

Overview: Legislation regarding shop opening hours in Europe

This document is for information only. EuroCommerce does not accept any responsibility for accuracy.

Member State	Monday-Friday	Saturday	Sunday/Public holidays
<p>AUSTRIA</p> <p>Maximum opening time per week is 72 hours</p>	<p>06:00-21:00</p> <p>In Niederösterreich/Lower Austria the earliest time to open is 5:00</p>	<p>06:00-18:00</p>	<p>Closed</p> <p>Exceptions:</p> <p>Tourist areas: Exemptions allowed</p>
<p>BELGIUM</p> <p>Federal Government is consulting on extending opening hours</p>	<p>06:00-20:00</p> <p>06:00-21:00 day or Friday before a public holiday</p>	<p>06:00-20:00</p> <p>06:00-21:00 if following Monday a public holiday</p>	<p>Closed unless the retailer chooses an alternative closing day, in which case:</p> <p>All retail stores 08:00-12:00</p> <p>Furniture and gardening shops 40 Sundays/year 06:00-20:00</p> <p>Food chains with less than five employees, butchers, bakers, newsagents and tobacconists, florists, petrol stations 06:00 - 20:00</p> <p>Other exceptions: on certain conditions 6 Sundays of choice/year for retail</p> <p>Tourist areas: Sunday opening 1 May- 30 September, on Christmas and Easter holidays, and a</p>

			<p>maximum of 13 other Sundays</p> <p>Night shops: Food and household goods only 18.00 to 7.00</p> <p>Other cases: opening only on Sunday morning between 8:00 and 12:00</p>
<p>BULGARIA</p> <p>Opening hours are common practice rather than formal regulation</p> <p>Some supermarkets/hypermarkets are open 24 hours a day</p>	Unrestricted	Unrestricted but common practice is 10:00-17:00	<p>Unrestricted</p> <p>Public holidays (common practice)</p> <p>1 January</p>
<p>CROATIA</p> <p>The Trade Act prescribes that opening hours are not restricted as long as the labour rights of workers are adhered to</p>	Unrestricted	Unrestricted	<p>Unrestricted</p> <p>It is common practice for all stores to be closed on New Year's, Easter Sunday and Christmas Day</p>
<p>CYPRUS</p> <p>Shops are allowed to open from 5.00 a.m.</p>	<p><u>1 November – 31 March</u></p> <p>Closing time is 7.30 p.m. with the exception of Wednesday where they close at 3.00 p.m.</p> <p><u>1 April – 31 October</u></p> <p>Closing time is 8.00 p.m. with the exception of Wednesday where they close at 3.00 p.m.</p>	<p><u>1 November – 31 March</u></p> <p>Closing time is 7.00 p.m.</p> <p><u>1 April – 31 October</u></p> <p>Closing time is 7.30 p.m.</p> <p><u>1 January – 31 December</u></p> <p>Unrestricted for bakeries, Pastry shops, Convenience Stores</p> <p>Flower shops close at 10.00 PM</p>	<p>CLOSED</p> <p>Shops opening hours in the tourist areas are determined by regulations issued by the Council of Ministers. The tourist areas are also determined by the Council of Ministers.</p>

	<p>The Minister of Labour has issued a Decree declaring the whole of Cyprus as a tourist area. This Decree has effect from 13 May 2015 until 30 November 2015. All shops can open from 5.00 a.m. and close at 11.00 p.m. with the exception of the district of Nicosia where they close at 10.00 p.m.</p> <p><u>1 January – 31 December</u> Unrestricted for bakeries, Pastry shops, Convenience Stores</p> <p>Flowershops close at 10.00 PM</p> <p>Shops selling alcoholic beverages and tobacco products close at midnight</p>	<p>Shops selling alcoholic beverages and tobacco products close at midnight</p>	<p>Unrestricted for bakeries, Pastry shops, Convenience Stores</p> <p>Flowershops close at 10.00 PM</p> <p>Shops selling alcoholic beverages and tobacco products close at midnight</p> <p><u>Christmas Period 1 December – 31 December</u></p> <p>Working hours 5.00 AM – 8.00 PM</p> <p>On Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve they close at 6.00 p.m.</p> <p><u>Easter Period – 10 days before Easter</u></p> <p>Working hours 5.00 AM – 8.00 PM</p> <p>On Good Friday and Holy Saturday they close at 6.00 PM</p>
<p>CZECH REPUBLIC</p>	<p>Unrestricted</p>	<p>Unrestricted</p>	<p>Restricted</p> <p>Act on Opening hours in retail and wholesale</p> <p>(1) Sale in retail or wholesale is prohibited on the following public holidays and other holidays</p> <p>a) 1 January – Date of Restoration of the Independent Czech State and New Year, b) Easter Monday, c) 8 May – Victory Day,</p>

