

**OVERVIEW\***  
**LEGISLATION REGARDING SHOP OPENING HOURS**

*Last updated: January 2010*

MEMBER STATE	MONDAY TO FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY/PUBLIC HOLIDAYS
AUSTRIA <sup>1</sup>	06.00 – 21.00	06.00 – 18.00	Exemptions for tourist areas.
<i>The maximum opening time per week is 72 hrs.</i>			
BELGIUM <sup>2</sup>	05.00 – 20.00: working days 05.00 - 21.00: Friday's and working days before a public holiday.	05.00 - 20.00. 05.00 – 21.00 if the following Monday is a public holiday	In principle Sunday is the day of weekly rest, excepted if it is the choice of the retailer to replace it by another day of the week. Possibility to open 7/7 days: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All retail stores: 05.00 - 12.00.</li> <li>• Furniture or gardening shops: 40 Sundays / year 5.00 - 20.00</li> <li>• Food chains with less than 5 employees, butcher's, baker's, newsagents, flower shops, shops in tourist areas: 05.00 - 20.00.</li> <li>• Exceptions: possibility of opening on the Sunday before Christmas and 2 other Sundays to choose.</li> <li>• Super/hypermarkets : 3 Sundays/year</li> </ul> Night shops : from 6pm to 7am. Products sold must be limited to food stuff and household goods.
CROATIA <sup>3</sup>	06:00 – 21:00	06:00 – 21:00	Normally closed General exception: permission to keep

- 1 The maximum number of opening hours per week is 60 hours for non-food and 66 hours for food shops. There are exemptions for tourist areas.
- 2 The Federal Government announced for the coming months a public debate on (enlarging the) shop opening hours.
- 3 The article of the Trade Act regulating shop hours on Sunday and on public holidays will come into force on 1 January 2009.

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			<p>shops open on all Sundays during the summer period (1/06-1/10) and in December from 07.00 to 14.00.</p> <p>Other exceptions are shops located at railway and airline terminals, petrol stations, shops in hospitals and cinemas, flower shops, bakeries, etc.</p> <p>PUBLIC HOLIDAYS Normally closed.</p>
CYPRUS	<p>During the summer period (1<sup>st</sup> April-31<sup>st</sup> October) shops close as followed: Mo, Tue, Thu at 8:30pm, Wed. at 2 pm, Fri. at 9:30 pm. The opening hours varies according to the nature of the shop ( 07:00-09:00 am)</p> <p>Winter period: Mo, Tue, Thu at 7:00 pm, Wed at 2:00 pm Fri at 8:00 pm.</p>	<p>During the summer period (1<sup>st</sup> April-31<sup>st</sup> October) shops close on Saturday at 5:00 pm.</p> <p>During the winter period ( 1<sup>st</sup> November – 31<sup>st</sup> March) shops close on Saturday at 3:00 pm.</p> <p>During the summer season special provisions are enforced for the shops which operate within the designated tourist areas, they are allowed to stay open until 10:00 pm.</p>	<p>All the shops are obliged to stay closed between 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm from 15<sup>th</sup> June till 31<sup>st</sup> August. During Christmas and Easter holidays special provisions are enforced: -from 12-30<sup>th</sup> December all shops can stay open until 8:00pm. On Christmas and NY's eve shops can stay open until 7:00 pm. Shops must be closed during the public and national holidays (25<sup>th</sup> Marsh, 1<sup>st</sup> April; 1<sup>st</sup> October, 28<sup>th</sup> October).</p>
CZECH REPUBLIC	No restrictions.	No restrictions.	No restrictions.
DENMARK	<p>Closed between 00.00 to 06.00 Monday. Else no restrictions.</p> <p><u>Exception:</u> Retail shores with a turnover below 30.5 million Dkr. have no</p>	<p>No restrictions until Saturday 17.00. After that time closed.</p> <p><u>Exception:</u> The last Saturday before Christmas, Easter and Whitsun</p>	<p>In principle closed. However, it is allowed to have opened Sunday from 10.00 to 17.00:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The first Sunday in every month</li> <li>2. Per calendar year 6 "loose Sundays",</li> </ol>

