

RETAIL TRADE INDEX (ICIm) 1st quarter 2005

Retail sector sales in the A.C. of the Basque Country grew 2.9% in the first quarter of 2005

Specialised trade sales registered 3.1% inter-annual growth and non-specialised trade rose by 2.5%

The retail trade sector in the A.C. of the Basque Country increased nominal sales by 2.9% in the first quarter de 2005 with regard to the same period the year before, according to Eustat data. This nominal increase, discounting the effect of prices, also becomes a positive inter-annual evolution of 1.9% in real terms.

REAL RATES OF INTER-ANNUAL GROWTH. A.C. OF EUSKADI

YEAR	QUARTER	RETAIL	SPECIALISED	NON SPECIALIS. (MEDIUM AND LARGE STORES)
2003	I	4,2	4,7	3,0
	II	2,1	2,2	1,8
	III	2,1	2,1	2,1
	IV	2,8	3,1	2,3
2004	I	1,5	1,2	2,1
	II	4,4	7,0	-0,5
	III	5,4	7,2	2,3
	IV	5,2	7,7	0,2
2005	I	1,9	3,1	-0,7

Source: EUSTAT

Traditional retail trade (specialised) has increased nominal sales by 3.1% in the first quarter of 2005, with regard to the same period in 2004. This nominal increase, as a result of the rises and falls in prices of the different sectors, maintained the same 3.1% growth rate in real terms.

Retail trade in medium and large stores (non-specialised) grew by 2.5% in the first quarter of this year in nominal terms. However, the variation in the real inter-annual rate is -0.7% with regard to the same quarter in 2004.

In specialised retail trade, the highest inter-annual growth rate corresponded to the Personal equipment sector, which registered 9.3% nominal growth, which in real terms was 9.1%. Household equipment goods, on the other hand, registered a nominal 2.8% negative evolution, which became -4.8% in real terms. Food product sales remained stable (0.0%) in nominal terms, but underwent a 3.6% decrease in real terms. However, Other Consumer Goods (sports, toys, optical goods and book shops, among

others), registered 1.8% nominal growth, but due to the deflationary effect of prices, this rate becomes 4.8% in real terms.

By Province, the highest growth in the first quarter of 2005, of retail sector nominal sales corresponded to Bizkaia, with a 4.1% inter-annual increase, specialised retail trade sales grew 4.4% and non-specialised by 3.5%.

Alava had an intermediate evolution of 2.2%, having obtained 3.2% growth in specialised trade sales and 0.6% in non-specialised trade.

The lowest inter-annual provincial growth in retail trade sales corresponded to Gipuzkoa (1.2%), 1.1% for non-specialised retail trade and 1.5% for non-specialised, in terms of nominal inter-annual variation.

Growth in employment in the trade sector was 3.1% in relation to the average for the first quarter of the previous year and the provincial breakdown is as follows: Bizkaia (4.3%), Gipuzkoa (2.1%) and Alava (1.0%). However, personnel employed in the retail trade sector in the first quarter of 2005 fell by 1.5% in relation to the previous quarter for the whole of the A.C. of the Basque Country.

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