

***This press release has been revised due to an error in the deflation process of the specialised food establishments series***

## **Sales in the retail trade sector of the Basque Country were down 0.4% in the first quarter of 2021**

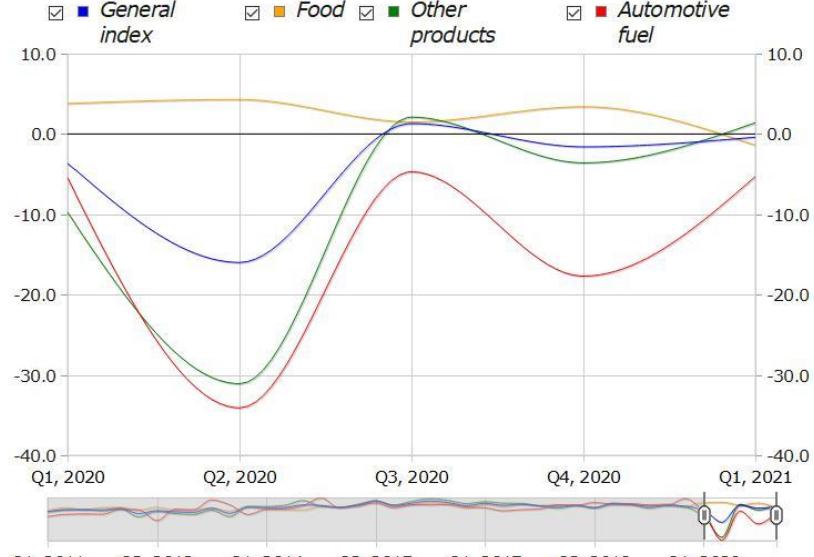
***In relation to the previous quarter, sales remained constant (0.0% variation)***

In the first quarter of 2021 sales in the retail trade sector of the Basque Country fell by 0.4% compared to the same quarter of the previous year, once corrected for calendar effects and at constant prices, according to Eustat data. Sales in the sector, not including service stations, remained at the same level as in the previous quarter of 2020 (0.0% year-on-year variation).

Compared to the previous quarter, and once any seasonal effects had been eliminated, the sales index in the first quarter of 2021 remained unchanged (0.0% quarter-on-quarter variation)

### **Year-on-year variation rate of the retail trade index of the Basque Country (%)**

**Constant prices**



Source: Eustat. Retail trade index (ICIm)

By sectors, in relation to the first quarter of 2020 and once the price and calendar effects had been discounted, sales of *Automotive Fuel* fell by 5.3% in the first quarter of 2021, whereas *Food* sales were down 1.4%. As regards sales of *Other Products*, the trend was the opposite, increasing by 1.4%. It should be borne in mind that on 14

March 2020 a state of emergency was decreed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which meant retail trade sector activity changed significantly.

Compared to the fourth quarter of 2020, in deseasonalised terms, *Food* sales fell by 0.6%, while sales of *Automotive Fuel* and *Other Products* increased by 1.4% and 0.7%, respectively.

Within the *Food* retail trade, *Specialised trade in food, beverages and tobacco* (establishments such as greengrocers, butchers, fishmongers, etc.) shrank by 1.6% in relation to the first quarter of 2020, and retail trade that is *Non-specialised with food, beverages or tobacco predominating* (basically supermarkets and hypermarkets), decreased by 1.3%.

**Retail trade index of the Basque Country. Year-on-year and quarter-on-quarter growth rates. I/2021 (p)**

	CONSTANT PRICES		
	q / q-4	q / q-1	A (q) / A (q-4)
<b>SALES INDEX by historic territory</b>			
<b>Basque Country</b>	<b>-0,4</b>	<b>0,0</b>	<b>-0,4</b>
Araba/Álava	4,0	1,2	4,0
Bizkaia	-1,3	-0,3	-1,3
Gipuzkoa	-1,2	-0,1	-1,2
<b>SALES INDEX by sector</b>			
<b>Food</b>	<b>-1,4</b>	<b>-0,6</b>	<b>-1,4</b>
Specialized in food	-1,6	-0,4	-1,6
Non especialized but predominantly food	-1,3	-1,5	-1,3
<b>Rest of products</b>	<b>1,4</b>	<b>0,7</b>	<b>1,4</b>
Specialized in personal equipment	-9,0	5,2	-9,0
Specialized in household equipment	16,5	3,7	16,5
Specialized in other consumer goods	6,0	0,6	6,0
Non specialized but predominantly non food products	-2,6	1,0	-2,6
<b>Automotive fuel in specialised stores</b>	<b>-5,3</b>	<b>1,4</b>	<b>-5,3</b>
SALES INDEX except automotive fuel	0,0	0,0	0,0
<b>EMPLOYMENT INDEX</b>			
<b>Basque Country</b>	<b>-4,4</b>	<b>-1,3</b>	<b>-4,4</b>

(p) provisional data

q / q-4 Year-on-year growth. Data corrected for calendar effects

q / q-1 Quarter-on-quarter growth. Seasonally adjusted data

Aq / A(q-4) Year-on-year variation rate in the accumulated period from the 1st quarter to the last quarter observed (Aq) with regards to the same accumulated period in the previous year (A(q-4))

**Source: Eustat. Retail trade index (ICIIm)**

In retail trade of *Other products*, at constant prices and once corrected for calendar effects, the performance of sales in the first quarter of 2021 in relation to the same quarter of 2020 was disparate. Thus, specialised trade in *Household goods* which includes, among others, domestic appliances, furniture and telecommunications equipment, rose by 16.5% and specialised retail trade in *Other consumer goods* (books, stationary items, toys and sports items, for example), increased by 6.0%. Conversely, specialised trade in *Personal goods* (clothes, footwear and pharmaceutical products, for example) fell by 9.0% and *Non-specialised trade with other products predominating* was down 2.6%.

By province, the sales index for the first quarter of 2021 registered a year-on-year increase in the province of Álava of 4.0%, whereas in Gipuzkoa and Bizkaia it was down by 1.2% and 1.3%, respectively. The month-on-month evolution was similar, but

to a lesser degree, given that in Álava sales increased by 1.2%, whereas in Bizkaia they were down 0.3% and in Gipuzkoa sales fell by 0.1%.

The number of people employed in the retail trade sector in the Basque Country overall in the first quarter of 2021 was down 4.4% on the first quarter of the previous year. Compared to the fourth quarter of 2020, there was a drop of 1.3%.

**NOTE:**

Included as persons employed considered in this and other short-term indices, are those covered by an ERTE (Temporary Labour Force Adjustment Plan), following the definition of persons employed indicated by the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat) in its manual [Methodology of Short Term Business Statistics](#).

The models used in the correction of calendar effects and deseasonalisation of the series include the effect of COVID-19 on the variables studied, following the recommendations of the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat) (Eurostat) in its methodological note [Guidance on Time Series Treatment in the context of the COVID-19 crisis](#).

Eustat would like to thank all the establishments that have collaborated with gathering information. As a result, the index for the first quarter was calculated with **93.3% coverage** of the sample – whose information was collected during April.

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**For further information:**

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