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	restriction on opening hours.	where the shops are allowed to close at 20.00.  <u>Exception:</u> Retail stores with a turnover below 30.5 million Dkr. Have no restriction on opening hours.	of which two Sundays have to be in the period 1. July to 1. September, and  3. All Sundays before Christmas. These special Sundays can not be placed on a holiday or Constitution Day  4. The last Sunday before Christmas from 10.00 to 20.00.  <u>Exception:</u> Bread, dairy produce and newspapers can be sold on Sundays, holidays, Constitution Day or Christmas eve from 7.00 to 11.00, but only from shops that has this as its usual business.  <u>Exception:</u> Retail stores with a turnover below 30.5 million Dkr. Have no restriction on opening hours.
ESTONIA	No restrictions		
GERMANY <sup>4</sup>	00.00 - 24.00. <u>Exception:</u> Rhineland-Palatinate, Saxony 06.00-22.00 Saarland-Bavaria 06.00-20.00 Reorganisation can be done only by the Länder	00.00 – 24.00 <u>Exception:</u> Meckleburg-Western Pomerania 06.00 – 22.00 Rhineland-Palatinate, Saxony 06.00 – 22.00 Saarland 06.00 – 20.00 Saxony – Anhalt,	Limited number of exceptions possible: bakery products, flowers, newspapers, dairy products, museums, train stations, airports, resorts and places of pilgrimage), sowie in einigen Bundesländern bei öffentlichem Interesse.

<sup>4</sup>

The maximum number of opening hours per week is 80 hours. Bakeries can open already from 05.30 onwards. In addition, they can open for three hours on Sundays..

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Overview shop opening hours, p. 3

