

31 March 2026

Structural Enterprise Statistics: Trade Sector

Year 2024

Main results

- Turnover in the Trade Sector increased by 3.1% in 2024 and stood at 1,044,477 million euros.
- Productivity in the Trade Sector was of 49,213 euros in 2024, a 5.3% increase as compared with the previous year.
- The autonomous communities with the greatest participation in turnover for the Trade Sector in the year 2024 were Madrid (with 24.4% of the total), Catalonia (19.4%) and Andalusia (13.0%).

More information

- [Tables annex](#)
- [Detailed results](#)

Turnover of companies in the Trade Sector stood at 1,044,477 million euros in 2024, which represented an increase of 3.1% as compared with the previous year. The added value generated by these businesses increased in an 8.4% and its gross operating surplus in a 7.8%.

Trade Sector. Main magnitudes. 2024

Main variables	Million euros	Annual variation (%)
Turnover	1,044,477	3.1
Total purchases of goods and services	901,366	1.7
Value added at factor cost	158,988	8.4
Personnel costs	97,619	8.8
Wages and salaries	76,560	8.6
Gross operating surplus	61,369	7.8
Investment in tangible assets	14,275	8.3
Number of enterprises	687,920	-1.8
Personnel employed (annual average, in thousands of people)	3,231	2.9

The Trade Sector is characterised by the predominance of very small businesses. In 2024, 94.7% of the companies had fewer than 10 employees. These small businesses employed 36.6% of the sector's workforce and their turnover accounted for 22.0% of the total.

On the other hand, companies with 250 or more employees, which represented 0.1% of the total, employed 33.4% of the workforce and generated 37.2% of the sector's turnover.

Trade Sector. Main magnitudes by size of company. 2024

Absolute values and percentage change

Main variables	Total Million euros	Enterprise size by number of employed persons			
		Less than 10	From 10 to 49	From 50 to 249	250 or more
Turnover	1,044,477	22.0	21.4	19.4	37.2
Total purchases of goods and services	901,366	21.3	21.5	20.0	37.1
Value added at factor cost	158,988	25.2	20.9	15.8	38.1
Personnel costs	97,619	22.2	21.6	15.8	40.5
Wages and salaries	76,560	23.0	21.7	15.7	39.6
Gross operating surplus	61,369	30.0	19.9	15.8	34.3
Investment in tangible assets	14,275	15.2	15.5	16.3	53.0
Number of enterprises	687,920	94.7	4.7	0.6	0.1
Employed personnel (annual average, in thousands of people)	3,231	36.6	18.5	11.6	33.4

Results by segments of activity

The businesses number increased in the three Trade activity divisions in 2024. The largest increase was in *Retail trade except for motor vehicles and motorcycles* (8.0%).

The wholesale businesses accounted for 58.3% of the total turnover of the sector and 35.6% of the employed personnel.

Retail trade, except motor vehicles and motorcycles, represented 31.3% of the sector's turnover and 54.7% of the total employment. Six out of 10 companies in the sector were retailers.

Results by divisions of activity. 2024

Division of activity	Turnover			Personnel employed		
	Million euros	% over the total	Annual variation (%)	Annual average	% over the total	Annual variation (%)
G45. Sale and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	108,723	10.4	4.7	312,093	9.7	3.6
G46. Wholesale trade and trade intermediaries, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	608,399	58.3	0.4	1,151,108	35.6	1.9
G47. Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	327,354	31.3	8.0	1,767,412	54.7	3.4
TOTAL	1,044,477	100.0	3.1	3,230,614	100.0	2.9

Current press release at: <https://www.ine.es/dyngs/Prensa/en/EEESC2024.htm>

Results by groups of activity

The sectors contributing most to the sector’s total turnover in 2024 were *Wholesale of food, beverages and tobacco* (16.6%), *Other specialised wholesale trade* (16.6%) and *Wholesale of household goods* (12.7%).

The business groups that increased their revenue the most were *Maintenance and repair of motor vehicles* (15.8%) and *Retail trade not carried out in stores, stalls or markets* (13.0%). Conversely, the largest decrease occurred in *Other specialised wholesale trade* (-9.4%).

Productivity

Productivity (value added per employed person) for the Trade sector was 49,213 euros in 2024, with an increase of 5.3% compared to the previous year.

The activity groups with the highest productivity were *Wholesale trade of household goods* (87,705 euros), and *Wholesale trade of information and communication technology equipment* (83,246).

Meanwhile, the least productive sectors were *Retail sale via stalls and markets* (13,503 euros), and *Retail sale of food, beverages, and tobacco in specialised stores* (23,562 euros).

Geographical destination of sales

In 2024, 86.5% of sales in the Trade sector were within Spain, 7.4% went to other European Union countries, and 6.1% to the rest of the world.

The business groups with the highest percentage of sales outside of Spain were *Wholesale of household goods* and *Other specialised wholesale trade* (both with 21.6%).

