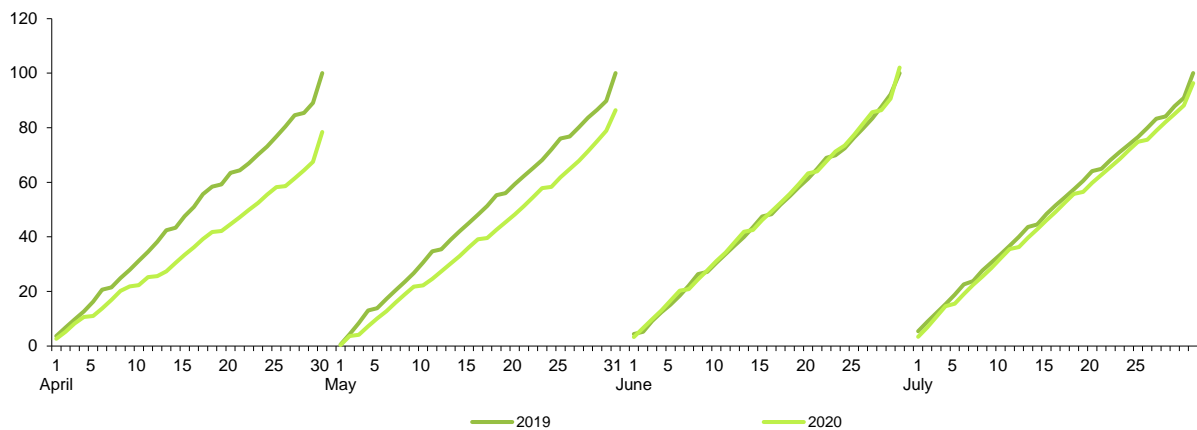## Comparative profiles of accumulated daily sales

The processing of daily sales also makes it possible to compare the differences between accumulated daily sales profiles for two consecutive months, or compared to the same month of the previous year. This allows for changes in behaviour due to any cause to be observed very quickly.

The following graphs show the profiles of accumulated daily sales for the first seven months of 2020 and 2019. A variation in behaviour can be observed in the months most affected by stay at home orders.

Percentage of accumulated daily sales. Years 2019 and 2020
Months of January, February and March

Percentage of accumulated daily sales. Years 2019 and 2020
Months of April, May, June and July

DRTLE Calendar and Dissemination

The CDMGE will be published in the experimental statistics section of the INE website twice a month (on Fridays, except holidays), with information on the evolution of daily sales for the first 15 days and for the entire month, with a delay of approximately two weeks.

The INE website will also provide information on the specific dates of dissemination for this indicator.

Information for the first two weeks of each month will thus be provided for the first time, and the data for the full month will be advanced between 10 and 15 days.

The following publications for the month of September will be released on October 2 (first two weeks) and October 16 (full month).

Project

The DRTLE technical project can be accessed at the following link:

https://www.ine.es/experimental/cdmge/exp_cdmge_proyecto.pdf

For further information see **INEbase**: **www.ine.es/en/**   Twitter: **@es_ine**
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