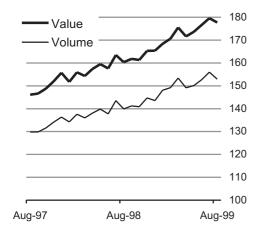


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Retail Sales Index Seasonally adjusted



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Ardee Road Skehard Road
Dublin 6 Cork
Ireland Ireland

LoCall: 1890 313 414

Tel: +353-1 497 7144 Tel: +353-21 535000 Fax: +353-1 497 2360 Fax: +353-21 535555

Both offices may be contacted through any of these telephone numbers.

CSO on the Web: http://www.cso.ie

Director General: Donal Murphy

Enquiries:

Retail Statistics Retail Sales Section, ext 5209 r_sales@cso.ie

Queries and Sales Information Section, ext 5032 information@cso.ie

Diskette Service Databank, ext 5301/5302 databank@cso.ie

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Retail Sales Index

August 1999 (First estimates)

Retail Sales Index - All Businesses

(Base year 1990 = 100)

	Value Index	Volume Index			
August 1998 August 1999 % change	160.3 177.7 +10.9%	139.9 152.9 +9.3%			

Retail Sales up 10.9%

The *value* of retail sales rose by 10.9% in August 1999 compared to August 1998. The August 1999 index was 1.1% lower than the July 1999 index.

The *volume* of retail sales (i.e. excluding price effects) increased by 9.3% in August 1999 compared to August 1998.

On a three month basis, which gives a more stable indication of recent underlying trends, the June-August 1999 volume figures show a 1.7% increase compared with the three months ending May 1999.

July is the latest month for which final detailed sectoral figures are available. The three month May-July 1999 volume figures show that, compared with the three months ending April 1999:

- ◆ The largest increases in the volume of sales were in the *Electrical Goods* and *Drapery and Apparel* sectors (+4.7%).
- ◆ The largest decrease in volume was in the *Public House and Off Licence* sector (-3.9%).

All figures provided in this release are seasonally adjusted based on patterns up to June 1999. Revised retrospective seasonally adjusted value and volume figures based on these latest patterns are available on request.

For more information contact Olive Loughnane at 021-535209 or Joe Madden at 021-535205.

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Table 1 Seasonally Adjusted Indices of Total Retail Sales 1

Base:year 1990=100

Total Retail Sales Total Retail Sales for all Businesses Combined excluding Garages and Filling Stations Value of Sales Volume of Sales Period % change % change Index Index Annual % on previous Annual % on previous Value Index Volume Index period change period change 1997 Year 7.9 145.4 8.5 8.5 7.9 144.7 128.8 128.1 1998 Year 159.9 10.0 10.0 140.1 8.8 8.8 159.6 139.3 1997 Quarter 1 139.2 1.3 6.6 5.6 123.6 1.6 138.8 123.3 Quarter 2 142.0 2.0 6.4 126.0 1.9 5.7 141.4 125.4 Quarter 3 146.2 3.0 9.2 145.5 9.4 129.7 2.9 129.2 Quarter 4 152.4 4.2 10.9 134.2 3.5 10.4 148.9 131.2 1998 Quarter 1 154.0 1.0 10.6 135.9 1.3 10.0 152.1 134.4 Quarter 2 158.1 2.7 11.3 138.5 1.9 9.9 157.1 137.1 Quarter 3 161.9 2.4 10.7 141.5 2.2 9.1 160.0 139.2 Quarter 4 164.1 7.7 143.1 1.1 6.6 164.8 143.1 1.4 1999 Quarter 1 171.8 4.7 11.6 150.5 5.2 10.7 166.6 145.5 Quarter 2 174.1 1.3 10.1 150.8 0.2 8.9 169.7 146.6 1998 July 163.5 3.7 12.1 143.5 4.2 10.7 159.8 139.6 August 160.3 -2.0 9.7 139.9 -2.5 7.8 159.3 138.4 September 161.8 0.9 10.4 141.2 0.9 8.8 160.6 139.4 October 161.3 -0.3 8.4 140.9 -0.2 7.1 161.8 140.3 November 165.3 2.5 8.8 144.7 2.7 7.9 167.6 145.9 December 165.4 0.1 6.2 143.5 -0.8 5.3 165.0 143.2 1999 January 168.4 1.8 11.0 148.1 3.2 10.4 164.0 143.4 February 170.6 1.3 9.4 149.2 0.7 8.4 166.7 145.1 March 175.5 2.9 13.7 2.8 12.8 168.7 153.4 147.5 April 171.6 -2.2 9.0 149.1 -2.8 8.0 167.6 145.2 May 8.8 0.7 7.4 173.6 1.2 150.1 169.9 146.7 June 176.6 1.7 12.1 152.6 1.7 10.8 171.2 147.6 July 179.6 1.7 9.8 156.0 2.2 8.7 173.3 150.3 August² 177.7 -1.110.9 152.9 -2.0 9.3 172.7 148.6 169.5 8.5 12 months ending July 1999 9.7 9.7 8.5 167.0 147.6 145.0 12 months ending Aug 1999² 170.8 9.8 9.8 148.6 8.7 8.7 168.1 145.8 3 months ending July 1999 176.6 2.2 10.4 152.9 1.4 9.1 171.4 148.2

