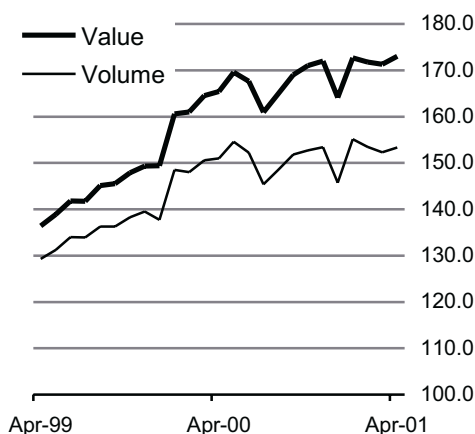




Retail Sales Index

Seasonally adjusted



Retail Sales Index – All Businesses
(Base year 1995 = 100)

	Value Index	Volume Index
April 2000	165.4	151.0
April 2001	173.0	153.3
% change	+4.6%	+1.5%

The *value* of retail sales rose by 4.6% in April 2001 compared to April 2000. However, if Motor Trades are excluded, the increase is 11.0%.

The *volume* of retail sales (i.e. excluding price effects) increased by 1.5% in April 2001 compared to April 2000. If Motor Trades are excluded the increase in volume is 6.5%.

On a three month basis, which gives a more stable indication of recent underlying trends, the February - April 2001 volume figures show a 1.3% increase compared with the three months ending January 2001.

March is the latest month for which final detailed sectoral figures are available. The three month January - March 2001 volume figures show that, compared with the three months ending December 2000:

- ◆ The largest increase in the volume of sales was in the *Furniture and Lighting* (+18.5%) sectors.
- ◆ The largest decrease in volume was in the *Books, Newspapers and Stationery* (-3.2%) sector.

All figures provided in this release are seasonally adjusted based on patterns up to November 2000.

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Table 1 Seasonally Adjusted Indices of Total Retail Sales¹**Base Year: 1995 = 100**

Period	Total Retail Sales for all Businesses Combined						Total Retail Sales excluding Motor Trades	
	Value of Sales			Volume of Sales			Value Index	Volume Index
	Index	% change on previous period	Annual % change	Index	% change on previous period	Annual % change		
1998 Year	128.2	9.5	9.5	122.6	7.8	7.8	125.6	120.2
1999 Year	142.8	11.4	11.4	134.3	9.5	9.5	137.6	130.0
2000 Year	166.1	16.3	16.3	150.3	11.9	11.9	154.8	141.6
1999 1st quarter	137.5	3.9	11.7	130.9	3.9	10.2	132.0	125.8
2nd quarter	139.2	1.2	10.1	131.7	0.6	8.7	133.3	126.4
3rd quarter	144.2	3.6	11.0	135.6	3.0	9.4	137.8	130.3
4th quarter	148.9	3.3	12.5	138.4	2.1	9.8	142.7	133.8
2000 1st quarter	162.2	8.9	18.0	149.2	7.8	14.0	147.0	136.5
2nd quarter	167.5	3.3	20.3	152.6	2.3	15.9	151.7	139.6
3rd quarter	165.3	-1.3	14.6	148.8	-2.5	9.7	155.2	141.4
4th quarter	168.7	2.1	13.3	150.2	0.9	8.5	161.0	145.5
2001 1st quarter	171.9	1.9	6.0	153.5	2.2	2.9	166.2	149.0
2000 March	164.5	2.2	16.7	150.6	1.8	12.6	148.9	137.8
April	165.4	0.5	21.3	151.0	0.3	16.8	150.4	139.0
May	169.6	2.5	22.1	154.6	2.4	17.8	151.2	139.1
June	167.6	-1.2	18.2	152.2	-1.6	13.6	153.2	140.5
July	160.9	-4.0	13.5	145.4	-4.5	8.6	151.7	138.8
August	165.0	2.5	13.7	148.6	2.2	9.0	154.3	140.4
September	169.0	2.4	16.2	151.8	2.2	11.4	158.8	144.3
October	171.0	1.2	15.6	152.7	0.6	10.4	160.6	145.6
November	172.0	0.6	15.2	153.4	0.5	10.0	164.3	147.8
December	164.1	-4.6	9.8	145.7	-5.0	5.8	158.8	143.6
2001 January	172.7	5.2	7.5	155.1	6.5	4.4	164.8	148.9
February	171.8	-0.5	6.7	153.5	-1.0	3.7	165.7	148.6
March	171.3	-0.3	4.1	152.3	-0.8	1.1	167.6	149.5
April ²	173.0	1.0	4.6	153.3	0.7	1.5	166.9	148.1
12 months ending Mar 2001	168.3	13.3	13.3	151.3	9.1	9.1	158.5	143.9
12 months ending Apr 2001 ²	168.9	11.9	11.9	151.5	7.9	7.9	159.8	144.6
3 months ending Mar 2001	171.9	1.9	6.0	153.5	2.2	2.9	166.2	149.0
3 months ending Apr 2001 ²	172.0	1.7	5.1	153.0	1.3	2.1	166.8	148.8

