

## A fall in armed robberies in the retail sector

**The number of armed robberies fell sharply in 2014. This trend, which is long-term, now extends to all branches of the retail sector.**

### A record low

In 2014, the internal security forces recorded 2,619 armed robberies. In the space of a year, this number fell by 21%. Such a change is not unprecedented: it is part of a longer-term downward trend. Since 2009, the number of armed robberies in the retail sector<sup>1</sup> has fallen 44%.

In terms of statistics available, the second and final peak since 1996 was recorded in 2009, with the first recorded in 2001. Overall, with the exception of these two peaks, an overall downward trend can be seen over the period as a whole. The number of armed robberies recorded in the retail sector in 2014 was the lowest since 1996.

### A fall in overall terms

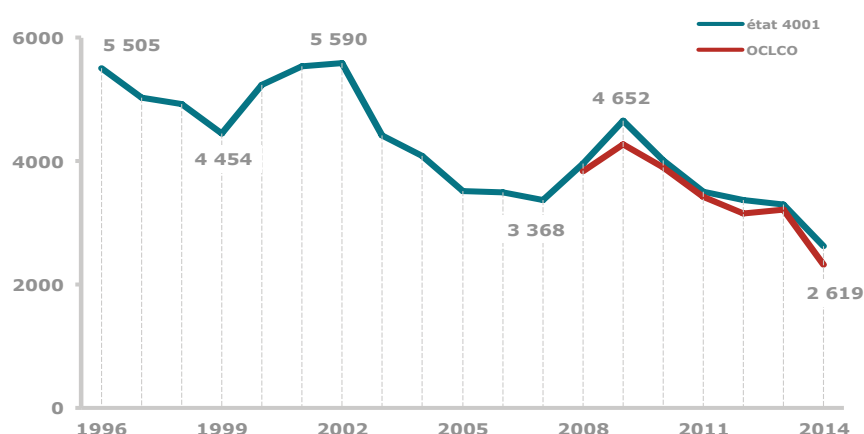
More detailed than the aggregates provided in *état 4001*, the data provided by the Central Office for Action against Organised Crime (OCLCO) are broken down according to the nature of the businesses concerned. The closeness of the two sources to the aggregate level justifies the use of the data compiled by this office to determine the sectors that have benefited most from the fall in armed robberies in recent years.

In 2014, all branches of the retail sector identified by OCLCO saw a reduction in the number of armed robberies. More particularly, armed robberies involving non-food retail businesses, tobacconists, pharmacies, jewellers and even service stations have fallen 37%. This fall accounts for close to half of the total decline in the number of armed robberies.

Irrespective of retail space, armed robberies of predominantly food retailers also fell in 2014 (-20%). This reduction follows an increase in 2013, which was due in particular to an increase in the number of robberies involving supermarkets.

In the accommodation and catering sector, the number of armed robberies also fell in 2014 (-20%), whereas there had been little change in the number of armed robberies in this sector in previous years. The number of armed robberies against financial institutions fell by 25% in 2014. In this sector, the number of armed robberies fell continuously between 2008 and 2014 by 75%.