3 months ending Aug 1999²

177.9

2.4

11.0

153.7

9.6

172.3

148.7

1.7

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to June 1999

² Provisional value and volume of sales indices based on early returns from sample retailers

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Table 2 Seasonally Adjusted Value and Volume Indices of Retail Sales for 14 Retail Businesses, July 1999 Base: year 1990=100

Retail Business	July 1999				May - July 1999 (3 months)							
		Value of Sales Volume of Sales			es		Value of Sales	3	,	Volume of Sale	es	
	Index	% change on previous month	Annual % change	Index	% change on previous month	Annual % change	Index	% change on previous 3 months	Annual % change	Index	% change on previous 3 months	Annual % change
Grocery	180.1	2.3	8.0	145.4	2.7	6.0	177.0	1.4	6.9	142.6	0.9	4.4
Grocery with Public House	133.0	2.4	8.4	102.6	2.5	5.6	130.5	2.4	5.9	100.6	1.0	2.7
Public House and Off-Licence	147.7	-5.1	0.4	106.4	-5.3	-3.2	155.3	-1.7	5.5	112.1	-3.9	1.3
Tobacco, Sweets and Newspapers	148.7	6.7	10.6	109.4	6.8	8.4	141.6	3.1	8.9	104.2	2.3	6.7
Fresh Meat	86.6	-6.8	-4.6	88.4	-6.8	-4.1	90.8	1.5	-0.4	92.7	0.3	-0.1
Other Food, Drink and Tobacco	119.1	-4.6	1.2	101.5	-4.6	-0.2	122.4	2.7	3.6	104.4	2.5	2.1
Garages and Filling Stations	196.1	1.7	13.9	168.7	0.8	11.1	191.0	4.4	15.9	165.2	2.6	13.6
Chemist	200.4	-2.2	12.6	160.4	-2.6	10.2	203.5	3.9	17.2	163.3	3.4	14.6
Hardware	195.6	2.1	14.2	177.3	3.1	13.1	194.1	3.7	13.0	174.8	3.4	11.4
Electrical Goods	199.6	9.7	14.2	210.3	10.4	15.6	187.7	4.6	11.3	196.7	4.7	12.6
Footwear	160.5	-1.8	13.7	172.2	4.4	17.4	162.5	-5.0	10.8	167.7	-3.5	13.2
Drapery and Apparel	175.2	3.7	11.2	210.5	10.8	19.1	169.3	1.7	8.8	194.2	4.7	15.8
Department Stores Of which:-	216.1	3.2	16.2	227.9	6.1	20.3	210.8	0.9	11.9	218.3	1.9	15.4
Clothing and Footwear	226.9	3.7	17.7				220.5	0.0	13.8			
Furniture, Soft Furnishings, etc.	202.9	0.1	14.4				196.6	0.5	3.9			
Other Goods and Services	194.2	0.1	14.2				194.1	0.7	12.3			
Other Non-Food	197.1	0.1	10.7	177.2	0.2	9.6	194.5	4.2	11.3	174.9	3.6	10.6
Total Retail Sales												
excluding Garages & Filling Stations	173.3	1.2	8.4	150.3	1.8	7.7	171.4	2.2	8.4	148.2	1.4	7.5
All Businesses Combined	179.6	1.7	9.8	156.0	2.2	8.7	176.6	2.2	10.4	152.9	1.4	9.1

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to June 1999, individual series are independently adjusted

Central Statistics Office Retail Sales Index

Background Notes

Scope and Coverage

The Retail Sales Index covers, on a sample basis, the retail sales of retail businesses, wholesale businesses with sizeable retailing activity and the separate sales establishments of non-distribution enterprises. Excluded from the index coverage are the direct retail sales from non-distribution establishments together with the incidental retail sales of wholesale businesses. Also excluded are sales by hawkers, street stalls and other retailing activities not conducted from permanent business premises. The statistical unit used for reporting sales figures in this inquiry is the enterprise (i.e. Complete business covering all branches).

Methodology

The business categories and the underlying structural weighting of the Retail Sales Index is based mainly on the classification of enterprises identified in the 1988 Census of Services. The index system is structured on the retailing enterprises covered in the Census classified by the 14 retail business categories and four turnover (excluding VAT) ranges*. The value indices are calculated by updating the aggregate 1987 retail turnover (including VAT) of these enterprises in these fifty-five cells using the monthly retail sales data provided by the enterprise respondent panel from 1991 onwards. The compilation of the index for a current month is based on the percentage change in average weekly sales in these cells over the corresponding monthly period of the previous year. The monthly volume indices are calculated by deflating the seasonally unadjusted value indices by specially constructed retail price indices derived from the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Seasonal Adjustment

The seasonally adjusted value and volume sales have been updated on the basis of seasonal patterns up to June 1999. These updated series will be continued until January 2000 using projected seasonal factors. The adjustment for seasonality is completed by applying the X-11 Variant of the US Bureau of the Census (Method II) Seasonal Adjustment Program. The unadjusted series, from which trading day variations have been eliminated, are available on request.

References

A detailed description of the Retail Sales Index is provided in the March 1994 issue of the *Statistical Bulletin*. Retrospective details covering three years are provided for all series on both a seasonally adjusted and an unadjusted basis in each issue of the *Statistical Bulletin*.

* The Department Stores business category is not classified by annual turnover, but is sub-divided into three retail activity categories.