

**LARGE STORES AND FOOD CHAINS TRADE INDEX (IGSC), MARCH 2017**

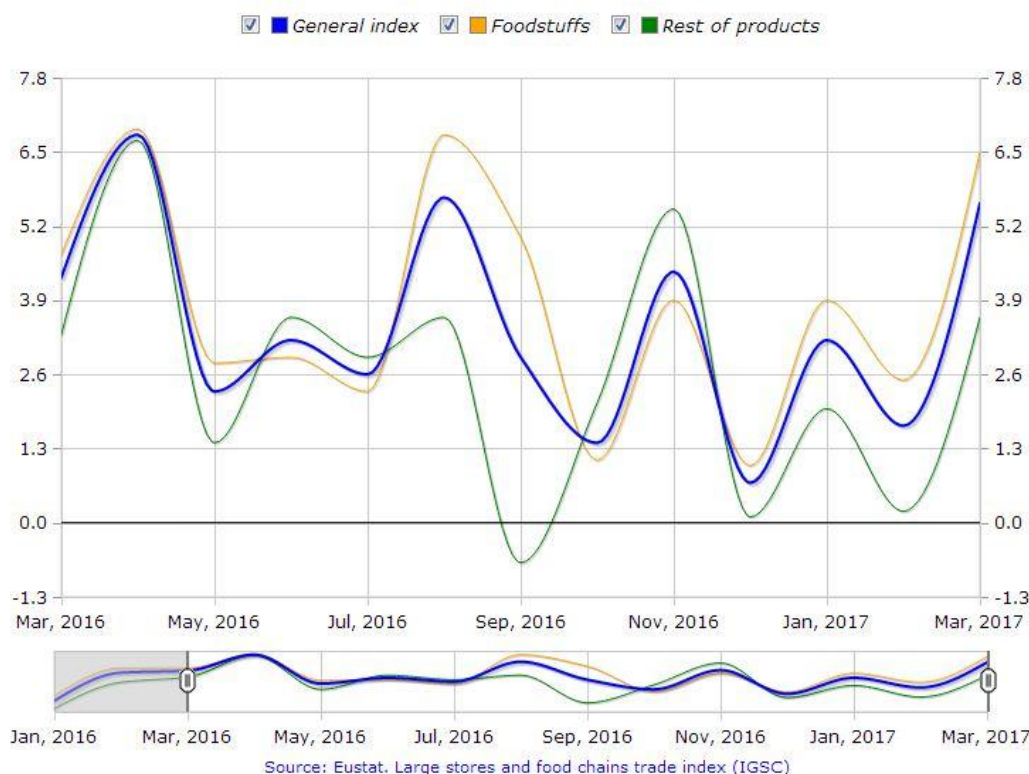
## The sales index of large stores and food chains in the Basque Country rose by 4.4% in March 2017

### *The balance of the first three months of 2017 closed with 2.6% growth*

Sales at large stores and food chains in the Basque Country in March 2017 experienced a year-on-year upturn at constant prices of 4.4% in homogenous terms of the working calendar, according to the new Large Stores and Food Chains Index created by Eustat. Compared to February, sales were up 0.7% in deseasonalised terms.

This new index was created with the aim of having an indicator of short-term trends in sales and employed personnel in the retail sector, specifically large stores and food chains.

**Year-on-year growth rate of the index of trade by large stores and food chains in the Basque Country. (%)**  
Corrected for calendar effects. Current prices



Sales of food products at large stores and food chains reflected a rise of 5.3%, and sales corresponding to other items were also up by 2.5%.

There were increases in the three provinces: 3.5% in Álava, 4.0% in Bizkaia and 5.5% in Gipuzkoa.

Over the first quarter of the year as a whole, sales in large stores and food chains in the Basque Country were up 2.6% with respect to the same period of the previous

year, in homogeneous terms of the working calendar and at constant prices. In this period, food sales at large stores and food chains saw a 3.5% upturn overall, and other products saw an increase of 0.9%.

By province, in Álava sales at large stores and food chains in the first quarter of the year rose by 1.3% at constant prices and with respect to the same period of the previous year. They were up in Bizkaia by 3.0%, and in Gipuzkoa a 2.4% rise was recorded.

The number of individuals employed in large stores and food chains in the Basque Country rose by 0.4% in March 2017 compared to February 2017, in deseasonalised terms.

**Table 1. Large Stores and Food Chains Trade Index (GSC) of the Basque Country. Year-on-year and month-on-month growth rates**

|                                          | CONSTANT PRICES |            |                  |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------|------------------|
|                                          | m / m-12        | m / m-1    | A (m) / A (m-12) |
| <b>SALES INDEX by historic territory</b> |                 |            |                  |
| <b>Basque Country</b>                    | <b>4,4</b>      | <b>0,7</b> | <b>2,6</b>       |
| Araba/Álava                              | 3,5             | 1,2        | 1,3              |
| Bizkaia                                  | 4,0             | 0,5        | 3,0              |
| Gipuzkoa                                 | 5,5             | 0,9        | 2,4              |
| <b>SALES INDEX by sector</b>             |                 |            |                  |
| Food                                     | 5,3             | 0,9        | 3,5              |
| Non food products                        | 2,5             | 0,4        | 0,9              |
| <b>EMPLOYMENT INDEX</b>                  |                 |            |                  |
| <b>Basque Country</b>                    | <b>3,3</b>      | <b>0,4</b> | <b>3,6</b>       |

m / m-12 Year-on-year growth. Data corrected for calendar effects

m / m-1 Month-on-month growth. Seasonally adjusted data

A(m) / A(m-12) Year-on-year variation rate for the accumulated period from January to the current month of current year compared to the same accumulated period last year

**Source: Eustat. Large Stores and Food Chains Trade Index (IGSC)**

**Methodological note:** The Large Stores and Food Chains Trade Index substitutes the Large Stores Trade Index, which was stopped in October 2016 because it did not reflect the monthly trends in trade as a whole, which was its original purpose when it was created in the 1990s. The new index incorporates a revision and extension of the reference framework, among other improvements. Together with data from March, the series since January 2015 have been made available, which is the base or reference year for calculating the indices.

**For further information:**

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Databank on the Large Stores and Food Chains Trade Index (IGSC)