

Sales in the retail trade sector of the Basque Country dropped by 0.9% in the first quarter of 2012

Sales, not including service stations, were down by 1.8%

The retail trade sector of the Basque Country registered a 0.9% drop in nominal sales in the first quarter of 2012 with regards to the same period of the previous year, according to data provided by Eustat.

Sales in the sector, not including service stations, were down by 1.8% in year-on-year terms.

With respect to the previous quarter, the sales index was up a nominal 0.1%, once any seasonal effects had been eliminated.

**Table 1. Year-on-year nominal growth rates. Basque Country.
Data corrected for calendar effects.**

Year	Quarter	Basque Country	Araba/Álava	Bizkaia	Gipuzkoa
2010	II	1,6	1,9	0,3	3,4
	III	-1,5	-1,2	-1,4	-1,8
	IV	-0,2	1,0	-1,0	0,5
2011	I	-2,1	-1,9	-2,6	-1,3
	II	-0,5	2,1	-1,2	-0,5
	III	0,1	-0,4	-0,4	1,0
	IV	-1,3	0,3	-1,2	-2,3
2012	I	-0,9	0,2	-0,9	-1,2

Source: EUSTAT. Retail Trade Index of the Basque Country

By sector, nominal sales in specialised retail trade fell by 1.7% in the first quarter of 2012, whilst non-specialised retail trade rose by 0.7% with regards to the same period in 2011.

Within specialised retail trade, the performance of Other Consumer Goods was particularly noteworthy, with a nominal rise of 1.1%. The other sectors posted downturns in their sales. Sales of Food products fell by 2.6%, the Personal Equipment sector saw its sales fall by 2.5% and those for the Household Equipment sector were down by 6.9%. In the non-specialised retail trade sector, sales of establishments selling mainly food rose by 1.1% and those of establishments selling predominantly other products were down 2.2%.

By Provinces, the highest overall growth in retail sector nominal sales in the first quarter of 2012 was in Gipuzkoa, with a 1.2% year-on-year decrease. Nominal sales in Bizkaia were down by 0.9%, whilst in Álava they were up by 0.2%.

In constant prices, or prices without the price effect, sales of the retail sales sector fell by 2.1% in the first quarter.

Retail trade sales, not including service stations, posted a real downturn of 1.9% compared to the same quarter of the previous year.

In the first quarter of 2012, real retail trade sales in the Basque Country saw a drop of 0.1% with regards to the fourth quarter of 2011, once seasonal effects had been eliminated.

In turn, the real decrease in specialised retail trade was 2.7%, and in non-specialised retail trade this real decrease was 0.9% with regards to the same quarter in 2011.

Within specialised retail trade year-on-year growth was negative in all sectors except for Personal Equipment, which experienced an increase of 0.5%. Household Equipment fell by 5.9%, sales of Food products fell by 4.9% and Other Consumer Goods also saw a drop of 3.6%, all in real terms.

As far as the non-specialised retail trade sector was concerned, year-on-year sales of food products fell by 0.3%, whilst those coming under Other Products were down by 4.4%, in constant euros.

The three Provinces posted decreases in sales in real terms: in Gipuzkoa they fell by 2.7%, in Álava by 2.3% and in Bizkaia by 1.6%.

The number of people employed in the retail trade sector in the Basque Country overall in the first quarter of 2012 was down by 0.6% on the fourth quarter of 2011.

For further information:

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Retail Trade Index of the Basque Country (ICIm) databank