



16th December 2021

STATISTICS ON DISTRIBUTIVE TRADE

2020

SALES IN LARGE-SIZED COMMERCIAL UNITS GREW BY 2.9% IN FOOD RETAIL AND DECREASED BY 18.8% IN NON-FOOD RETAIL

In 2020, the **Distributive Trade sector** was heavily penalized by the COVID-19 pandemic, recording decreases in the main economic indicators, although slightly less accentuated compared to the non-financial business sector as a whole. That year, the Trade sector had 218.9 thousand enterprises and 803.7 thousand persons employed (-0.6%; +2.1% in 2019)¹. Its Turnover totalled EUR 141.2 billion (-6.5%; +3.3% in 2019) and the Gross Value Added reached EUR 18.7 billion (-5.6%; +4.4% in 2019). The overall commercial margin stood at EUR 25.9 billion, decreasing by 4.5% (+3.6% in 2019).

Automotive trade sector registered the sharpest decrease in turnover (-16.2%; +1.1% in 2019), as well as the largest decrease in the overall commercial margin (-8.9%; +1.4% in 2019) and in the margin per enterprise (-10.1%; -1.2% in 2019). However, persons employed decreased by only 0.3% (+2.6% in 2019).

In **Wholesale** enterprises, the turnover decreased by 5.8% (+2.8% in 2019), with the overall commercial margin and the margin per enterprise decreasing by 2.8% and 4.9%, respectively (+1.5% and +0.1% in 2019, in the same order). Even so, persons employed increased by 0.5% (+2.6% in 2019). Pharmaceutical products became the most sold product in this activity, having increased its share by 1.2 p.p. to 11.5%, as a result of the 5.7% increase in sales compared to 2019.

Retail trade recorded the smallest reductions in the turnover (-3.6%; +4.8% in 2019), in the overall commercial margin (-5.4%; +6.2% in 2019) and the margin per enterprise (-4.5%; +7.0% in 2019). Persons employed decreased by 1.2% (+2.7% in 2019). However, the evolution was very heterogeneous in this activity, highlighting the 58.8% increase in the turnover of the activity of "Retail trade not in stores, stalls or markets", which includes forms of sale such as online sales, telephone sales, door-to-door sales, among others.

In 2020, sales in **Large-sized Commercial Units** (UCDR) grew by 2.9% in food retail and decreased by 18.8% in non-food retail. Despite the pandemic context, in 2020 the total number of establishments increased by 1.4% (+1.5% in 2019), with a special focus on the non-food retail segment (+2.1%; +1.7% in 2019). The sale of own brand products in the food retail units represented 38.0% of global sales (35.4% in 2019), corresponding to an annual increase of 10.6%.

¹ The first percentage indicates the annual change in 2020 compared to 2019 and the second the 2019 rate of change for 2018, unless otherwise indicated, this sequence is respected where two percentages are present within parenthesis.