



20th December 2022

STATISTICS ON DISTRIBUTIVE TRADE – Survey on Trade Enterprises

2021

References to the margin per company, in the Automotive Trade and Wholesale, compared to 2020 and with 2019, amended, 21-12-2022 at 9.30h

TRADE ACTIVITY EXCEEDED 2019 LEVELS, HIGHLIGHTING THE 4.3% INCREASE IN THE COMMERCIAL MARGIN

In 2021, the **Distributive Trade sector** was represented by 215.5 thousand enterprises and 793.8 thousand persons employed (-0.6%; -1.2% in 2020)¹, having achieved a Turnover of EUR 157.2 billion (+11.8%, after -6.9% in 2020). The Gross Value Added stood at EUR 21.2 billion (+12.3%; -4.7% in 2020) and the commercial margin at EUR 28.3 billion (+9.7%; -4.9% in 2020).

Compared to 2019, **trade enterprises** recorded, in nominal terms, +4.1% in Turnover, +7.0% in Gross Value Added, +4.3% in the Global commercial margin and +5.7% in the Margin per company but decreased the number of enterprises and their persons employed (variations of -1.3% and -1.8%, respectively). However, the performance of the three segments, as mentioned below, was not fully aligned, particularly with regard to the intensity of the recovery in 2021.

Automotive trade enterprises recorded an increase of 8.2% in Turnover (-15.7% in 2020). The Global commercial margin and the Margin per company increased by 8.4% and 7.3%, respectively (-6.7% and -8.3% in 2020, in the same order). Persons employed decreased by 0.9% (+0.4% in 2020).

In **Wholesale** activity, the Turnover grew by 15.4% in 2021 (-6.1% in 2020), the Global commercial margin increased by 13.0% (-3.8% in 2020), the Margin per company grew by 12.5% (-3.4% in 2020) and persons employed decreased by 0.2% (-0.3% in 2020).

In 2021, **Retail trade** the Turnover increased by 8.1% (-4.4% in 2020), and also grew the Global commercial margin (+6.7%; -5.7% in 2020) and the Margin per company (+6.8%; -2.8% in 2020). However, persons employed continued to decrease (-0.8%, after -2.0% in 2020).

¹The first percentage indicates the annual change in 2021 compared to 2020 and the second the 2020 rate of change for 2019, unless otherwise indicated, and this sequence is respected where two percentages are present within parenthesis.

²The establishments that are part of the Large-sized Commercial Units belong to a specific universe and carry out their main economic activity at the retail trade level (CAE Rev.3 groups 471, 472 and 474 to 477) and/or at the automotive trade level (CAE Rev.3 group 453 - parts and accessories). For more detailed information on the activity of these establishments in 2021, it can be consulted [HERE](#) the Press release published on December 5.



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In 2021, enterprises with Large-sized Commercial Units² establishments accounted for 45.1% of Turnover (45.2% in 2020) and 32.8% of persons employed (31.4% in 2020) of retail activities that they belong, although they covered only 0.5% of the number of enterprises (as in 2020 and 2019).