

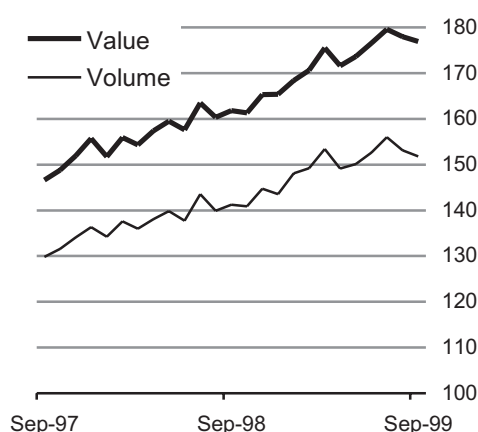


Central Statistics Office
An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh



26 November 1999

Retail Sales Index Seasonally adjusted



Retail Sales Index September 1999 (First estimates)

Retail Sales Index – All Businesses (Base year 1990 = 100)

	Value Index	Volume Index
September 1998	161.8	141.2
September 1999	176.9	151.8
% change	+9.3%	+7.5%

Retail Sales up 9.3%

The *value* of retail sales rose by 9.3% in September 1999 compared to September 1998. The September 1999 index was 0.6% lower than the August 1999 index.

The *volume* of retail sales (i.e. excluding price effects) increased by 7.5% in September 1999 compared to September 1998.

On a three month basis, which gives a more stable indication of recent underlying trends, the July-September 1999 volume figures show a 1.8% increase compared with the three months ending August 1999.

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

- ◆ The largest increase in the volume of sales was in the *Drapery and Apparel* sector (+7.1%).
- ◆ The largest decrease in volume was in the *Public House and Off Licence* sector (-7.2%).

All figures provided in this release are seasonally adjusted based on patterns up to June 1999.

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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		
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
1997 Quarter 1	139.2	1.3	6.6	123.6	1.6	5.6	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	9.4	129.7	2.9	9.2	145.5	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	1.4	7.7	143.1	1.1	6.6	164.8	143.1
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
Quarter 3 ²	178.1	2.3	10.0	153.5	1.8	8.5	173.6	149.7
1998 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	153.4	2.8	12.8	168.7	147.5
April	171.6	-2.2	9.0	149.1	-2.8	8.0	167.6	145.2
May	173.6	1.2	8.8	150.1	0.7	7.4	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
August	178.0	-0.9	11.0	153.1	-1.9	9.4	173.0	148.9
September ²	176.9	-0.6	9.3	151.8	-0.8	7.5	174.3	149.8
12 months ending Aug 1999	170.8	9.8	9.8	148.6	8.6	8.6	168.1	145.8
12 months ending Sept 1999 ²	172.2	9.8	9.8	149.6	8.6	8.6	169.3	146.7
3 months ending Aug 1999	178.0	2.5	11.1	153.8	1.8	9.7	172.4	148.8
3 months ending Sept 1999 ²	178.1	2.3	10.0	153.5	1.8	8.5	173.6	149.7

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to June 1999² 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, August 1999

Base: year 1990=100

Retail Business	August 1999						June - August 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	182.4	1.3	8.0	146.3	0.6	5.5	179.3	2.5	7.6	144.2	1.8	5.2
Grocery with Public House	131.4	-1.2	6.3	100.8	-1.8	3.1	131.3	2.3	6.4	101.1	1.2	3.4
Public House and Off-Licence	147.0	-0.5	-1.1	105.9	-0.5	-4.4	150.6	-5.8	2.3	108.6	-7.2	-1.5
Tobacco, Sweets and Newspapers	139.3	-6.3	7.3	101.9	-6.9	5.1	142.2	2.3	9.0	104.4	1.5	6.9
Fresh Meat	96.8	11.8	4.6	98.3	11.2	5.4	92.2	2.4	0.2	93.9	1.5	0.6
Other Food, Drink and Tobacco	122.7	3.0	4.9	104.0	2.5	3.1	122.4	2.3	3.5	104.2	2.0	2.0
Garages and Filling Stations	194.7	-0.7	19.4	166.1	-1.5	15.5	194.4	5.6	18.0	167.4	3.9	15.1
Chemist	213.7	6.6	19.9	169.7	5.8	16.5	206.3	2.6	17.3	164.9	1.9	14.5
Hardware	194.4	-0.6	12.7	174.0	-1.9	10.9	193.7	1.8	14.3	174.2	1.6	12.8
Electrical Goods	200.2	0.3	16.3	210.0	-0.1	17.4	193.0	6.5	10.8	202.6	6.7	12.0
Footwear	166.2	3.6	7.7	171.7	-0.3	10.6	163.4	-2.7	13.9	169.3	-0.6	16.8
Drapery and Apparel	168.0	-4.1	10.6	192.9	-8.4	18.6	170.6	3.3	11.1	197.2	7.1	18.7
Department Stores Of which:-	217.6	0.7	16.9	227.4	-0.2	21.3	214.0	2.1	14.2	222.7	3.5	18.1
Clothing and Footwear	228.4	0.7	17.1	..	..	..	224.2	1.7	15.7	..	..	..
Furniture, Soft Furnishings, etc.	196.2	-3.3	18.1	..	..	..	200.8	3.9	9.6	..	..	..
Other Goods and Services	199.1	2.5	15.8	..	..	..	195.7	1.2	13.4	..	..	..
Other Non-Food	197.8	0.4	12.1	176.5	-0.4	10.6	197.2	4.6	11.9	176.8	3.9	10.9
Total Retail Sales excluding Garages & Filling Stations	173.0	-0.2	8.6	148.9	-0.9	7.6	172.4	2.2	8.8	148.8	1.6	7.8
All Businesses Combined	178.0	-0.9	11.0	153.1	-1.9	9.4	178.0	2.5	11.1	153.8	1.8	9.7

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to June 1999, 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 June 1999. 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.