**1** Change in the number of armed robberies in the retail sector according to source

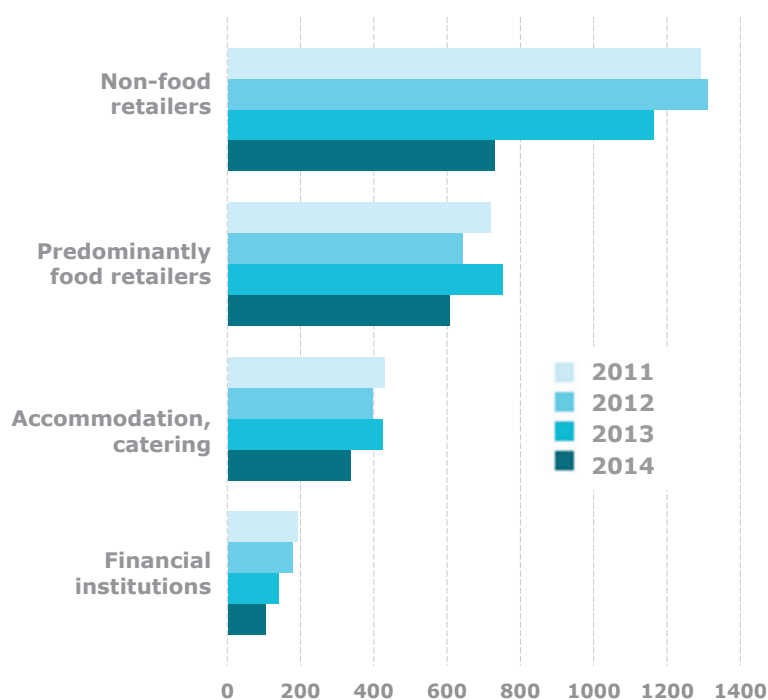


Source: Annual *état 4001*, DCPI / telegrams OCLCO

Scope: Mainland France

• • • (1) The methodological elements that have led the ONDRP to group together a number of armed robberies under this heading are developed in the section "Development of..." in [Grand Angle 32](#).

## Change in the number of armed robberies in the retail sector



Source: Telegrams, OCLCO

Scope: Mainland France

## SOURCES AND DEFINITIONS

**OCLCO** The Central Office for Action against Organised Crime reports to the Organised and Financial Crime Sub-directorate (SDLCODF). It is responsible for the centralisation of data obtained from the police and units of the gendarmerie in relation to all offences committed by criminal gangs.

**Etat 4001** *Etat 4001* is an administrative source of information on offences recorded by the police, the gendarmerie and the Prefecture of Police of Paris. It is concerned exclusively with facts that are the subject of a legal procedure referred to the Department of Public Prosecutions.

**Armed robberies** The study focuses on robberies committed or attempted using a firearm. For ease of reference, the term "armed robberies" is preferred to the more lengthy "robberies committed or attempted using a firearm".

**Retail sector** The retail sector refers to for-profit legal entities under private law, i.e. establishments with the objective of making a profit. As a result, armed robberies against individuals in or outside their home, social assistance establishments and government departments are excluded from this study.

## Change in the number of armed robberies in the retail sector according to the type of establishment

	2011	2012	2013	2014	Change 2013/14
<b>The retail sector as a whole</b>	<b>3,426</b>	<b>3,149</b>	<b>3,211</b>	<b>2,319</b>	<b>-28</b>
<b>Financial institutions</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>-25</b>
Bank agencies (excluding "La Poste" agencies)	56	56	31	30	-3
"La Poste" agencies	136	120	108	74	-31
<b>Industrial and commercial premises</b>	<b>3,186</b>	<b>2,931</b>	<b>3,035</b>	<b>2,193</b>	<b>-28</b>
<b>Non-food retail establishments</b>	<b>1,292</b>	<b>1,311</b>	<b>1,163</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>-37</b>
Service stations	245	246	208	153	-26
Tobacconists-PMU-Française des Jeux	540	571	580	368	-37
Jeweller's shops-watchmakers-jewellers-goldsmiths	359	327	224	119	-47
Pharmacies and medical article suppliers	100	118	104	56	-46
Perfumeries / hairstylists / beauty salons	48	49	47	32	-32
<b>Predominantly food retailers</b>	<b>719</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>752</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>-20</b>
Stores with retail space of more than 400 m <sup>2</sup>	245	193	264	208	-21
Stores with retail space of less than 400 m <sup>2</sup>	474	449	488	397	-19
<b>Accommodation, catering</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>-21</b>
Hotels	110	78	88	65	-26
On-licence premises / restaurants	320	319	336	272	-19
<b>Other</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>-25</b>
<b>Security companies</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>-41</b>

Source: Telegrams, OCLCO

Scope: Mainland France

Note: OCLCO has recorded armed robberies since 2008. The intention of this office to monitor changes in the number of armed robberies in closer detail has led it to provide details on the nature of convenience stores in a new nomenclature. Thus, even though the total number of armed robberies since 2008 and certain sub-aggregates are available, full detailed information is not available for any year until 2011.