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	In Bundesländern, die keine durchgehenden Öffnungszeiten haben, können an Werktagen Ausnahmen (bestimmte Sortimente und Örtlichkeiten) analog der Angaben für Sonn- und Feiertage ermöglicht werden.	Thuringia 0.00 – 20.00	Die Regelungen lassen in eingeschränktem Umfang auch Sonntagsöffnungen in Ausnahmefällen zu.																																																									
FINLAND	07.00 - 21.00.	07.00 - 18.00.	12.00 – 21.00 in May, June, July, August, November and December																																																									
<p>! Different opening hours depending on the size of the store – year 2004:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 30%;"></th> <th style="width: 35%; text-align: center;"><u>Foodstores under 400 m<sup>2</sup></u></th> <th style="width: 35%; text-align: center;"><u>other shops</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>• Sundays 7.1-1.4:</td> <td style="text-align: center;">between 12.00-21.00</td> <td style="text-align: center;">not open</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Easter Monday</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4h between 8.00-18.00</td> <td style="text-align: center;">not open</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Sundays 15.04-29.04</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12.00-21.00</td> <td style="text-align: center;">not open</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• 30 April</td> <td style="text-align: center;">open until 18.00</td> <td style="text-align: center;">open until 18.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• 1 May</td> <td style="text-align: center;">not open</td> <td style="text-align: center;">not open</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Sundays 6.5, 20.5, 3.6-17.6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12.00-21.00</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12.00-21.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Midsummers Eve</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7.00-13.00</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7.00-13.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Sundays 24.6-26.8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12.00-21.00</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12.00-21.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Sundays 2.9-28.10</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12.00-21.00</td> <td style="text-align: center;">not open</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Sundays 4.11, 18.11-2.12</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12.00-21.00</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12.00-21.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Independence Day 6.12</td> <td style="text-align: center;">not open</td> <td style="text-align: center;">not open</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Sundays 9-23.12</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12.00-21.00</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12.00-21.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Christmas Eve</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7.00-13.00</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7.00-13.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Christmas Day</td> <td style="text-align: center;">not open</td> <td style="text-align: center;">not open</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• 26.12</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4h between 8-18</td> <td style="text-align: center;">not open</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• 30.12</td> <td style="text-align: center;">07.00-18.00</td> <td style="text-align: center;">not open</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• 31.12</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7.00-18.00</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7.00-18.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• 01.01.2008</td> <td style="text-align: center;">not open</td> <td style="text-align: center;">not open</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					<u>Foodstores under 400 m<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>other shops</u>	• Sundays 7.1-1.4:	between 12.00-21.00	not open	• Easter Monday	4h between 8.00-18.00	not open	• Sundays 15.04-29.04	12.00-21.00	not open	• 30 April	open until 18.00	open until 18.00	• 1 May	not open	not open	• Sundays 6.5, 20.5, 3.6-17.6	12.00-21.00	12.00-21.00	• Midsummers Eve	7.00-13.00	7.00-13.00	• Sundays 24.6-26.8	12.00-21.00	12.00-21.00	• Sundays 2.9-28.10	12.00-21.00	not open	• Sundays 4.11, 18.11-2.12	12.00-21.00	12.00-21.00	• Independence Day 6.12	not open	not open	• Sundays 9-23.12	12.00-21.00	12.00-21.00	• Christmas Eve	7.00-13.00	7.00-13.00	• Christmas Day	not open	not open	• 26.12	4h between 8-18	not open	• 30.12	07.00-18.00	not open	• 31.12	7.00-18.00	7.00-18.00	• 01.01.2008	not open	not open
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FRANCE	No restrictions.	No restrictions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food shops can open on Sunday until 13.00</li> <li>• 5 Sundays a year, the mayor can ask for an extension of opening hours on Sunday</li> <li>• In thermal and touristic zones, all shops can open on Sunday</li> <li>• In the cities with more than 1 million of inhabitants (Paris, Lille, Aix-Marseille) with strong consumption habits on Sunday, the "préfet" can establish a so-called "perimeter for use of exceptional consumption – PUCE". The city of Lyon is not a part of this system</li> <li>• The regions of Moselle, Bas-Rhin and Haut-Rhin are excluded from these enacting terms and follow the prescriptions of the local professional code</li> </ul>
GREECE <sup>5</sup>	05:00 -21:00 Within this period, the shops may choose their own timetables. An extension is possible, upon decision by the local prefecture council.	Same timetable, with the restriction that the opening hours end at 20.00 (art.12-13 of the law 3377/2005)	All shops are closed except petrol stations, restaurants, bars, cafeterias, convenience stores, pastry shops, photo shops, florists, antiquaries, shoe shine and nuts-selling

<sup>5</sup> Distinction between the winter period (1/10 - 15/5) and the summer period (15/5 -30/9).

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			shops. The prefect of an area may allow the opening of designated shops, upon agreement of the local trade and labour unions. All shops are open on the Sunday before Christmas and on the 31st of December even if it coincides with a Sunday. (art.12-13 of the law 3377/2005)
HUNGARY	The shops opening hours are decided by the trader with respect to the purchase habit. In Budapest and in its suburb the representatives of Mayor Office have the right to regulate the opening hours from 06:00 – 22:00.	Shops are open up to 14:00 pm or 16:00 pm.	The 24 <sup>th</sup> December the shops are limited up to 14:00, exception for restaurants; hotels, flower shops, gasoline stations and confectionary outlets.

