

29 April 2008

Retail Trade Indices. Base 2005
March 2008. Provisional data

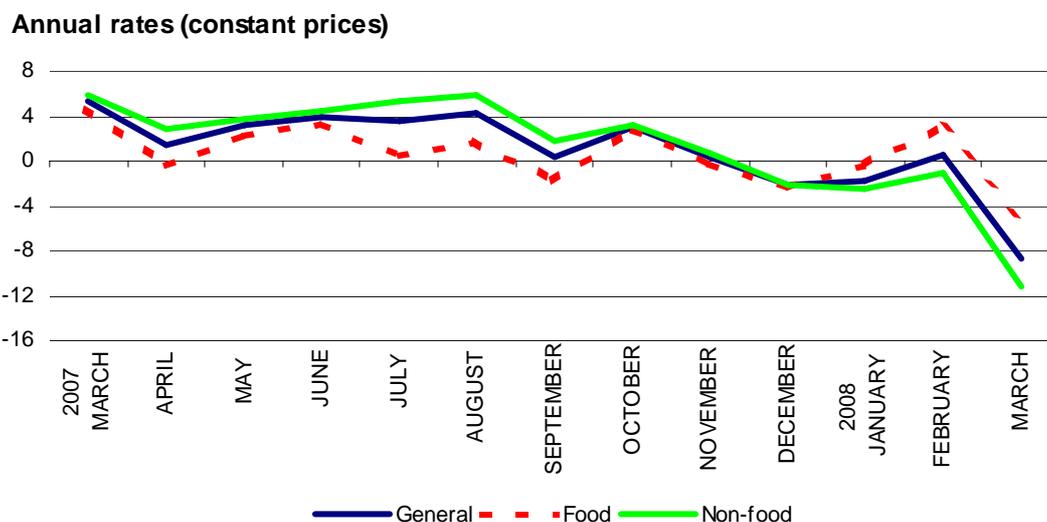
Retail trade at constant prices decreases 8.7% in March, as compared to the same month in 2007

The general retail trade index in constant terms (in other words, after adjusting for the price effect) registered an 8.7% interannual decrease in the month of March. Foodstuffs increased 5.1%, while non-food products decreased 11.2%. A breakdown of the latter by type of product showed the following rates: -6.0% for *Personal Goods*, -17.1% in *Furniture and household equipment* and -8.2% in *Other goods*.

Eliminating the calendar effect, the Retail Trade Index at constant prices decreased 5.5%. The calendar effect for this month was determined both by the difference in number of working days and by Easter, which this year fell in March, whereas in 2007 it fell in April.

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	103.6	-4.4	1.1	95.4	-8.7	-3.4
1. Foodstuffs	112.0	1.1	5.5	98.9	-5.1	-1.0
2. Non-food products	98.4	-8.0	-1.6	93.0	-11.2	-4.9
2.1 Personal goods	96.1	-5.2	0.7	97.5	-6.0	-0.1
2.2 Furniture household equipment	95.3	-15.0	-6.7	89.1	-17.1	-9.0
2.3 Other goods	101.9	-4.8	0.2	96.3	-8.2	-3.1
General Index: Calendar effects corrected	106.5	-0.9	0.9	97.9	-5.5	-3.6



Large chains are the means of commercial distribution of which sales decrease the least as compared with the previous year at constant prices

The breakdown of the general index of the retail sector by different means of distribution shows that large chains recorded the lowest negative interannual rate at constant prices (-2.4%), followed by department stores (-7.8%).

In contrast, companies with a single outlet and small chains recorded a more pronounced decrease in retail sales as compared with the previous year at constant terms, with rates of -11.2% and -11.4%, 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	103.6	-4.4	1.1	95.4	-8.7	-3.4
1. Companies with a single outlet	99.2	-7.0	-2.0	91.3	-11.2	-6.3
2. Small Chains	98.5	-7.2	-0.2	90.7	-11.4	-4.6
3. Large Chains	122.2	2.3	7.7	112.5	-2.4	2.9
4. Department Stores	99.4	-3.4	1.6	91.5	-7.8	-2.9

Sales in department stores present a 7.8% decrease 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 7.8% interannual decrease at constant prices in March. Foodstuffs decreased 4.1% and non-food products decreased 9.6%.

After adjusting for the calendar effect, sales of department stores decreased 6.6%.

