

Business opening hours

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Ajuntament de
Barcelona



Act 3/2014, of 19 February, on Business Opening Hours and Measures for Certain Promotional Activities (Official Journal of the Generalitat of Catalonia (DOGC) 24.2.2014)

Commercial establishments are free to choose their business opening hours, notwithstanding any employment laws or workers' terms and conditions and rights. Despite the above, commercial establishments selling goods to the public may establish the opening hours of their business, taking the following into account:

GENERAL OPENING HOURS

Working days and authorised public holidays

Commercial establishments may not be open or carry out sales activities between 10 pm and 7 am. On 24 and 31 December they must bring their closing time forward to 8 pm.

Sundays and public holidays when shops are authorised to open in Barcelona

In 2016: 3 and 10 January, 3 July, 15 August, 1 November and 4, 6, 8, 11 and 18 December.

Commercial establishments in tourist areas

These may open on the Sundays between **5 and 24 May** and **1 and 14 October**, from 12 noon to 8 pm.

* Approved at the Full City Council Meeting of 1 April 2016. Awaiting authorisation from the Generalitat of Catalonia's Directorate-General of Commerce.

VISIBILITY OF BUSINESS HOURS

Commercial establishments must display their opening hours in such a way that the information is visible to the public, even when the establishment is closed.

General business opening-hour exemptions

- A.** Establishments principally dedicated to the sale of **cakes, confectioneries, churrosbread, prepared dishes, newspapers and magazines, flowers and plants, and convenience stores.**
- B.** Establishments installed at border points or only accessible inside **ground, sea and air transport stations and terminals.**
- C.** The sale of **fuel**, although this exemption does not extend to commercial establishments attached to petrol stations unless they are essentially dedicated to the sale of spare parts and other car accessories and products.
- D.** Establishments situated **in tourist municipalities.**
- E.** Establishments situated in the **area around itinerant markets**, which can open during the same hours as the market. (Authorisation from the City Council required).
- F.** **Chemists**, which are governed by their own specific regulations.
- G.** Commercial establishments **that are part of tourist sites**, such as museums, exhibitions, monuments, tourist recreation centres, amusement parks or theme parks, which they are directly linked to through the products they sell.
- H.** Commercial establishments integrated into **hotel establishments**, provided it is a permanent activity being run there that cannot be accessed directly from the street. This exemption does not apply to occasional commercial activities run in hotels, restaurants, trade fair and events venues and similar venues set up for this purpose, which are governed by the terms established for general business hours.
- I.** **Personal- and self-service** commercial establishments whose owners are small or medium-sized businesses that do not belong to business groups, provided that their sales area does not exceed **150 square metres** and that they essentially sell everyday **food** items. This exemption may be extended for a maximum of six months to establishments of the same size and activity that end up directly managed by small, medium-sized or large franchisers as a result of the termination of their franchisee, where the latter is deemed to be a small or medium-sized enterprise that does not belong to a business group.
- J.** Establishments principally and habitually dedicated to the sale of **pyrotechnic products**, which are permitted to remain open to the public not only on working days but also on Sundays and public holidays in June for a maximum of twelve hours within the time period between 7 am to 10 pm.

The establishments referred to in points **a)**, **d)** and **i)** are required to bring their closing time forward to 8 pm on 24 and 31 December and must remain closed on 1 January and 25 December.

For the purposes of public order, local authorities may agree to the mandatory night-time closing of establishments that attempt to invoke any of the grounds for exemption from the general opening hours.