

29 September 2008

**Retail Trade Index. Base 2005
August 2008. Provisional data**

Retail trade at constant prices decreases 7.5% in August, as compared with the same month in 2007

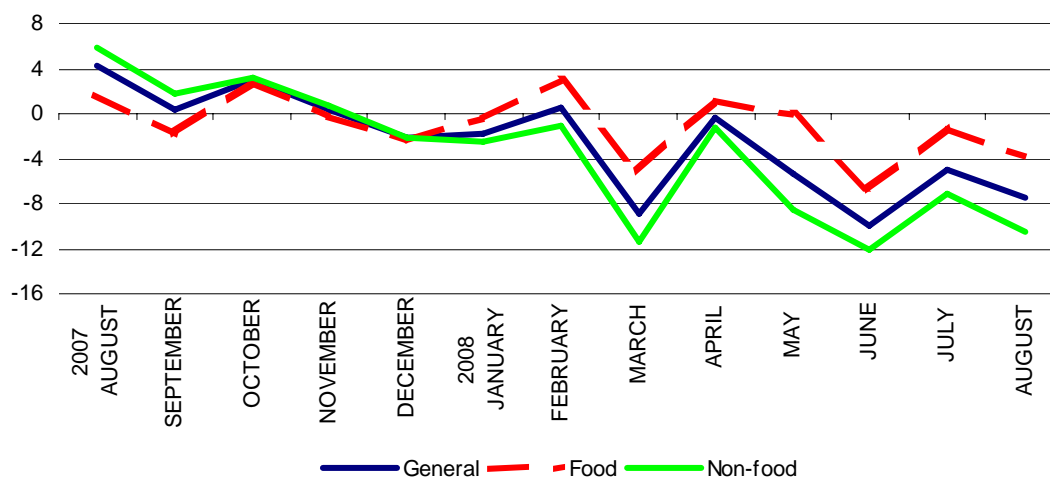
The general retail trade index in constant terms (in other words, after adjusting the prices' effect) registered an interannual decrease of 7.5% in sales in the month of August. Food products decreased 3.8%, and non-food products fell 10.5%. A breakdown of the latter by type of product revealed rates of -5.6% in Personal equipment, -15.8% in Household equipment and -6.3% in Other goods.

After eliminating the calendar effect, that is, the difference between the number of working days in a given month in different years, the retail trade index at constant prices showed a 5.9% decrease.

National indices: general and by group

	Index	% variation on previous year		Deflated Index	% variation on previous year	
		Same month	Year-to-Date Average		Same month	Year-to-Date Average
General Index	100.0	-2.6	0.0	91.0	-7.5	-4.8
1. Food products	115.2	2.5	4.7	100.4	-3.8	-1.8
2. Non-food products	90.5	-6.3	-2.9	84.5	-10.5	-6.8
2.1 Personal equipment	87.5	-5.2	-1.3	91.7	-5.6	-1.8
2.2 Household equipment	86.0	-13.7	-9.1	79.7	-15.8	-11.3
2.3 Other goods	95.4	-2.0	0.1	89.1	-6.3	-3.9
General Index: Adjusted for calendar effect	102.2	-0.9	-0.2	93.0	-5.9	-5.0

Annual rates (constant prices)



All distribution classes decrease their sales as compared with the previous year

The breakdown of the general index of the retail sector, by distribution class, showed that all trade formulas decreased their sales as compared with the previous year. Large chain stores showed the smallest negative interannual rate (-2,6%).

General indices by type of distribution

	Index	% variation on previous year		Deflated Index	% variation on previous year	
		Same month	Year-to-Date Average		Same month	Year-to-Date Average
General Index	100.0	-2.6	0.0	91.0	-7.5	-4.8
1. Single retail stores	88.3	-3.4	-2.2	80.3	-8.3	-6.9
2. Small chain stores	95.7	-7.0	-2.5	87.0	-11.7	-7.2
3. Large chain stores	127.1	2.6	6.3	115.6	-2.6	1.2
4. Department stores	105.3	-2.8	0.1	95.8	-7.7	-4.7

Sales in department stores experience an interannual decrease of 7.7% at constant prices

The general department store index, which reflects the behaviour of sales in premises larger than 2,500m², registered an interannual decrease of 7.7% in constant terms in August. Food products and non-food products decreased 0.6% and 11.2%, respectively.

After adjusting for the calendar effect, sales in department stores decreased 6.7%.

Department store index: general and by group

	Index	% variation on previous year		Deflated Index	% variation on previous year	
		Same month	Year-to-Date Average		Same month	Year-to-Date Average
General Index	105.3	-2.8	0.1	95.8	-7.7	-4.7
1. Food products	115.4	5.9	6.4	100.6	-0.6	-0.1
2. Non-food products	100.4	-7.1	-2.9	93.7	-11.2	-6.7
General Index:						
Adjusted for calendar effect	106.9	-1.7	-0.1	97.1	-6.7	-4.9

Retail sales decrease in all Autonomous Communities

In all Autonomous Communities, retail sales decreased in constant terms, as compared with the same month the previous year. The Communities registering the smallest decreases were Extremadura (-3.6%), Principado de Asturias (-4.1%) and Castilla-La Mancha (-4.5%). In turn, those registering the largest decreases were Canarias (-10.9%) and Iles Balears (-10.2%).