			<p>d) 28 September – Czech National Day, e) 28 October – Date of Establishment of the Independent Czechoslovak State, f) 25 December – 1st Christmas Day, g) 26 December – 2nd Christmas Day.</p> <p>(2) Sale in retail and wholesale is prohibited on 24 December – Christmas Eve Day from 12:00 to 24:00.</p> <p>(3) The limitation of opening hours set forth in clauses (1) and (2) does not apply to the operation of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) stores whose sale area does not exceed 200 m², b) filling stations with fuel and lubricants, c) pharmacies, d) stores at locations with higher concentrations of passengers at airports, railway stations and bus stations, e) sale at healthcare facilities, retail and wholesale at times when a state of emergency, crisis situation national state of alert or state of war⁴⁾ is in effect
<p>DENMARK Regulations changed 1 October 2012</p>	Unrestricted	Unrestricted	<p>All shops are allowed to be open all Sundays.</p> <p>Public Holidays, Constitution Day, Christmas Eve the shops are to be closed and New Year's Eve closed at 15:00</p>

			<p>Exceptions: Unrestricted for the sale of bread, dairy produce, newspapers, flowers, plants, cars, ships, and fuel – furthermore exceptions for shops selling items for the house e.g. furniture shops and DIY centres.</p> <p>Unrestricted for stores with turnovers less than 33,1 million Dkr selling DIY products, bakeries, grocers, household articles and garden goods</p>
FINLAND	<p>Unrestricted (from 1.1.2016)</p> <p>Restricted sale of alcohol between 21:00 and 9:00</p>	<p>Unrestricted (from 1.1.2016)</p> <p>Restricted sale of alcohol between 21:00 and 9:00</p>	<p>Unrestricted (from 1.1.2016)</p> <p>Restricted sale of alcohol between 21:00 and 9:00</p>
FRANCE	<p>Unrestricted</p>	<p>Unrestricted</p>	<p>There is a principle of Sunday rest for employees. Shops held by shop owners can therefore be opened, with the exception of a prefect decree of closure to the public)</p> <p><u>Food:</u> It is possible to start the Sunday rest at 13.00. In this case, for the shops bigger than 400m², the remuneration is increased at least of 30%</p> <p><u>Non-food:</u> "Mayor's Sunday" : shops can be opened on Sunday by mayor's decision within the limit of 12 Sundays/year. In this case, the remuneration is at least the</p>

			<p>double.</p> <p>Other possible exemptions for retail trade, food or non- food in touristic international areas, commercial touristic areas and some stations</p> <p>There are also several sectoral exemptions to the whole day Sunday rest of employees: florists, tobacco shops, DIY, garden centres.</p> <p>Weekly rest can possibly be given by shift for all staff or part of it. It is necessary to sign a collective agreement at branch, group of companies or plant level. The agreement specifies automatically the wage aspects. Only voluntary staff can work on Sundays.</p>
<p>GERMANY</p> <p>Hours are regulated by the countries. Where opening hours are restricted, exceptions (similar to those for Sundays and holidays) may be granted</p>	<p>Unrestricted</p> <p>Exceptions:</p> <p>Rhineland-Palatinate, Saxony: 06:00-22:00</p> <p>Saarland, Bavaria: 06:00-20:00</p>	<p>Unrestricted</p> <p>Exceptions:</p> <p>Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Northrhein-Westfalia, 00:00- 22:00</p> <p>Rhineland-Palatinate, Saxony 06:00-22:00</p> <p>Bavaria, Saarland 06:00-20:00</p> <p>Saxony-Anhalt, Thuringia 00:00-20:00</p>	<p>Closed</p> <p>Exceptions:</p> <p>Bakery products, flowers, newspapers, dairy products, museums,</p> <p>Railway and petrol stations, airports, resorts and places of pilgrimage</p> <p>In some federal states shops may open when it is in the public interest or in specific circumstances</p>
<p>GREECE</p> <p>There may be different arrangements for summer and winter seasons, defined as 16 May-30 September and 1 October-15 May</p>	<p>05:00-21:00</p> <p>Exception:</p> <p>Local authorities may grant extensions</p>	<p>05:00-20:00</p>	<p>Closed</p> <p>Exceptions:</p> <p>Closed</p> <p>Exceptions:</p>

