

28 March 2008

**Retail Trade Indices. Base 2005
February 2008. Provisional data**

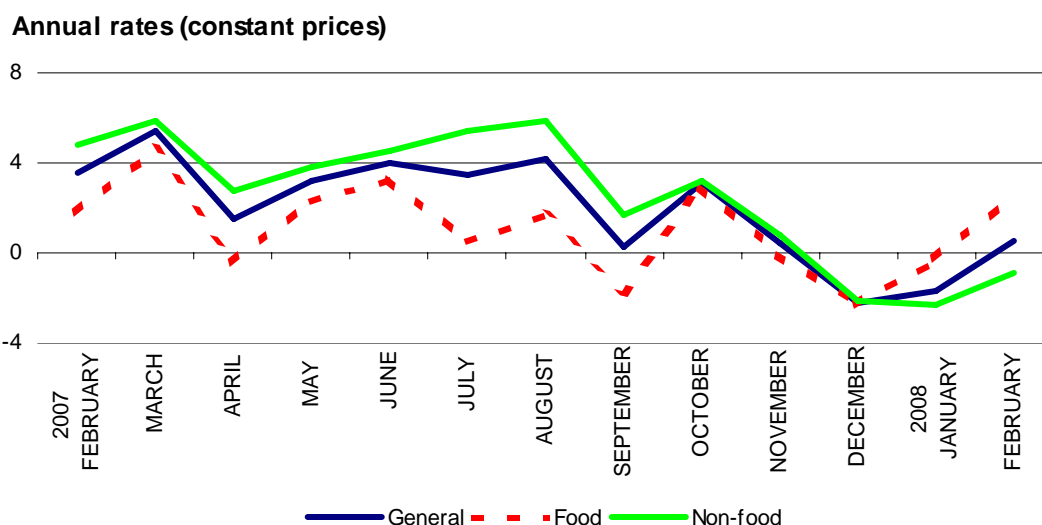
**Retail trade at constant prices increases 0.5% in February, as
compared to the same month in 2007**

The general retail trade index in constant terms (in other words, after adjusting for the price effect) registered a 0.5% interannual increase in the month of February. Foodstuffs increased 2.5%, while non-food products decreased 0.9%. A breakdown of the latter by type of product showed the following rates: 2.6% for *Personal Goods*, -3.5% in *Furniture and household equipment* and 0.8% in *Other goods*.

After adjusting for the calendar effect, which this month was determined by both the difference in the number of working days and the effect of the leap year, the retail trade index at constant prices showed a 2.7% decrease.

National indices: general and groups

	Index	% variation previous year		Deflated Index	% variation previous year	
		Same month	Year-to-Date Average		Same month	Year-to-Date Average
General Index	99.7	5.2	3.9	92.7	0.5	-0.7
1. Foodstuffs	104.2	9.4	7.8	92.3	2.5	1.1
2. Non-food products	96.8	2.5	1.7	92.8	-0.9	-1.7
2.1 Personal goods	89.2	3.5	3.7	93.5	2.6	2.8
2.2 Furniture household equipment	97.2	-1.0	-2.1	91.3	-3.5	-4.5
2.3 Other goods	101.6	4.3	2.7	97.3	0.8	-0.7
General Index:						
Calendar effects corrected	96.2	1.6	1.8	89.5	-2.7	-2.6



Large chains, the only trade distribution model to increase its sales as compared with the previous year

The breakdown of the general retail sector index according to the different types of trade distribution, showed that the highest growth rate at constant terms was observed in large chains, with 7.0%. Department stores also presented a positive rate, with 1.6%.

In contrast, companies with a single outlet and small chains recorded a decrease in retail sales as compared with the previous year at constant terms, with rates of -2.7% and -0.2%, respectively.

General indices by type of distribution

	Index	% variation previous year		Deflated Index	% variation previous year	
		Same month	Year-to-Date Average		Same month	Year-to-Date Average
General Index	99.7	5.2	3.9	92.7	0.5	-0.7
1. Companies with a single outlet	97.1	1.8	0.7	90.3	-2.7	-3.7
2. Small Chains	96.9	4.4	3.4	90.1	-0.2	-1.1
3. Large Chains	112.6	12.0	10.4	104.7	7.0	5.5
4. Department Stores	94.3	6.3	4.3	87.6	1.6	-0.3

Sales in department stores present a 1.6% increase in constant terms

The general index for department stores, which analyses the evolution of sales in outlets covering an area of more than 2,500 square metres, presented a 1.6% interannual increase at constant prices in February. Foodstuffs grew 3.2% and non-food products increased 0.9%.

After adjusting for the calendar effect, sales of department stores decreased 1.0%.

Department Stores index: general and by groups

	Index	% variation previous year		Deflated Index	% variation previous year	
		Same month	Year-to-Date Average		Same month	Year-to-Date Average
General Index	94.3	6.3	4.3	87.6	1.6	-0.3
1. Foodstuffs	98.0	10.1	7.9	86.7	3.2	1.2
2. Non-food products	92.5	4.4	2.8	88.6	0.9	-0.6
General Index:						
Calendar effects corrected	91.6	3.4	2.7	85.3	-1.0	-1.7

Castilla-La Mancha is the Autonomous Community with the greatest interannual increase in sales

By Autonomous Community, Castilla-La Mancha (4.4%), Comunidad Foral de Navarra (3.0%), Principado de Asturias (2.9%) and Aragón (2,8%) registered the greatest interannual increases in constant terms in the month of February.

