

27 November 2008

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

**Retail trade at constant prices decreases 6.9% in October, as compared with the same month in 2007**

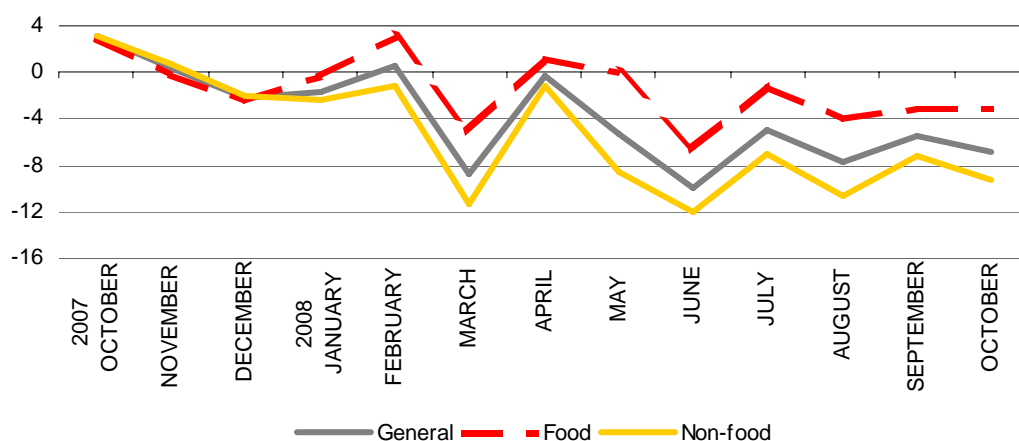
The general retail trade index in constant terms (in other words, after adjusting the prices' effect) registered an interannual decrease of 6.9% in sales in the month of October. Food products decreased 3.1%, and non-food products fell 9.3%. A breakdown of the latter by type of product revealed rates of -7.6% in Personal equipment, -14.8% in Household equipment and -5.6% 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 an 8.0% 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
<b>General Index</b>	<b>108.3</b>	<b>-3.9</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>97.7</b>	<b>-6.9</b>	<b>-5.1</b>
1. Food products	114.1	0.7	4.1	99.3	-3.1	-2.0
2. Non-food products	104.7	-6.9	-3.4	96.6	-9.3	-7.1
2.1 Personal equipment	112.8	-7.0	-2.1	104.4	-7.6	-2.6
2.2 Household equipment	95.5	-12.5	-9.5	87.8	-14.8	-11.8
2.3 Other goods	105.5	-3.0	-0.2	97.3	-5.6	-4.0
<b>General Index: Adjusted for calendar effect</b>	<b>107.8</b>	<b>-5.0</b>	<b>-0.9</b>	<b>97.2</b>	<b>-8.0</b>	<b>-5.5</b>

**Annual rates (constant prices)**



## All forms of trade distribution decrease their sales as compared with the previous year

The breakdown of the deflated general index of the retail sector, by distribution class, showed that all trade formulas decreased their sales as compared with the previous year. The smallest decrease was registered by large chain stores, showing a rate of -0.3%.

### 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
<b>General Index</b>	<b>108.3</b>	<b>-3.9</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>97.7</b>	<b>-6.9</b>	<b>-5.1</b>
1. Single retail stores	102.4	-5.5	-2.7	92.3	-8.5	-7.1
2. Small chain stores	103.2	-9.4	-3.7	93.1	-12.2	-8.1
3. Large chain stores	131.8	2.9	5.9	118.8	-0.3	1.0
4. Department stores	101.4	-3.9	-0.4	91.5	-6.9	-5.0

## Sales in department stores experience an interannual decrease of 6.9% at constant prices

The general department store index, which reflects the behaviour of sales in premises larger than 2,500m<sup>2</sup>, registered an interannual decrease of 6.9% in constant terms in October. Food products and non-food products decreased 2.4% and 9.1%, respectively.

After adjusting for the calendar effect, sales in department stores decreased 7.6%.

### 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
<b>General Index</b>	<b>101.4</b>	<b>-3.9</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>91.5</b>	<b>-6.9</b>	<b>-5.0</b>
1. Food products	108.4	1.5	5.7	94.4	-2.4	-0.5
2. Non-food products	98.0	-6.6	-3.3	90.4	-9.1	-7.0
<b>General Index: Adjusted for calendar effect</b>	<b>101.1</b>	<b>-4.6</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>91.2</b>	<b>-7.6</b>	<b>-5.3</b>

## Overall 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 Principado de Asturias (-1.6%), Galicia (-3.7%) and Extremadura (-3.9%). In turn, those registering the largest decreases were Canarias (-9.6%), Comunidad de Madrid (-9.2%) and Región de Murcia (-9.0%).