			<p>Convenience stores, pastry shops, photography shops, florists, antiquaries and nut-selling shops</p> <p>Petrol stations</p> <p>Local Prefects may allow small shops (under 250 m2), in specific areas, to open</p> <p>All shops are open on the 2 Sundays before Christmas, on the 1st Sunday of every Sales period (4 in total), and on the Sunday before Easter</p>
HUNGARY	<p>Unrestricted</p> <p>Exception: Budapest Mayor's Office can regulate local hours within 06:00-22:00</p>	<p>Unrestricted but common practice to close at 14:00 or 16:00</p>	<p>All shops larger than 200 square meters (with some limited exceptions) are not allowed to open on Sundays ((from 15.03.2015)</p> <p>Shop smaller than 200 square meters can open only if the owner himself or a member of the family works there.</p> <p>Shops that are, at this stage, free to remain open on Sundays regardless of size include convenience stores, news stands and shops, pharmacies, shops at Liszt Ferenc International Airport, shops at train and bus depots, shops at hospitals, markets, petrol stations, restaurants and hotels, museums, baths and cigarette shops. Shops selling bakery goods or dairy products</p>

			<p>may open on Sundays from 5am to midday.</p> <p>On Sundays during the Advent period (ahead of Christmas) all shops can open if they wish. Each store can also nominate one other Sunday in the year when they can choose to open.</p>
ICELAND	Unrestricted but common practice is 9:00-18:00	Unrestricted but common practice is to close at 14:00, with some open until 16:00 or 17:00.	<p>Sundays: Generally closed, but shops in malls open 10:00-17:00</p> <p>Public Holidays: 24 December close by 16:00 and may not open until 06:00 25 December</p>
ITALY Sale of alcohol forbidden from 22.00 to 06.00 in service stations and from 24.00 to 06.00 in proximity shops	Unrestricted	Unrestricted	Unrestricted

<p>LUXEMBOURG</p> <p>Once a year, every shop owner can obtain the authorisation to keep his shop open during 24 hours</p>	<p>06:00-20:00</p> <p>Exceptions: Once a week shops can close at 21:00</p> <p>Days immediately preceding Public Holidays 06:00-19:00 (except preceding National Day, Christmas Day, 1 January close 18:00)</p>	<p>06:00-19:00</p> <p>Exceptions: Where social partners have agreed an extension until 20:00</p> <p>Saturdays preceding National Day, Christmas Day, 1 January close 18:00</p>	<p>06:00-13:00</p> <p>Exceptions :</p> <p>The Ministry can decide derogations for specific local areas.</p> <p>Bakeries, butchers, cake shops, kiosks and souvenir shops 06:00 – 18:00</p>
<p>MALTA</p> <p>Lotto receivers can remain open 24 hours every day, subject to a permit from gaming authorities</p>	<p>8 January to 31 October: 04:00-19:00 1 November to 7 January: 04:00-22:00</p> <p>Exceptions: Valletta commercial premises until 22:00</p> <p>Tourist areas: Beverages, tobacco, fish, jewellery, souvenirs and photographic equipment 06:00 -23:00</p> <p>Petrol stations 06:00-18:00 Automated pumps unrestricted</p> <p>Hiring Carnival costumes until 22:00 from Thursday preceding to Tuesday following Carnival</p>	<p>8 January to 31 October: 04:00-20:00 1 November to 7 January: 04:00–22:00</p> <p>Exceptions: Valletta commercial premises until 22:00</p> <p>Tourist areas: Beverages, tobacco, fish, jewellery, souvenirs and photographic equipment 06:00 -23:00</p> <p>Petrol stations 06:00-15:00 Automated pumps unrestricted</p>	<p>On 10 January 2017, it was announced that Sunday shopping restrictions have been lifted in Malta. This means that shops can now open during this day of the week at no extra cost <u>provided they remain closed on any other day</u></p> <p>According to Maltese law, employers cannot force existing employees to work on Sundays, unless according to contract it is explicitly indicated that they are meant to</p>

			There are 13 Public holidays with mandatory closure
<p>PORTUGAL</p> <p>Opening hours must be displayed in the store, in an adequate place to be seen by the clients (from outside the store).</p> <p>In a shopping centre or in a mall, if all the stores have the same opening hours, only the former have to display the opening hours.</p> <p><u>Unrestricted, as of 1st March, 2015.</u></p> <p>However, Town Hall / City Council can restrict stores' opening hours during the year or certain parts of the year, due to safety reasons or safeguarding the citizens' quality of life.</p>	Unrestricted, as of 1 st March, 2015.	Unrestricted, as of 1 st March, 2015.	Unrestricted, as of 1 st March, 2015.