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ICELAND	No restrictions. Usual opening hours are however from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm	No restrictions, But in practice many shops close at 2 pm and others mostly at 4 or 5 pm.	On Sundays many shops are closed but in the malls shops are open from 10 am to 5 pm. On 24 <sup>th</sup> December shops have to close at 16:00 pm and may not open up until 6:00 am on 25 December.
IRELAND	No restrictions. However, alcohol may not be sold before 10.30 a.m. and not after 10.30 p.m.	No restrictions. However, alcohol can be before 10.30 a.m. and not after 10.30 p.m.	Alcohol may not be sold until 12.30 p.m. on Sundays. Alcohol may not be sold on Christmas Day and Good Friday.
ITALY	Opening: from 7.00 onwards, closing: until 22.00 (with a maximum of 13 opening hours per day) except for different regional provisions.	See previous column	In principle closed. However, exceptions for certain types of shops (e.g bakeries and flower shops) and for tourist areas.  In total, shops can open on Sundays 8 times a year and are generally open all Sundays of December except for different regional provisions.
LATVIA	No restrictions		
LITHUANIA	No restrictions		
LUXEMBOURG <sup>7</sup>	06.00 - 20.00. Once per week shops can close at 21.00.	06.00 - 18.00. (These opening hours also apply to days which precede public holidays.)	06.00 - 13.00. Opening after 1.00 pm is subject to authorisation (employment of paid personnel for more than 4 hours is subject to prior authorisation).

<sup>6</sup> exceptions set by different regional laws

<sup>7</sup> Derogations from the general framework legislation can be obtained from the Ministry for SMEs (for instance for tourist areas, special events etc.). Small shops without employees have a general derogation from the framework legislation.

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MALTA	<p>Between 08/01 and 31/10 included 04.00-19.00</p> <p>Between 01/11 and 07/01 included 04.00 – 22.00</p> <p><u>Exceptions for specific commercial activities</u></p> <p>Petrol stations 6.00-18.00</p> <p>Automated pumps unrestricted</p> <p>Lotto receivers</p> <p>24 hours on a daily basis subject to permit from gaming authorities</p> <p>Catering, night clubs, etc.</p> <p>Daily up to 1.00 AM (possibility of extension by Minister subject to clearance by police and MTA and certain conditions)</p> <p>Valletta commercial premises Up to 10.00 PM</p> <p>Hiring Carnival Costumes Up to 10.00 PM Thursday before to Tuesday after Carnival</p> <p>Commercial fairs 9.00 -22.00</p>	<p>Between 08/01 and 31/10 included 04.00- 20.00</p> <p>Between 01/11 and 07/01 included 04.00 – 22.00</p> <p><u>Exceptions for specific commercial activities</u></p> <p>Petrol stations 06.00-15.00</p> <p>Automated pumps unrestricted</p> <p>Lotto receivers</p> <p>24 hours on a daily basis subject to permit from gaming authorities</p> <p>Catering, night clubs, etc.</p> <p>Daily up to 1.00 AM (possibility of extension by Minister subject to clearance by police and MTA and certain conditions)</p> <p>Valletta commercial premises Up to 10.00 PM</p> <p>Commercial fairs 9.00 -22.00</p>	<p>Between 08/1 and 31/10 included 04.00 – 22.00</p> <p>Between 01/11 and 07/01 included 04.00 – 22.00</p> <p><u>Exceptions for specific commercial activities</u></p> <p>Petrol stations Automated pumps unrestricted</p> <p>Lotto receivers</p> <p>24 hours on a daily basis subject to permit from gaming authorities</p> <p>Catering, night clubs, etc.</p> <p>Daily up to 1.00 AM (possibility of extension by Minister subject to clearance by police and MTA and certain conditions)</p> <p>Valletta commercial premises Up to 6.00 PM also on public holidays whenever a cruise liner is in harbour</p> <p>Essential items (also applies to street hawkers) 6.00 – 1.00 PM also on public holidays</p> <p>Commercial fairs 9.00 -22.00</p> <p>Flowers, plants, seeds, fertilizers 6.00-19.00 also on Public holidays</p>