Indices by Autonomous Community

	Index	% variation on previous year		Deflated Index	% variation on previous year	
		Same month	Year-to-Date Average		Same month	Year-to-Date Average
National total	100.0	-2.6	0.0	91.0	-7.5	-4.8
Andalucía	104.7	-2.4	0.1	95.4	-7.1	-4.6
Aragón	103.3	-0.3	2.3	93.5	-5.8	-2.9
Asturias (Principado de)	111.6	0.9	2.6	102.0	-4.1	-2.4
Balears (Illes)	125.1	-5.9	-0.2	114.1	-10.2	-4.7
Canarias	103.3	-5.1	-1.2	93.8	-10.9	-6.5
Cantabria	121.2	-3.3	0.7	109.1	-8.4	-4.7
Castilla y León	112.7	-0.1	3.3	101.5	-5.6	-2.1
Castilla-La Mancha	111.2	1.2	4.7	100.5	-4.5	-0.9
Cataluña	93.1	-3.1	-0.9	84.5	-8.0	-5.6
Comunitat Valenciana	105.2	-2.5	-0.5	95.8	-7.3	-5.1
Extremadura	113.5	1.7	3.5	103.5	-3.6	-1.6
Galicia	114.3	-2.0	-0.4	104.1	-7.2	-5.5
Madrid (Comunidad de)	80.0	-3.8	-1.2	73.1	-8.5	-5.7
Murcia (Región de)	103.0	-4.0	-1.9	93.2	-8.9	-6.6
Navarra (Comunidad Foral de)	108.5	-4.1	1.3	99.5	-8.8	-3.5
País Vasco	88.4	-1.2	0.6	80.7	-6.2	-4.1
Rioja (La)	104.1	-3.8	0.5	94.4	-8.7	-4.3
Ceuta	109.1	-3.8	2.3	100.1	-8.3	-2.1
Melilla	107.6	-5.1	-1.5	98.3	-9.4	-5.5

Employment in the retail sector decreases 0.5% in August

In August 2008, the retail trade sector employment index (which shows the evolution for both paid and unpaid workers) registered an interannual variation rate of -0.5% for the sector as a whole. Large chain stores (2.0%) and department stores (1.3%) were the only distribution classes registering positive interannual rates.

National Employment Indices

	Index	% variation on		
		Previous month	Same month previous year	Year-to-Date Average
General index	104.2	-0.5	-0.5	0.7
1. Single retail stores	100.3	-0.3	-0.3	0.1
2. Small chain stores	102.9	-0.2	-3.7	-1.4
3. Large chain stores	115.9	-0.9	2.0	3.9
4. Department stores	110.4	-1.1	1.3	3.6

Principado de Asturias registers the highest interannual employment growth rate

By Autonomous Community, employment recorded the greatest interannual increases in Principado de Asturias (2.2%), Castilla-La Mancha (1.0%) and Comunidad Foral de Navarra (0.5%).

Among the Communities registering negative variation rates, the largest decreases were recorded in Illes Balears (-2.9%), and Región de Murcia (-1.9%).

Employment Indices by Autonomous Community

	Index	% variation on		
		Previous month	Same month previous year	Year-to-Date Average
National total	104.2	-0.5	-0.5	0.7
Andalucía	101.7	-1.0	-1.1	0.6
Aragón	104.5	-0.2	-1.5	0.2
Asturias (Principado de)	107.7	0.2	2.2	2.6
Balears (Illes)	105.7	0.0	-2.9	-0.8
Canarias	102.0	-0.5	-1.5	0.3
Cantabria	107.5	-0.4	-1.4	0.4
Castilla y León	106.1	0.1	0.3	1.7
Castilla-La Mancha	106.5	0.6	1.0	1.4
Cataluña	103.4	-0.2	0.0	1.0
Comunitat Valenciana	103.5	-0.6	-1.2	-0.1
Extremadura	105.3	0.5	-0.3	1.2
Galicia	107.0	-0.3	-0.3	0.0
Madrid (Comunidad de)	104.6	-0.8	0.2	1.4
Murcia (Región de)	111.6	-0.8	-1.9	0.2
Navarra (Comunidad Foral de)	106.8	-1.0	0.5	1.8
País Vasco	103.1	-0.5	0.0	0.6
Rioja (La)	102.5	-0.3	-0.9	0.3
Ceuta	104.1	-0.6	-0.2	1.1
Melilla	101.3	-1.1	-1.7	-0.2

Methodological note

The evolution of the different classes of trade distribution raises the need to study the retail trade sector according to the characteristics of the company, in particular regarding the number of premises or establishments through which sales to final consumers are made.

For this purpose, the National Statistics Institute has extended its analysis, not only studying Department Stores, that is, sales made in premises larger than 2,500 m², but also differentiating between *single retail stores*, *small chain stores* and *large chain stores*. The definitions used for each are as follows:

- **Single retail stores:** those that carry out their trade activity through a single premises that is smaller than 2,500 metres square.
- **Small chain stores:** those companies with more than one premises, with the exception of those with 25 premises or more and 50 employees or more. The small chain store index measures the evolution of the turnover that these companies obtain in their premises that are smaller than 2,500 metres square.
- **Large chain stores:** are companies with 25 or more outlets and 50 or more employees. The large chain store index measures the evolution of the turnover that these companies obtain in their premises which are smaller than 2,500 metres square.

The indices compiled for each of these groups follow the methodology used in the rest of the indicators compiled for retail trade, and they are published only on a national level, both at current prices and at constant prices. The base year is the year 2005, and data is available as of January 2006, which may be viewed on the INE website.

For further information see INEbase-www.ine.es/en/welcome_en.htm All press releases at: www.ine.es/en/prensa/prensa_en.htm

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