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	99.4	-3.4	1.6	91.5	-7.8	-2.9
1. Foodstuffs	108.7	2.2	5.9	96.0	-4.1	-0.6
2. Non-food products	94.8	-6.3	-0.3	89.6	-9.6	-3.6
General Index: Calendar effects corrected	100.1	-2.1	1.0	92.1	-6.6	-3.4

Generalised decrease in retail sales in Autonomous Communities

All Autonomous Communities decreased their sales in constant terms, as compared with the same month the previous year. The Communities recording the lowest decreases were Extremadura (-2,9%) and Castilla-La Mancha (-3,4%). On the other hand, those registering the greatest decreases were Comunidad de Madrid and País Vasco (both with -11.7%) and Cataluña (-10.9%).

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	103.6	-4.4	1.1	95.4	-8.7	-3.4
Andalucía	104.4	-3.4	1.3	96.1	-7.7	-3.1
Aragón	108.5	-0.9	3.4	99.5	-5.5	-1.4
Asturias (Principado de)	107.8	0.3	3.3	99.9	-4.2	-1.3
Balears (Illes)	91.3	-1.6	1.8	84.5	-5.7	-2.4
Canarias	104.5	-3.3	-0.1	96.4	-8.1	-4.6
Cantabria	103.6	-1.5	0.9	94.6	-6.6	-4.2
Castilla y León	105.5	0.8	4.5	96.3	-4.3	-0.6
Castilla-La Mancha	113.8	1.6	6.3	104.3	-3.4	1.1
Cataluña	102.3	-6.6	0.0	94.2	-10.9	-4.4
Comunitat Valenciana	101.5	-4.5	0.5	93.7	-8.6	-3.7
Extremadura	112.1	1.7	4.7	103.6	-2.9	0.0
Galicia	102.4	-3.9	1.1	94.2	-8.4	-3.5
Madrid (Comunidad de)	103.3	-7.8	0.0	95.4	-11.7	-4.2
Murcia (Región de)	107.9	-3.8	0.0	98.8	-8.1	-4.5
Navarra (Comunidad Foral de)	103.8	-4.6	2.5	96.3	-8.8	-1.9
País Vasco	102.2	-7.5	-0.4	94.1	-11.7	-4.8
Rioja (La)	107.7	0.0	3.2	99.2	-4.6	-1.4
Ceuta	109.8	2.1	5.7	101.2	-2.0	1.7
Melilla	103.6	-7.1	-0.5	94.8	-10.6	-4.0

Employment in the retail sector increases 1.2% in March

During March 2008, the retail trade sector employment index (showing the evolution of employment, for both employees and self-employed workers) yielded a 1.2% interannual variation rate for the whole of the sector. Large chains (4.4%) and department stores (4.8%) recorded the highest interannual rates, while a negative trend was observed in small chains (0.8%).

National Occupation Indices

	Index	% variation among		
		Previous month	Same month previous year	Year-to-Date Average
General index	103.3	0.0	1.2	1.5
1. Companies with a single outlet	100.3	-0.1	0.4	0.6
2. Small Chains	102.6	0.4	-0.8	-0.4
3. Large Chains	113.8	-0.1	4.4	4.9
4. Department Stores	105.4	-0.2	4.8	4.8

Principado de Asturias 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 Principado de Asturias (2.9%) and Extremadura (2.4%).

The lowest growth rates were recorded in Galicia (0.4%) and Aragón, Illes Balears and País Vasco, all of which stood at 0.6%.

In Comunitat Valenciana employment recorded a rate of 0.0%.

Employment Indices by Autonomous Community

	Index	% variation among		
		Previous month	Same month previous year	Year-to-Date Average
National total	103.3	0.0	1.2	1.5
Andalucía	101.0	-0.2	0.8	1.4
Aragón	103.8	-0.6	0.6	1.4
Asturias (Principado de)	105.0	0.7	2.9	2.8
Balears (Illes)	98.9	1.8	0.6	0.3
Canarias	102.8	-0.4	1.0	0.9
Cantabria	105.9	0.0	1.1	1.5
Castilla y León	104.8	-0.4	1.9	2.9
Castilla-La Mancha	105.6	-0.4	1.6	2.0
Cataluña	102.4	0.2	1.6	2.0
Comunitat Valenciana	102.0	0.5	0.0	0.4
Extremadura	105.1	0.1	2.4	1.9
Galicia	104.8	-0.2	0.4	0.3
Madrid (Comunidad de)	105.5	-0.3	2.0	1.9
Murcia (Región de)	109.6	-0.9	0.7	1.9
Navarra (Comunidad Foral de)	106.1	0.1	1.5	1.9
País Vasco	103.1	0.4	0.6	0.4
Rioja (La)	103.0	-0.2	0.9	1.7
Ceuta	104.0	-0.3	1.6	2.6
Melilla	103.4	0.6	1.2	0.9

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