In the Communities in which a decrease in sales was recorded, the Communities registering the highest negative rates were Cantabria (-2.7%) and Región de Murcia (-1.3%).

Indices by Autonomous Community

	Index	% variation previous year		Deflated Index	% variation previous year	
		Same month	Year-to-Date Average		Same month	Year-to-Date Average
National total	99.7	5.2	3.9	92.7	0.5	-0.7
Andalucía	97.0	6.3	4.1	90.2	1.7	-0.4
Aragón	104.9	7.7	5.5	97.3	2.8	0.7
Asturias (Principado de)	102.9	7.8	4.7	96.0	2.9	0.0
Baleares (Illes)	86.1	5.4	3.6	80.4	1.1	-0.5
Canarias	99.5	3.8	1.8	93.0	-0.8	-2.7
Cantabria	94.6	2.4	2.2	87.2	-2.7	-2.8
Castilla y León	99.8	7.7	5.9	92.1	2.4	0.8
Castilla-La Mancha	107.7	9.8	8.4	99.7	4.4	3.1
Cataluña	99.2	3.9	3.4	92.1	-0.7	-1.1
Comunitat Valenciana	97.6	4.1	3.0	90.9	-0.3	-1.3
Extremadura	103.5	6.8	6.3	96.4	1.9	1.6
Galicia	99.0	5.0	3.8	92.2	0.2	-1.0
Madrid (Comunidad de)	102.3	4.6	4.0	95.3	0.3	-0.3
Murcia (Región de)	102.8	3.3	2.0	94.9	-1.3	-2.6
Navarra (Comunidad Foral de)	103.3	7.6	6.2	96.8	3.0	1.7
País Vasco	102.8	4.7	3.1	95.6	0.0	-1.4
Rioja (La)	103.9	6.1	4.8	96.3	1.3	0.1
Ceuta	110.1	9.7	7.5	102.9	5.4	3.6
Melilla	105.2	0.7	2.9	97.8	-3.0	-0.7

Employment in the retail sector increases 1.5% in February 2008

During February 2008, the retail trade sector employment index (showing the evolution of employment, for both employees and self-employed workers) yielded a 1.5% interannual variation rate for the whole of the sector. Large chains (5.0%) and department stores (4.9%) recorded the highest interannual rates, while a negative trend was observed in small chains (-0.4%).

National Occupation Indices

	Index	% variation among		
		Previous month	Same month previous year	Year-to-Date Average
General index	103.3	-0.7	1.5	1.6
1. Companies with a single outlet	100.3	-0.2	0.6	0.7
2. Small Chains	102.1	-1.0	-0.4	-0.3
3. Large Chains	113.9	-1.3	5.0	5.1
4. Department Stores	105.7	-1.7	4.9	4.9

Castilla y León registers the greatest employment rate increase as compared with the same month the previous year

By Autonomous Community, the greatest interannual employment increases were accounted for in Castilla y León (2.8%) and Principado de Asturias (2.4%).

The lowest growth rates were recorded in Illes Balears (0.5%), Comunitat Valenciana (0.5%), Galicia (0.2%) and País Vasco (0.1%).

Employment Indices by Autonomous Community

	Index	% variation among		
		Previous month	Same month previous year	Year-to-Date Average
National total	103.3	-0.7	1.5	1.6
Andalucía	101.1	-0.9	1.5	1.6
Aragón	104.5	-0.8	1.4	1.8
Asturias (Principado de)	104.2	-0.7	2.4	2.7
Balears (Illes)	97.5	-1.1	0.5	0.3
Canarias	102.8	-0.7	0.8	0.7
Cantabria	105.9	-0.7	1.6	1.8
Castilla y León	105.1	-1.0	2.8	3.4
Castilla-La Mancha	106.0	-0.1	2.3	2.2
Cataluña	102.0	-0.5	2.2	2.2
Comunitat Valenciana	101.6	-0.6	0.5	0.7
Extremadura	104.9	0.0	1.4	1.5
Galicia	105.0	0.0	0.2	0.3
Madrid (Comunidad de)	105.7	-0.6	1.9	1.8
Murcia (Región de)	110.4	-1.3	2.3	2.4
Navarra (Comunidad Foral de)	106.0	-0.6	1.8	2.1
País Vasco	102.8	-1.2	0.1	0.3
Rioja (La)	103.2	-1.1	0.9	2.1
Ceuta	104.3	-0.4	2.7	3.1
Melilla	103.3	-0.5	0.5	1.0

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Press office: Telephone: 91 583 93 63 / 94 08 – Fax: 91 583 90 87 - gprensa@ine.es

Information area: Telephone: 91 583 91 00 – Fax: 91 583 91 58 – www.ine.es/infoine