

## New base year 2021 for the index of sales in trade

From 29 March 2024, with the publication of the provisional figures for January 2024, and in accordance with the European Business Statistics Regulation and its Implementing Regulation, the index of sales volume in overall trade and the associated turnover indices are disseminated in reference and base 100 in 2021. Which means that the indices have an average of 100 over the year 2021 (instead of 2015 previously). Apart from the change of the reference year, the rebasing brings with it other changes, the main ones being detailed below.

### Update of the weights

For the index of sales volume in overall trade and the associated turnover indices the weights are calculated on the basis of production data at base prices by industry from the annual National Accounts. The weights have been updated for the period 2018 to 2023 using now 2021 data from the annual National Accounts (instead of 2015 data before). As the effects of the health crisis have persisted after 2020, the activity breakdown of production in 2021 is significantly different from that in 2015 (Figure 1). Updating the weights with 2021 data thus leads to significant revisions in certain sectors.

Figure 1: Weights in overall trade (G) in base 2015 and in base 2021

Nace classification	Weight 2015	Weight 2021	Percent change
<b>G Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
45 Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	1,272	1,397	9.8%
451 Sale of motor vehicles	850	901	6.0%
452 Maintenance and repair of motor vehicles	89	103	15.7%
453 Sale of motor vehicle parts and accessories	306	363	18.7%
454 Sale, maintenance and repair of motorcycles and related parts and accessories	27	30	10.4%
46 Wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	5,777	5,703	-1.3%
461 Wholesale on a fee or contract basis	813	872	7.2%
462 Agricultural raw materials and live animals	390	307	-21.4%
463 Food, beverages and tobacco	1,029	1,046	1.6%
464 Household goods	1,130	1,129	-0.1%
465 Information and communication equipment	331	331	-0.2%
466 Other machinery, equipment and supplies	716	748	4.5%
467 Other specialised wholesale	1,132	1,161	2.5%
469 Non specialised wholesale trade	236	111	-52.9%
47 Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	2,952	2,900	-1.8%
471 Retail sale in non-specialised stores	1,109	1,002	-9.7%
472 to 477 Retail sale in specialised stores	1,622	1,621	0.0%
472 Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	155	223	44.1%
473 Automotive fuel in specialised stores	224	266	18.8%
474 Information and communication equipment in specialised stores	65	55	-16.0%
475 Other household equipment in specialised stores	310	296	-4.4%
476 Cultural and recreation goods in specialised stores	118	110	-6.7%
477 Other goods in specialised stores	750	671	-10.5%
478 and 479 Retail trade not in stores	221	277	25.2%

For the previous rebasing in 2015, we innovated by not using constant weights over the entire index calculation period, but by using two different sets of weights for two sub-periods, the aim was to better reflect changes over time in the share of each sector within overall activity. With the current 2021 rebasing, there are 3 different sets of weights (2010, 2015 and 2021). 2010 weights are used for the aggregation of elementary indices between 2005 (respectively 1999 for turnover indices) and 2012, 2015 weights are used between 2013 and 2017, and 2021 weights are used from 2018. The calculation on the whole period is then achieved by chaining sub-series (computation of a chain-linking coefficient applied on the years 2013 and 2018).

### Update of the SA-WDA models

The series are seasonally adjusted (SA) and working day adjusted (WDA). The corresponding seasonal and WD coefficients are estimated using the X13-Arima method of the JDemetra+ software at NACE rev. 2 class level. The SA-WDA indices of the higher-level positions are obtained by aggregating the SA-WDA indices of the classes that make them up. The models are updated every year. With the current 2021 rebasing, the main change concerns the estimation period for the models, which now begins in 2012 for all NAF rev. 2 classes, compared with 2005 previously for most of them.