Groups of activity with the highest percentage of sales outside Spain. 2024

Percentage



Current press release at: <https://www.ine.es/dyngs/Prensa/en/EEESC2024.htm>

Investment in tangible assets

Investment in tangible assets carried out by the Trade Sector increased up to 14,275 million euros in 2024. A total of 49.9% of said investment was made by companies in the area of *Retail trade, except motor vehicles and motorcycles*, and 41.7% by *Wholesale trade and commission trade, except motor vehicles and motorcycles*. Investment in tangible assets represented 9.0% of the value added of the sector.

Investment in tangible assets by divisions of activity. 2024

Division of activity	Investment in tangible assets		Investment / Added value (%)
	Million euros	% over the total	
G45. Sale and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	1,205	8.4	7.9
G46. Wholesale trade and trade intermediaries, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	5,945	41.7	7.5
G47. Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	7,125	49.9	11.1
TOTAL	14,275	100.0	9.0

Results by Autonomous Community

The autonomous communities with the greatest participation in turnover for the Trade Sector in the year 2024 were Madrid (24.4% of the total), Catalonia (19.4%) and Andalusia (13.0%).

In turn, those with the least weight were La Rioja (0.4%) and Cantabria (0.8%).

In terms of personnel employed, Catalonia accounted for 18.6% of total employment, Andalusia 16.5% and Madrid 16.0%.

Trade Sector by autonomous communities and cities. 2024

Autonomous Community	Turnover		Investment in tangible assets		Personnel employed	
	Million euros	% over the total	Million euros	% over the total	Annual average	% over the total
Andalucía	139,090	13.0	1,626	12.8	530,828	16.5
Aragón	27,841	2.6	264	2.1	82,667	2.6
Asturias, Principado de	15,992	1.5	195	1.5	57,295	1.8
Balears, Illes	20,311	1.9	373	2.9	78,889	2.5
Canarias	37,712	3.5	627	4.9	158,044	4.9
Cantabria	8,514	0.8	63	0.5	31,472	1.0
Castilla y León	38,337	3.6	466	3.7	132,950	4.1
Castilla-La Mancha	32,601	3.1	580	4.6	111,007	3.5
Cataluña	207,676	19.4	2,430	19.1	597,429	18.6
Comunitat Valenciana	103,808	9.7	2,298	18.1	385,309	12.0
Extremadura	14,257	1.3	155	1.2	57,000	1.8
Galicia	63,172	5.9	590	4.6	171,329	5.3
Madrid, Comunidad de	260,947	24.4	1,994	15.7	512,300	16.0
Murcia, Región de	33,873	3.2	444	3.5	128,243	4.0
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	13,575	1.3	135	1.1	35,108	1.1
País Vasco	44,760	4.2	420	3.3	118,179	3.7
Rioja, La	4,562	0.4	48	0.4	16,869	0.5
Ceuta	671	0.1	6	0.0	3,224	0.1
Melilla	557	0.1	4	0.0	3,540	0.1
TOTAL	1,068,257	100.0	12,717	100.0	3,211,681	100.0

Note: To obtain results by autonomous communities, the Local Unit whose main activity is Trade is considered a statistical unit. It is a different approach to the national data of the Retail Sector, based on the Statistical Enterprise which brings together under its main activity the economic and employment data of the legal units that form it, and which may be of another activity than the retail one.

Data revisions and updates

The data published today are final. All the results of this operation are available at [INEBase](#).

In accordance with the [Commission's Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2023/137](#), the INE has begun to work on incorporating the new National Classification of Economic Activities CNAE-2025 in all its statistical operations.

In the case of the Structural Business Statistics: Retail Sector: the first publication of results using CNAE-2025 will take place in 2027.

Current press release at: <https://www.ine.es/dyngs/Prensa/en/EEESC2024.htm>

Methodological note

Structural Business Statistics: Trade Sector is an annual structural statistical operation aimed at companies engaged in Trade, which includes wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, wholesale trade and commission trade, and retail trade.

This operation allows us to ascertain the main structural and economic characteristics of companies in the sector under study by means of a broad set of variables relating to employed personnel, turnover and other income, purchases and consumption, personnel expenses, taxes and investments. The statistic includes economic aggregates such as the value of production and gross value added, as well as the main indicators.

Type of operation: annual continuous operation.

Population scope: companies whose main activity is described in section G of CNAE-2009.

Geographical scope: the entire national territory.

Reference period: the calendar year, which, with some exceptions, coincides with the company's accounting year.


Sample size: 53,084 units (48% with direct collection and 52% with administrative data).

Collection method: completion of the online questionnaire by the respondent (IRIA system) and use of administrative sources.

More information on the [methodology](#) and the [standardised methodological report](#).

INE statistics are produced in accordance with the Code of Good Practice for European Statistics. More information on [Quality at INE](#) and [Code of Best Practices](#).

For further information see [INE base](#)

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