

Retail sector sales in the Basque Country were up 0.3% in the fourth quarter of 2022, although excluding service stations they were down 1.2%

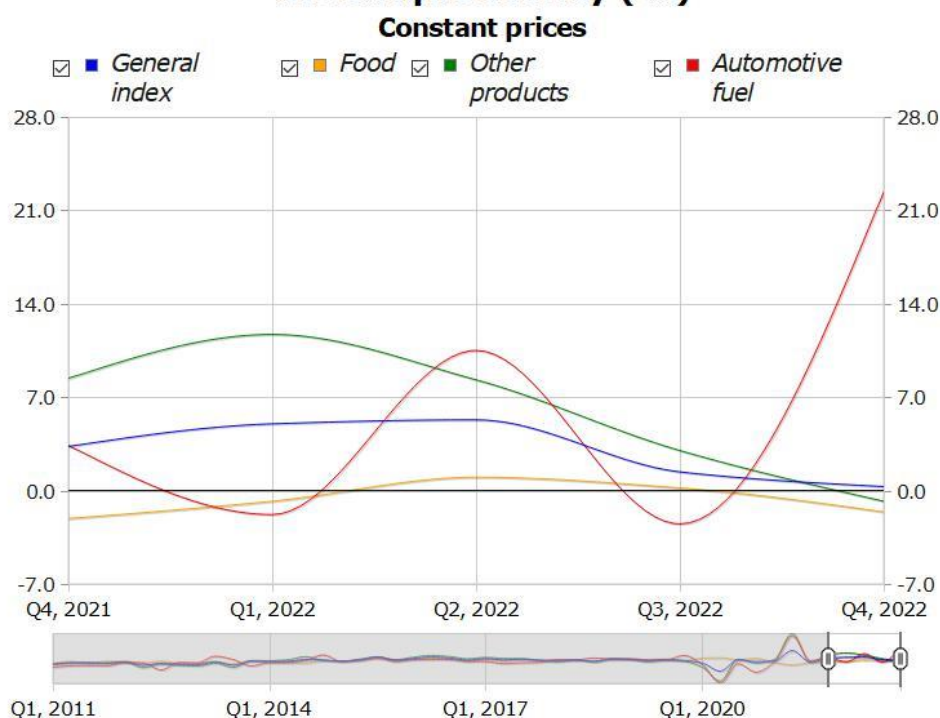
Over the year as a whole, sales increased by 2.9%

The retail sector in the Basque Country increased sales by 0.3% in the fourth quarter of 2022 compared to the same quarter of the previous year, once corrected for calendar effects and at constant prices, according to Eustat data.

Without considering service stations, total sales decreased by 1.2% during the last quarter of 2022 in relation to the same quarter of the previous year.

Compared to the previous quarter, and once any seasonal effects had been eliminated, the sales index in the fourth quarter of 2022 fell by 0.1%

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



Source: Eustat. Retail trade index (ICIm)

By sector, compared to the fourth quarter of 2021, sales at constant prices in *Food products* were down 1.6% in year-on-year terms. In *Other Products*, the decrease in sales compared to the last quarter of 2021 was 0.8% during the fourth quarter of 2022.

In contrast, sales in the *Automotive Fuel* sector were 22.4% higher than the last quarter of the previous year.

Compared to the first quarter of 2022, in deseasonalised terms and at constant prices, sales in *Automotive Fuel* and in *Other Products* rose by 5.3% and 0.9% respectively. However, sales of *Food products* decreased by 1.4% in year-on-year terms.

Retail Trade Index in the Basque Country. Inter-annual and inter-mensual variation rates (p). 2022/IV

	Constant prices		
	t / t-4	t / t-1	At / At-4
SALES INDEX by historic territory			
Basque Country	0.3	-0.1	2.9
Araba/Álava	0.6	0.9	-0.1
Bizkaia	2.8	0.8	3.2
Gipuzkoa	-3.6	-1.8	3.7
SALES INDEX by sector			
Foodstuffs	-1.6	-1.4	-0.4
Establishments specialized in food	-6.2	-1.6	-1.3
Nonspecialist establishments mainly selling food products	0.6	0.3	0.1
Rest of products	-0.8	0.9	5.2
Establishments specialising in personal equipment	6.5	2.0	10.1
Establishments specialising in household equipment	-3.7	-2.5	8.2
Establishments specialising in other consumer goods	-10.3	-3.9	-4.3
Nonspecialist establishments mainly selling other products	-2.0	1.4	-5.2
Automotive fuel	22.4	5.3	7.1
GENERAL INDEX without service station	-1.2	-0.2	2.6
PERSONNEL INDEX			
Basque Country	1.8	0.3	1.7

(p)Provisional data

t / t-4 Year-on-year variation. Data corrected for calendar effects

t / t-1 Interquarterly variation. Deseasonalised data

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

Date February 8, 2023

Source: Eustat. Retail Trade Index (ICIm)

Within the *Food products* retail trade, sales in *Specialised trade in food, beverages and tobacco* (establishments such as greengrocers, butchers and fishmongers) decreased by 6.2% in relation to the fourth quarter of 2021. By contrast, retail trade that is *Non-specialised with food, beverages and tobacco predominating* (primarily supermarkets and hypermarkets), increased their sales by 0.6%.

Within the retail trade of *Other Products*, the evolution of sales in the fourth quarter of 2022 in relation to the same quarter of the previous year was not homogeneous. In the *Specialised trade in other consumer goods* sector (including, for example, sporting goods, games and toys), the drop in sales was 10.3%; in the *Specialised trade in household goods* sector (including domestic appliances, furniture and telecommunications equipment), sales fell by 3.7%, and finally, in *Non-specialised trade with other products predominating* (mail order or online) there was a 2.0% decrease. However, *Specialised trade in personal goods* (clothes, footwear, cosmetic or hygiene products), increased by 6.5% in year-on-year terms.

By province, the sales index in the fourth quarter of 2022 registered a year-on-year increase of 2.8% in Bizkaia and 0.6% in Álava. Gipuzkoa showed an opposite trend, with sales 3.6% down on those registered in the same quarter of the previous year.

In relation to the previous quarter, the evolution in sales was also positive in Álava and in Bizkaia, with quarter-on-quarter growth of 0.9% and 0.8%, respectively. However, sales in Gipuzkoa were down 1.8% in respect of the third quarter of the year.

The number of people employed in the retail trade sector in the Basque Country overall in the fourth quarter of 2022 was up 1.8% on the fourth quarter of the previous year. Compared to the third quarter of 2022, employment rose by 0.3%.

Balance for 2022

Retail sector sales in the cumulative total of all four quarters of 2022 increased by 2.9% with positive contributions in the *Automotive fuel* (7.1%) and *Other products* (5.2%) sub-sectors. However, in the *Food products* sector, cumulative sales over the course of 2022 were 0.4% lower than those seen in 2021.

By province, retail sector sales increased throughout 2022 by 3.7% in Gipuzkoa and 3.2% in Bizkaia, whereas in Álava they were down 0.1%.

NOTE

Eustat would like to thank all the establishments that have collaborated with gathering information. As a result, the index for this quarter was calculated with **94.1%** coverage of the sample.

For further information:

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