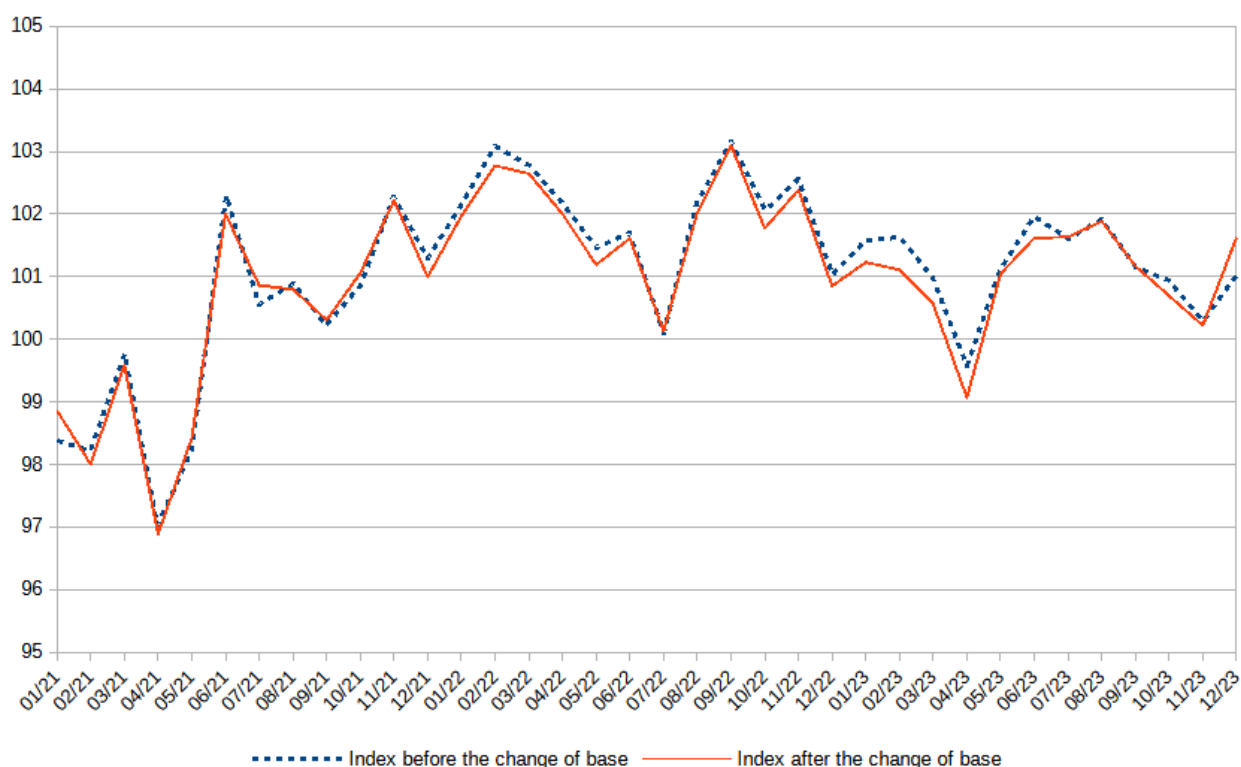
### Revisions

The main factors that lead to revisions are:

- (i) the switch to year 2021 as pivot year for chain-linking;
- (ii) the update of the weights for the period 2020 to 2023;
- (iii) the update of the SA-WDA models.

For the whole trade sector (G), revisions for the SA-WDA index lie between -0.5 and +0.6 index points over the 2021-2023 period (Figure 2). The revisions for monthly variations of the index lie between -0.7 et +0.7 percentage points over the 2021-2023 period.

