METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

1. **The source of the data** is the turnover chapter (CA) in the monthly statistical survey on service short-term indicators (SERV TS), in accordance with Council Regulation (EC) No 1165/1998, Regulation (EC) No 1158/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1503/2006 concerning short-term statistics.

2. **The statistical survey is a sample survey.** The type of sampling used/the method for sample extraction is the stratified sampling with simple random selection without replacement within each stratum, where the stratification variables are represented by the following: the economic activity and the enterprise size class according to the number of employees. Due to the necessity regarding the comparability of results on groups of homogenous activities as well as at enterprise level from one period to another, the category of economic units with high economic potential (50 employees and over) is exhaustively surveyed. The selection base of the sample provides representativeness (calculated according to turnover) of 95.25% of the total number of active units. The data are collected from about 1797 economic units with retail as main activity (CANE Rev. 2 division: 47). The sampling volume was determined by imposing, at country level, an accuracy of estimations of ± 3%, at a confidence level of 95%.

3. **Retail** (CANE Rev. 2 division: 47). This division **includes** the resale (sale without transformation) of new or used goods, mainly to the public at large, for consumption or personal or household use, through stores, supermarkets, stands, mail order houses, vendors, consumer cooperatives etc. Retail is classified, in the first place, by type of merchandising unit (retail in stores (groups 471 to 477); retail outside stores (groups 478 and 479). The retail in stores includes the retail of used goods (class 4779).

For the retail in stores, there is another distinction too, between the retail in specialised stores (groups 472 to 477) and the retail in unspecialised stores (group 471). The groups mentioned above are further subdivided by the type of products they sell. The trade done outside the stores is subdivided according to the type of trade, such as the retail in stands and markets (group 478) and the retail outside the stores, such as mail order, door-to-door sale, vending machines etc. (group 479).

The goods sold under this division are limited to the so-called consumer goods. Therefore, the non-consumer goods are excluded (e.g. cereals, ore, industrial machinery etc.). This subdivision also includes units that sell products such as personal computers, stationery, paint or timber to the public at large, although these products may not be for personal or household use.

Handling, which is generally included in the trade activity, does not affect the characteristics of the goods and may also include the selection, detachment, blending and packaging of the goods.

This division also **includes** the retail by courier and the activities of the retail auction houses.

This division **excludes**: the sale of their own products by the farmers; the manufacturing and sale of own production, which is generally classified as manufacturing industry in the divisions 10-32; the sale of motor vehicles, motorcycles and their spare parts (see division 45); the trade with cereals, ore, crude oil, chemical products for industry, iron and steel, industrial machinery and equipment (see division 46); the

sale of food and beverages for restaurants and the sale of packed prepared food (see division 56); the rental of personal and household goods to the public at large (see group 772).

4. **The turnover (VAT excluded)** represents the total revenue recorded by the company during the reporting period, obtained from both the main activity and the secondary activities performed by it, except rebates, discounts and other reductions granted to customers. The subsidies received from public authorities or EU institutions **are included** in the turnover. The turnover **does not include** the excise duty and the revenue from the sale or transfer of fixed assets.

The turnover volume indices of retail are Laspeyres-type indices and are calculated under comparable price and methodological conditions. For expressing the values of the current period in the prices of the reference period, the deflating price indices are used (the consumer price index). The first indices obtained are at the CANE Rev. 2 class/group level; then, by successive aggregations, indices at aggregated levels are obtained. The weights used for aggregation are calculated based on the turnover according to the results of the Structural Business Survey from the reference year (2015).

5. To adjust the data series, the programme package JDEMETRA+ v2.0 (TRAMO/SEATS method was used, which performs the estimation of the effect of the number of working days, different from one month to another, and of the calendar effect (leap year and other national holidays) as well as the identification and correction of outliers (occasional, transient or permanent changes in level) and the interpolation of the missing values. The series adjusted with the number of working days was obtained by eliminating these effects from the gross series with the help of some correction coefficients determined according to the regression model used (additive or multiplicative).
The setting of the regression models used for each series involves the recalculation of the adjusted series that were previously disseminated (recalculation due to the change in the models adopted, in the number of regressors used and in the number of available observations).
The adjustment of the aggregate levels was done through the **direct method**, which means the direct adjustment of the aggregated series. The use of the direct method may lead to some inconsistencies in the data series (that is to say, the aggregates may not always be contained between the values of the components from which they derive).

6. The calculation of the turnover volume indices, compared to those of the previous month or compared to those of the corresponding month of the previous year, is done starting from the fixed-base (year 2015=100) indices as follows:
- the turnover volume indices compared to the previous month: by dividing the fixed-base (year 2015=100) index of the month concerned by the fixed-base (year 2015=100) index of the previous month, multiplied by 100;
- the turnover volume indices compared to the corresponding month of the previous year: by dividing the fixed-base (year 2015=100) index of a certain month of the year concerned by the fixed-base (year 2015=100) index of the same month of the previous year, multiplied by 100.

7. **The data are provisional and may be periodically revised** based on the retroactive adjustments done by the economic units in the sample.