<p>SPAIN</p> <p>It is regulated by Act 1/2004 on Shop Opening Hours, as amended by the provisions laid down in Royal Decree-Law 20/2012 on measures to guarantee budgetary stability and promote competitiveness.</p>	<p>Each Autonomous Community shall establish the total number of weekly working hours (Monday to Saturday) on which retail establishments may open to the public, which may in no event be restricted to fewer than 90 hours.</p> <p>The Commerce Bill under Catalan Regulations provides to establish a maximum of 75 hours per week from Monday to Saturday (Judgement 211/2016 has repealed this Bill)</p> <p>Establishments which shall have complete freedom to decide opening hours are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shops under 300 square meters. - Shops engaging primarily in the sale of cakes and pastries, bread, precooked dishes, newspapers, fuel, flowers and plants. 	<p>Each Autonomous Community shall establish the total number of weekly working hours (Monday to Saturday) on which retail establishments may open to the public, which may in no event be restricted to fewer than 90 hours.</p> <p>The Region of Madrid shall have complete freedom to decide its opening hours.</p> <p>Establishments which shall have complete freedom to decide opening hours are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shops under 300 square meters. - Shops engaging primarily in the sale of cakes and pastries, bread, precooked dishes, newspapers, fuel, flowers and plants. 	<p>According to State Regulations, the number of Sundays and public holidays on which retail establishments may open to the public is set at sixteen in Autonomous Regions.</p> <p>Most of Autonomous Regions authorise a total of 10 Sundays and public holidays on which retail establishments may open to the public with some exceptions, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Murcia: 14 - Castilla-La Mancha: 12 - Basque Country: 8 <p>The Region of Madrid shall have complete freedom to decide its opening hours.</p> <p>Establishments which shall have complete freedom to decide opening hours are as follows:</p>
--	---	---	---

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shops operating in railway stations and on overland, sea and air transport terminals. - Convenience stores. - Shops located in areas with a large tourist population. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shops operating in railway stations and on overland, sea and air transport terminals. - Convenience stores. - Shops located in areas with a large tourist population. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shops under 300 square meters. - Shops engaging primarily in the sale of cakes and pastries, bread, precooked dishes, newspapers, fuel, flowers and plants. - Shops operating in railway stations and on overland, sea and air transport terminals. - Convenience stores. - Shops located in areas with a large tourist population.
<p>SWEDEN</p> <p>There is no specific regulation of shop opening hours. However, legislation restricts night work between 24:00 and 05:00. Employers and trade unions can come to collective agreements giving flexibility on night work</p> <p><u>Deregulated shop opening hours: the Swedish experience</u></p>	Unrestricted	Unrestricted	Unrestricted

<p>UNITED KINGDOM</p> <p>Labour legislation in England and Wales protects the rights of shop-workers to refuse work on Sundays, and to receive overtime payments and time in lieu for working on Public Holidays</p>	<p>Unrestricted</p>	<p>Unrestricted</p>	<p>Unrestricted in Scotland</p> <p>Sundays: England and Wales – Unrestricted for shops smaller than 280m²¹ Stores larger than 280m² six hours opening within 10:00-18:00</p> <p>Northern Ireland – Unrestricted for shops smaller than 280m² Stores larger than 280m² five hours opening within 13:00-18:00</p> <p>Public holidays: England and Wales unrestricted</p> <p>Exception: Stores larger than 280m² cannot open on Easter Sunday or Christmas Day</p> <p>Northern Ireland unrestricted</p> <p>Stores larger than 280m² must be closed on Christmas day and Easter Sunday</p>
<p>SLOVENIA</p> <p>There is no regulation of opening hours for any day of the week or Public Holidays. Retailers decide opening hours but must trade within a publicly displayed schedule</p>	<p>Unrestricted</p>	<p>Unrestricted</p>	<p>Unrestricted</p> <p>Retailers determine opening hours. They must, however, comply with labour legislation on Sunday and Public Holiday working, primarily working hours, breaks and overtime payments</p>

IRELAND Restricted sale of alcohol, 10:30-22:30 Monday-Saturday, 12:30-22:30 Sundays, not at all on Christmas Day or Good Friday	Unrestricted	Unrestricted	Unrestricted
POLAND, ESTONIA, SLOVENIA, IRELAND, LITHUANIA, LATVIA, ROMANIA Some Tesco stores are opened 24 hours	Unrestricted	Unrestricted	Unrestricted on Sundays
NETHERLANDS	06:00-22:00	06:00-22:00	Closed Exceptions: Local authorities can allow Sunday opening. Good Friday, 24 December and 4 May no opening beyond 19:00
NORWAY	Unrestricted	Unrestricted	Closed Exceptions: Grocers smaller than 100m ² Petrol stations smaller than 150m ² Camping site shops in-season

Contact:

Ilaria Savoini - +32 2 737 05 82 - savoini@eurocommerce.eu

Transparency Register ID: 84973761187-60

¹ The Government is considering devolving the decisions on shop opening hours on a Sunday to Local Government in England.