

Table 1 Seasonally Adjusted Indices of Total Retail Sales ¹

Base:year 1990=100

Period	Total Retail Sales for all Businesses Combined						Total Retail Sales excluding Garages and Filling Stations	
	Value of Sales			Volume of Sales			Value Index	Volume Index
	Index	% change on previous period	Annual % change	Index	% change on previous period	Annual % change		
1996 Year	134.0	8.3	8.3	119.4	6.2	6.2	134.6	119.6
1997 Year	145.4	8.5	8.5	128.8	7.9	7.9	144.7	128.1
1998 Year	159.9	10.0	10.0	140.1	8.8	8.8	159.6	139.3
1996 Quarter 1	130.7	3.2	8.6	117.3	2.5	6.4	131.0	117.0
Quarter 2	133.4	2.1	9.6	119.2	1.6	7.7	133.0	118.6
Quarter 3	133.6	0.1	7.0	118.8	-0.3	4.9	133.6	118.5
Quarter 4	137.0	2.5	8.1	121.2	2.0	5.9	137.4	121.5
1997 Quarter 1	139.6	1.9	6.8	124.0	2.3	5.7	139.5	123.7
Quarter 2	142.2	1.9	6.6	126.1	1.7	5.8	141.4	125.5
Quarter 3	146.1	2.7	9.4	129.6	2.8	9.1	145.2	129.1
Quarter 4	151.8	3.9	10.8	133.7	3.2	10.3	148.6	131.0
1998 Quarter 1	154.6	1.8	10.7	136.5	2.1	10.1	152.8	134.8
Quarter 2	158.4	2.5	11.4	138.6	1.5	9.9	157.1	137.1
Quarter 3	161.8	2.1	10.7	141.3	1.9	9.0	159.7	139.0
Quarter 4	163.4	1.0	7.6	142.6	0.9	6.7	164.6	143.0
1999 Quarter 1	172.5	5.6	11.6	151.2	6.0	10.8	167.5	146.0
Quarter 2 ²	174.2	1.0	10.0	150.7	-0.3	8.7	169.6	146.6
1998 May	159.8	1.7	12.7	139.9	1.5	11.1	158.3	138.4
June	158.3	-0.9	9.6	138.2	-1.2	8.1	156.9	136.5
July	163.3	3.2	12.2	143.3	3.7	10.7	159.7	139.5
August	160.3	-1.8	9.7	139.7	-2.5	7.8	159.1	138.2
September	161.7	0.9	10.4	140.9	0.9	8.7	160.3	139.3
October	161.1	-0.4	8.4	140.5	-0.3	7.1	161.2	140.1
November	165.0	2.4	8.8	144.4	2.8	7.9	167.5	145.8
December	164.0	-0.6	6.1	142.8	-1.1	5.3	165.1	143.0
1999 January	169.1	3.1	11.1	149.5	4.7	10.5	163.6	143.4
February	171.1	1.2	9.4	149.7	0.1	8.4	166.5	145.1
March	176.4	3.1	13.8	153.7	2.7	12.8	171.4	148.8
April	171.0	-3.1	8.8	148.7	-3.3	7.9	166.9	144.8
May	174.0	1.8	8.9	150.3	1.1	7.4	170.2	146.9
June ²	176.8	1.6	11.7	152.6	1.5	10.4	171.4	147.7
12 months ending May 1999	166.4	9.6	9.6	145.3	8.5	8.5	164.6	143.1
12 months ending Jun 1999 ²	168.2	9.9	9.9	146.6	8.7	8.7	166.0	144.1
3 months ending May 1999	174.0	3.7	10.7	151.1	2.8	9.6	169.6	147.0
3 months ending Jun 1999 ²	174.2	1.0	10.0	150.7	-0.3	8.7	169.6	146.6

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to December 1998² Provisional value and volume of sales indices based on early returns from sample retailers

Table 2 Seasonally Adjusted¹ Value and Volume Indices of Retail Sales for 14 Retail Businesses, May 1999
Base: year 1990=100

Retail Business	May 1999						March - May 1999 (3 months)					
	Value of Sales			Volume of Sales			Value of Sales			Volume of Sales		
	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	175.3	2.9	5.7	141.3	2.8	2.9	174.8	2.0	6.3	141.2	1.4	3.1
Grocery with Public House	128.1	-2.1	4.3	98.8	-3.0	0.8	128.5	1.9	3.6	100.0	1.0	0.5
Public House and Off-Licence	163.8	1.8	9.4	118.7	0.8	4.5	160.4	4.2	9.0	117.5	2.6	5.0
Tobacco, Sweets and Newspapers	137.7	1.7	7.1	101.6	1.1	4.6	139.5	6.5	7.5	103.3	6.1	4.9
Fresh Meat	91.9	7.4	2.5	94.2	6.9	3.1	89.8	0.0	-0.8	92.4	-1.2	0.3
Other Food, Drink and Tobacco	122.3	7.8	5.1	104.4	7.6	3.5	118.7	-5.3	1.5	101.4	-5.8	-0.5
Garages and Filling Stations	183.2	3.1	12.4	158.7	2.2	10.7	183.8	8.4	15.9	160.8	6.8	15.1
Chemist	204.7	1.1	19.6	165.0	1.4	16.8	200.8	4.0	22.0	161.8	3.4	19.2
Hardware	199.9	5.7	8.6	179.5	5.4	6.7	192.6	8.4	11.1	173.4	7.3	9.1
Electrical Goods	184.2	5.3	18.7	191.8	4.8	20.0	181.8	0.8	13.0	190.0	0.6	14.1
Footwear	162.1	-2.1	-1.0	162.8	-3.1	0.4	168.6	-1.1	10.8	170.3	-3.0	11.7
Drapery and Apparel	163.6	1.4	3.3	182.6	1.4	9.4	165.7	4.9	9.2	184.6	4.7	15.3
Department Stores	209.2	-1.3	9.7	215.0	-1.1	13.0	211.0	4.5	14.0	216.3	3.6	17.1
Of which:-												
Clothing and Footwear	218.0	-2.7	11.0	..	..	..	222.1	3.8	15.7	..	..	..
Furniture, Soft Furnishings, etc.	181.6	-4.2	-1.4	..	..	..	193.8	1.8	10.2	..	..	..
Other Goods and Services	194.3	-1.3	12.4	..	..	..	194.8	4.2	12.8	..	..	..
Other Non-Food	187.8	-1.2	9.7	169.1	-1.5	9.2	189.5	4.8	11.3	171.2	4.3	11.2
Total Retail Sales excluding Garages & Filling Stations	170.2	2.0	7.5	146.9	1.5	6.1	169.6	2.7	8.7	147.0	2.2	7.5
All Businesses Combined	174.0	1.8	8.9	150.3	1.1	7.4	174.0	3.7	10.7	151.1	2.8	9.6

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to December 1998, individual series are independently adjusted

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 series are updated twice yearly, in the January and July index compilations, using patterns up to and including the preceding month. The present seasonally adjusted monthly value and volume series are based on seasonal patterns up to December 1998. The adjustment is completed by applying the X-11 Variant of the US Bureau of the Census Method 11 Seasonal Adjustment program based on a multiplicative model. 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.