Figure 2: Impact of the 2021 base change on the SA-WDA index of overall trade (G)

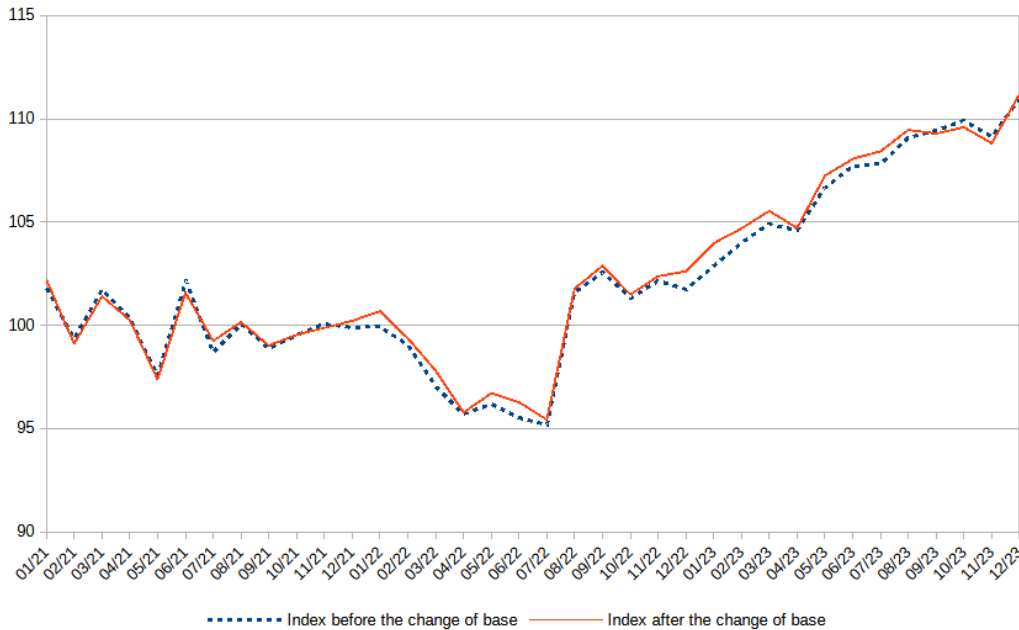


Note: the index before the change of base (in base 2015) has been divided by its average over the year 2021, to facilitate comparison by taking it back to the same base year as the 2021-based index.

Source: INSEE

For the wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (45), revisions for the SA-WDA index lie between -0.5 and +1.1 index points over the 2021-2023 period (Figure 3). The revisions for monthly variations of the index lie between -0.7 et +1.0 percentage points over the 2021-2023 period.

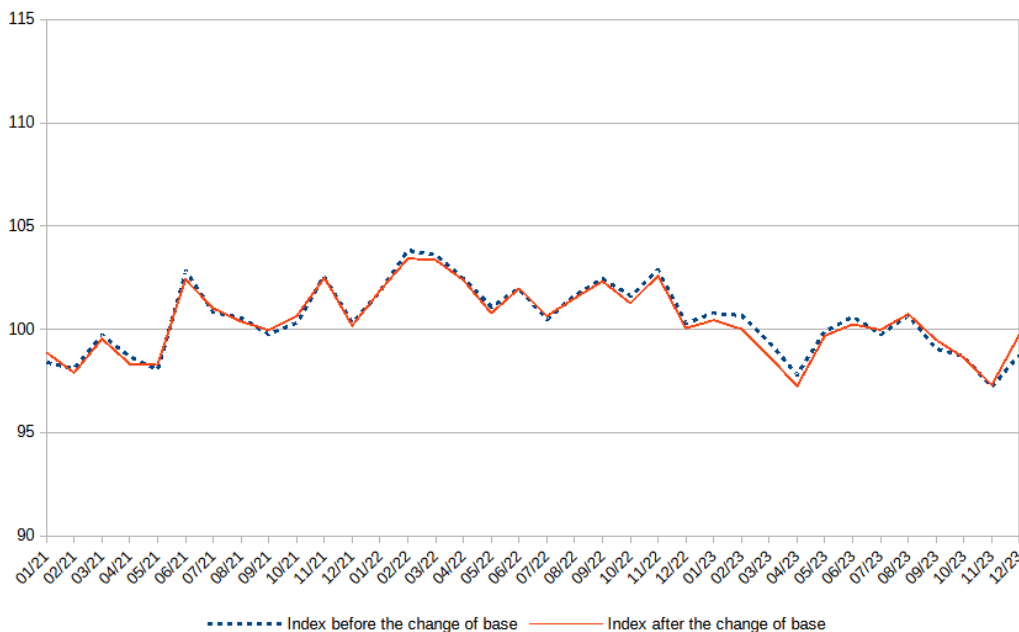
Figure 3: Impact of the 2021 base change on the SA-WDA index of wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (45)