¹ Based on Seasonal Values up to November 2000² 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 13 Retail Businesses, March 2001 (1)
Base Year: 1995 = 100

Retail Business - NACE REV 1	March 2001						January 2001 - March 2001					
	Value of Sales			Volume of Sales			Value of Sales			Volume of Sales		
	Index	% change	Annual %	Index	% change	Annual %	Index	% change	Annual %	Index	% change	Annual %
		on previous month	change		on previous month	change		on previous 3 months	change		on previous 3 months	change
Motor Trades - NACE 50	185.3	-4.0	-10.6	162.3	-4.5	-11.4	189.9	-0.9	-6.2	166.5	2.0	-7.4
Non-Specialised Stores ² (excluding Department Stores) - NACE 52.11	157.1	1.9	13.1	129.8	1.2	7.9	155.0	4.5	11.4	128.9	4.0	6.6
Department Stores - NACE 52.12	187.1	-3.6	0.0	197.7	-3.4	-1.2	187.7	5.2	7.7	199.7	5.0	6.4
of which:-												
Clothing and Footwear	205.7	-8.2	0.7				206.0	7.9	9.6			
Furniture, Soft Furnishing, etc.	145.1	9.3	-24.1				152.6	-15.7	-16.7			
Other Goods and Services	176.4	-3.6	12.1				178.6	10.2	18.5			
<u>Specialised Stores - NACE 52 (remainder)</u>												
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	114.8	-1.1	7.2	97.8	-3.1	-0.2	115.8	0.7	7.3	100.2	-1.1	1.3
Pharmaceutical, Medical & Cosmetic Articles	218.8	4.1	19.7	189.9	4.3	15.7	215.3	2.4	19.3	186.9	0.6	14.9
Textiles and Clothing	170.4	-4.4	9.4	224.5	-4.0	13.4	172.8	3.5	12.7	229.7	4.3	16.5
Footwear and Leather	146.9	-12.3	2.7	173.2	-10.5	6.6	156.7	0.8	6.7	184.1	1.1	10.1
Furniture and Lighting	194.5	-2.6	32.7	171.7	-3.6	27.1	188.6	19.5	27.2	168.0	18.5	22.2
Electrical Goods	204.7	7.3	23.0	218.9	7.5	23.5	195.2	-2.0	19.2	206.8	-3.1	19.5
Hardware, Paints and Glass	171.3	-2.3	9.3	152.6	-2.6	5.4	173.1	7.4	12.0	154.9	7.3	8.2
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	157.8	3.6	11.8	128.1	3.2	6.3	152.2	-1.6	9.3	123.6	-3.2	3.3
Other Retail Sales	226.2	3.0	16.3	210.8	0.9	13.4	226.2	5.4	22.3	213.7	12.9	19.2
Bars - NACE 55.4	147.1	-2.1	8.1	118.5	-3.8	2.8	146.7	1.5	8.5	119.5	0.6	3.6
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	167.6	1.2	12.6	149.5	0.6	8.5	166.2	3.2	13.1	149.0	2.4	9.2
All Businesses	171.3	-0.3	4.1	152.3	-0.8	1.1	171.9	1.9	6.0	153.5	2.2	2.9

¹ Based on Seasonal Values up to November 2000, individual series are independently adjusted

² Retail sales in non-specialised stores with food, beverages or tobacco predominating

Background Notes

Retail Sales Index **Introduction of updated series with a new business classification and with base year 1995 = 100.**

An updated Retail Sales Index (RSI) was introduced in the December 1999 release. A detailed description of the new series was published in the March 2000 issue of the *Statistical Bulletin*. The underlying methodology remains unchanged. The index is primarily intended to measure short-term trends. For long term analysis allowance must be made for the fact that the series does not reflect changes in retail structures between updatings.

New Business Classification Commencing with October 1999 the set of monthly indices of retail sales have been compiled according to the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community (NACE Rev. 1). The business categories are based mainly on the classification of enterprises in the 1995 Annual Services Inquiry (ASI). There are some fairly substantial discontinuities in the classification of enterprises compared with the former series.

New Base Year The set of new monthly retail sales indices has been compiled with reference to base year 1995 = 100. The underlying structural weighting system is mainly based on the 1995 Annual Services Inquiry. Weights are updated from year to year using ratios of average weekly turnover by size class within business type.

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 Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community (NACE Rev. 1). The index system is structured on the retailing enterprises covered in the 1995 Annual Services Inquiry classified by 13 retail business categories and four turnover (excluding VAT) ranges*.

The value indices are calculated by updating the aggregate 1995 retail turnover (including VAT) of these enterprises in these fifty one cells using the monthly retail sales data provided by the enterprise respondent panel from 1995 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, using patterns up to and including the preceding month. The present seasonally adjusted monthly value and volume series are based on seasonal patterns from January 1995 to November 2000. 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 2000 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.