## 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
<b>National total</b>	108.3	-3.9	-0.5	97.7	-6.9	-5.1
Andalucía	105.5	-4.5	-0.4	95.3	-7.3	-4.8
Aragón	111.7	-3.2	1.7	100.0	-6.6	-3.3
Asturias (Principado de)	113.1	1.7	2.6	102.4	-1.6	-2.2
Balears (Illes)	105.3	-4.5	-1.0	96.1	-7.3	-5.3
Canarias	101.5	-5.6	-1.9	91.8	-9.6	-7.0
Cantabria	105.5	-4.9	0.2	94.6	-7.9	-4.8
Castilla y León	110.5	-1.5	2.9	98.8	-4.7	-2.3
Castilla-La Mancha	118.9	-2.0	3.7	106.7	-5.1	-1.6
Cataluña	106.4	-4.2	-1.4	95.8	-7.3	-5.9
Comunitat Valenciana	105.2	-3.7	-1.1	95.1	-6.5	-5.5
Extremadura	114.2	-0.9	2.9	102.9	-3.9	-1.9
Galicia	113.7	-0.6	-0.4	102.3	-3.7	-5.3
Madrid (Comunidad de)	109.9	-6.7	-2.0	99.8	-9.2	-6.3
Murcia (Región de)	110.0	-6.1	-2.5	98.4	-9.0	-6.9
Navarra (Comunidad Foral de)	115.4	-1.6	1.2	105.1	-4.5	-3.3
País Vasco	112.1	-0.8	0.6	100.6	-4.1	-4.0
Rioja (La)	111.4	-4.0	-0.2	99.6	-7.3	-4.8
Ceuta	111.7	1.5	1.9	100.6	-1.9	-2.3
Melilla	108.9	-5.2	-1.8	97.2	-8.1	-5.7

## Employment in the retail sector decreases 1.4% in October

In October 2008, the retail trade sector employment index (which shows the evolution for both paid and unpaid workers) registered an interannual variation rate of -1.4% for the sector as a whole. Large chain stores was the only distribution classes registering positive interannual rate (1.4%).

## National Employment Indices

	Index	% variation on		
		Previous month	Same month previous year	Year-to-Date Average
<b>General index</b>	<b>102.3</b>	<b>-0.9</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>0.4</b>
1. Single retail stores	99.7	-0.3	-0.6	0.0
2. Small chain stores	99.3	-1.4	-4.8	-2.0
3. Large chain stores	115.3	-0.3	1.4	3.6
4. Department stores	103.0	-3.8	-3.2	2.5

### Principado de Asturias registers the highest interannual employment growth rate

By Autonomous Community, employment recorded interannual increases in Principado de Asturias (0.9%), Comunidad Foral de Navarra (0.5%), Galicia (0.3%) and País Vasco (0.1%).

Among the Communities registering negative variation rates, the largest decreases were recorded in Cantabria (-3.3%) and Illes Balears (-3.2%).

### Employment Indices by Autonomous Community

	Index	% variation on		
		Previous month	Same month previous year	Year-to-Date Average
<b>National total</b>	102.3	-0.9	-1.4	0.4
Andalucía	100.0	-1.5	-2.4	0.2
Aragón	102.6	-0.6	-2.6	-0.3
Asturias (Principado de)	105.4	-0.5	0.9	2.3
Balears (Illes)	101.8	-2.7	-3.2	-1.3
Canarias	100.2	-0.8	-2.6	-0.4
Cantabria	104.6	-1.1	-3.3	-0.2
Castilla y León	104.4	-0.9	-0.5	1.4
Castilla-La Mancha	104.5	-1.2	-0.9	1.1
Cataluña	100.9	-0.5	-0.5	0.8
Comunitat Valenciana	101.0	-0.7	-1.6	-0.3
Extremadura	104.1	-0.6	0.0	1.0
Galicia	105.4	-0.9	0.3	0.1
Madrid (Comunidad de)	104.0	-0.7	-1.7	1.0
Murcia (Región de)	108.3	-1.2	-2.8	-0.4
Navarra (Comunidad Foral de)	105.9	-0.1	0.5	1.6
País Vasco	103.0	-0.4	0.1	0.5
Rioja (La)	101.2	0.1	-1.3	0.0
Ceuta	104.7	0.0	-0.2	0.8
Melilla	100.2	-0.6	-3.2	-0.8

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## 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 m<sup>2</sup>, 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.