Note: the index before the change of base (in base 2015) has been divided by its average over the year 2021, to facilitate comparison by taking it back to the same base year as the 2021-based index.  
Source: INSEE

For wholesale trade except that of motor vehicles and motorcycles (46), revisions for the SA-WDA index lie between -0.7 and +1.0 index points over the 2021-2023 period (Figure 4). The revisions for monthly variations of the index lie between -0.7 et +0.9 percentage points over the 2021-2023 period.

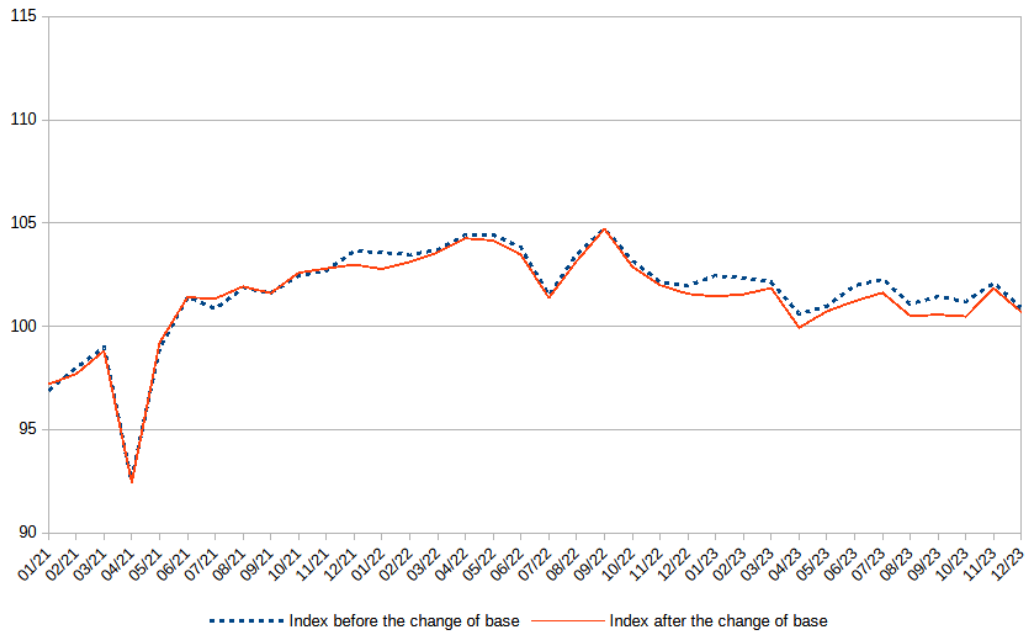
Figure 4: Impact of the 2021 base change on the SA-WDA index of wholesale trade except that of motor vehicles and motorcycles (46)



Note: the index before the change of base (in base 2015) has been divided by its average over the year 2021, to facilitate comparison by taking it back to the same base year as the 2021-based index.  
Source: INSEE

For retail trade except that of motor vehicles and motorcycles (47), revisions for the SA-WDA index lie between -1.0 and +0.5 index points over the 2021-2023 period (Figure 5). The revisions for monthly variations of the index lie between -0.7 et +0.5 percentage points over the 2021-2023 period.

Figure 5: Impact of the 2021 base change on the SA-WDA index of retail trade except that of motor vehicles and motorcycles (47)



Note: the index before the change of base (in base 2015) has been divided by its average over the year 2021, to facilitate comparison by taking it back to the same base year as the 2021-based index.  
Source: INSEE