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	Tourist localities (Beverages, tobacco, fish, jewellery, souvenirs, photographic equipment...) 06.00 -23.00	Tourist localities (Beverages, tobacco, fish, jewellery, souvenirs, photographic equipment...) 06.00 -23.00	Tourist localities (Beverages, tobacco, fish, jewellery, souvenirs, photographic equipment...) 06.00 -23.00 Also on public holidays  Tourist localities (commercial premises selling predominately grocery items) 06.00-17.00 Also on public holidays
THE NETHERLANDS	06.00 - 22.00.	06.00 - 22.00.	In principle, closed. However, local governments can allow Sunday opening (max. 12 Sundays per year). They can also permit Sunday opening for tourist areas.  On Good Friday , 24.12 and 04.05, shops need to be closed after 19h.  Other rules for shops in (gasoline) stations and hospitals.
NORWAY	No restrictions	No restrictions	Groceries up to 100 sq. meters or gas stations up to 150 sq. meters may be open. All shops may be open the last three Sundays before Christmas
POLAND	No restrictions	No restrictions	No restrictions, but local authorities can introduce a regulation to define hours during which food retail shops may be open on data field. There are not the same legal regulations for the whole country:

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			<p>according to jurisdiction, local authorities cannot take resolutions optionally. Each resolution must be reasonable and it cannot have the purpose of limiting commerce.</p> <p>There are 12 idle days with prohibition of commerce.</p>
PORTUGAL	<p>06.00 - 24.00.</p> <p>The Mayor can restrict or extend these hours provided they meet the conditions of the law.</p> <p>Exceptions: coffee-shops, restaurants, tea houses, snack bars, self services and convenience stores may be opened until 2 o'clock in the morning.</p> <p>Other exceptions are shops located in sea, road and airline and railway terminals, as well as gas/petrol stations that work permanently.</p>	<p>06.00 - 24.00</p> <p>Exceptions: coffee-shops, restaurants, tea houses, snack bars, self services and convenience stores may be opened until 2 o'clock in the morning.</p> <p>Other exceptions are shops located in sea, road and airline and railway terminals, as well as gas/petrol stations that work permanently.</p>	<p>Opening of hypermarkets is limited to 08.00 - 13.00 from January to October (November and December: 06.00 - 24.00)</p>
SLOVAKIA	<p>No restrictions.</p> <p>Position of Slovak Association of Commerce and Tourism is liberal.</p>	<p>No restrictions.</p>	<p>No restrictions apart from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24/12 after 12.00</li> <li>• 25/12</li> <li>• 01/01</li> <li>• Easter Sunday</li> </ul>
SLOVENIA	<p>No restrictions.</p>	<p>No restrictions.</p>	<p>No restrictions</p> <p>Shop opening hours are regulated in Trade Act ( Official Journal of Republic of Slovenia, No. 24/2008 from 10.3.2008).</p> <p>Due to the Article 8 of the Trade Act, there are no restrictions in</p>

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			<p>Slovenia regarding the shop opening hours for any day of the week - also Saturdays and Sundays and Public Holidays.</p> <p>The trader determines the opening hours according to its business decision and the needs of consumers. The shop must operate in accordance with the publicly available schedule at the entrance .</p> <p>The law also stipulates the obligation of the trader to consider the rights and obligations of the workers due to the Labour Act and Collective Agreement for the Trading Sector in Slovenia when determining the opening hours of the shop on Sundays and Public Holidays. This concerns primarily the provisions which regulate the working hours, breaks, rests and supplements for the less favourable working time.</p>
SPAIN	<p>Legislation defined at regional level.</p> <p>No restriction for shops wit less than 150 m<sup>2</sup></p>	No restrictions.	Defined per region but opening is allowed for at least 12 Sundays/public holidays per year
SWEDEN	No restrictions.	No restrictions.	No restrictions.

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UK	No restrictions.	No restrictions.	Small shops (not more than 280 square metres) can open freely. Larger shops may open for any six continuous hours between 10.00 and 18.00. On public holidays there are no restrictions other than the ones above, except that larger shops may not open on Easter Sunday or on Christmas Day.

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