### Population (universe)
Enterprises operating and based in Portugal with main economic activity classified under division 45 and 47 of NACE-rev2.

### Survey sampling frame
The sampling frame is extracted from the INE Business Register and comprises all enterprises operating and based in Portugal with main economic activity classified under division 45 and 47 of NACE-rev2. It excludes enterprises that verify at least one of the following conditions: 1) turnover less than 250 000€; 2) last update before 2012.

### Size of frame list
15,323 enterprises

### Weighted frame coverage
77.0

### Characteristics
Identification, address, NACE code, number of employees, turnover.

### Frame list update
Despite the fact that the frame list can have yearly updates, it is only renewed whenever there is a refreshment of the sample, which happens each 5 years.

### Sectors and/or categories currently covered
For divisions 45 and 47 of NACE-rev2, breakdown at NACE group and type of goods.

### Sampling method
Stratified random sample. The sampling frame is stratified by NACE-rev2 (3rd level) and by 5 turnover classes. In each stratum a random sample of enterprises is drawn using the Neyman (optimum) allocation. All enterprises with turnover above 50 000 000€ are included in the sample.

### Sample size (number of contacts)
678 retail enterprises (inquired in May 2016)

### Weighted sample coverage
48.8% of the total employment in the retail trade sector (May 2016)

### Sampling error
Coefficient of variation below 10%

### Response rate
95.3% (May 2016)

### Treatment of non-response
None.

### Weighting scheme
On each stratum each answer is weighted by the turnover of the company. The weights used to obtain more aggregate figures are based on fixed weights reflecting the relative significance of each stratum, calculated with turnover data.

### Periodicity
Monthly (8 questions) and quarterly (9 additional questions).

### Survey method
Since 2006, online questionnaires became available through the internet service WebInq. Since 2013 the percentage of business surveys WebInq members increased significantly. Since the platform is constructed in order to prevent incomplete answers, the number of non-valid responses decreased considerably. As for the non-WebInq respondents, they can send their responses by e-mail, fax and address contacts.

### Fieldwork period
In the first day of each month, all the enterprises receive an e-mail informing that the questionnaire is available for filling until the thirteenth working day before the end of the reference month. Between the twelfth and the seventh or sixth working day before the end of the month several contacts are made in order to guarantee the maximum number of responses and simultaneously the responses of the most important enterprises.

### Remarks methodology
Quarterly questions are asked during January, April, July and October surveys. Together with retail trade the wholesale activity is also inquired with a similar questionnaire.

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